GETTING OUT OF IT

Being the Story of the Courtship of a Widow and Deacon.

By DON LA GRANGE.

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Deacon Strothers and his wife were eating supper when she said to him across the table:

"Moses, if I should die, would you marry again?"

"Bless me, but what a question," he replied as he choked.

"But I should like to know."

"It ain't likely that I would."

"You believe I'll go to heaven when I die, don't you?"

"Straight as a crow flies."

"And how'd I feel lookin' down from heaven and seein' you around with another wife!"

"But the angels in heaven can't look down on earth."

"It is said they can't, but how does anybody know they can't?"

"These are nice mashed taters," said the deacon as he helped himself to some more.

His wife was a Christian woman and a church member, but nevertheless there were time when she wanted to know, you know, and he found it safer to choke her off than to argue with her. He was hoping he had in this case when she said:

"Yes, I've got a knack of mashin' taters, and you'll miss me when I'm gone. How about my question, Moses?"

"You'll probably outlive me by ten years."

"I probably won't and I want to know if you will marry again?"

"No, sir, I shouldn't!"

The deacon was vexed with her persistency, and he brought out his answer with an emphasis.

"All right," said the wife and began talking something else.

Next day she and another woman were drowned by the upsetting of a boat on the river. The deacon, who was over fifty, was overwhelmed for a time, but gradually his grief wore away and he was like himself again. It is not contended that he was an absent-minded man, but it is stated, and it is quite reasonable, that after the first month the deacon did not think of that promise again for four years. Then it came like a knockout blow. Bit by bit he had come to be friends with the widow Stevens. He had sat on her doorstep; he had sat by her fire; he had hoed in her garden; he had split wood for her cookstove. Aye, he had called her Sarah, and she had called him Moses. One evening he had had a talk with himself beginning with:

"By the great horn spoon, but that widder can make a custard fit for a king!"

And then: "Deacon, you have been a widower for four years—for four long years. You have been sad and lonely. It has come mighty hard."

And again:

"There's folks winkin' and blinkin' around and sayin' that me and the widder will make a match of it, but let 'em wink and blink. It hain't none of their pesky business, and I have told 'em so."

Then, with a chuckle:

"It wouldn't be a bad match for either one of us. Home is where the husband and wife is, and we've neither one of us got a home 'cordin' to that. I wonder if I had better hint around?"

Three minutes elapsed and then the deacon brought his first down and exclaimed:

"Hint? Hint? No, I won't hint a hint! I'll just ask her outright!"

And he was going over in his mind what he would say when a thought struck him and he fairly leaped from his chair and gasped out:

"My promise to my wife that I wouldn't marry again!"

For five minutes Deacon Strothers was as weak in the knees as if he had seen a ghost. He had promised, and that promise was like a wall across his future path.

"What did Martha ever pester me into making that promise for?" he asked himself. "It wasn't right—no, it wasn't. Did I ask her not to marry again in case I died first? No, of course I didn't. I jest left it to her feelings in the matter."

Was there any way out of it? Couldn't that promise be dodged?

It was an hour after the deacon's usual bedtime, but he was still as lively as a fox. He went over the matter for ten minutes and then said:

"Why did I promise? Because Martha was in the best of health, and appeared good for fifteen years yet. Did she give me the slightest hint that she was goin' to be silly enough to get into a boat the next day? No, she didn't. Did she say she might get drowned? Not a word. Wouldn't a court hold that it was deception, and that I wasn't bound by my promise. When Jabez Reed sold me a cow for $30 and never said a word about her jumpin' fences didn't the court make him take her back. It said he suppressed a fact. Didn't Martha do the same?"

The deacon went to bed feeling better, but when he awoke next morning his conscience began to trouble him again.

"By heck, but sunthin' has got to be did!" exclaimed over his breakfast; and soon as the meal was finished he clapped on his hat and went out to look up Robert Roebuck.

Mr. Roebuck was known as a very pious, God-fearing man, and he would see both sides of the case and render a fair decision. He was given the facts, and, after chewing on them for five minutes, he said:

"Deacon, you was a fool for makin' any such promise."

