PRISONER OF WAR.

"No rent again this month? This is the third time it has happened within the half-year. I'll go there myself and get the money, or I'll know the reason why."

Matthew Deane was in particularly bad humor this raw December morning. Everything had gone wrong. Stocks had fallen when they ought to have risen—his clerk had tipped over the inkstand on his special and peculiar heap of paper—the fire obstinately refused to burn in the grate—in short, nothing went right, and Mr. Deane was consequently and correspondingly cross.

"Jenkins!"

"Yes, sir."

"Go to the Widow Clarkson's, and tell her I shall be there in half an hour and expect confidently, mind, Jenkins—confidently to receive that rent money. Or I shall feel myself obliged to resort to extreme measures. You understand, Jenkins?"

"Certainly, sir."

"Then don't stand there starin' like an idiot," snarled Mr. Deane, in a sudden burst of irritation, and Jenkins disappeared like a shot.

Just half an hour afterward Matthew Deane brushed the brown hair just sprinkled with gray from his square yet no unkindly brow. Putting on his fur-lined overcoat he walked into the chilly winter air fully determined, figuratively, to annihilate the defaulting Widow Clarkson.

It was a dwarfish little red brick house which appeared originally to have aspired to two-story-hood but, cramped by circumstances, had settled down into a story and a half, but the windows [illegible] like Brazilian pebbles, and the doorsteps were worn by much [illegible]. Neither of these circumstances, however, did Mr. Deane remark as he pulled the glittering brass doorknob and strode into Mrs. Clarkson's neat parlor.

[illegible]

"I HAVE CALLED TO SEE YOUR AUNT."

would never have thought of [illegible] her among the beauties, with [illegible] black hair, blue, long-lashed eyes, and a very pretty mouth, hiding teeth like rice kernels, so white were they.

Miss Mellen rose with a polite nod, which was grimly reciprocated by Mr. Deane.

"I have called to see your aunt, Miss Mellen."

"I know it, sir, but as I am aware of her timid temperament, I sent her away. I prefer to deal with you myself."

Mr. Deane started [illegible] of the damsel in gray, with scarlet ribbons in her hair, [illegible] him.

"I suppose the money is ready?"

"No, sir, it is not."

"Then, Miss Olive, pardon me, I must speak plainly. I shall send an officer here this afternoon to put a valuation on the furniture, and—"

"You will do nothing of the kind, sir."

Olive's cheek had reddened and her eyes flashed portentously. Mr. Deane turned toward the door, but ere he knew what she was doing, Olive had walked quietly across the room, locked the door, and taken out the key, then she resumed her seat.

"What does this mean?" ejaculated the astonished "prisoner of war."

"It means, sir, that you will now be obliged to consider the question," said Olive.

"Obliged?"

"Yes—you will hardly jump out of the window, and there is no other method of egress unless you choose to go up the chimney. Now, then, Mr. Deane, will you tell me if you—a Christian man in the nineteenth century—intend to sell a poor widow's furniture because she is not able to pay your rent? Listen, sir!"

Mr. Deane opened his mouth to remonstrate, but Olive enforced her words with a very emphatic little stamp of the foot, and he was, as it were, stricken dumb.

"You are what the world calls a rich man, Mr. Deane. You own rows of houses, piles of bank stock, railroad shares, bonds and mortgages—who knows what? My aunt has nothing; I support her by copying. Now, if this case be carried into a court of law, my poor ailing aunt will be a sufferer—you would emerge unscathed and profiting. You are not a bad man, Mr. Deane; you have a great many noble qualities, and I like you for them." She paused an instant and looked intently and gravely at Mr. Deane. The color rose to his cheek—it was not disagreeable to be told by a pretty young girl that she liked him, on any terms; yet she had indulged in pretty plain speaking. "I have heard," she went on, "of your doing kind actions when you were in the humor of it. You can do them, and you shall in this instance. You are cross this morning—you know you are! Hush! no excuse; you are selfish and irritable and overbearing. If I were your mother, and you a little boy, I should certainly put you in a corner until you promised to be good."

Mr. Deane smiled, although he was getting angry. Olive went on with the utmost composure.

"But as it is, I shall only keep you here a prisoner until you have behaved, and given me your word not to annoy my aunt again for rent until she is able to pay you. Then, and not until then, will you receive your money. Do you promise? Yes or no?"

"I certainly shall agree to no such terms," said Mr. Deane, tartly.

"Very well, sir; I can wait."

Miss Mellen deposited the key in the pocket of her gray dress and sat down to her copying. Had she been a man, Mr. Deane would probably have knocked her down; as it was, she wore an invisible armor of power in the very fact that she was a fragile, slight woman, and she knew it.

"Miss Olive," he said, sternly, "let us terminate this mummery. Unlock that door!"

"Mr. Deane, I will not!"

"I shall shout and alarm the neighborhood, then, or call a policeman."

"Very well, Mr. Deane; do so, if you please."

