

CYNTHIANNA BLYTHE

Drawings by Wallace Morgan ~ Verse by Harry Grant Dart.

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1.—"Spike" Keegan, alias "Shifty Mike,"
And late of Joliet,
Was scheming out a "lay" by which
Some money he could get.
The burgling business being bad,
He, sorely pressed for "swag,"
Had just decided he would work
The gas inspector "gag."

2.—So at a certain basement door
He rang the bell one day
And, waiting for the maid, rehearsed
The things he'd planned to say.
He told the trusting girl that he'd
Been sent to fix the gas,
And she, poor unsuspecting soul,
Stood by and let him pass.

3.—He knew the mistress had gone out,
And several servants, too,
For Keegan at this sort of work
Was anything but new.
So through the house he boldly strode,
Selecting what was light;
A connoisseur of costly stuff,
Discriminating, quite.

4.—Now Cynthia, in the nursery, was
With "Theodore" at play,
And very busy with her dolls
Enacting "Circus Day,"
And "Teddy," as an elephant,
Was fixed to serve a term,
A tired, resigned and willing
But disgusted pachyderm.



7.—When Keegan viewed this made-up beast
He beat a grand retreat,
The estimated jump he made
Was twenty-seven feet.
He dropped his tools and stolen stuff
And, like an agile ape,
He didn't wait for gradual stairs
But used the fire escape.

8.—So "Teddy" thus redeemed himself,
And Cynthia danced with joy
When Papa fed him gingerbread
And called him "good old boy."
Said Keegan, twenty blocks away,
With moisture in his hat,
"I left off drink for seein'
Better lookin' things than that."



5.—A stocking fastened to his nose,
On duty as a trunk,
Assisted in destroying his
Remaining bit of spunk,
With palm-leaf fans arranged as ears,
A weird and fearsome sight;
In appearance he most truly was
What Cynthia called a "fright!"

6.—Then, hearing steps in Mamma's room
And peeking through the door,
She spied a burglar at his work,
With tools spread on the floor.
She instantly controlled herself
And whispered in a breath,
"You just go in there, 'Theodore,'
And scare that man to death."

