

Stories With a Smile

Too Much For Him.

A METHODIST bishop in the Northwest tells of a conversation he once had with a Wyoming man touching certain difficulties of the latter's religious tenets.

"Bishop," said this naive westerner, "I do not refuse to believe the story of the ark. I can accept the ark's great size, its odd shape, and the vast number of animals it contained, but when I am asked to believe that the children of Israel carried this unwieldy thing for sixty years in the wilderness I must confess that my faith breaks down."

The Dodger.

Senator Hitchcock was talking about a divorce suit in New York wherein it was claimed that the wife was jealous of her husband's work.

"Lucky the wife," he said, "who has nothing but her husband's work to be jealous of. What do American wives want, anyhow? Do they want husbands as lazy as Tom Tuck?"

"Tom Tuck was my school mate in my native Omaha. He was the laziest boy you can imagine. On some pretext or other he could always dodge work."

"The teacher one day told Tom to write a full and exhaustive composition on a game of ball. You wouldn't think Tom could dodge that job, eh? Well, anyhow, he did, and the composition he turned in read:

"Game postponed account rain."

Retribution.

A Pueblo minister was greatly disturbed by a number of women in his congregation who persistently gossiped in a loud tone during services. One Sunday morning he executed a plan which he had devised to stop this annoyance. At a given signal the choir stopped abruptly on a certain word in the middle of a hymn. Then one of the gossips, unable to check herself, was heard all over the church to say: "I always fry mine in lard." "As we now know," announced the minister, "that she always fries her in lard, we will proceed with the singing."

An advertising man tells this one. "The heavy advertiser of a certain Indiana town entered the editorial offices of the daily paper, and in angry and disgusted tones delivered himself as follows:

"What's the matter with this sheet,

anyhow? That was a fine break you people made in my ad yesterday!"

"What seems to be the trouble?" asked the editor anxiously.

"Read it and see!" said the advertiser; and he thrust a copy of the paper into the editorial hands.

"The unhappy editor read: 'If you want to have a fit, wear Jones' shoes.'"

Asserting His Rights.

It was during the rush hours and the car was crowded to its full capacity, and then some.

A rather gaudily dressed young man was standing next to a German, each holding on to the overhanging strap. The car gave a sudden lurch, which resulted in the young man stepping on the German's toes. This irritated the German, who addressed the other angrily.

"Mine friend," he said, "I know mine feet was meant to be walked on, but dot privilege belongs to me."

Interesting.

When Johnny had finished reading his Sunday school leaflet he said to father:

"Isn't it too bad it was so long ago that Jonah was swallowed by the whale?"

"Why is that, my son?" queried the father.

"Oh, if it would happen now," the son replied, "everybody could see it in the movies."

The Officious Signal.

The other day a man with a ruby nose was brought before a magistrate, charged with impersonating a police officer.

"What have you to say?" asked the magistrate.

"I am innocent," replied the man.

"What did he do?" the magistrate demanded of the officer.

"What did he do?" exclaimed the policeman haughtily. "Why, he tapped three times at the door of a saloon on my beat, and, when the landlord shoved the beer out, he took it and drank it. That's what he did!"

He Overdid It.

After he had fallen upon his knees and kissed her hand she said:

"Before I answer, 'Yes' or 'No,' there are some things I would like to ask you. Do you ever drink or gamble?"

"No," he eagerly replied. "I do not know what the taste of liquor is. I have never defiled my lips with tobacco. I have never uttered a profane word in my life. I have never even played bridge where a prize was at stake."

She looked at him thoughtfully for a moment, drew a long sigh, and then asked:

"Have you ever broken a woman's heart?"

"Ah, how can you ask me that?" he almost reproachfully answered. "If I had ever spoken words of love to another I would not deem myself worthy to touch the hem of your garment. I have never cared for any one but you. I have never kissed any woman except my mother. I have never given any girl cause to utter one sorrowful sigh. Yours is the first dear, soft, little hand that I have ever held in my own. Never before tonight have I looked into any girl's eyes as I am looking into your deep, soulful eyes. Never—"

"Oh, dear," she impatiently interrupted, drawing her hand away from him, "It's after eight o'clock, and you shouldn't be so far away from home at this time of night. Wait a minute, please, and I'll see if I can't get my brother, Tom, to go with you. Your mamma must be terribly worried."

Knew Her Ability.

The farmer was walking comfortably and happily along the lane leading to his own homestead when suddenly out sprang a strange dog. He yelled for assistance, and his cry was heard by his wife. But, alas! when she came upon him the dog had already fastened his teeth in her loved one's calf. Quickly she picked up a stone and was just about to hurl it, when the husband realized the new and terrible danger he was now exposed to, but with presence of mind he called to her:

"Mary, Mary! Don't throw the stone at the dog; throw it at me."

He Used His Eyes.

"Be observant, my son," said Willie's father. "Cultivate the habit of seeing and you will be a successful man."

"Yes," added his uncle. "Don't go through the world blindly. Learn to use your eyes."

"Little boys who are observing

know a great deal more than those who are not," his aunt put in.

Willie took this advice to heart.

Next day he informed his mother that he had been observing things.

"Uncle's got a bottle of whiskey hidden in his trunk," he said; "Aunt Jane's got an extra set of teeth in her drawer and father's got a pack of cards behind the books in his desk."

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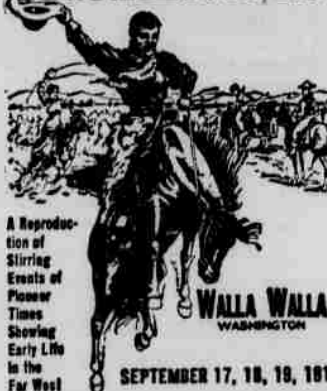
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