

THE BROKEN PITCHER

By THOMAS L. MASSON

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I MADE it a rule to fall in love with a handsome girl every year. This is the proper intellectual and emotional substitute for an annual vacation.

It is true that the elements which go to make up handsome girls are all the same. But the combinations are different. Hence the interest and excitement.

I confess that I was not always understood. Some of them have foolishly thought that the arrangement was to be permanent. But—

I say this in no spirit of vanity, an ordinary acquaintance with the world has given me a certain polish. My education is fairly good. In conversation, I always know when to drop the subject; this by the way is talent. I was born with it. Such a thing cannot be acquired. I am also fairly well off.

One learns by experience to exercise a certain amount of caution. It is only by attention to details that one commands the highest success. I never write letters, for example.

I was sitting one afternoon in my motor car in front of the W— Inn, waiting for my chauffeur to obtain some cigars, when a handsome girl came out. My observation has been fairly well trained and, after a brief survey, I concluded immediately that she would answer the purposes of my next annual vacation. She was dressed with great care, and with the air of one who had been born to certain necessary things. In a moment she had disappeared in a cloud of dust.

My chauffeur came out just then, and I ordered him to follow. Fortunately my car is seventy horsepower.

The handsome girl got out and ascended the steps of a house on Fifth avenue. I took the number and repaired to my club, where I had a leisurely luncheon.

There is a man in my club who is perfectly invaluable—a sort of human directory. He knows the names of all the really best people, and what is more to the point, he knows their houses.

"James," I said, puffing my cigarette, "who lives at—Fifth avenue?"

"The Pollertons, sir."

"There is a Miss Pollerton?"

"Miss Helen, sir."

"She is not engaged."

"I believe not, sir."

"Her father—?"

"Is in the Street, sir."

"They go in summer—?"

"To Bar Harbor, sir. They also have a place at Newport."

"And Europe?"

"Every other year, sir. This is their year I believe."

"The steamer directory, James."

"Right here, sir."

I ascertained that the Pollertons were to sail on the twenty-second. It was now the twentieth.

I was at the steamship company's office in an hour.

There was, of course, nothing left. I immediately called upon Mr. Pollerton at his office. Fortunately he was in.

I greeted him pleasantly and gave him my card.

"I am the young man who is in love with your daughter."

"I have never heard of you before, sir," he said in surprise. I smiled.

"Is there anything remarkable in that?" I replied. "How much do you see your daughter? Is it customary, sir, for American men to know all the young men who happen to be in love with their daughters?"

"Um. I suppose not. What is it that you wish?"

"You and your family are booked to sail on the M— on the twenty-second. You have three rooms and you yourself have a separate room."

"Well, sir?"

"There are unfortunately no other rooms left."

"Well, sir?"

"Would you mind giving up your room to me, and I shall be glad to make all the arrangements for you on some other steamer?"

"Isn't this an extraordinary request—from a stranger?"

I smiled again. The obtuseness of the man amused me.

"Only seemingly so," I replied. "It must be obvious to you that my society will be more interesting to your daughter than yours. She sees you every day, or can if she likes. She has always had you around—ever since she was born. You are an old story to her. Now I am new—capable of any amount of devotion. Consider, sir, your duty in the matter."

"There is something in that," he observed. I was writing out the check for the amount of the passage.

ther wishes you to marry," I said. "I have never heard of you before, sir."

I mentioned my club, and told her a number of her friends with whom she was intimate.

"You do not believe me?"

"I am at a loss to understand you—never having met you before."

I produced the booking.

"Your father's room—you are aware of it?"

"Certainly."

"Here it is—he has turned it over to me. That ought to be evidence of his great love for you—and his confidence in me."

"Why should papa wish to give up his room to you?"

"Didn't you wish it?" I asked in surprise.

"Why should I?"

"Do you mean to say," I asked, "that you would rather have your father accompany you than myself? Now I put it to you fairly and squarely. Reflect. Your father is always with you—or could be. He is an old story," I added triumphantly. Why should I vary that phrase? Always in an affair of this sort, move along lines of least resistance. One needs all of one's energies for critical moments.

"I will promise not to bore you," I added rather superfluously. "If I do, have me thrown overboard. I can swim you know."

"Poor papa!"

"Is delighted at the idea of your going without him. By the way, don't mention the matter to him. To praise him for such an unselfish act might set him up. Never praise your papa to his face."

On the second afternoon out I was holding her hand under a steam rug, while her mother was playing bridge down below.

