

PAT OBTAINS HIS RECEIPT

BY C.W. LATTIN

Our photo shows Emma C. Root (1842-1904) who happened to be an eyewitness to an amusing incident which occurred in an Albion store perhaps back in the 1880s. Thinking it too good to keep, she sent an account of it to the Youths Companion for which she received a check. Consequently, other newspapers around the country also printed the story for its humor and message.

Emma Root is buried in the Root Mausoleum at Mt. Albion Cemetery. The story in her words is as follows:

"Some time ago, I was trading in a village store, when one of the clerks came to the junior partner who chanced to be waiting on me and said 'wont you please step to the desk a minute, Pat Flynn wants to settle his bill and insists on having a receipt.'

The merchant was evidently annoyed and said, 'Why what does he want of a receipt? We never give one. Simply cross his account off the book that is receipt enough.'

'So I told him,' answered the clerk, 'but he is not satisfied. You had better see him.'

So the proprietor stepped to the desk and after greeting Pat with a 'good morning' said, 'You wished to settle your bill, did you? To which Pat replied in the affirmative. 'Well,' said the merchant, 'there is no need of



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giving you a receipt. See! I will cross your account off the book, 'and suiting the action to the word he drew his pencil diagonally across the account. 'That is as good as a receipt.'

'And do ye mane that that settles it?' Asked Pat.

'That settled it,' said the merchant. 'An ye're shure ye'll never be after askin me fur it again?'

'We'll never ask you for it again,' said the merchant decidedly.

'Faith then,' said Pat. 'I'll be after kapin me money in me pocket, for I hav'nt paid it yet.'

The merchant's face flushed angrily as he replied, 'Oh, I can rub that out.'

'Faith, now, and I thought that same,' said Pat.

It is needless to add that Pat obtained his receipt.

Note: Tour of Mt. Albion Cemetery is at 2 p.m. Sunday.