

The Farmington Enterprise
J. A. Price, Editor
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A citizen suggested to us the other day that it might be advisable for the village to purchase and put in operation some sort of sidewalk cleaning device for removing snow. Other towns and villages have found that one of these devices are a great help, and clear the walks quicker and better than a shovel in the hands of each citizen—which latter method often fails to get into operation at all. A wide triangular sled drawn by a horse, could be purchased and operated at small expense, and the time involved to clean all the walks of the village would be no greater than it now requires to clean just the crosswalks with shovels.

The dime novel nuisance is nothing short of a curse to the average boy, and why publishers are permitted to publish, or dealers permitted to sell these publications to boys under age, is beyond average mortal comprehension. Many the boy, and even girl that has chosen the wrong road or committed some crime, that has been traced directly to the dime novel that inspired the act or deed. Several Farmington boys have recently in some manner got hold of a bunch of this literature, and have even gone so far as to take it to school with them, and we are informed by members of the faculty, that a lot of unruliness and trouble can be traced directly to the novels. Moving pictures of the blood and thunder nature are today rigidly censored. Why not a state censorship of dime novels, or better yet, a law prohibiting their sale in the state.

The Enterprise erred last week in stating that "the job of enforcing the curfew ordinance had become too strenuous for Prof. Price" and that he had resigned. As a matter of fact the Professor was getting along nicely with the work, and had no kick coming. It seems, that when it came to a matter of salary for the place some members

of the council made a protest and suggested that the matter should be attended to by the regular marshal. Since the Professor has left off blowing the whistle, and enforcing it, enforcement has been very much conspicuous by its absence. The curfew was a good thing and should be kept up even if it does cost a few dollars a month. If the council wants to cut expenses, they can do it in a much more satisfactory manner by commencing at another source, or sources, and these must be known to at least one member of the council, who has had occasion to become acquainted with several things during his past few months of service, and is anxiously awaiting that time when his term will have expired, and with the very evident lack of harmony that seems to exist, we don't blame him a bit.

The list of proposed changes in the state laws intended to prevent hasty marriages and hasty divorces which were outlined before the Wayne County Bar Association and prepared by a member of the Michigan commission on the revision and simplification of laws, is receiving much publicity these past few days and will arouse a storm of protest from some quarters at least. And so it should, as it certainly would have a tendency to decrease the number of marriages in the state, and there is a question in our mind that it would decrease the number of divorces. Show me the young couple that want their names published for thirty or sixty days in advance of marriage, and I'll show you the exception. A system of encouraging marriages in every way, and making it far more difficult in securing a divorce, would, we believe, be far more satisfactory, instead of one such as has been recommended, and which on the face of it looks as though it would certainly have the very opposite effect. Make it more difficult to secure a divorce, and you will take a lot of matters out of the divorce courts, that should only come under the heading of petty quarrels.

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An Important Occasion

By JOHN TURNLEE

During the summer begin of Americans to Europe Miss Virginia King met on the steamer outward bound David Redwood. He dined with her through galleries in Dresden and Munich, climbed mountains in Switzerland and paraded with her in Paris, he being obliged to return to his native land early in September.

The result of this chit-chatting was an engagement, and it was agreed that Mr. Redwood on his return to America should seek the acquaintance of the young lady's father and make a formal application for her hand. She was of course to write her father of the acceptance of her suitor, and as she was prone to decide things for herself the only part Mr. King was to take in the matter was to go through the formalities.

On Mr. Redwood's arrival he wrote Mr. King a note, stating that he had met his wife and daughter abroad and with their kind permission would be happy to call on Mr. King if he would inform him what time and place would be agreeable. The young man was invited to dine with his prospective father-in-law on the following evening at his suburban residence at East Arlington, a dozen miles from the city.

On the train Redwood sat next a gentleman who, when the conductor came along, offered a commutation ticket to East Arlington.

"Pardon me," said Redwood. "I see you are from East Arlington. Can you inform me what direction I shall take to reach the residence of Edward King?"

"Edward King? Oh, yes! I can tell you where he lives. I go right by his house. I'll show you the way with pleasure."

The gentleman—Barbour was his name—proved quite genial, and before their journey was ended Redwood had told him that he had met the Kings in Europe, and since King had told Mr. Barbour of his daughter's engagement the latter was not long in divining the young man's errand.

"Is Mr. King a shen-a-geni man, a man of the world?" asked Redwood.

"On the contrary, he is very strict. Can't tolerate tobacco; never drinks any wines or liquors and is very attentive to formalities. But if you are portance I would advise you to beware of him. He has a way of fluting out about people by throwing them off their guard. They say that before en playing a game in his business he will pretend to be a rooster to him, and if there is anything wild about the fellow it will show itself."

"Thank you very much for the information," said Redwood, and turned the subject.

On the arrival of the train the gentleman showed Redwood to the King residence and went to his own home. The visitor was greeted by a butler and told that Mr. King was dressing for dinner and would be down presently. Then the butler disappeared and returned in a few minutes with a cocktail and a box of cigarettes on a salver.

"Thank you; you needn't leave that," said Redwood, looking at the liquor and the cigarettes loungely. "I neither drink nor smoke."

But the butler left the refreshments on a table and departed without a word.

Mr. King came down and received his visitor cordially. Naturally knowing the object of the call, he was a trifle disconcerted.

"I see you have not drunk your cocktail," he said. "Do so, and I will join you in another. Oscar, bring two cocktails."

Redwood protested that he never drank wines or liquors—they didn't agree with him—and, as for smoking, he regarded it a filthy habit. Mr. King looked at him with an expression of disapprobation. When the butler brought more refreshments he drank his cocktail, apparently much disgruntled at being obliged to drink alone. Then they went into dinner.

A bottle of champagne was on ice beside the host's chair, but Redwood declined to drink any of it. Of course Mr. King could not urge his guest to break through his rectitudinous habits.

During the dinner Redwood mustered the necessary courage to go through the formalities of asking Mr. King for his daughter, and the matter being over with the host regretted that his prospective son-in-law would not join him in a glass of wine to the health of their beloved Virginia. It was hard for the young man to resist the temptation, but, fearing he was being tested and might lose the girl he loved if he yielded, he stood firm.

During the awkward pause that followed there was a ring at the door-bell, and the gentleman Redwood had met on the train entered. Mr. King's expression changed.

"Hello, Jim!" he exclaimed. "You're just in time to prevent my drinking alone. Gimme the health upon her engagement. This is Mr. Redwood, to whom I have just given her."

With a twinkle in his eye, Mr. Barbour took up the glass that was filled for him and said: "Pray excuse me, Mr. Redwood, for perpetrating a huge joke upon you. My friend Ned King is a temperate man, but not such as I pictured him to you. I am glad to join you both on this very happy occasion."

And the three drank the health of the absent one with great gusto.

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