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HIS FATHERLY TALK.

Gardner Indulges in One With Fellow Members.

COMEBACK JOHN SING WARNED

is Told Not to Be Seriously Troubled About the World Coming to an End. Brother Syntax is Also Warned to Be Careful.

[Copyright, 1908.]

"Dar am a few members of dis Limekiln club dat I wish to have a leetle fatherly talk wid dis eventin'" began Brother Gardner after the routine business of the last meeting had been disposed of. "Brudder Comeback Johnsing, please stand up."

The brother gradually unlinked himself until he stood up six feet tall and



"PREDICTED SEVENTEEN BLIZZARDS DOORIN' DE WINTER."

about as large around as a cornstalk, and after surveying him for a moment the president said:

"Brudder Comeback, I I'arn dat you am seriously troubled 'bout de world comin' to an end?"

"Yes, sah, I is."

"You am lookin' fur it almost every day?"

"Yes, sah."

"And you am ready to rush fur a front seat when de show opens?"

"I want to git a good start, sah."

"Waal, I'll see dat you do. I want to say to you dat dis am no fool nigger club. De rest of us believe dat de world was put yere to stay. It has been yere fur millyons of years, and it am gwine to continer in business till de machinery wears out. Dat may possibly occur a billyon years hence. By dat time it will have been forgotten dat sich a long, lank, foolish man as you have eber galloped around."

"Dar's been talk of de world endin' fur de last 10,000 years, and it has allus come from people who am light in de head. I can't stop all of 'em from continerin' dis silly talk, but I can stop you. You am gwine to git up to-morrow mawnin' a different man. You am gwine to hunt fur a job and find it. You am gwine to work like a boss instead of sittin' around de stove. You am gwine to pay up your back rent instead of lookin' for de end of de world. You am gwine to buy clothes fur de wife and children instead of rushin' for a front seat. You am gwine to pass de evenin's wid your family instead of spookin' around and listenin' for de blowin' of horns. You am gwine to do dis or you am gwine to be dropped from dis yere Limekiln club wid sich a thud dat it will break bones. You can now sot down, and Brudder Halibut White will erect hisself."

Brother Halibut laid the half of a raw turnip he was eating on the floor, put away his jackknife and stood up with folded arms, and the president addressed him with:

"Brudder Halibut, de news has come to me dat on a sartin night two weeks ago you dreamed of seein' a cross eyed black cat chasin' a bottled white dawg frew a graveyaard. You dreamed dat dream three times runnin', and it affected you so powerfully dat you got out of bed and sot up de rest of de night; also, you took it as a warnin' dat anodder airthquake was comin' and am still sittin' around and waitin' fur it. Am I correct, Brudder Halibut?"

What the Dream Meant.

"Yes, sah. Dat dream means an airthquake fur shore."

"Um! Did dat cat wink at you as she was hustlin' dat dawg along?"

"Can't say she did, sah."

"Did dat dawg sorter wave a fare-well to you wid his stump of a tail?"

"Reckon not."

"Waal, we will have to remedy de oversight. Jist listen to me fur a minit. If you have any mo' dreams of dat sort and I hear of dem, an airthquake will start right under your feet! It will lift you up and bump dat hard head of yours ag'in de cellin', and when you come down you will be frown over eighteen chairs and ninteen benches, and de folks dat pick you up will find your neck broken. Dat's plain English, and I hope you understand it. Dis am no dreamers' club, and it hain't no airthquake club. You can sot down and devour de rest of dat turnip, and if Brudder Syntax Green am among us tonight, he may arise."

Brother Syntax was on a back seat, trying to laure out with the stub of a

pencil and an old envelope now am butcher could make five out of two and two. He rose up and came forward with a puzzled face, and after taking

a drink of new cider from the pitcher at his elbow the president said:

"Brudder Syntax, I hear you went ober to be cabin of Brudder Peace-maker Small de odder night and made a few predicshuns?"

"Yes, sah."

"You predicted seventeen blizzards doorin' de winter?"

"Yes, sah."

"And dat taters would go up to fo' dollars a bushel?"

"Yes, sah."

"And dat bacon would be a dollar a pound befo' next May?"

"Yes, sah."

"And dat snow would fall 'leven feet deep dis winter?"

"Yes, sah."

"And dat millyons and millyons of people was gwine to die off of cold and starvashun?"

"Yes, sah. I see it comin'."

"T's glad of dat. Mebbe you see sunthin' else comin' too? Mebbe you see your name crossed off de membership book of dis Limekiln club? Mebbe you see Brudder Givedam Jones escortin' you to de doah? Mebbe you see him droppin' you into a snowdrift in de alley?"

