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THE MAN WITH THE PATIENT SMILE

(Original.)

"When I was running the Olympic," said the veteran manager, "one day I was stopped on the street by a cadaverous, threadbare, hungry looking chap who asked if I was Mr. Fuller, the manager. I told him I was, whereupon he pulled from his pocket a roll of manuscript, a play, and asked me to read it.

"'What do you call it?' I asked.

"'"A Lucky Find." The hero loses his fortune and finds it again in the third act. The heroine'—

"'Yes, yes; I'll oblige you.'

"'Be careful of it. It's the only copy I have, and it's not copyrighted.'

"'All right. I'll take care of it.'

"I had to go to several places before returning to my office and must have laid the manuscript down somewhere. At any rate I never thought of it again till one day the playwright came to my office. For my life I couldn't remember where I had seen him.

"'Have you read my play?' he asked.

"'Your play? Oh, yes; now I remember. No. I haven't had time to get at it yet.'

"Meanwhile I was trying to think what play it was and where it was.

"'All right,' he said, with a winning, patient smile. 'I'll call again.'

"As soon as he had gone I hunted high and low for his manuscript, but it was nowhere to be found. Finally I recalled taking it from him and going to several places afterward, but what places they were I couldn't remember. I was very busy at the time, too busy to take any definite action in the matter. Indeed, there was no action to take except to confess that I had lost his play. In a week he was back.

"'Haven't got at your play yet,' I said. Then, fearing he would ask for it to take it away, I added: 'I'm going to have some time next week. Could you wait till then?'

"'Oh, yes,' he said, with the same smile.

"'If you need a little help, I could let you have a fiver while we're waiting.'

"'Oh, no. I've had a bit of luck lately. I don't need anything.'

"'Well, come a week from Saturday. I'll be ready for you.'

"When he called again, I was ready for him—with excuses: 'Couldn't more than get through the first act. It opens well. Let me see. The next few days I'll be very busy, but—I tell you what I'll do. I don't like to work Sunday, but in this case I'll do it. Come in Monday week.'

"'All right,' he said, with the usual smile. 'Don't hurry. When I saw you last, I'd just got $100 first payment on a play, and today I got $400 more; so, you see, I can afford to wait.'

"Meanwhile I was lying awake nights worrying over the matter. After he had told me that he had sold a play I worried all the more, for a claim from him for damages would now be good. If his play were successful, he might make me pay a large sum. There was nothing for it but to put him off as long as possible. He came again at the appointed time. Fortunately I had a cold.

"'You see the condition I'm in,' I said, coughing. 'A man's not fit to pass on a play when he has to blow his nose between the lines. Beastly weather we're having. On Sunday I thought every minute I'd surely choke. But I've got through the third act.'

"'Climax all right?'

"'Capital. Notwithstanding I had a coughing spell I was much affected.'

"'Cry?'

"'Cry? My eyes were all water.'

"'Climax or cold?' He was as serious as a tombstone.

"'Oh, both. You come in here a week from today.'

"I was getting tired of that smile of his. Such a man was too angelic to live. Instead of writing plays he should be sitting in heaven with all the heroes and heroines who have died on the stage from an excess of virtue. I determined that at our next meeting I'd sound him on the subject of buying his play for as small a sum as he could be prevailed upon to accept. When he came again I said to him:

"'Your play will never do in the world. You've got an anticlimax, an impossible situation, in the second act, and the whole scheme is undramatic. But I can use a part of it for a curtain raiser. Would you take a hundred dollars for it?'

"There was no verbal reply—only that confounded smile. I drew my check book and wrote him a check.

"'I can't take this,' he said. 'Somebody has got hold of my manuscript, and the play is to be put on at the National.'

"I turned pale. He smiled.

"'Say, my friend, what'll you take to let me out of this?'

"'If you'll give me the hundred dollars for keeping me waiting I'll call it square.'

"'Take it and welcome.'

"As soon as he had gone I heaved a deep sigh of relief and congratulated myself on having had a man to deal with who hadn't any more sense than to take $100 for a play he owned and was to be put on the boards by another manager.

"'A Lucky Find' was a great success. I received seats for the opening night and was invited to supper after the performance with the playwright. Curious to know who had stolen the play, I accepted. Who should greet me but the man with the patient smile.

"'The manuscript,' he said, 'had on it my name and address and came back to me at once. In ten days more it was contracted for. This is your dinner to me, and it has been already paid for with the check you gave me.'"

F. A. MITCHEL.

LONDON IN 1700.

When Traitors' Heads Adorned London Bridge and Temple Bar.

London in 1700 was a comparatively small city of about 600,000 inhabitants, the rough and ill kept main roads to which had been but slightly improved since Tudor times. The ghastly spectacle of many of the trees on the Southwark road bending under their burden of hanged men had indeed been slightly modified, but none the less the decomposing heads of "traitors" still filled the atmosphere about London bridge and Temple Bar with myriads of baneful microbes.

