

GOING TO THE CIRCUS

By M. QUAD

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Moses Fairman was visiting the Widow Hooper at least two nights a week with a view to matrimony. Just about this time the billposter for a circus appeared and pasted the roadside barns with the usual gaudy bills, and the excitement began.

Perkinsville was no circus town. It never had had one and didn't want one. Such things were looked upon as demoralizing in the extreme. The bills were hardly up when the parents began warning their children and the ministers had something to say from the pulpits. On one of his visits to the widow Moses Fairman expressed the hope that she would not even permit her cat to view the circus parade, and the next instant he was a surprised man.

"Why, I shall be a spectator myself," replied the widow. "Not only that, but I shall attend the circus both afternoon and evening. I shall expect you to escort me in the evening."

"W-h-a-t!" gasped Moses as he stared at her with open mouth.

The widow repeated the words and said she was tickled to death that a circus was coming.

"But it's wicked! It's monstrous! You can't be in earnest!"

"I shall be there on a front seat."

"But I won't go, and neither will any church member. You have heard what has been said about it. Why, you'd be turned out of the congregation as a black sheep. Mary, don't think of doing any such thing."

"Moses, I'm going to that circus, and that's flat!" replied the widow as she put her foot down. "I don't believe there's any more wickedness about it than at a spelling school. Why should there be?"

"But circus men swear and fight," protested Moses.

"So do lightning and men and tin peddlers. I've heard some of the men around your mill swear."

"But circuses have a clown, and the clown—"

"And the clown he jokes and makes fun. Why shouldn't he?"

"Marry," solemnly said Moses, "if you go to that circus then all is over between us."

"All right, Moses; I'll be there."

Moses went straight from the house of the widow to that of his minister and told his story. It produced consternation. The widow's independence had been winked at, but here was a case of revolution, rebellion, defiance. It must be met and crushed in the bud. The hour was late, but the minister went to struggle with the rebel. She put her head out of her chamber window and after ascertaining his errand replied:

"I have been to Sunday school picnics of our church and seen selfishness, quarreling and backbiting. It can be no worse at a circus, and I am going. Did you ever see a two horned rhinoceros?"

"No!" was the stammering reply.

"Then by all means go and see one. It may be your only chance for the next twenty years. Yes, and there's a five legged calf and a dodo."

Next day the news was all over town, and the earth proceeded to rock. The widow had many callers at her house, and Moses had many at his mill. All were "again" the widow. It was decided that she must be put down. At first she was only determined. So much was said, however, that she got her mad up and announced that she would attend Thursday evening prayer meeting and announce her position. She was there, and the church was crowded. It was hoped that she intended to recede from her first position, but it was a vain hope. She took the floor to ask how many persons present had ever attended a circus. Five men signified that they had, and seven or eight more could have done so, but didn't.

The widow asked how they had been harmed—if it had led to profanity, drunkenness, wife beating and theft. All pleaded not guilty. Then she asked why it was more wicked to look at an elephant than an ox. No one answered. Then she asked why it was worse to listen to a clown's joke than to some of the stories told around the postoffice while waiting for the mail to arrive. No one answered. Then she asked why a woman shouldn't walk a tight rope or a rail fence if she wanted to? She had seen men walking over the bridge on the railing, and no one had raised a fuss about it. Women would jump through hoops at the circus. What of it? She knew a woman in Perkinsville who had crawled through a screen door when locked out.

The widow's best weapon was saved to the last. She had made a good case, but she clinched it by asking if any one present would please point out in the Bible where Christian men and women were forbidden the circus any more than the paring heel, the corn-husking or the "lasses candy pull. All heard, but no one complied, and Mrs. Hooper wrapped her toga about her and walked out.

The circus appeared on the date given. The widow was there, Moses was there, and the three or four people in town who weren't there were down with the mumps or measles. It was even said that the three ministers penetrated as far as the cages of the ostriches and the hyenas and that those who tried to figure up the increase of crime during the next year got lost in the maze before arriving at any startling results.

The Chauffeur

By BEATRICE TUCKER

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"Come, Molly; the auto's waiting." "All right, Imogen; I'll be with you as soon as I can tie on my veil. Have you your goggles?"

"Goggles? No! Do you suppose I would make myself hideous by wearing such things?"

Imogen went out to the piazza, where at the foot of the steps the automobile was waiting, and said to the chauffeur:

"You needn't go today, William. I'm going to drive myself."

"Yes, ma'am."

"Is everything all right?"

"Yes, ma'am."

"Come, Molly; let's be off."

Molly came hurrying out, trying to adjust a veil and pull on a pair of gloves at the same time, a somewhat difficult feat to perform. The two got into the auto, and the machine chugged down the driveway to the gate. It was a mild spring morning, and the roads were fine. Imogen was quite an expert driver, and there was nothing to mar the pleasure of the trip till they had been out a couple of hours and were some thirty miles from home. Then one of the tires subsided and let the wheel to which it belonged down on to the ground.

"Oh, dear!" exclaimed Molly.

"What shall we do?"

"There's a shed or stable or something over there; let's go over and see if we can get any help."

Having placed the auto on the side of the road, they both walked the hundred yards that separated them from the house and found a man in overalls tinkering with an automobile.

"Oh, how fortunate!" exclaimed Molly. "It's a garage."

"We've got a puncture or something," said Imogen to the man. "We've left our auto out there in the road. Would you mind coming out to see what's the matter?"

The man left his work, went with them to their auto, inspected the wheel and said:

"It's not a case of puncture. There's a rip in the tire."