"Am I the only girl you ever loved?" she asked.

"Can you doubt it?" I responded fervently.

"No, but I like to have you tell me so."

"I love you dearly," I said, good-humoredly.

"Then you must marry me."

I started. Such an idea had never occurred to me, as you may imagine.

"But my dear little girl—" I protested.

"I mean it. You must marry me at once. I am sure from what you have told me that papa wishes it, and, of course, mamma will not object. There is a clergyman on board. The ceremony must take place at once."

I shuddered. For once in my life I was thoroughly taken aback.

"Consider what you are saying!" I replied. "Why no one marries now."

She laid her hand on my arm.

"Now, dear, I may be old-fashioned about it, but I have made up my mind. It must be done."

I passed the next few moments trying to argue with her. But when a girl like that is actually bent on marrying one, what is one to do?

The captain came. The situation was briefly explained. He naturally sided with her. In an hour every one on shipboard was apprised of the approaching ceremony. In two hours we were one.

Even to this day I cannot forgive myself for it.

Two weeks later I was sitting in the breakfast room at Baden-Baden with my bride. Charming place that. It had required the utmost strength of character for me to accustom myself to the new conditions. But after all, what is life without character?

There was a slight lull in the quiet buzz of conversation. At this moment it occurred to me to ask her a question which I had been waiting for her proper mood to answer.

"Pardon me, darling," I said, "but would you mind telling me something of which I am very curious to know? Just between ourselves, you know."

"Certainly not," she replied, with a charming smile.

"Would you mind, then, telling me why you insisted upon marrying me? It may seem inconsequent on my part, but I really wish to know."

She leaned forward and her voice lowered.

"Don't you know?" she whispered.

"No."

"For two reasons. First, because of your simplicity, your unselfishness and your modesty. Then again, I just couldn't bear the thought of your breaking any other girl's heart."

Thoughts of Strength

Thoughts of strength both build strength from within and attract it from without. Thoughts of weakness actualize weakness from within and attract it from without. Courage begets strength, fear begets weakness. And so courage begets success, fear begets failure. It is the man or woman of faith, and hence of courage, who is the master of circumstances, and who makes his or her power felt in the world. It is the man or woman who lacks faith and who as a consequence is weakened and crippled by fears and forebodings who is the creature of all passing occurrences.—Ralph Waldo Trine.

Colors in Sunlight

Sunlight as it comes down to the earth is made up of a mixture of colors—every one of which practically is seen in a rainbow. These colors come to the eye as "white light," however. This light can be broken up into its colors by the prism, however. These colors are "caused" by the different lengths of the waves of light. Violet, blue and indigo are the shortest, green and yellow wave lengths are somewhat longer and the orange and red are the longest.



This popular "movie" star is regarded as one of the most, if not the most experienced horsemen in motion pictures. Tom Mix was born in Texas. He is six feet tall, weighs 176 pounds, has black hair and dark eyes. He has been seen in pictures too numerous to mention, and has as many admirers as any star in the business.

Your Health
By ANDREW F. CURRIER, M.D.

TAPE-WORM

THIS is an intestinal parasite which is nourished by the nutrient fluids in which it is bathed.

It is present not only in man, but in the hog, cow, rat, dog, numerous varieties of fish and other animals.

Two varieties are common in man, Taeniae and Bothrioccephali. A tape-worm suggests a strip of tape, being composed of oblong segments, averaging about an inch in length.

He has a small head, a threadlike neck, and on the lower surface of the head are suckers and rows of hooks by which he attaches himself to the intestinal mucous membrane.

Unless the head and its nearest segments are expelled, he will reproduce himself within three or four months.

The segments are passed with the intestinal evacuations, singly or in strings which may be several feet long.

The common form, Taenia solium, is seven to ten feet long and, when mature, has from 200 to 450 segments.

His head is as large as a good-sized pin's head; his neck one-half inch long; the segments near the head contain both male and female generative organs and they produce enormous numbers of eggs.

The eggs are taken up by the hog and developed in his stomach or intestine, a minute head growing out of a minute cyst.

This larva is carried by the blood to the brain, eye, liver, muscles or skin, pork which contains it being known as measy pork.

When eaten raw, or slightly cooked, or in sausage, it is followed by the development of the tape-worm if the juices of the stomach or intestine, of the person eating it, are not efficient in destroying it.

Children suffer from intestinal worms, but seldom from tape-worms. One may have tape-worm and be entirely unconscious of it, so far as symptoms are concerned, or there may be symptoms of a pronounced character.

