

CONDENSED STORIES.

Funston's Uneasy Second With the Dynamite Gun.

General Funston thus describes the experience he had during the Cuban insurrection with a dynamite gun—the first one he ever fired: "I looked her over and prodded around her for a day or two till I found from the printed directions that came with her which end was the shooting end. I didn't let the Cubans know that I was scared, but I was. We got into a little mixup one day, and Garcia sent for the dynamite. I walked her out, kept the directions in my head as well as I

away on his mission and in a short time returned, but apparently without accomplishing the feat for which Landseer had backed it. The doubting friend was delighted until Landseer opened the dog's mouth and out dropped five sovereigns. The dog had not only found the note, but had run into Windsor and changed it at the bank.

The queen laughed heartily, the prince was silent. When Landseer was going to bed, the prince's equerry arrived with a message: "His royal highness' compliments, and he hopes Mr. Landseer does not think that the queen believes that story about the dog and five pound note."—Rochester Post-Express.

Just Like "Labby."

Just before Mr. Gladstone went out of power Henry Labouchere recommended a certain friend of his for a knighthood. The bestowal of the honor caused some comment, and, being asked why he had made the recommendation, Mr. Labouchere replied: "Because I want to make the honor as ridiculous as possible."

He Got the Business.

"There are tricks even in our trade," said the old life insurance man. "About ten years ago a couple of respectable old parties, man and wife, came to town with \$100,000 or so that they wanted to put into an annuity. They had neither chick nor child, kith nor kin, and they wanted to finish their lives in as much ease and luxury as could be bought. So they made the rounds of the life insurance companies, getting their annuity figures and had all the actuaries in town making calculations in the case.

"The head mathematician of the Blank Dash company was a little better than a mere figure. He happened to hear what town the old parties came from, and he suddenly remembered that he had an old friend, a doctor, who lived there, whom he hadn't seen for years. He invited the medicine man down at once, took him out and showed him a real good, decent time. Then he edged around to the annuity hunters, and, lo and behold, the doctor was their family physician! Without appearing to pump him, the actuary learned enough about the old couple to enable him to make a most glittering inducement to the pair, and they bought their annuity of his concern. They were both dead inside of two years. I forgot just how much the company netted. I think it had paid out about one-tenth of what the old folks had paid in. The company was a gainer, and there were no losers except the other companies as a result of the actuary's shrewd move."—New York Sun.

"Spellbinders" Ways.

"Spellbinding" is the happy name given to the platform speaking which plays such an important part in every campaign. The national chairman determines who shall be the stars in this department. An ex-president is most in demand, a speaker or an ex-speaker comes next as a rule, and senators and representatives are invited to speak in the order of their usefulness. One speech by an ex-president is worth half a dozen efforts by other men, though they may be more logical and eloquent.

The candidate himself, when an orator, will draw greater crowds than anybody else, but if he is wise he will let the national committee arrange his itinerary and schedule. Headquarters are always overrun with volunteers for the stump; the star, or man with a reputation, waits to be invited or urged. Most of the lesser men are laborers for hire, but others are ambitious to make a reputation as a stepping stone to political office, and some are intensely in earnest and eager to be useful to their party.

The national committee settles for the expenses of spellbinders, unless they insist on paying their own way, which is unusual. Some of the great orators receive handsome sums for their services and travel in state.—Home Magazine.

How to Whiten Piano Keys.

Cotton flannel cloths wet with a saturated solution of oxalic acid and water and laid upon piano keys will remove all stains. Care should always be taken in the use of such a bleacher as this that it does not touch anything from which the color is not to be removed, for it does its work with more



"THEN I KNEW IT WAS ALL RIGHT."

could and loaded her up. When the order came I sighted her and let her go. For a second she seemed to wheeze. 'It's all up,' I thought; the Cubans ran, but I didn't dare to; it was only a second and then she coughed, and the air and the Spanish fort were filled with misfit legs and debris, and I knew that it was all right. I turned around and grinned like the cat that swallowed the canary, and no one knew that I had finished making four or five kinds of a fool of myself."

Didn't Appreciate the Funny Story.

Prince Albert appears to have possessed no humor. He was a good man—not quick, but worthy. How his lack of fun worked him ill and did no good to Sir Edwin Landseer is amusing enough. Sir Edwin Landseer was a favorite of the queen, and had in the prince consort also a great admirer. One day, in the presence of a friend of the prince consort, a German courtier who was celebrated as a raconteur, the queen asked Landseer to tell a story, the famous animal painter having the narrative and anecdotal gift, and being in his way quite the grand seigneur. He was modest, however, and gave way to the German notability, who told a dog story, which, however, Landseer could not resist capping with one that burlesqued the German's professedly personal and truthful reminiscence of canine intelligence.

The queen enjoyed a good story, and Landseer had often amused her majesty, who expressed her pleasure that the great painter was reminded by the story of the prince consort's friend of an incident that had occurred in the neighborhood of Windsor. Urged by the doubts of a companion to put a favorite dog to a severe test, Landseer bet him a five pound note, which he thereupon buried under a sod in Windsor park in presence of the dog, that when they had walked to Virginia water he would simply tell the dog to fetch it, and the dog would do so. Having nearly arrived at Virginia water, Landseer told the dog to



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