"I—I can't zactly say I does, sah," replied the brother.

"But I does. Yes, sah, I sees all dat in case you make any mo' predicshuns and make folks trouble. You want to stop dead in your tracks. You know 'nuff to put on whitewash and black stoves, but when it comes to predicshuns you hain't in it. You drop 'em and tend to your legitimate bizness. If you don't, den look out fur me. Go back and sot down, and I have a few words to say to Brudder Standoff Taylor."

Brother Standoff wasn't looking for any sudden call and had got behind the stove to take a nap. When routed out, he fell against the stove and burned his elbow and then fell over a bench and skinned his nose and both shins, and it was some little time before he got the proper pose. Then he heard a deep, serious voice saying:

Warning to Brother Standoff.

"Brudder Standoff, I am told dat you am gwine around and lettin' it be known dat you differ wid Senator Foraker?"

"Yes, sah; I does differ wid him."

"And dat you differ wid Governor Hughes?"

"Yes, sah."

"And dat dar am a wide difference of ophyson betwixt you and Mistah Odell?"

"Dat's so, sah."

"And dat you criticise de president's policy in twenty-seven different instances?"

"Twenty-nine, sah."

"Oh, I see. Beg your pardon, Brudder Standoff. I believe you have fuder announced dat you and Senator Depew am out."

"We don't speak, sah."

"Too bad! Brudder Standoff, has it occurred to you dat de rest ob de kentry may not be in agreement wid you?"

"No, sah."

"Waal, let me state dat such am de case. We don't agree wid you at all, sah, and we have resolved dat if you don't keep dat mouf of yours shut tighter'n a drum arter dis sunthin' am gwine to happen to you—sunthin' to make you sick at de stomach—sunthin' to gin you a fliplop ten feet high and to land you on de back of your neck when you come down. All dis kentry expects of you, Brudder Standoff, is dat you hold your job in de wood yard at \$2 a day and take care dat your wife and childrens have 'nuff to eat and wear. You hear me, and I reckon you've got sense 'nuff in your head to take a hint and change your ways. Dat's all, and now we will go home."

M. QUAD.

Those Well Meaning Friends.



The man who insists that you share his umbrella.—Browning's Magazine.

India's Filmy Muslin.

A story is told of a weaver who was "chastised and turned out of Dacca for his neglect in not preventing a cow from eating a piece of muslin spread to dry on the grass, she mistaking it for a spider's web." Bolts records the story about a Mogul princess whose father was "angry with his daughter for showing her skin through her clothes, whereupon the young princess remonstrated in her justification that she had seven suits on!"—Indian World.

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THE STUPID SWAN.

Graceful and Beautiful, the Bird is a Nincompoop.

To the mind of the average farmer nothing which walks on two legs is quite so stupid as a hen. He is mistaken, though, for there still remains that beautiful, graceful nincompoop, the common swan. The swan is so stupid that it will stand in the shallow part of a pond and allow the water to freeze round its legs till the ice is so thick that it cannot lift its feet and it is stuck fast. Not infrequently owners of these handsome but witless birds are compelled to chop away sufficient ice to make it possible for them to withdraw their imprisoned feet.

The stupidity of the swan in this respect is emphasized by the intelligence exhibited by ornamental ducks when the weather turns cold. As night comes on and the water begins to freeze the ducks begin swimming in a wide, well defined circle. Round and round they go during the entire night, keeping all the water within that circle free from ice, so that when the day dawns they can float about and doze in the sun. Ducks are always most active during the night and choose the day for sleeping.

But to return to the swan. If you find one of these birds some distance from the water and startle it, the swan will rush a few feet toward the pond and then drop down on the ground and try to go through the motions of swimming, apparently unable in its fright to realize that it has not yet reached the water.

Neither is the common swan a good fighter. The black swan, although one-half its size, is invariably the victor in the combats which are sometimes engaged in and generally kills its antagonist. The black swan usually provokes the fight, too, for it is rather a quarrelsome bird.—Washington Star.

OLYMPIAN GAMES FOR 1908.

NEW YORK, March 12.—A contribution of \$500 from Yale to the fund which the American Olympic Committee is raising to make American participation in the Olympic games of 1908 in London a pronounced success was announced yesterday by Julian W. Curtis, treasurer of the

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committee. Mr. Curtis was notified of the contribution in a letter from Walter Camp in New Haven advising him that the promise of this sum was the outcome of a meeting held at

Yale the previous evening. The fund is to be used in defraying the expenses of the American team which will be sent abroad for the competition the coming summer.