Our immediate forbears were evidently not overparticular about sights and smells. They were accustomed to see men sitting in the pillory pelted with rotten eggs and possibly included among their immediate circle not a few who had been deprived of their noses and ears for expressing too freely their opinions, political and religious.

The drains were in an appalling condition. The innumerable churchyards were so full of coffins that they often projected through the turf. Bear and bull baiting, dog fights and boxing matches were attended even by royalty as late as 1820, and five years later all the "dandies" in London were paying high prices to stand in the carts round Tyburn to behold twenty-two of their fellow creatures hanged for misdemeanors which in our time would be punished with a few days' imprisonment.—Saturday Review.

Convenient Fetters.

Leo Deutsch, a Russian political exile who was permitted to return to his home, tells in his book, "Sixteen Years In Siberia," tales not only of suffering, but of lenient treatment by his jailers. In Siberian prisons often the harshness of the discipline was considerably relaxed. On one occasion, to the vast amusement of the prison authorities, Deutsch appeared before the governor with his fetters tied up with a piece of string, and it appeared he had only assumed them for the moment. But the complaisant governor was afraid of a visit from high quarters. "Then if an inspection is made you will be wearing your fetters," he asked, laughing. "Of course," replied Deutsch. "You see, I've come to you in full dress," pointing to his tied up chains. On another occasion Deutsch's bag was stolen. It contained, among other articles of a convict's attire, the indispensable fetters, and he had to apply for a new pair. "Take care you don't lose these!" said the officer as Deutsch packed them among his luggage.

Some Very Ancient Laws.

King Amraphel of Babylon, who lived 2,250 years B. C., formulated a code of laws. His statutes, which were operative five centuries before the laws of Moses, numbered 282 and contain the following:

"If a woman who sells beverages gives bad value for the money paid her, she shall be thrown into water.

"If a wife be a spendthrift or if she otherwise neglect her duties, her husband may put her away without compensation, but if a man put away his wife for no other reason than that she has no children he shall return her whole dowry.

"If a betrothal be rescinded, the man shall pay the woman compensation.

"A widow with grown up children may not marry again without permission from a judge."—London Express.

Some Errors of Speech.

Many make the mistake of saying "I intended to have told you" or "If I had have known" instead of "I intended to tell you" or "If I had known." I have heard the following confused sentence from one who should know better: "I should have thought that you would have gone to have seen her." The correct sentence would be, "I should think that you would have gone to see her."

It is incorrect to say "Those sort of things" instead of "Things of that sort." Do not say "Ain't" for "Is not," "He don't" for "He does not" or "Not as I know" for "Not that I know" or "I have lit the lamps" for "I have lighted the lamps."—Delineator.

Misunderstood.

Pergus Hume, who wrote a number of sensational books, was one day in a railway carriage with a friend, says the London M. A. P. In one corner was an old lady. Mr. Hume said to his friend that he really did not know how to murder any one in a new way. He had murdered at least twenty people, and now he wanted a new mode. The old lady shivered apprehensive. At the next station she got out hurriedly. Evidently she took Mr. Hume for a dangerous lunatic traveling with his keeper.

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Announcement.

To accommodate those who are partial to the use of atomizers in applying liquids into the nasal passages for *catarrhal troubles*, the proprietors prepare Cream Balm in liquid form, which will be known as Ely's Liquid Cream Balm. Price including the spraying tube is 75 cents. Druggists or by mail. The liquid form embodies the medicinal properties of the solid preparation.

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Indian Medical Secrets.

Dr. J. W. Blankenship, botanist of the Montana experiment station, is making a collection of herbs used by Indians for medical purposes. He has unearthed the Indian formula of bread making from sunflower seeds and has identified the wild tobacco which they used to grow. The collection will be exhibited at St. Louis.

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TIMBER LAND, ACT JUNE 3, 1878.
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

United States Land office, Roseburg, Oregon, Sept. 3, 1903.

Notice is hereby given that in compliance with the provisions of the act of Congress of June 3, 1878, entitled "An act for the sale of timber lands in the States of California, Oregon, Nevada and Washington Territory," as extended to all the Public Land States by act of August 4, 1892,

AUGUST W. PETERSON,

of Lutsen, County of Cook, State of Minnesota, has this day filed in this office his sworn statement No. 5681 for the purchase of the SW¼ of Section No. 20 in Township No. 25 South of Range No. 10 West, and will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish his claim to said land before the Register and Receiver of this office at Roseburg, Oregon, on Monday to 15th day of February, 1904.

He names as witnesses: J M Weatherby, Wm Felloes, Charles Thom, John Thom, all of Roseburg, Oregon.

Any and all persons claiming adversely the above described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before said 15th day of February, 1904.

12 5 J. T. Barnes, Register.