

Stories With a Smile

Not Their Style.

THE young man who eats all 'roun the circuit ran against this quick-lunch incident recently.

A fastidious person made his way charily into the place. A tumbler of murky water was thumped before him by a young woman on the other side of the counter.

"What's yours?"

"Coffee and rolls, my girl."

One of those iron heavy, quarter-inch thick mugs of coffee was pushed over the counter. The fastidious person seemed dazed. He looked under the mug and over it.

"But where is the saucer?" he queried.

"We don't give no saucers here. If we did some low brow'd come pillin' in an' drink out of his saucer, an' we'd lose a lot of our swellest trade."

He Wanted Information.

Christie Macdonald, the actress, relates the following anecdote: "A drill sergeant was drilling the recruit squad in the use of the rifle. Everything went smoothly until blank cartridges were distributed. The recruits were instructed to load their pieces and stand at 'Ready!' and then the sergeant gave the command: 'Fire at will!' Private Lunn was puzzled. He lowered his gun. 'Which one is Will?' he asked."

Spirit of the Auction.

An auction was under way, and the room was crowded. An excited man burst through the gathering and, reaching the auctioneer, whispered rapidly. The auctioneer nodded, held up a hand for silence, and said:

"I am informed that a pocket-book containing \$500 in bank notes has been lost in this hall tonight."

A hush fell over the assembly. "Because of the valuable documents it also contains," continued the auctioneer, "the gentleman will offer \$50 to anyone who returns it, and no questions will be asked."

Silence once more reigned in the hall. Then a man in the rear spoke up:

"I bid \$100."

Used to Entertainments.

A couple arrived one evening at a music hall in London with a very young baby.



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"I'm sorry," said the manager, firmly, "but you can't take that baby into the hall."

"Why not, sir?" asked the astonished father.

"Well, it might cry and create a general disturbance."

"Oh, lor' no, sir!" was the prompt reply. "Baby's used to going to entertainments, 'e is. Why, 'e was as good as gold at 'is gran' pa's funeral yesterday!"

No Place for a Woman.

"Well," remarked the proprietor of the Junkville general store, as he closed the cash drawer and resumed his place behind the stove, "the women want to vote at the polls tomorrow."

The moralist twisted a plug of black tobacco between his molars and proceeded to chew himself into a logical frame of mind before replying:

"Cain't say I approve. 'Tain't respectable. What's the world comin' to, anyway? Woman at the polls! 'Twon't be fittin' place for a woman."

"Why?"

"Because I'm goin' to git drunk-er'n a b'iled owl and raise all manner o' trouble!"

Beginning Early.

"Father," inquired the little brain twister of the family, "when will our little baby brother be able to talk."

"Oh, when he's about 3, Ethel."

"Why can't he talk now, father?"

"He is only a baby yet, Ethel. Babies can't talk."

"Oh, yes, they can, father," insisted Ethel, "for Job could talk when he was a baby."

"Job! What do you mean?"

"Yes," said Ethel. "Nurse was telling us today that it says in the Bible: 'Job cursed the day he was born.'"

Shrewd Old Man.

"You're an old married man. What do you do when your wife begins to scold?"

"Encourage her. I talk back—discreetly, of course. I say tantalizing things. I make foolish excuses. I stammer and get husky."

"But doesn't that make her a good deal madder?"

"Of course, it does. That's the intention. I want her to get so mad that she won't have any voice left to ask me for money."

"Gee, I wonder if I'll ever get as hardened as that?"

Dad Survived the Loss.

A Brockton clubwoman was calling on a friend the other afternoon when the little daughter of the hostess came into the room. The visitor, remembering that her hostess's mother, who had been making a long visit, had returned home that day, said to the little girl:

"Well, were you sorry to have grandma go home today?"

"Yes, I was," replied girlie, "very sorry. And so was mama. But I was looking at papa at the breakfast table and I couldn't see but what he was as cheerful as ever."

Explaining a Phenomenon.

Uncle Zack is an old colored man who lives in a certain little town in North Carolina, where he is regarded as quite an oracle by the other members of his race.

Once an earthquake shook the town and as soon as the natives got over their scare enough to discuss the why and whereof of the shock, they cornered Uncle Zack and demanded an explanation.

"Well, I'll tell you. Hit's like dis," he explained. "About once in



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