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"Gumeridge isn't a man I've a
 great deal of use for," remarked the
 citizen with the protruding waistband.
 "I've only met him a few times, just
 when you've brought him in to lunch,
 but I'm free to confess I don't like
 him. You know I never beat about
 the bush. If I like a man I like him
 and if I don't I'm as liable to tell him
 so as I am to tell anybody else. I
 know he's a friend of yours, or you
 think he is; but he makes me tired,
 and that's all there is to it."
 "Why, what's the matter with him?"
 asked the thin man with the bushy
 black beard. "I never heard of any-
 body who had any particular fault to
 find with Gumeridge. I think he's
 one of the finest fellows that ever
 stepped. I've known him for twenty
 years and I've never seen anything
 wrong with him."
 "No, I don't suppose you have," said
 the citizen of circumference. "Still, I
 should think you'd have got sick of
 it in that time."
 "Sick of what?"
 "Taffy, soft soap, flattery; that's
 what I mean. That's what I don't like
 about him. He puts it all over you
 with a spade. That sort of thing sick-
 ens me."
 "I didn't notice him putting it all
 over you. He seemed to be pleasant,
 as he generally is with everybody, but
 I don't think he flattered you."
 "No, he didn't flatter me. He was
 flattering you."
 "Gumeridge?"
 "Yes, Gumeridge. Take it at lunch
 the last time. 'Let Billy order,' he
 says. 'I think Billy can order a lunch
 a little better than anybody I know
 of. If Billy wasn't a corking good
 business man he'd have made the
 bulledest kind of a head waiter. When
 I want something extra good, just the
 right kind of combination of eatables,

I tell you I put my trust in Billy ev-
 ery time."
 "Well," said Billy, "I guess I do
 know a thing or two in that line."
 "There are others," said the large
 man. "I've got a sneaking sort of no-
 tion that I'm pretty good in that line
 myself. But you were a corking good
 business man 'as well."
 "Well, I'm not generally regarded as
 a slouch," said the thin man with the
 bushy black beard.
 "Perhaps not. Mind you, I don't say
 you are. I don't think I'm any slouch
 as far as that goes, but I don't want
 a man going around in front of me
 with a trumpet proclaiming it. 'Billy's
 a good fellow,' 'Billy always was a
 good deal of a ladies' man,' 'You can't
 fool Billy on a diamond,' 'You couldn't
 get Billy to go into any crooked deal of
 that kind,' 'That's one thing I can say
 about Billy; I always know just where
 to find him. He'll stand by his friends.
 Billy will.' 'When I'm in doubt I al-
 ways ask Billy's opinion,' and so on."
 "I don't see anything particular for
 you to take exception to in that," said
 the bearded man.
 "You don't?"
 "I certainly do not."
 "You like a man who flatters you,
 do you, then?"
 "I don't see why you would call it
 flattery. I may have a few good qual-
 ities and Gumeridge may have dis-
 crimination enough to recognize them,
 but I hope that isn't any hanging of-
 fense. For the matter of that, he was
 a good deal taken with you and I
 heard him cracking you up no end
 the other day to some of the people
 at the club."
 "Well," said the stout citizen with a
 slightly mollified air, "of course I may
 be mistaken in him. I wouldn't want
 to judge a man too hastily, and in oth-
 er respects he struck me as a nice fel-
 low. What did he say about me, Billy?"
 —Chicago Daily News.

NEW LEASE OF LIFE FOR TOGO'S FLAG-SHIP.



A JAP ENGINEERING TRIUMPH: THE RAISING OF THE MIKASA.
 The Japanese never consider a vessel lost. All the battered hulks of the
 Russian navy have been recovered from the mud of Port Arthur, and are
 now efficient members of the Mikado's navy. Togo's flagship, the Mikasa,
 which took fire and sank in the harbor of Sasebo, has now, after months of
 patient engineering effort, been refloated. The hull was boarded up, all leaks
 stopped, and the water pumped out. The vessel rose to view mud-covered
 and rusty, but still capable of refitment, and very soon the admiral will be
 on his old bridge again. The fire is now known to have been due to sponta-
 neous combustion caused by the decomposition of chemicals.

A Picked-Up Living.
 A convict's complacent acceptance
 of life's possibilities is shown in a
 dialogue between the criminal and
 Captain Spencer, senior missionary of
 the English Church Army. To a ques-
 tion of the captain's as to what he did
 when out of prison, he replied:
 "Well, in spring I does a bit of pea-
 picking, and in the summer-time I
 does a bit of fruit-picking, and in the
 autumn I does a bit of hop-picking."
 "Oh!" said the captain. "What hap-
 pens after that?"
 "Well, now, mister," replied the con-
 vict, "I may as well be honest, and
 tell you that in the winter time I does
 a bit of pocket-picking!"
 The missioner furrowed his brow in
 amazement, asking finally, "And what
 happens then?"
 The convict answered laconically,
 "Why, here I am doing a bit of oakum
 picking."

It Seems that Way.
 "Say, ps," asked Willie, "what is a
 'nonagenarian,' anyway?"
 "A nonagenarian, my son," replied
 Willie's ps, "is usually a man who has
 or has not used tobacco all his life."
 —Philadelphia Press.
 From the present prospect, the wo-
 man with a new fur coat is going to
 get more enjoyment out of life this
 winter than she did last.
 To err is human—to lie about it is
 more human.

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