"I know I was."

"My old woman has asked me more'n forty time to promise the same thing, but I never have done it and never will."

"But I wish I hadn't."

"But you did, and now we must see how you can get out of it. Was your wife ever in a boat till that day?"

"Never."

"Was there any call for her to go on the river?"

"Not a call."

"Which of the women suggested that they take the boat?"

"My wife."

"Deacon Strothers, if that don't come under the head of conspiracy, then my old white cow is a red one! If any one conspires to force a promise out of another then that promise won't hold."

"I believe you are right, Mr. Roebuck," replied the deacon with relief in his voice.

"Of course I am. An agreement that benefits only one side does not hold. Did your wife speak up and say that she would not marry again if you died first?"

"She did not!"

"Well, there you are, as free as a bird, though you'd better go to the parson and see what he thinks about it. He may hold sentimental views."

The deacon walked over to the parsonage, and not wishing to be too brusque about it he began:

"Parson, do you hold that an angel in heaven can see what is going on here below?"

"If they could they wouldn't be angels very long," was the grim reply.

"But did you ever preach that they could?"

"Not that I remember of. Heaven is a long way off, deacon."

"My wife kinder believed that after she got to heaven she could see what was takin' place down here."

The parson was silent.

"She wanted me to promise not to marry again in case she died, because if she looked down and saw me with a second wife it would make her feel bad."

"If anything could make the angels feel bad in heaven, it would not be heaven, would it?"

"By George, parson, it wouldn't! Martha was mistaken about it. If I was to marry half a dozen times over she couldn't know anything about it."

"But did she ask you to promise?" queried the parson.

"Yes, she kinder asked."

"And you promised?"

"Yes, I kinder promised, but it was because I did not want her to feel bad as an angel. Now that you say she couldn't feel bad if she tried her hardest, I guess that promise needn't bother me much."

"But look out next time, deacon."

"Yes—ahem—yes!"

"It's the widow Stevens, I suppose?"

"Yes, kinder."

"Thrown out any hints yet?"

"A dozen, I guess."

"You may find that she made a promise to her dying husband."

"Jewhittaker! I'll see about that the first thing!"

It was a new scare for the deacon, and he made the two blocks to the widow's house on the trot. He found her in the garden coaxing the pea vines to climb their best, and he didn't wait a minute before asking:

"Widder Stevens, did your husband expect to go to heaven when he died?"

"I don't see how he could. He was a man that cussed and gambled and drank."

"Did he ask you to promise not to marry agin?"

"No, he didn't, and if he had I should have told him that was my own business. Why are you asking these questions?"

"Widder, hain't I a good man at the woodpile?"

"Fine."

"And a good one in the garden?"

"Sure."

"And hain't I lonely and you lonely?"

"We are."

"Then—then let's get married!"

"La me! Bring on the parson and have it over with and off our hands, for them string beans have got to be poled afore sundown!"

Tree on Tree.

A singular tree in Cuba is called the yaguey tree. It begins to grow at the top of another tree. The seed is carried by a bird, or wafted by the wind, and, falling into some moist, branching parts, takes root and speedily begins to grow. It sends a kind of thin, string-like root down the body of the tree, which is soon followed by others. In course of time these rootings strike the ground, and growth immediately commences upwards. New rootings continue to be formed and get strength until the one tree grows as a net round the other. The outside one surrounds and presses the inner, strangling its life and augmenting its own power. At length the tree within is killed, and the parasite that has taken possession becomes itself the tree.

Scares One So.

"What kind of doctor would you prefer, a cheerful one or a solemn one?"

"A cheerful one, I guess. At least, I hate for a doctor to get solemn after he looks at me."

DAMAGE BY SPRAYING

Shade Trees Injured by Ignorant or Careless Persons.

Widespread Treatment of Different Pests Has Made Necessary Testing of Many Remedies—Many Oils Are Injurious.

(By F. W. MOORE.)

