

great Mississippi Railroad bridge on Rock Island was lifted from the pivots and broken in two, falling into the river. One man was killed and three badly injured.

Col. L. B. Graggby of Kentucky, has been appointed inspector of U. S. customs at Panama.

Raleigh.—The convention adjourned after the ceremony of signing the constitution.

Charleston.—The convention has adjourned *sine die*. The constitution contains 15 articles and 213 sections.

New York, 18.—The *Herald's* special at Havana says, that when Madame Ristori was announced to play the character of Teresa, the Bishop of Havana interfered and denounced the performance to the authorities, but was not much heeded. The Bishop, in consequence, ordered the curates in all the districts through which General Torsundi was to pass on a tour through the country, not to ring the church bells. His Honor Torsundi returned and telegraphed to Madrid, when he received a reply to make himself be respected. The Bishop has been put under arrest by his own police, but will probably be sent to Porto Rico to await orders from Madrid. The Cadiz mail steamer has been detained one day by General Torsundi to take on board two refractory curates. An audacious church robbery has taken place here. Torsundi has returned and ordered the Bishop to leave the Island for his insubordination to the first authority of Cuba.

Several Spanish officers in the Mexican service have been implicated in the late conspiracy; the plan was connected with Santa Anna, the Marquis Solozar and others, who had for their object the proclamation of Ortega. Some will probably be shot. Juraz will probably send a commission to General Torsundi asking him to observe the neutrality laws.

MY LEAP YEAR BALL EXPERIENCE.

A lady of decidedly good taste and superiority of ability affectionately submitted to my disposal this sentence—"Will you be kind enough to accompany me to the Social Leap Year ball on Friday evening?" Tears of modesty suffused my marble cheeks for two minutes and a half, after which I stammered out that "I would be kind enough." What a picture was here depicted, a worthy theme for *Savenger* and *Ottage*! What a sacrifice of self for a charitable purpose? What nobleness of manhood and high tonation of character does this scene not present? It is grand, sublime and "putty!" (The reader will here imagine a lapse of two days and nights.)

The momentous Friday evening finds young man at home, with a good selection of borrowed clothes on, toe nails trimmed, hair greased and eager for the fray. Looks at his watch often, and wonders what can detain his partner. The young man above referred to is myself. It's getting on to 8 p.m. I wonder if I'm the legitimate \$2.50 partner or only a 37 cent appendage. "Time tries all," and my trial seemed bound to result in conviction, when all at once up drives a carriage, in comes my evening protector, who conducts me to a parquette-cushioned seat in the vehicle. I will here remark that my left hand side pocket contained a derring, as I was given to understand that I would be looked upon that evening as belonging to the "softer sex" and I didn't know what emergencies might arise through the sudden transition. But this precaution on my part was altogether unnecessary, as not one single ungentlemanly move toward me was made by the ladies during the whole evening.

If the reader has now got his imagination in running order, he might as well imagine me sitting in the overcoat and boot room awaiting my escort to the ball room. While sitting there my mind was occupied with thoughts of how popular I was going to be when I got up stairs, and what feelings of regret I would manifest when necessitated to decline the scores of anticipated invitations to trip "the light fantastic toe." In due time I was marched up, tenaciously clinging to the right wing of her who adored me (speculative). A pleasant dance followed, when I was quietly esconced in a corner, on a bench alongside of a man who drives fast horses.

Said I, "Mr. F., I wonder what young ladies will be lucky enough to secure us for the next quadrille?"

"I'm an ornamental 'wall-flower'" said he.

"A what?" says I

"A 'wall-flower,' an appendage to a Leap Year dance that occupies the same position as a chandelier, or anything else that is noticed but not disturbed. Never you mind," says he, "you'll find out what a 'wall flower' is by the time you've sat here as long as I have all cramped up!"

I took a scrutinizing glance around the room, and noticed there were many males of my acquaintance looking very unnatural. Some were sitting with their elbows on their knees, the palm of their hands supporting their drooping chins; others sat very erect with their arms hanging exactly perpendicular with a slight depression in their stomachs, while another class seemed to typify a knot on a log, setting all humped up, with their backbones drawn into the shape of a limerick fish hook—all these, I was told, were "wall-flowers."

