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### SOME GOOD ADVICE ALL AROUND.

By M. QUAD.

[Copyright, 1908, by T. C. McClure.]  
The six footer who yells through the  
megaphone to call up the carriages af-  
ter the theater will persist that he has  
never made a mistake, but you can  
doubt his word. If he hadn't on this  
night Mr. Bradshaw and Mrs. Dins-  
more wouldn't have found themselves  
side by side in an auto, and Mr. Dins-  
more and Mrs. Bradshaw wouldn't  
have taken the same cab. Mr. and  
Mrs. Bradshaw had had something of  
a misunderstanding before leaving  
home, and during the performance at  
the theater he had made up his mind  
to say things on the way home.

For five minutes the woman beside  
him ignored his existence. She was  
still in the sulks, and she might have  
continued to ignore had not Mr. Brad-  
shaw suddenly uttered a swear word  
and announced to the chauffeur that a  
mistake had been made. Mrs. Dins-  
more gasped and uttered a little  
scream at the announcement, but did  
not lose her self possession. For three  
long hours she had been thinking how  
she would like to lacerate the feelings  
of some man, and she said:

"I'm going to ask you how you use  
your wife."

"Madam, isn't that rather a singular  
question?" he replied.

"You may think so, but I'm some-  
thing of a reader of character. If you  
are not one of the bossy kind around  
your house then I'm much mistaken.  
I think you are also selfish and con-  
ceited. You were at the theater with  
your wife. I'll wager that you gave  
her to understand that it was a mag-  
nanimous concession on your part.  
You'll expect her to sit with freezing  
feet and save a ton of coal the next  
week to make even. Oh, I know your  
sort. If you weren't so self important  
you'd have never made this mistake.  
You thought you owned the only auto  
in town and that this must be yours  
because it drove up to the curb. There  
—I feel better, and you can take me  
home. I am Mrs. Dinsmore of 342 Ma-  
ple avenue."

"Yes," said Mr. Bradshaw as he  
headed the machine in that direction.  
"It so happens that I know your hus-  
band. I know that he is hard up and  
on the point of failure, and I have  
heard a dozen people say that it is on  
account of your extravagance. Don't  
interrupt me, but you are living in a  
too expensive house. Your wardrobe  
costs too much. You keep too many  
servants. Your husband is afraid of  
you and dare not hint at retrench-  
ment. You are wearing diamonds  
now that will be in the hands of his  
creditors in less than three months  
if you don't hold up. Here is Maple  
avenue, and here's No. 342, and there's  
your husband and my wife waiting for  
us."

On leaving the theater and finding  
themselves in the same cab Mr. Dins-  
more and Mrs. Bradshaw discovered the  
mistake by the time the driver had  
traveled a block. The vehicle was or-  
dered to set them down on Maple ave-  
nue, and they had been waiting there  
half an hour when the others drove  
up. Meanwhile they had been talking.  
"Oh, so you are Mr. Dinsmore?" re-  
peated Mrs. Bradshaw. I have heard  
of your wife."

"Yes?"  
"She goes into society a good deal."  
"Yes," was the reply, accompanied  
by a long drawn sigh.

That sigh caught Mrs. Bradshaw.  
She was a sympathetic woman by na-  
ture, and she had just witnessed an  
emotional play and was more sympa-  
thetic than usual. Besides, she had  
heard about Mrs. Dinsmore's extrava-  
gance. Therefore, weakkneed and hum-  
ble minded as she was in the presence  
of the overshadowing Mr. Bradshaw,  
she plucked up courage to say:

"Mr. Dinsmore, I am very, very sorry  
for you, but yet it is our own fault in  
a way."

"Just what do you refer to?"  
"To your wife, of course. Why don't  
you stand right up and tell her she  
can't have this and that? She may  
have a temper, but firmness would con-  
quer that. She may threaten divorce,  
but pay no attention to that. That is  
a woman's bluff. I don't think it too  
late to begin now, but you have got to  
make up your mind to be firm."

"I see," said Mr. Dinsmore, who  
hadn't interrupted her speech by rais-  
ing so much as a finger. "Mrs. Brad-  
shaw, it happens, queerly enough, that  
I also know something about your  
family matters. You are a servile, su-  
pine wife. You don't dare to call your  
soul your own. You are bossed and  
bulldozed. Your husband makes you  
efface yourself like a servant. While  
he belongs to three or four expensive  
clubs, buys the best wines and cigars  
and has an auto for his special ben-  
efit, you are squeezing the pennies and  
dreading the gas bills. Why do you  
do it? Why don't you get up and as-  
sert yourself?"

Mrs. Bradshaw was gasping for  
breath when the other vehicle drove  
up, and the four saluted each other.  
After a moment the men stepped aside  
a bit to explain to each other how the  
mistake must have come about, and  
their wives did the same, having been  
introduced.

"Dinsmore," whispered Bradshaw,  
"your wife has given me an infernal  
wiggling."

"Ditto," replied Dinsmore.

"Mrs. Dinsmore," whispered the oth-  
er lady, "your husband has given me  
the awfulest talking I ever got."

"Ditto," replied Mrs. Dinsmore.

And then they all stood and looked  
at each other for an embarrassing mo-  
ment and then said good night.

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