We have at different times had occasion to observe injuries to shade trees brought about by various causes, in many cases resulting from treatment applied by careless or ignorant persons. The present widespread treatment of different pests has made necessary the testing of many remedies, some of which have proved to be more injurious than the pests themselves. These materials have not only been used by careful people trained in the use of different methods for controlling insects and fungi,

Effects of Spraying Heavy Oil on Trees—The Oil Penetrated the Bark and Killed the Tissue.

but by others who are reckless to the point of seeming to delight in taking chances.

Many kinds of oils have been used for spraying insect pests, some of which have proved reliable and others injurious. Kerosene oil can be used on some plants under certain conditions without causing injury, while in other cases it will kill them. We have seen quite a few shade trees killed by spraying with kerosene and water to exterminate woolly aphis; the oil soaked into the bark, reached the cambium and sapwood, destroying the tissue.

Gas oil, a heavy oil used in the manufacture of water gas, is very injurious to trees when used as a spray. A few years ago several hundred shade trees were severely injured in one of the eastern cities by spraying the trunks with this oil to kill clusters of gipsy moth eggs, it being used without any knowledge whatever of its adaptability to this purpose.

Ordinary house paint has sometimes been used on smooth-bark trees with great injury.

Occasionally commercial oils used for spraying fruit trees for the San Jose scale cause local injury, and some shade trees have been known to be affected by their use.

Oils and other materials to keep down the dust in roadbeds are now much in use, and we have observed some injury from this source, when the trees were located close to the highway and the buttresses of the roots were exposed.

Salt used on sidewalks, in gutters and trolley lines in winter has been known to injure the root systems of trees. Arsenate of soda, potassium cyanide and other chemicals are extremely poisonous to trees and will cause death.

GENERAL FARM NOTES

Do not wait until apples are dead ripe before picking for winter storage.

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Wait until the vines are touched with frost before digging sweet potatoes.

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Do not be in a hurry to bring in the pumpkins. They will rot if housed too early.

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The water in the cistern may be low and it should be well cleaned before the fall rains.

• • •

When the pieplant wilts under the first frost cover the roots thickly with coarse manure.

• • •

Store sweet potatoes in a perfectly dry and warm place. Dampness will quickly destroy them.

• • •

Take the last of the sweet corn, cut off the kernels and dry in the sun. It is fine for winter use.

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A fine place in which to store fruit during the warm days of autumn is a thick-walled room in the barn.

• • •

If you will clean out the stove pipes and chimneys now you will have a better draft next winter and maybe prevent a fire in the chimney.

• • •

Cabbage should be stored in the ground, roots up, covered with five or six inches of earth. But do not cover until freezing weather comes.

GOOD MANAGEMENT OF BOAR

Task of Keeping Him From Herd Is Rather Laborious, But It Is by Far the Best Method.

The best hog raisers do not permit the boar to run with the herd. There are reasons why this should not be done. If one is to control the time of farrowing and the use of the boar it can only be done when he is kept by himself.

It is a too common practice to sell the boar when the season is over rather than keep him for future use, depending upon getting another young one. This is a ruinous practice and is largely responsible for small litters and weak bone. Get a good boar and keep him for a few years. Maturity is good for him.

Have a small yard with grass, if possible, hog tight and away from the sows, so he will not be worried. A quarter-acre, with a good house and shade will afford ample exercise in the open air. When grass is not available in his lot, give him cut green stuff daily as long as it lasts. Feed sparingly of fattening foods and supply plenty to keep him in good trim and growing if not fully developed. Mill stuff, skimmed milk, clover, alfalfa—anything that furnishes protein, is advisable. Of course, supply ashes, salt and charcoal.

This keeping the boar away from the herd is more trouble than letting him run, but it is the only way to know just what you are about in hog raising.

SUNLIGHT FOR THE POTATOES

Tubers Should Not Be Stored in Dark Places as It Is Injurious—Keep Free From Frost.