"Miserable men," thought I.

"Those ladies holding numbers from 24 to 48 will go on," says the Floor Manageress.

"Now," says I, "square yourself Mr. F., here they come."

"I'm not going to any unnecessary expense," says he, "I've squared myself too many times already." Prepare to pucker. Here comes a magenta-rigged female, skipping along straight for me, evidently afraid some other may ask me first. She must have changed her mind, though, for just before she got where I was, she took up with an ordinary-looking gentleman who seemed very sad, I think she danced with him through *pity*. I made up my mind that I wouldn't dance that time. By this time, I began to have an inkling of the term "wall-flower" and looked upon friend F. and others with sympathetic feelings. I get an idea! Strategy is a great human blessing, so I take a seat alongside of a miss, and among other things asked her if she remembers how I always danced with her at former parties? She remarked that as a general thing her memory was excellent, but if any thing of the kind had ever occurred, it was very indistinct in her mind, but, if her recollection became refreshed on that point, she would let me know.

Another cotillion was now formed, but for reasons best known to myself, I did not join in the dance.

A young lady came along about this time and asked me how I was enjoying myself, and she being of a very talkative, entertaining nature, I made room on the seat and felt that I had "struck oil" at last. I told her all about how happy I felt, how I worshipped dancing as a recreation; that I had been looking for her all the evening and would be pleased to engage her for the next set, but that was an impossibility as that prerogative belonged exclusively to the ladies. It was a well planned scheme, but the execution was not worth a cent, as was evinced by the lady choosing out "a feller" that sat next to me. I now felt that I had rather see others dance than indulge myself, in fact the doctrine of self-sacrifice became apparently more necessary. I silently whistled a few words of a new song entitled "I wish I was a baby," or any thing else that required female attention. Friend F. joins me in the whistle.

Intermission is happily announced and "wall-flowers" take "vengeance on their victims," after which they again range themselves along the wall, "like quills upon the fretful porcupine."

A double cotillion follows in which a lady, a gentleman and a "wall-flower" form a couple. This brings the males into more demand, and I feel to rejoice in accepting a dance with a lady who has a patent bucket-full of silken hair done up in a pile at the back of the head. This is an inverted polygamic quadrille, and proves a brilliant success, with a mortification on my part in consequence of not being able to keep my delicate feet (the boxes which boots come in generally fit me) off the trail of a lady's dress who was in the other end of the room. These trails are a great gift to the human family in the ball room, but the musicians should be instructed to incorporate a few extra stops at certain stages of the tune, in order to let the gentlemen now and then approximate within a few feet of their partners.

Thirty-seven and a half cent men are now called for, but modesty forbidding many to appear, the "wall-flowers" fill up at the rate of three for a dollar, and many of them considered themselves highly valued at that price; especially my friend F. who begins to appear less like a corpse.

Elderly gents afflicted with rheumatism and ladies with large babies begin to disappear, also newly married couples are minus, to the delight of "wall-flowers" whose day stars begin to illumine the heretofore darkened horizon.

Bully for all hands now! A gentleman beckons me to an isolated corner, and in a subdued voice asks me to lend him two dollars and a half. He is probably the partner of some other man's wife. His "cause is just but I can do nothing for him."

I next noticed the coolest piece of impudence of the evening, viz: A standing "wall-flower" of pale visage, (who undoubtedly felt the weakness of his sex) insisting that a young lady should transfer to him her cushioned seat. To the praise of the fair one she obeyed with a grace akin to condolence.

By this time slim built people were becoming tired, and fleshy ones perspired, the lamps burned blue, the ladies were probably reflecting on two dollars and a half including extras, coach hire and supper, and everything came to a close satisfactorily, with this exception: The Manageress omitted on the part of the Committee to return their thanks to the gentlemen for the good order they had maintained and their perfect obedience and subjection to the powers that were.

On the whole the ladies done the handsome, and on the balance the "wall-flowers" did the ditto, and as far as I am individually concerned, I would almost any time forego the masculine right of paying the expenses, in order to humor a beautiful female.

A WALL-FLOWER.

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d21&w48-tf

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