

INITIATION OF BOWSER

Gay Old Boys' Club Explains What Was Done on That Occasion.

GIVES TRUE FACTS IN CASE.

Organization Resents the Statements Made by New Member Concerning His Treatment—Taken to His Home by Members.

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At the last meeting of the Gay Old Boys' club, founded by Noah Webster at the time he got out his first dictionary and numbering among its members such convivial persons as Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe and James Madison, the following preamble and resolution were unanimously adopted:

"Whereas, An individual calling himself and known to the public as Samuel Bowser made application for membership in this club and was elected and initiated and then came out in the public press and made statements derogatory to its high and mighty dignity; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the secretary of the club be requested and empowered to write and publish a statement containing the true facts in the case over the great seal of the club."

The statement is as follows and sworn to before a notary public:
"Some time since Mr. Samuel Bowser made it known to one of the members of this club that he had long been look-

ing for just such an organization and would feel honored to become a member. In due time the following list of printed questions was sent to him to fill out and return:

"Are you a baldheaded man?
"Does Mrs. Bowser stand in awe of you?
"Can you find your way home after drinking the third bottle?
"Have you the moral courage to enter your house at 2 o'clock in the morning, knowing that your wife is sitting up for you?
"How long have you been a game old sport?
"How long have you had a desire to join some club that was engaged in saving the country?
"If given the choice of separation from your wife or the club, which would it be?
"Should you reach home in a dizzy condition from any cause, can we trust you to keep the name of this club unsullied?
"Do you babble in your dreams?
"Are there any back windows to your house that you can climb into in case you find the front door bolted against you?
"Do you agree to abide by all the rules and regulations in force in this club at the time of your initiation?
"Mr. Bowser's answers to the questions as above were considered satisfactory, and he was notified that on a certain night he should appear for initiation. What passed between him and Mrs. Bowser when he told her of the coming honor we can only guess at, but it was probably all that could be hoped for. As the first step in his initiation he was required to sing a love song. He selected 'A Brown Eyed Angel' and sang with great feeling. At its finish a fine of \$21 was imposed on him to pay for the broken glass and the damage to the ceiling, and he cheerfully paid it.

"He was then draped as Napoleon and was given a glass of sour buttermilk to drink. He drank it off with the observation that there were no flies on him.

"He was then seated on the keg, with each bare foot in a pail of ice water, and told to look like Washington crossing the Delaware. In the course of five minutes Mr. Bowser assumed twenty-seven different expressions of countenance, but he finally struck the right one at last and held it like a conqueror. There was no cheering, however. The Gay Old Boys never cheer. They show their appreciation by their dignity and silence.

"As the next step Mr. Bowser was asked to name three different school-ma'ams he had fallen in love with before he was twenty years old. He promptly named seven, but followed it by an impassioned appeal that we should not say anything to Mrs. Bowser. Upon being asked if he was afraid of her he denied that he was, but explained that she had a little way of making him uncomfortable at times.

"As the last step in Mr. Bowser's initiation he was required to lie at full length on his back on the floor while forty members marched over him. This was to show a proper humiliation of spirit. Each of the forty halted for a few seconds and stood on the candidate's stomach. Mr. Bowser was about to protest, but when told that James K. Polk had submitted to the same thing he remained silent.

Hailed as a Brother.
"The initiation thus concluded, Mr. Bowser was taken by the arms and run four times around the room and then hailed as a brother and a bottle of champagne placed before him. In a few minutes and without any prompting from a member he arose and sang 'Old Black Joe.' It was a different 'Old Black Joe' from any that we had ever heard, and it was somewhat mixed with 'Annie Laurie' and 'John Brown,' but no criticisms were made. The Gay Old Boys never criticize.

"A few minutes later Mr. Bowser asked permission to deliver an oration in Latin. He was not encouraged and not refused, and he went ahead. In delivering his oration the name of Mrs. Bowser was frequently used, but we could not exactly make out what he was driving at. The Gay Old Boys never interfere in family matters.

"It was noticed in a casual way that Mr. Bowser had got hold of a second quart of champagne, but no remarks were made. The Gay Old Boys never remark.
"We were about to sing 'Auld Lang Syne' and disperse when Mr. Bowser rose up and said that he would like to put the gloves on with some one for a couple of rounds.
"The remark was laid on the table.
"Then the newborn member announced that he was the champion runner of the United States and that he would run any member of the club a distance of thirty miles for any wager named.
"The remark was laid under the table.

"Mr. Bowser then asked the privilege of making a few remarks on the death of Cicero, but the meeting adjourned without listening to him, though not before appointing two members to see him home and unlock the front door. That they did their brotherly duty by him there is no cause for doubt. He was received at the door by Mrs. Bowser, and as far as the members could satisfy themselves he was not dragged upstairs feet first.

"So far as this club is concerned, not a word would have been said to the outside world had not Mr. Bowser, by his explanations to Mrs. Bowser, forced us into the attitude taken.
"G. QUILL,
"Secretary Gay Old Boys' Club."
Per M. Quad.

Exceptional.
"It's strange," said the impatient man, "but I never seem able to get any answer from that telephone operator."
"That's so," answered Mr. Meekton. "She is the one woman in my experience who hasn't seemed to enjoy talking back."—Washington Star.

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Clerk—So your little boy wants a drum, eh? Well, here's a bargain in one that's hard to beat.
Nervous Papa—The very thing! That's the kind I'll buy him at any cost.—Kansas City Times.

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Clerk—So your little boy wants a drum, eh? Well, here's a bargain in one that's hard to beat.
Nervous Papa—The very thing! That's the kind I'll buy him at any cost.—Kansas City Times.

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SITUATION WANTED BY A young lady of experience, a position as stenographer; has own machine. Apply this office. 2-5-3t.

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Please mention the Astorian.

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DRAPEE AS JULIUS CAESAR.

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"Does Mrs. Bowser stand in awe of you?
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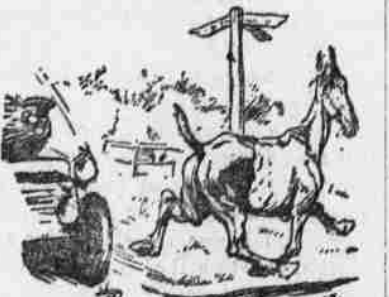
Passed Ordeal Nobly.
"Mr. Bowser was then seated in a chair, and a poultice consisting of bran and catnip was applied to his head. He passed the ordeal nobly.

"He was then asked to stand on his head to give his brains a new sensation. He hesitated for a moment, but when informed that the Hon. Charles Sumner and all others had willingly complied with the regulations he upended himself.

"There was a solemn and dignified silence while he stood on his head. This club has never yet forgotten his dignity.

"When Mr. Bowser's brains had thoroughly enjoyed the novel situation he was given a bowl of rice and two chopsticks and requested to eat. He did fairly well. Indeed, the few members that yet doubted that he was a game old sport were by this time fully convinced that he was a good loser.

"The next step was to request a speech from him on the bulwarks of American liberty. This was to show his familiarity with the principles of government. He wobbled somewhat—that is, he asked Columbus, Napoleon,



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Clerk—So your little boy wants a drum, eh? Well, here's a bargain in one that's hard to beat.
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