Aside from the reason that the tubers will sprout if stored in the dark this practice generally makes it necessary to treat the tubers in the spring for scab, while if they are stored where it is light, during the winter, and taken out and aired occasionally where there is no danger of being frost bitten they will be in excellent shape so that a sun and light bath for a week or ten days just before planting will be as good or better than a dose of chemicals to prevent scab. This is not theory but the plan has been practiced by many growers for years. Another thing in the care of seed potatoes is not to keep them where they will get too warm; they should be kept from frost, of course,

Fine Quality of Potatoes—Even in Size.

but the temperature should not be above 40 in order to have the best results. Kept on light shelf-trays so that they can be taken down and shifted about occasionally, they will keep in excellent shape if handled as suggested.

FARMER OWNS HIS EQUIPMENT

Often Happens That It Would Be More Economical to Hire From Others—Interesting Data.

(By S. L. MACDONALD, Colorado Agricultural College.)

The writer is of the opinion that many a farmer is tempted to purchase his own equipment when in reality it would be more economical to hire from others.

Let us endeavor to ascertain how many acres of grain a farmer should cut as his annual average before the purchase of a self-binder is justifiable. We assume the following data:

Initial cost of binder	$140.00
Annual depreciation, 8 per cent, first year	11.20
Annual rate of interest, 7 per cent	9.80
Annual repairs	4.00
Cost of twine per acre	30
Horse labor per hour	11
Man labor per hour	15

Assuming that one man and three horses with a six-foot binder can cut 16 acres in ten hours, we deduce that cost of labor per acre is 30 cents.

As against these items let us suppose that the farmer could hire the grain cut for one dollar per acre.

The above data gives us the conclusion, by elementary algebra that a man should cut an average of 65 acres annually before the purchase of a binder will save him money.

Improving Grass.

Nitrate of soda at the rate of 150 pounds per acre, applied to the lawn just before sprinkling or before a rain, hastens the growth of grass and gives it a darker color. It is well to apply two or three times during the summer.

Guard Against Flies.

Do not buy meat, groceries or fruit from any store where flies are tolerated, and, above all, keep these disease-bearing insects away from the creameries by every possible means.

FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE

TRAINING RULES FOR YOUTHS

Old-Fashioned Movements Supplanted by Program of Hygienic and Corrective Exercises.

Notable among the achievements of the board of education of New York city has been the introduction of the new course of study in physical training for boys. This supplants the old-fashioned one-two-three movements with a consistent program of educational hygienic and corrective exercises. New boylike athletic movements are brought into the gymnasiums and the boys engage in a course of moderate athletic training, including hygiene, which is the basis of all athletics. Thus natural enthusiasms are utilized for constructive school purposes.

The 10,000 boys who assembled last June in Central Park to exhibit physical training work were given the following set of training rules:

Go to bed at nine o'clock after a thorough wash and a cold splash over chest and trunk; teeth and gums well scrubbed. Clothes and books ready for tomorrow.

Bedroom windows open top and bottom.

Rise not a minute later than seven o'clock. Go through two-minute drill and hygienic exercises for demonstration. Clean face and neck and scrub hands. Finish up with a big cold splash and hard rub all over. See that feet and legs are clean and rub them hard to get them into condition. Brush teeth and gums thoroughly.

Breakfast and all meals:

No coffee. No tea. Drink milk, a little at a time. Chew all foods to a pulp. Ask your teacher what foods to avoid.

No smoking. Cut out all habits you know are bad.

Exercise in the fresh air, equivalent to a slow mile run a day. Walk ten miles a week. If you lose weight you lose vitality; stop work.

Before school look yourself over. "Am I clean from head to toe? Are all my clothes clean and in order down to the skin? Do I stand like an athlete?"

The boy has no use for hygiene, but he has for athletics, and the school interested in hygiene makes use of this fact to gain its end.

