

Four or five of us were enjoying our last pipe for the night in the smoking room at Craigfalch...

"Did you know Merton?" asked Winstanley. "I think I've met him. Wasn't he a St. Bridget's man?"

"Yes, a tall, pale, thin fellow, with a straw-colored jacket and a delicate, feminine beard that he never shaved off."

"Rather good family, eh?" "Yes, he was a very old-fashioned fellow. He was a little straight-laced. A parson now, or a clergyman. I don't know of a visit he had once from a fine old English gentleman from an old family."

"Well, Merton was really a good fellow, but he had been brought up at home—coached at the family factory—you understand. He got into some little like the rest of us, and in fact was the most irreproachable son of a gun."

"The fact is that Merton was so awfully afraid of being cheated that he wouldn't have had any one on our cart on any account that a stranger had found him entertaining a lady in his rooms. Agatha was rather shy, and very glad to look refuge in the scout's coat."

"Recently in comes some Maude. A fine, bluff old fellow, something over seventy, a little shabby on his pin, red face, white mustache, and a thick hat, which he took off when you knew the style?"

"Happy make your acquaintance at Hope I'm not in the way. The scout told you, perhaps that I used to have these rooms for a good thirty years ago—before my dear father was born. I distrust? Dear me! How time flies! That has been the usual way of things. The same old view into the master's garden. Yes, the same old view. The same old pictures, too, and the same old tapper the same. Dear me! The same old sofa. Dear me! The same old furniture. The same old stopping at the fireplace. Some old mantlepiece? Then he got to the door of the scout's room, and turned the handle."

"Same old—?" He had just opened the door, when he caught the flutter of a petticoat, and suddenly closed it."

"Ah!" says he, shaking his head, "same old grass!" same old grass. "Sir!" goes Merton, in an awful funk, "sir that's my sister!" She—that is—

"Well, I declare! Same old! Same old!"—Whitell's Review. Hot and Cold Drives.

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Legal. CHANCERY ORDER... THE COURT OF CHANCERY... ORDERED THAT the said petition be read to the jury...

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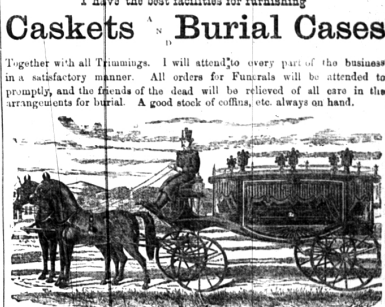
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