

SEEING TRIFLES.

Meve Altered the Whole Course of Many a Life.

Some sage has observed, and the makers of copybooks have recorded the observation, that "Trifles make the sum of human things." Like most copybook maxims, this remark is faithfully correct, and in addition to their marking the sum of human things, trifles have very often changed, also, the whole course of human lives. Here are a few instances.

A young and clever solicitor, who was making rapid headway in his profession, was asked by a friend who dabbled in amateur theatricals, to attend one evening a performance given by a club, of which the said friend was a prominent member. The man of law, having no engagement for the evening in question, consented readily enough, and the night of the representation found him in a stall near the stage, calmly awaiting the rising of the curtain. While he was engaged in studying his programme, he received a message by one of the attendants from his friend behind the scenes, bidding him come there at once, as he had a favor to ask of him. The favor was that he should go on in the first scene in the place of one of the actors who had been taken ill at the last moment, and as only ordinary dress was required, no special preparation was needed. The solicitor, who had never faced the footlights in the whole course of his existence, was somewhat taken aback by the suddenness of the proposition, but at length he consented to read the part, and so well did he succeed that from that night onward he was possessed of the stage fever, and a few months later he threw up his legal work and went on the professional stage.

The erratic time kept by hotel clocks has often been the cause of many curses, "not loud, but deep," but one young fellow had occasion to bless the eccentricity of the timepiece in a large American hotel, for had it registered the correct time he would most assuredly have gone to his death. The young man in question was desirous of leaving the city in which he was stopping by a train timed to depart at 6:30 in the evening, and at six o'clock—as he thought—he left the hotel with his bag and strolled leisurely down to the "depot," only to find that the train had departed some five minutes. Terribly annoyed, he returned to the hotel, and on making inquiries there he found that the clock at that establishment was ten minutes slow—hence the loss of the train. Next morning the whole of America was ringing with the news of a terrible railway accident, the train in which our young friend had intended to travel having been blown over a bridge into the river, not one life being saved. It may be imagined that the youth in question did not regret, when he heard the news, that the hotel clock had been slow, for had it been otherwise he would most surely have caught the train, and met a horrible death. Here, again, the terrible force of trifles will be apparent to all.

But perhaps one of the most extraordinary cases of lives changed by trifles was the following, in which the careless writing of the figure "1" so that it appeared like "7," altered the whole course of a young clerk's existence. It was many years ago, when the gold fever in California was at its highest pitch, and hundreds were leaving every day for the El Dorado on that western shore. Our clerk, who was plodding along in a London office on one pound sterling a week, was very much in love with a certain young lady, who was of a somewhat erratic and changeable disposition. In due course the young man asked the girl to marry him, and on her refusing he became very despondent, and accepted the invitation of a friend who was going out to California to accompany him toward the land of gold. He accordingly made his preparations and set out, and by a stroke of luck hit upon a valuable vein, with the result that he returned to England some years later an exceedingly wealthy man. The girl had long since married, and her sweetheart never knew that on the very eve of his departure she had written him a letter, informing him that she had changed her mind and would become his wife after all. This, however, she had done, but owing to her having written the number of the house at which he lodged so that it seemed like "47" instead of "41," the note was delayed, and when at length it reached its proper destination, he who should have received it was on the Atlantic. Had that letter been properly directed, he would in all probability have married the girl, and remained a clerk on a few shillings a week to the end of his days. Strange that so tiny a thing as the figure "7" should change the whole course of a man's existence.

—*St. Louis Globe-Democrat.*

Compensation.

"Farewell!" he sobbed.

The gentle Miranda, the light of his life, was, alas! another's.

However, the same thing was true of the umbrella he managed to grab the hall as he left her forever.—*Detroit Journal.*

DEATH ENDS A ROMANCE.

Leonard Hein, of Royal Descent, Seeks Lost Sweetheart.

Leonard Hein, a native of Bavaria, once a colonel in the German army, and belonging to a wealthy family, died the other day at St. Louis in abject poverty, in the city hospital, of organic trouble. Hein was 55 years old, and was of royal parentage. His father was a relative of old Emperor William, grandfather of Germany's present war lord.

When the Franco-Prussian war broke out young Hein was drafted and his service was at once pushed to the front. He distinguished himself for bravery and was promoted to the rank of colonel.

At the close of the war he attended a ball one evening in Berlin and fell in love with a young lady present. Later they were engaged and almost on the eve of their marriage she revealed to him that she was of French descent, and was engaged by the French government as a spy. Hein was astounded, but determined to marry her. His father learned of the young woman's commission and broke up the affair, finally spirituating her away.

"Perhaps it is," she faltered, "but—"

"You would have been just as nice and sweet and clever as you possibly could be," he asserted. "You would have been both lovable and loving and would have tried to coax me to give up my other plans. Isn't that so?"

"No, I suppose not," she replied hesitatingly.

"You wouldn't have got cross and been disagreeable about it, would you?"

"Probably not."

"You would have been just as nice and sweet and clever as you possibly could be," he asserted. "You would have been both lovable and loving and would have tried to coax me to give up my other plans. Isn't that so?"

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