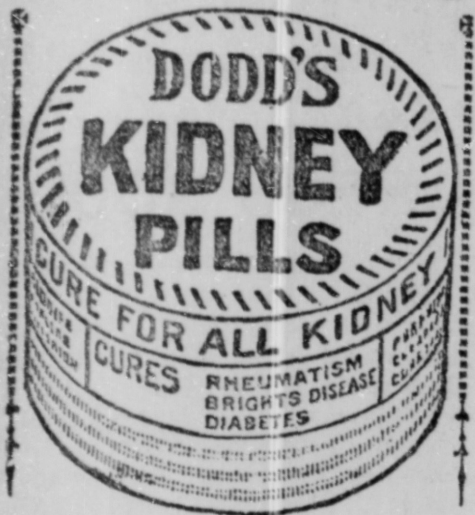


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JEWELER

A CLERICAL ERROR.

"I'll take you at your word, Mr. Penburton," said the young man promptly, handing me a folded paper and ignoring the angry blackamoor as best he might. "You wish me to marry you and this young woman?" said I, glancing at the license.

"Yes."
"Here and now?"
He looked over his shoulder at the throng of curious onlookers as one who would have purchased privacy at a price, but he did not hesitate.

"Yes, here and now, if you please. We shan't lack witnesses anyway."

"It shall be as you desire," I said gravely, and when I had found my book I began:
"Dear beloved—
The men in the crowd uncovered reverently, and even the man of wrath stepped back and bowed his head. As the exhortation proceeded, however, he looked up again with a malicious twinkle in his eyes.

"Into this holy estate these two persons come now to be joined. If any man can show just cause why they may not lawfully be joined together, let him now speak, or else hereafter forever hold his peace."

"My daughter is not of age. I forbid it!" said the father, with unnecessary vehemence.

A murmur of protest ran through the crowd, and I rebuked him promptly.

"Your objection, sir, is as ill timed as it is ineffectual. You know the law of this particular commonwealth, and you will oblige me by not again interrupting this ceremony."

Then came a diversion wholly unexpected and most embarrassing. The young woman bit her lip, burst into tears, and flung herself suddenly into her father's arms.

"Oh, poppa—I c-can't do it!" she sobbed, hiding her face on his shoulder. "I—I thought I could, but I can't. Please take me away—quick!"

It was most embarrassing, as I have said, and my young Romeo blushed like a girl and made a hollow pretense of trying to look as if it was a part of the programme. The father grinned triumphantly and addressed himself to me.

"You see, it wasn't so blessed ineffectual after all. I said this young jackanapes here shouldn't marry my daughter without my consent, and I say it yet—I've come 120 miles on a wild engine to be in time to say it. Now, then, if you're entirely satisfied in your own mind that I am master in my household, you may go ahead with your job and finish it—and I'll give the bride away."

If the cacophonous blast from one of the locomotives outside which punctuated the sentence had been an explosion of dynamite the effect of this declaration could scarcely have been more startling. Two or three cowboys on the outskirts of the throng were moved to cheer lustily, but of those most nearly



"Oh, poppa—I c-can't do it!"
concerned the young man was the first to recover his presence of mind. Taking Miss Eastwick's hand, he looked up at me and said very modestly:

"I think maybe we're safe to go on now—that is, if you can make out to find the place again."

I take no shame in saying that I had to fight a sharp battle for equanimity, but, having won it, I went on with the ceremony with what shreds and fragments of dignity I could collect upon the spur of the moment.

At the proper question the bride's father played his part, apparently without a single thought of his superficial unfitness, though those who were nearest smiled in spite of themselves, and I could see that my young scapegrace was grinding his teeth to keep down the unseemly desire to laugh outright at his father-in-law's personal appearance.

When the ceremony was concluded, the man of machinery took matters in hand with hearty brusquerie.

"Now, Hardwicke, you tell Tony to get up a nice little hot supper for four—no, make it six, and get your wife and join us. You two"—to the young rebels—"can take Dr. Penburton up stairs with you while I wash up. Between you you've managed to give me a (qualified) hard afternoon of it, but you didn't get much the best of the old man, after all. Now, then, clear out,

and I'll go rinse a little of this gudgeon grease off."

