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A DREADFUL HUSBAND.

Playing 233 Degrees of Masonry on an Unsuspecting Wife.

A middle aged lady, with a black alpacca dress, worn shiny at the elbows; and a cheap bonnet, and her hands puckered up and blue, as though she had just got her washing out, went into the office of a prominent Mason a few mornings since and took a chair. She wiped her nose and the perspiration from her face on a blue checked apron, and when the Mason looked at her, with an interested, brotherly look, as though she was in trouble, she said:

"Are you the boss Mason?"

He blushed, told her he was a Mason but not the highest in the land. She hesitated a moment, fingered the corner of her apron, and curled it up like a boy speaking a piece in school, and asked:

"Have you taken the whole 233 degrees of Masonry?"

The man laughed and told her there were only thirty-three degrees and he had taken only thirty-two. The other degree could only be taken by a very few who were recommended by the grand lodge, and they had to go to New York to get the thirty-third degree.

The lady studied a moment, unpinned the safety pin that held her shawl together and put it in her mouth took a long breath, and said:

"Where does my husband get the other two hundred degrees, then?"

The prominent Mason said he guessed her husband never got two hundred degrees unless he went to a degree factory. He said he diden't understand the lady.

"Does my husband have to set up with a corpse three nights a week?" she asked, her eyes flashing fire." And do they keep a lot of sick Masons on tap for my husband to set up with the other three nights?"

The prominent Mason said he was thankful that few Masons died, and only occasionally one was sick enough to call for Masonic assistance.

"But why do they ask these questions, madam?" said the prominent Mason.

The woman picked the fringe of her shawl, hung her head down, and said:

"Well, my husband began to join the Masons about two years ago, and he has been taking degrees or sitting up with people every night since. He has come home twice with the wrong pair of drawers on, and when I asked him how it was, he said it was a secret he could not reveal under the penalty of being shot with a cannon. All he would say was he took a degree. I have kept a little track of it, and I figure that he has taken 233 degrees, including the grand Sky Fugle degree, which he took the night he came home with his lip cut, and his ear hanging by a piece of skin."

"Oh, madam," said the prominent Mason, "there is no Sky Fugle degree in Mansonry. Your husband has deceived you."

"That's what I think," said she, as a paleful light appeared in her eye. "He said he was taking the Sky Fugle degree, and fell through the skylight. I had him sewed up and he was ready for new degrees, I told him I should think he would let up on it, and put some potatoes in the cellar for winter, but he said when a man once got started on degrees he had to take them all or he diden't amount to anything. Sometimes a brother Mason comes home with him in the morning and they talk about a 'full flush, and about their 'pat hands,' and 'raising'em out.' One night when he was asleep I heard him whisper, 'I raise you ten dollars,' and when I asked him what he meant, he said they had been raising a purse for a poor widow. Another time he raised up in bed, after he had been asleep and shouted, 'I stand pat,' and when I asked him what he meant he said he was ruined if I told it. He said that he had spoken the password, if the brethren heard of it they would put him out of the way, even as a Morgan was put out of the way. Mister is 'stand pat,' your password?"

The Mason told her it was not. That the words she had spoken were an expression used by men when playing draw poker, and he added that he diden't believe her husband was a Mason at all, but that he had been lying all these years.

She sighed and said: That's what I thought when he came home with a lot of ivory chips in his pocket. He said they used them at the lodge to vote on candidates, and that a white chip elects and a blue chip rejects a candidate. If you will look the matter up and see if he has joined the Masons I will be obliged to you. He says he has taken all the 233 degrees, and now the boys want him to join the Knights of Pythias. I want to get out an injunction to prevent him from joining anything else until we get some underclothes for winter. I'll tell you what I will do. The next time he says anything about Sky Fugle degrees I will take a washboard and make him think there is one degree in Masonry that he has skipped, and now Goodbye. You have comforted me greatly, and I will lay awake to-night till my husband comes from the ledge with his pat hand, and I will make him think he has forgot his ante."

The lady went out to the grocery to buy some bar soap, and the prominent Mason resumed his business with a feeling that we are not all truly good, and there is cheating going on all around.

RETROSPECTIVE.

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS:

We your committee on General Programme, having discharged with unswerving fidelity the duties to which we were called, beg leave to say, in making our final report, that it is with feelings of extreme satisfaction that we review the events of the administration this evening brought to a close. It has been a period of unparalelled prosperity and combative vigor. Philosophical, historical, political and miscellaneous questions have been submitted for your choice, and no valiant Laurean will question the discriminative skill with which they have been written. They have been ably and warmly contested. Fire flashed in the eye of the young orators as they "made their points heavy and made them hot." Yet, under the wise direction and restraint of His Excellency B. B. Beekman of Jackson county and Hon W. C. Taylor of Virginia order and union have been preserved, in direct refutation of that inspired precept, "a house divided against itself must fall." During the past term it has been demonstrated beyond equivocation that Democracy is the party; that the U. S. ought to adopt a Free Trade policy and that Ceasar was no sardine. Many other important circumstances have occurred during our ministry. The three Lord's of the exchequer have resigned and have been superceded by other Laureans of less self esteem but more ability. New York, Ohio, Kansas, California, Michigan and Salem have all gone Democratic and Ben. Butler has been made Governor of Massachusetts. The war in the East has subsided and venus has crossed the sun's disc. We regret that we are not longer able to accelerate the prosperity of our Society by continuance in this capacity; for we secretly suspicion that the new incubus of the Presidential chair intends to vent his wrath upon the diminutive forms of this committee by sudden dismissal. We hope our successors may be prosperous in getting generous criticism; and also warn the new man of the white house to carry a howitzer in his left rear arsenal. Respectfully submitted.

J. N. GOLTRA,
W. T. SLATER,
W. H. MCGHEE, } Com.

INJUNCTION SUIT.—The Duniway Publishing Company proprietors of the "New Northwest," on yesterday filed a petition in the State circuit court for an injunction to issue to the "Northwest News" Publishing Company to restrain the latter from using the name they are known by. It is claimed by the Duniways that there is such a similarity in the names of the two papers that they are suffering in their business by the confusion that has occurred and is likely to continue. They admit, however, that the company name does not interfere with them, but that it is only the name of the paper; that their paper is well known, was established first, and that defendants have not the right now to set up a business under a name so near like their own as to injure their business. Mr. Cole, of the new company, claims that the name of his paper will be nominally "The News," but that "Northwest" will be in small characters over the vignette in the head of the paper. Mr. Cole contends that there is nothing in the names that will mislead any one, and will therefore resist the petition —"Standard."