

Stories With a Smile

Not Polly Ticks.

DURING a political campaign a candidate for the Legislature was driving through the country seeking votes among the farmers, when he met a young man in a farmer's garb walking by the roadside.

"Are you paying any attention to politics nowadays?" he asked, after starting his team.

The young man looked at him suspiciously and drawled out: "No, stranger, that don't happen to be my gal's name, but if it was I wouldn't think it was any of your darned business."

This ended the interview as well as the process.

He Was Right?

King Peter of Serbia, who does not mean to let Austria have everything her own way, once had for a valet a man who seemed to find it quite impossible to understand an order intelligently. However, some of his mistakes, though annoying at the time, had their distinctly humorous side.

On one occasion King Peter sent the man with a message to his wife. Alas! He forgot it on the way.

King Peter was furious when the man returned.

"Why, you noodle!" he exclaimed, "I don't believe you know what w-o-m-a-n spells!"

"Trouble as a rule, sir," was the man's quiet retort; and His Majesty now wonders whether the man was as stupid as he used to appear.

When Scot Meets Scot.

The lady was the owner of a small shop, writes the London Telegraph, and her squire acquired the habit of seeing her home, and carrying the cash bag that contained the day's takings. It was generally heavy.

"You must be doin' weel," remarked the gentleman, frequently. "Oh, ay," the lady would reply, "it's a guid bit business."

But she did not disclose that be-

sides the moderate drawings, the bag contained the counter weights. The canny lover only discovered that fact after marriage.

Three Ages.

The new Berlin botanical gardens, says Lustige Blaetter, are wonderfully beautiful, but to small children they are a forbidden paradise. Boys and girls under 10 are not permitted to enter.

Herr and Frau Mueller found this out to their disappointment when they planned to take their little Paul on a Sunday trip to view the beautiful gardens; nevertheless, they gave their young hopeful a few instructions, and started out.

At the gate, the porter stopped the young Mueller. "How old are you?" he inquired. Paul answered: "Six for the electrics; really 8; for the botanical gardens, 10."

Would Reward Her.

Mrs. Smith was an ardent worker in the cause of the prevention of cruelty to animals, and, when Mrs. Brown came to tea, told her a pathetic tale of a donkey that she had rescued from a cruel master the day before.

The visitor was very interested, and when she rose to go said:

"I am so glad you have told me all those fascinating things about animals, dear Mrs. Smith. I shall never see a donkey again without thinking of you."

His Staying Powers.

Two business men were lunching in Fifth Avenue when an old gray-beard stumped by. "That's Brown. He works for me," said the first business man.

"He's an honest looking chap. Has he got staying powers?" asked the second business man.

"He has that," said the first. "He began at the bottom of the ladder in '76, and he's stayed there ever since."

Would Welcome a Change.

Little Tommy was the son of the Smithville Board of Education, but political pull didn't seem to ease the road he had to hoe at school.

Recently the school house burned down, and when plans for a new building were under consideration, the youngster went to the "Board."

"Father," he thoughtfully remarked, "don't you think we could have a round school house this time?"

"A round schoolhouse!" was the wondering response of father. "What in the deuce do you want a round school house for?"

"Because," answered Tommy, with a plaintive sigh, "I am getting mighty tired of corners."

In No Common Way.

Lady—Once, last summer, I saw some boys "treading for clams," as they called it. They were very dirty-looking boys; they were barefooted—feet unwashed, most likely—and they were walking through the mud at low tide. When they felt a clam at their feet, they pulled it out with their toes. It just made me sick. I hope your clams are not caught that way.

Walter—Of course not, ma'am. The man who furnishes clams to this

restaurant fishes for 'em with a silver spoon.

The Real Baedeker.

An Englishman tells this incident of a trip he took to Russia. With him in his compartment of the train was an exceedingly well-informed German, and the two grew very friendly. Each was a stranger to the other.

They had talked for hours over a wide range of topics when the Englishman asked the German if he happened to have a Baedeker with him.

It was too much for the warm-hearted Teuton. Bursting with a sudden and overwhelming enthusiasm, he beat his breast with both hands, exclaiming: "Got in Himmel, I am it!"

It was none other than Karl Baedeker himself.

A Difficult Choice.

Mr. Plowden, the well-known London magistrate, who has just retired from the bench, has a great repertoire of good stories.

His favorite one relates to a case in which he appeared as counsel. In the course of this case he had to

cross-examine the wife of a notorious burglar.

"You are the wife of this man?" he asked.

"I am," she replied.

"You knew he was a burglar when you married him?" he proceeded.

"I did," she admitted.

"How could you possibly marry such a man?" Mr. Plowden demanded.

"Well, it was like this," the witness explained confidentially. "I was getting out, and two chaps wanted to marry me. It wasn't easy to choose between 'em, but in the end I married Mill there. The other chap was a lawyer, same as you, sir!"

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