She dipped her pen in the ink and began on a fresh page. Matthew sat down, puzzled and discomfited, and watched the long-lashed eyes and faintly tinged cheek of his keeper. She was very pretty—what a pity she was so obstinate!

"Miss Olive!"

"Sir?"

"The clock has just struck 12."

"I heard it."

"I should like to go out and get some lunch."

"I am sorry that that luxury is out of your power."

"But I'm confounded hungry."

"Are you?"

"And I'm not going to stand this sort of thing any longer."

"No?"

How provokingly nonchalant she was. Mr. Deane eyed the pocket of the gray dress greedily and walked up and down the room pettishly.

"I have an appointment at 1."

"Indeed! What a pity you will be unable to keep it!"

He took another turn across the room. Olive looked up with a smile.

"Well, are you ready to promise?"

[illegible]

[illegible] center. Do you all understand that?" The class chorused assent. "Now, will some girl give me an illustration?" continued Mrs. Sewell. "The domestic virtues are centripetal," replied a small girl, "because they keep a man in the center of his home, and a centrifugal force is—well, a saloon is a centrifugal force."—Philadelphia Post.

Victoria Not So Wealthy.

It has been stated that Queen Victoria has accumulated a fortune of over $10,000,000. The actual amount of the queen's savings is known to a few people. One of these is Henry Labouchere, the radical, who came by his information officially as member of a special committee of the House of Commons about eight years since. Subsequently Mr. Labouchere wrote: "The impression prevails that the queen has effected large savings, but that is not the case. As the sum total of the queen's investments was given to the committee under a pledge of secrecy, I cannot violate this pledge, but I do not think I am breaking faith in saying that the amount is surprisingly small."

Heavy Calls Upon the Czar's Purse.

No sovereign is so rich as the czar, and no sovereign has such heavy calls upon his purse. The grand dukes Michael, Vladimir, Alexis, Serge and Paul Alexandrovitch, as the sons of emperors of Russia, receive from the head of the house an annual sum of 185,000 roubles (£26,200) each, which added to private means, makes them very rich. The wives and widows of Russian grand dukes receive 40,000 roubles each; their sons 150,000 roubles. It was the Czar Alexander III. who decreed that every member of the imperial family must spend a part of the year in Russia, or else lose a third of his or her allowance.

SPECIAL SESSION LAWS.

The Product of the Late Special Session.

LAWS THAT WERE ENACTED.

The Most of the Session's Work W[illegible] on Special Acts and Resolution [illegible] 0,000 for the Soldiers—Nothing That the Governor Wanted was Done.

AN ACT to make available an Appropriation to furnish new Boilers to replace those now in use at the Michigan Soldiers' Home, being act number one hundred seventy-four, Public Acts of eighteen hundred ninety-nine, approved June twenty-three, eighteen hundred ninety-nine, for the following purposes, viz.: [illegible]

[illegible]

tect the interests of the State in all defalcation matters, and the Auditor-General of this State is hereby directed to draw his warrant upon the treasurer of this State upon proper vouchers therefor, signed by said Attorney-General, for the payment of all costs necessitated herein, and the treasurer is hereby directed to pay said warrant out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Approved January 8, 1900.

AN ACT to authorize the City of Ionia to Borrow Thirty Thousand Dollars and to Issue the Bonds of the city therefor to pay outstanding City Bonds.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Section 1. That for the purpose of redeeming and retiring thirty thousand dollars worth of water bonds of the City of Ionia, outstanding and issued in the year eighteen hundred eighty-three, the City of Ionia be and is hereby authorized, acting through and by the common council of said city, to borrow thirty thousand dollars on the credit of the city at a rate of interest not exceeding four per cent per annum and to issue the bonds of the said city therefor.

Sec. 2. The amount of each bond, place of payment of principal and interest, time and conditions of payment and time of maturity is left to the discretion of the common council of the said city.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

Approved January 8, 1900.

AN ACT Supplemental to act number one hundred thirty-four of the Public Acts of eighteen hundred ninety-nine, entitled "An Act for the relief of Sick, Disabled and Needy [illegible] Soldiers, Sailors and Marines of the late Spanish-American War."

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Section 1. The Auditor-General is hereby authorized [illegible]

[illegible]

STIFLED.

Some Facts Which Indicate the Porto-ricans' Willingness to Learn.