These may be anaemia, emaciation, convulsion, St. Vitus' dance, dizziness, neuralgia, ringing in the ears, or some other form of nervous disturbance.

The appetite may fail, or it may be voracious; constipation may alternate with diarrhea; and there may be colic with nausea and vomiting; also itching in various parts of the body.

To prevent tape-worm, avoid raw or imperfectly cooked food, and water that is in any way suspicious.

If tape-worm is present, the segments will always be found at some time or other in the intestinal evacuations.

To get rid of a tape-worm, fast several days, taking castor oil at night, and enemata of cold water in the morning, preceding the latter with suitable doses of epsom salts or phosphate of soda.

If this does not suffice, some form of vermifuge, or teneicide, must be taken, your physician deciding.

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TWAS EVER THUS.

Love, honor, and obey—the marriage vows. Alas! for vows so promising, so mocking. Full many a bride knit simply knit her brows. When mildly asked to darn her husband's stockings.

ROAD BUILDING

POORLY BUILT ROAD CREATES LIABILITY

When a road is built that will not outlast its cost, the builders are buying trouble and paying cash for it. They borrow money to buy a liability—create a debt to buy something that will be a continual expense until it finally becomes a total loss through sound finance. In the old days of macadam and gravel roads it was no uncommon occurrence for a county or township to have as many as three sets of outstanding bonds on a main traveled highway. The sooner a bad road is put out of existence, that much sooner will a wholly unnecessary expense be cut off. Not only that, but land values will begin to improve.

Permanent road building costs money, and it is well to look at the cold-cash side of the proposition. True, the beneficial effects upon the social and educational standards of the community are not always susceptible of exact calculation, but they are certain to come; and since a permanent road costs money, we must know there is to be a profit from somewhere to offset the cost. Something for nothing has never yet been found. Profits from a permanent road come to the farmer in the reduction of hauling costs. It puts him in a position where he can get to market every day, and where he can haul two loads at one trip instead of having to make two trips to haul one load. These are a few plain reasons why a good road should be built, rather than continue trying to maintain a bad one.

How to get a good road system is not a difficult problem if a county or township is willing to be guided by common sense. The first step is to employ a competent highway engineer. He will make a study of traffic conditions, ascertain where the main market road runs, and build accordingly, constructing feeder lines to the main market lines with a type of material that will be less expensive than that required on the main market lines, and yet will at the same time meet all traffic requirements on the feeder lines. The main lines, if built with a solid base will be permanent.

Bridging Major Streams Helped by Federal Aid

One of the most helpful results of federal aid to road construction has been the bridging of major streams which it has encouraged and made possible, according to the annual report of the bureau of public roads of the United States Department of Agriculture. Such streams are, in many cases, the boundaries of counties or states, and the necessity of securing joint action of the authorities of the two political divisions, coupled with the inadequacy of funds available, has made the construction of modern structures over wide rivers an almost hopeless problem. Yet it is evident that no continuous road system is possible without bridging these barriers.

Federal aid and the co-ordinating influence of the federal government have been the means of securing practical action in a great many cases of this sort. The careful study of the principal lines of travel leading to the designation of the federal-aid highway system has developed clearly the need of bridges of this character over certain streams and has brought about agreement as to the locations in which the bridges should be built. This benefit has been experienced by the majority of the states, especially those of the South and the Mississippi valley.

Illinois Is Leader

Recent construction reports show that Illinois now is the unquestioned leader in pavement mileage, with California second, New York third and Pennsylvania fourth. The Illinois state highway department has succeeded, this season, in constructing more than one-sixth of all roads laid in the United States.

Good Roads Facts

North Carolina has the longest asphaltic hard-surfaced highway east of the Rocky mountains, the road extending 165 miles.

Enough highways to circle the earth, 24,000 miles in all, are scheduled for construction in the United States during 1925 by various state highway departments. Good roads are coming to be a reality in all states of the Union.

Twenty-four thousand miles of state highways are scheduled for construction in 1925, according to the United States bureau of public roads.

The state highway department of Pennsylvania has completed renumbering more than 376 separate highway routes and combining them in less than 80, through trans-state thoroughfares. Motor tourists coming upon these routes at the border can follow them the entire length or breadth of the state.

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Remarkable Bird.

The hoactzin of British Guiana is a remarkable bird. Almost as soon as hatched it crawls out of the nest by using its wings as forefeet. The "thumb" and "forefinger" of the wings have claws with which the young bird climbs.

Taking Stains from Glass.

