

Outwitted.

A man's theory may be first class and yet not stand him in good stead to the bitter end.

An Irishman, who had provided himself with a huge horse-pistol, and taken to the road to replenish his exchequer, met a farmer returning from the market with a bag of money.

"Your money or your life?" demanded Pat, presenting the pistol in the usual way.

The farmer chanced to be a Quaker, and he essayed to temporize. "I would not have thee stain thy soul with sin, friend," said he; "and didst thou kill me, it would be murder. But hold! A bargain is no sin, but a commerce between two honest men. I will give thee this bag of gold for the pistol which thou holdest at my ear."

The unsuspecting amateur highway man made the change without a moment's hesitation.

"Now, friend," cried the wily Ephraim, leveling the weapon, "give me back my gold, or I'll blow thy brains out?"

"Blaze away, then, darlint!" said Pat. "Sure there's niver a drop of powder in it!"

Why There Are Old Maids.

One cause for so many old maids is due to the girls themselves, says the New England House Wife. What young man of the middle class cares to marry a girl who would let her father wear a coat with buttons off and linen collar that is torn and ragged? Such a girl doesn't deserve a husband, and she will be likely to join the grand army of old maids.

If there be anything on earth the young men fight shy of, it is a slovenly girl. The father or the brother is the evidence, and when you see them walking to their work with their clothes torn and looking like men who had to put up with a slack wife, mother or grown up daughter and sister, you need look for nothing better if you marry into that family.

You know a lazy girl or two of this kind, don't you? Think of those you can single out, two or three girls this article will hit. If so, for their own sake send

this to them. Let them do a little plain sewing, and promise that hereafter their father or brothers will not walk the streets ragged and battered, a disgrace to them and an inclination that they are too lazy to be the wife of any good young man who has to work for a living to make a home, and needs a loving, industrious helpmate to share the joys and burdens of life with him.

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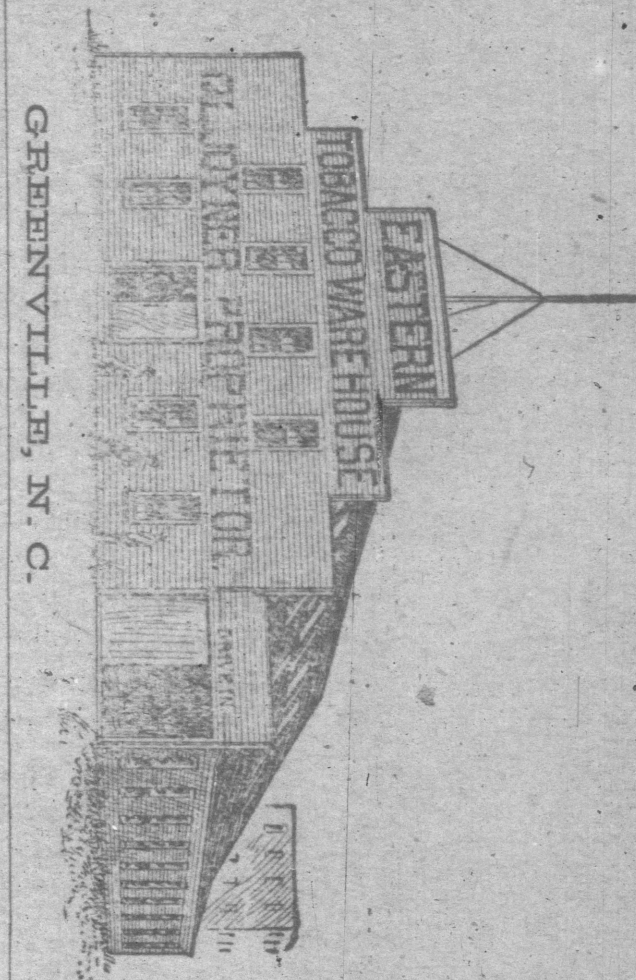
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