

Stories With a Smile

AN ENGLISH minister, who guarded his morning study hour very carefully, told the new maid that under no circumstances were callers to be admitted—except, of course, he added—in case of life and death. Half an hour later the maid knocked at his door. "A gentleman to see you, sir," "Why, I thought I told you—" "Yes, I told him," she replied, "but he says it is a question of life and death." He went downstairs and found an insurance agent.

When a certain dorky of Mobile, Ala., announced his engagement to the dusky one of his choice, the congratulations were showered upon him, including a note of wonder.

"Joe," said one of these friends, "I shore is surprised! We all never thought you'd speak up. It's going on two years since you begun to fool around Miss Violet."

"Dat's true," said Joe, "but de fact is, old man, I didn't lose my job until last night."

"Is yo' comin' to pra'r meetin' to-night, Brud' Dinger?" inquired good old Parson Bagster.

"Wel-uh, no, sah; I reggin not," was the reply. "To tell de trooff, pahson, I's aimin' to go to de minstrel show—done got a comperment'ry ticket."

"Brud' Dinger, dar won't be no minstrel shows in heaven!"

"Den, if dats de case, sah, I'm shogwine tonight, whilst muh ticket's good!"

"Green is a synonym for gullible, isn't it?"

"Sage green shouldn't be."

A German farmer was in search of a driving horse. A friend directed him to a liveryman. "I've got just the horse for you," said the liveryman. "He's five years old, sound as a dol-

lar and goes ten miles without stopping." The German threw his head skyward. "Nod for me," he said, "nod for me. I lif eight miles from town out, and mit dot horse I haf to walk back two miles."

Motorist (blocked by a load of hay)—I say, there, pull out and let me by. Farmer—Oh, I dunno ez I'm in any hurry.

Motorist (angrily)—You seemed in a hurry to let that other fellow's carriage get past.

Farmer—That's 'cause his horse wuz eatin' my hay. There hain't no danger o' yew eatin' it, I reckon.

"What does Algernon call his motorboat?"

"Depends on how the engine is working."

Suitor—I want to marry your daughter.

Father—Can you divorce her in the manner in which she has been accustomed?

Father—What! You want to marry my daughter? Why, sir, you can't support her!—I can hardly do it myself.

Suitor (blankly)—Can't we chip in together?

A Pennsylvania farmer was the owner of a good Alderney cow. A stranger, having admired the animal, asked the farmer: "What will you take for your cow?" The farmer scratched his head for a moment, and then said: "Look a-here, be you the tax assessor, or has she been killed by the railroad?"

"I don't care for these vicious plays."

"But they sometimes point a moral."

"Well, when I want a moral I can get a seat in the police court for nothing. So what's the use of coughing up \$2? 'I'll save my money for a musical comedy."

Figg—The way the transgressor is hard.

Fogg—Yes; but the trouble is it is generally hard on somebody else.

Wife—What on earth are you wearing that mourning band round your hat for?

"For your first husband—I'm sorry he died."

Wife—If you can't sleep, why don't you see a doctor?

Husband (grouchily)—And then have a bill to keep me awake!

"In the good old days doctors used to bleed patients for most of the diseases."

"They still do, my boy; they still do."

"He looks like a fool!"

"But, papa, he has asked me to marry him."

"He has? Well, don't you ever tell me I can't size up people."

"Pa, when is the freedom of the city given to a man?"

"When his wife goes to the country, my son!"

"Last summer I was engaged to a girl I met here named Louise. See, I cut an 'L' in this tree."

"How does that interest me?"

"It's like this, Edythe. I could easily change that 'L' into an 'E.'"

First Customer (giving order)—Ham, eggs, toast, coffee.

Second Customer—Same order, with eggs eliminated.

Colored Waiter (looking puzzled)—What's dat you say, boss?

Customer (catching on)—I said the same order as my neighbor with the eggs eliminated.

"Say, boss, wouldn't you just as leave have your eggs cooked some other way?"

Customer—No, I am under a doctor's orders, and he will not allow me to use eggs any other way.

The waiter went into the kitchen, and soon returned, smiling blandly.

"Say, boss, de cook done broke the 'liminator' an' we's done ordered one, but it won't be here before tomorrow."

"Are you putting away something for a rainy day, Tommie?" asked the little boy's aunt as she saw him at his little savings bank.

"No, ma'am," was Tommie's reply; "there ain't no ball games on rainy days!"

"I don't know what I'm ever going to make of that son of mine," said a prominent citizen of the City of Good Will the other day. The P. C., it may be said, is a self-made man, graduate of the university of hard knocks, etc. And it naturally grieves him that his son is not aggressive.

"Maybe your son hasn't found himself yet," we consoled. "Isn't he gifted in any way?"

"Gifted? I should say he is. That's the trouble. He hasn't got a thing that wasn't given to him."

"What are you going to do when you get home?"

"I don't know yet," replied Senator Sorghum. "I've got to wait and see whether my reception by the townfolks is in the nature of an ovation or the third degree."

He (calling)—I fear I must seem like a Sahara of dullness this evening, Miss Edith.

She—Oh, no, Mr. Timmid, you are not at all like a desert; a desert has sand.

As the taxi skidded from side to side with increasing speed the occupant was becoming dreadfully nervous.

Opening the door, he called out: "I say, cabby, not so fast; this is my first trip in a taxi."

"It's mine, too," came the prompt reply.

Gramercy—What do you think of a man who can deceive his wife?

Park—I think he's a wonder.

Woman is certainly coming into her own. Even in tender romance she is exerting an influence.

The young man had just been ac-

cepted. In his rapture he exclaimed, "But do you think, my love, I am good enough for you?"

His strong-minded fiancée looked sternly at him for a moment and replied, "Good enough for me! You've got to be!"

"She ought to drop dead for the awful lies she's telling," said the plaintiff, excitedly, listening to the witness for the defense.

"Don't say that," admonished the judge.

"She ought," repeated the plaintiff.

"Don't say that again!" warned the judge.

"Well, I won't, but she ought."

Physician—This man's condition is not due to drink. He's been drugged.

Policeman (turning pale and speaking timidly)—I'm afraid you're right, sir. I drugged him all the way—a matter of a hundred yards or more.

"Wise men make epigrams and fools quote them," observed the tall man.

"That's fine!" answered the short man, appreciatively. "By the way, who was the author of that one?"

"What did you talk about at your reading circle?"

"Cleopatra," replied young Mrs. Torkins.

"I suppose the discussion brought great knowledge into evidence."

"I should say so. By the way they tore her character up, you might have thought she was one of our own neighbors."

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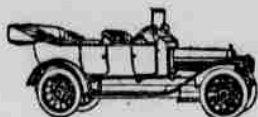
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