To remove paint and varnish from glass, use three parts of American potash to one part of unslaked lime. Lay this on with a stick and let it remain for some time. Paint spots may also be removed by rubbing them with very hot, sharp vinegar.

"Shoddy"

The shoddy trade was begun at Batley, Yorkshire, England, in 1813, by Benjamin Law. It also was among the earliest products of American woolen mills. In 1909 there were 88 shoddy establishments in the United States.

Brain Puncture.

Woman's intuition isn't so impressive when she is deciding which way to turn in traffic.—Rochester Times-Union.

Oldest Inhabitant.

I kin remember when the only thing you had to worry about when you crossed a street was getting your feet muddy.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Sartorial Note.

An exchange says that in some countries the women's dresses are made of banana fiber. They should be easy to slip on.

So It Goes.

A boy sneers at a little girl for dressing a doll. Later he spends his life at it.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Ranks High in Literature.

The Heimskringla has been called "the most important prose work in old Norse literature." It is a history of Norse kings. Some were mythical, others real. The author was an Icelandic, Snorri Sturluson (1178-1241).

Emersonian Philosophy.

When science is learned in love, and its powers are wielded by love, they will appear the supplements and continuations of the material creation.—Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Fraternity Spirit Strong.

Fraternity and other organizations are very popular with Americans. The census bureau reports that in one year 84 establishments made \$10,500,000 worth of emblems and insignia.

A Fable.

"Mother, you go to the movies this afternoon and I'll stay at home to wash the dishes and prepare for supper."—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

More Natural.

Add a little fine fern to that bunch of artificial flowers and you will be surprised to see how much more natural they will appear.

Appropriate.

Among "plants that grow hair," the first that the Literary Digest pictures is naturally the bean.—Boston Herald.

We See Much Near-Truth.

Craft must be at charge for clothes, but truth can go naked.—Benjamin Franklin.

Sometimes Case of "Fire."

Jud Tunkins says a resignation rumor generally seems to imply that a man is in line for a new job with better pay.—Washington Star.

A Safety-Valve

One thing that keeps America free of revolution is the fact that one exciting sport season blends into another.—Vancouver Sun.

Morality and Religion.

Morality looks that the skin of the apple be fair; but religion seeketh to the very core.—Nathaniel Culverwell.

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Whalebone.

The most valuable whalebone commercially is that of the right whales, especially that of the bowhead, which may have a length of from 10 to 12 feet, and is very flexible. A single bowhead yields 2,000 pounds of whalebone, valued at from \$5 to \$7 a pound.

Squirrel Changes Coat.

On the Pacific coast the chickaree is a sleight-of-hand artist in the matter of clothes. He changes with the climate, says Nature Magazine. In the humid, heavily wooded region bordering the Pacific he wears a coat that is rich, dark brown, but underneath it changes to a beautiful orange tone.

Geography via Navigation.

Children are taught geography in a school which overlooks the harbor in Southampton, England, by following the courses of great ocean liners which can be seen leaving port, with miniature vessels on a large map painted on the roof.—Science Service.

World's Oldest Bridge.

The oldest bridge in the world is probably the Sublician bridge at Rome. It is a wooden bridge and was built in the Seventeenth century. It was twice rebuilt. Only the ruins now remain.

Pointed Question.

Mrs. Gabbins—"So you think women always tell everything they know, but I assure you some of us don't tell any more than we want to." Husband—"Well, and what's the difference?"—Boston Transcript.

Health in Lounging.

The custom of oriental women of reclining on the floor on cushions or lying on couches, instead of sitting erect on chairs, often has a beneficial effect on the health, according to one eminent health specialist.

Politeness and Love.

Politeness has been defined as love in trifles. Courtesy is said to be love in little things. And the one secret of politeness is to love. Love cannot behave itself unseemly.—Henry Drummond.

Bottles in Pioneer Days.

Because they were rare and valuable, glass bottles frequently were mentioned in the wills of the American pioneers.

Nicotiana.

Dr. Brady says cabbage is healthy in any form. Guess doc doesn't smoke.—Toledo Blade.

Rabies Among Animals.

Cases of rabies have been identified among cats, cattle, swine and horses.

Must Have Been Monster.

Bones of a prehistoric reptile dug up in Tanganyika territory, Africa, are so enormous that it took 16 men to lift one of them when uncovered.

Lots of Parking Space.

The straight and narrow path is plenty wide for its traffic.—Wichita (Kan.) Times.

Wine From Potatoes.

In some countries wine is made from potatoes.

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