"Oh, dear!" exclaimed Imogen. "Can it be fixed?"

"Not here. I haven't the tools."

"What shall we do?"

"I'll put enough wind in it to get your machine into my garage, and there it must be left till you can get another tire. I see you have no extra."

The man managed after much difficulty to get the auto into the garage; then he said to them:

"I will take you to your home, and you can send some one out with an extra tire to take your auto back."

"Do you think that's the only thing to do?"

"Yes. Please wait till I go to the house and get off these overalls. I'll be back in a moment."

He went up a byroad and disappeared. The two girls occupied themselves looking at an imposing mansion on the top of a hill, at the foot of which they waited.

"That's a fine house," said Imogen. "I wouldn't mind being at the head of that house—that is, if I had a husband to be!"

"At the foot," supplied Molly.

In a few moments the man returned in chauffeur costume.

"I should think you'd be hungry," he said. "It's past lunchtime, and you'll not get home before 3 o'clock. Perhaps you'd better go up to that summer hotel," pointing to the house they had been admiring, "and get something to eat. It's not yet opened for the season, but I think you'll find something to stay your appetite."

"What a beautiful site for a hotel!" exclaimed Imogen. "We thought it a private house."

They climbed the hill, were admitted by a maid in white and black uniform and shown into a dining room having none of the appearance of one belonging to a hotel. There a delicious luncheon was served. On attempting to pay for it the maid said that there was no one in the house to receive cash and they would have to pay another time.

"We'll leave it with the man at the garage down there," said Imogen.

"Yes, m'm," the girl assented.

Returning to the garage, they found the man waiting for them with an auto ready. They entered it and started for home. On the way home the chauffeur became more communicative, and Imogen remarked sotto voce to Molly that he used very good language for an auto tinker. When they reached the house Imogen took out her pocketbook, asking him how much his charge would be, including the luncheon.

The chauffeur replied that there was no charge for the ride; on the contrary, he had been much honored. As for the luncheon, he owned the house in which they had lunched, and in this, too, they had honored him.

The girls looked at each other in consternation.

"But you said," Imogen protested, "that the house was a summer hotel."

"I lied there," said the man imper turbably.

The three sat regarding one another for a few moments, then burst out laughing.

"Pardon me," said the chauffeur. "I couldn't help it. You walked right into your own trap."

That was some years ago. Today Imogen is at the head of the house on the hill, and the gentleman chauffeur is at the foot of it.

Fate of English Government.

The fate of the English Government is largely in the hands of the Irish members of the House of Commons holding the balance of power, and John Redmond has announced that those members will insist first of all upon curtailing the veto power of the Lords—because that is a condition precedent to the passing of a Home Rule Bill.

The situation must harrow the feelings of many an Englishman. The Irish members are interested primarily in Ireland. Upon a very important question of English politics they propose to vote with reference to their own special national interests. In short, the fortunes of politics have temporarily thrown the government of England, to a degree into the hands of men whose paramount interest is not in England.

This is exactly the condition that Ireland has been complaining of for centuries. Irish government is controlled—not temporarily and accidentally, but permanently—by men whose paramount interest is not in Ireland. In announcing that he will exert his power in whichever way seems best for Ireland, Mr. Redmond merely gives conservatism a momentary taste of its own medicine. Probably it tastes bitter. —Saturday Evening Post.

An Old Pioneer.

The Myrtle Point Enterprise mentions the death of Philip Brack, aged 81 years, who died at his home on the Middle Fork on April 20th. Mr. Brack was one of the two survivors of the wreck of the Captain Lincoln, which went ashore during a gale, on the ocean beach opposite where Empire now stands, on Jan. 3, 1852. She had on board, besides the crew, thirty-five troopers belonging to C troop, 1st U. S. Dragoons, commanded by 1st Lieut Henry M. Stanton. The only survivor left now of the wreck of the Lincoln is Henry Hewitt Baldwin, of Bandon, who was one of the troopers on that ill-fated vessel. The Lincoln was bound from San Francisco for Port Orford, where the services of the soldiers were required to quell the uprising of the Rogue river Indians in southern Curry county.

A fact that it is well for the one just starting in orchard work to remember is that winter pruning, as a general thing, tends to induce production of wood, while pruning in the late spring and early summer encourages a setting of fruit buds.

Not all western fruit ranchmen are wise, as one we came across the other day neglected a thirty acre ranch which would have increased in value at the rate of \$150 per acre during the year to handle an automobile agency through which he got a \$200 commission on a \$1,500 machine. He lost just about \$4,300 by the deal.

In The Circuit Court of The State of Oregon, in and for The County of Coos

T. F. Lewis Plaintiff vs. Rebecca Lewis Defendant For Divorce

To Rebecca Lewis, the above named defendant

In the Name of the State of Oregon:

You are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint filed against you in the above entitled suit on or before the last day of the time prescribed in the order for the publication of this summons, which prescribed time is six (6) weeks, the last day of which time will be Thursday, the 5th day of May, 1919.

And if you fail to so appear and answer said complaint by the said time, the plaintiff will apply to the Court for a decree forever annulling the marriage contract existing between yourself and the said plaintiff.

This summons is published in the Bandon Recorder, a weekly newspaper published in Coos County, Oregon, for six (6) consecutive weeks, beginning March 24th, 1919, and ending May 5th, 1919 by order of publication made by the Hon. John S. Coke, Circuit Judge of the State of Oregon at Chambers in Coquille, Oregon, on the 24th day of March 1919.

Geo. P. Topping Attorney for Plaintiff

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