The Portorican is mentally acute. The children learn with surprising ease and quickness. Boys and girls eight and ten years of age will do a sum in long division on the board without showing the process; doing the multiplying and subtracting mentally, and only setting down the figures of the quotient, with the remainder. I have talked with men and women in the poor quarters of several cities and towns, have seen the peasant in the field and in the market place, and did not find one with slow wits or dense ignorance of ordinary affairs. A workingman told me of a class of laborers he had formed in Arecibo who studied at night to prepare themselves for the educational test required for the franchise. He said they made rapid progress in learning to read, says Hon. H. K. Carroll in the Forum. The fact of illiteracy is not due to lack of intelligence, but rather to lack of opportunity and the lack also of a stimulus. The peasant has not been able to see how he could improve his condition by education. The mercantile and the banking business were almost exclusively in the hands of the Peninsular Spaniards. It was next to impossible for a native to get a position of any kind in one of these houses. They preferred young men from Spain, relatives if they had them. These young men would begin at the lowest round of the ladder, sleep in the store, live in the most economical fashion and trust to experience and opportunity for advancement, which seldom failed to come. When the heads of the house returned to Spain with a competency, to live the rest of their days in "Grácia," the newer part of Barcelona, the clerks succeed to the business. A Portorican who has a large and paying business in San Juan says it was with the greatest difficulty that he found a chance for himself with a Spanish firm. There was apparently no chance anywhere for the [illegible]

[illegible]

Sword-Pistol for the French Army.

France has devised for her army a new sword-pistol which can be discharged at every thrust of the sword. It is believed that with this weapon cavalry attacks, particularly upon cavalry, can be made more effective. The weapon is designed to penetrate armor, and therefore will be especially useful against cuirassiers. It weighs, of course, more than the ordinary cavalry sword, and when not in use as a firearm can be wielded as an ordinary sword. The pistol attachment is in the hilt, with muzzle pointing in exact alignment with the sword blade. Thrusting with the blade forces it backward against the hilt with force enough to release a hidden spring, which acts as the trigger in discharging the pistol. Thus each thrust also fires a shot, making the weapon doubly effective.

The Earmarks.

"Your son is devoted to art, isn't he?" asked Reynolds. "I suppose so," replied Easel. "He's continually drawing on me."

A New Sea Port.

There is a lusty young city growing up down in Texas which is attracting widespread attention. It is La Porte, located at the head of Galveston Bay. It is being made the great seaport of the Gulf of Mexico, the meeting place of rail and water ways for the vast commerce of the west. The saving to western shippers via this export outlet will run into millions annually. The city has the most magnificent natural port on the southern coast of the United States and one of the best in the world. The U. S. government is completing a deep water channel through the bay to the gulf, which will soon bring the largest ocean liners to La Porte docks and wharfs.

Winter Excursions.

The Southern Pacific Company and its connections operate the best first and second-class service to California, Arizona, Texas and Mexico. Through Pullman Palace Sleepers and Tourist Sleepers from all principal eastern points. Personally conducted Tourist Excursions from Cincinnati, Louisville, St. Louis, Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Des Moines, Omaha, Kansas City, etc. For particulars and descriptive literature write W. G. Neimyer, Gen'l Western Agent, 238 Clark St., Chicago; W. H. Connor, Com'l Agent, Chamber Commerce Bldg., Cincinnati, Ohio, or W. J. Berg, Trav. Pass Agt., 220 Ellicott Sq., Buffalo, N. Y.

Ground Floor Bedrooms.

There is danger in the porous character of plaster ceilings, which are often very thin indeed. The ordinary ceiling is only a porous diaphragm permeable by gases with considerable freedom. The vitiated air of sitting-rooms, therefore, frequently finds its way into bedrooms. The British Medical Journal asks any skeptic to "compare his bodily and mental sensations after sleeping in such a room and in one situated over a similar room well ventilated and not occupied or illuminated by gas during the evening." The remedy, it says, is to have bedrooms on the ground floor, and living, working and cooking rooms upstairs. But how about [illegible]—London Chronicle.

How's This?

[illegible]

Brown's Teething Cordial [illegible]

MURDEROUS MICROBES

Breeding and Feeding in Human Intestines.

A New Powerful Germ Destroyer Discovered. How Microbes Are Killed While You Sleep.

[illegible]

Modern science has been at work to find a means of killing microbes, and the most successful germ destroyer of all is Cascarets Candy Cathartic. They slaughter bacteria wherever they find them, are antiseptic, stop sour stomach, make the liver lively, the blood pure, the bowels regular, everything as it should be.

Go buy and try Cascarets to-day. It's what they do, not what we say they'll do, that proves their merit. All druggists, 10c, 25c or 50c, or mailed for price. Send for booklet and free sample. Address, The Sterling Remedy Co., Chicago; Montreal, Can.; or New York.

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There's such a thing as having religion in the head and not in the heart.

One Day Dyspepsia Cure.
KASKOLA TABLETS.
All druggists. 15 cents.

I am Past 80 and Not a Gray Hair

"I have used Ayer's Hair Vigor for a great many years, and although I am past eighty years of age, yet I have not a gray hair in my head."—Geo. Yellott, Towson, Md., Aug. 3, 1899.

Have You Lost It?

We mean all that rich, dark color your hair used to have. But there is no need of mourning over it, for you can find it again.

Ayer's Hair Vigor always restores color to gray hair. We know exactly what we are saying when we use that word "always."

It makes the hair grow heavy and long, too; takes out every bit of dandruff, and stops falling of the hair. Keep it on your dressing table and use it every day. $1.00 a bottle. All druggists.

Write the Doctor

[illegible]

Thompson's Eye Water.

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