CHILDREN KNOW GOOD CORN

United States Department of Agriculture Outlines Twelve Lessons Covering Important Points.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

School teachers in the corn states, or, for that matter all over the country, who wish to encourage their pupils to take part in the spreading movement for better corn growing are provided with the outlines of 12 lessons in a new publication of the United States department of agriculture, Farmers' Bulletin No. 617, "School Lessons on Corn." These lessons cover such important points as kind of corn, the best way to plant and cultivate corn, diseases that the crop suffers from, selection of good seed corn, and the ways of telling good corn from bad. To help the children to become good citizens, the following scorecard is suggested:

The pupil should bring to school samples of corn and under the supervision of the instructor mark each ear in accordance with the scale indicated. For example, an ear, the shape of which was absolutely perfect would be credited for this with ten points out of a possible hundred. If the shape was somewhat defective the credit would be less, the exact number of points depending upon the pupil's judgment.

In order to understand fully the meaning of all the points listed in this scorecard teachers are advised to write to their state agricultural college for an explanation of the official scorecard used there.

The vitality or germinating power of the seed must only be judged after tests have been made in accordance with the methods outlined in Farmers' Bulletin No. 253.

Score Card for Corn.

Points.	
1. Trueness to type	10
2. Shape of ear	10
3. Purity of color in grain and cob	5
4. Vitality, maturity, germinating power	20
5. Tips of ears	5
6. Butts of ears	5
7. Uniformity of kernels	5
8. Shape of kernels	5
9. Length of ear	5
10. Circumference of ear	5
11. Furrows between rows	5
12. Space between kernels at cob	10
13. Proportion of corn to cob	10
Total	100

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

John Did His Duty.

"It is the duty of every one to make at least one person happy during the week," said a Sunday school teacher. "Now have you done so, Johnny?"

"Yes," said Johnny, promptly.

"That's right. What did you do?"

"I went to see my aunt, and she was happy when I went home."—Ladies' Home Journal.

PLEASURE FOR THE CHILDREN

Figure Toy Attracts Attention and Creates Amusement by Simulation of Cage of Wild Beasts.

In illustrating and describing a figure toy, the invention of J. W. Murray of St. George, N. B., the Scientific American says:

"This invention relates to toys and has particular reference to devices in which certain figures, such as, for instance, figures of ferocious animals are employed. Among the special ob-

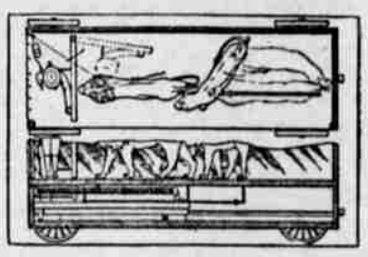

Figure Toy.

jects of this invention is to attract attention and create amusement by the simulation of a cage of wild beasts having a keeper, certain mechanism being employed whereby the animals and the keeper will be given certain movements."

KIND WORDS ALWAYS TIMELY

This Struggling World Would Be Happier and Better If Expressions of Good Cheer Were Used.

It is often told that Eugene Field, one day wandered into a basement restaurant, sat down at a table, put his chin in his hands and gazed moodily into space. A waiter came to him and after the manner of his kind enumerated the long list of dishes that were ready to be served.

"No, no," said Field, dejectedly, "I require none of those things. All I want is some sliced oranges and a few kind words."

Whether or not the incident be true, it is suggestive. Unquestionably, deeds weigh far more than words, and yet it is almost tragic to think how much happier and better this struggling world would become if kind words were more often heard. We all, every day, come in contact with those who are in Eugene Field's state of mind. They are in our own homes; mothers and fathers and children. They are behind the counters of stores; they are employes on trains; they are servants in kitchens; they are everywhere, and their name is legion. A word of appreciation would brighten the whole day and would make it easier for them to keep on trying.—Youth's Companion.

Spontaneous From the Heart.

Furnace heat and electric light cannot take the place of the sunshine. The first will make you warm, and the second will furnish a brilliant illumination, but a certain health giving element will be lacking. Formal courtesies and the helpfulness prompted by a sense of propriety, cannot take the place of the kindness which comes warm and spontaneous from the heart.—Girls' Companion.

Those Foolish Questions.

"Can you swim, little boy?"

"Yes, sir."

"Where did you learn?"

"In de water; where d'yer suppose?"