The waiting room was clearing for the departure of the west bound train, and I began to make my excuses.

"No, you don't," said the blackamoor good naturedly. "If you're obliged to get to Carbonoro tonight, I'll send you over on a special engine, but you've got to stay and grace this marriage feast whether or no. You owe me that much for getting you here alive."

I yielded, not altogether reluctantly. It must be confessed, but I declined the special engine. I had had quite enough of that species of journeying to last me a lifetime.

On the stairs I overtook the run-aways, and Roderick was saying:

"Well, all's well that ends that way. I suppose, but I'll have to admit I feel a bit aged, don't you, Ellie? When you threw up your hands and went over to the enemy, I wanted to drop through the floor. Whatever made you go back on me at the last moment that way?"

She smiled archly and slipped her arm two inches farther in his. "You're not particularly acute this evening, are you, Alan, dear?" she said lightly. "You mustn't forget that I know your father-in-law a great deal better than you do."

Roderick stopped short and put his hands on her shoulders. "Look me in the eye and say that again," he commanded. "Do you mean to tell me—but I don't believe it. If I did, I'd go into politics tomorrow and make you a Mrs. Embassador—that's what I'd do."

But to this day I believe he is not quite sure.

(To be Continued)



In the olden times, physicians accounted wise, searched vainly for the Elixir of Life, or the knowledge whereby life might be prolonged.

We now know that there is no such thing as an Elixir of Life. But we have learned that life may be prolonged by those who take the right measures.

Any man or woman who will take care of health and take the right remedies for ill health, may live to a ripe old age. When a man feels out of sorts, when he gets up in the morning tired out after a restless night, and goes home in the evening completely knocked out with his day's work, without appetite or ambition, he is a sick man. If he does not take the right remedy he will soon be in the grasp of consumption, nervous prostration, malaria, or some other serious malady.

A man in this condition should at once resort to Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. It is the best of all medicines for hard-working men and women. It makes the appetite keen and hearty. It gives sound and refreshing sleep. It tones and strengthens the whole system. It invigorates the heart and nerves. It makes digestion perfect, the liver active and the blood pure. It cures 98 per cent. of all cases of consumption. It strengthens weak lungs, and cures bronchitis, spitting of blood and obstinate coughs. It is the great blood-maker and flesh-builder. It does not make flabby flesh like cod liver oil, but firm, healthy, muscular tissue. It does not make corpulent people more corpulent. Thousands have testified to its marvelous merits. Sold by all medicine dealers.

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Those are all new goods and you should try them if you want something nice and tasty.

BEER & GOFF
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Abbey's Effervescent Salt may be taken at any time. It makes a refreshing drink, and invigorating, health-giving tonic.

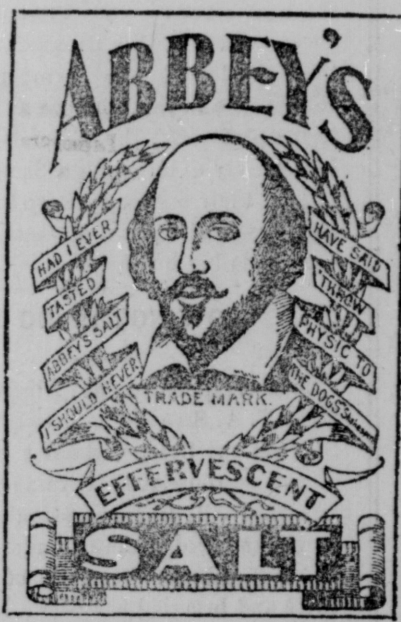
I have duly analyzed and tested several samples of "Abbey's Effervescent Salt."

I find it to be of very uniform character and composition, and sold in packages well adapted to the preservation of the Salt. This compound contains saline bases which form "Fruit Salts" when water is added—and is then a very delightful aperient beverage, highly palatable and effective.

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