

Stories World Meets With Smiles

TULLY MARSHALL, the actor, elucidates the supernatural in this wise:

"What is a phenomenon?" asked one workman of another.

"It's like this. Suppose you were to go out into the country and see a field of thistles growing."

"Yes."

"Well, that would not be a phenomenon!"

"No, that's quite clear," agreed the other man.

"But suppose you were to see a lark singing away up in the sky."

"Yes."

"Well, that would not be a phenomenon!"

"No, that also seems clear."

"But imagine there is a bull in the field."

"Yes."

"Even that would not be a phenomenon."

"No."

"But, now, Bill, look here. Suppose you saw that bull sitting on them thistles whistling like a lark—well, that would be a phenomenon."

Hopeless.

Here's an anecdote of the stork variety related by Robert Edeson:

"Harry was an only child and the greatest desire of his heart was for a baby brother or sister. He preferred a sister and never failed to ask for one when he said his evening prayer.

"Not receiving an answer, he removed all restriction by altering his petition to the following: 'Oh, God, send us a baby; I don't care whether it's a boy or a girl, or black or white, if it's only a baby.'

"Shortly after, the Densmores, who lived next door, had an addition to their already large family. Harry's mamma, noticing that the little boy no longer prayed for a baby, said to him one day:

"Harry, why is it you don't ask God for a baby any more?"

"Oh, it's no use," he replied, 'if one comes along the Densmores'll gobble it up.'

He Couldn't Hear a Word.

If you heard a man kissing your wife would it arouse as much ire as if you saw the act? Rose Stahl gives this version:

"Two sailors were seated at a table before a cafe. One sailor had a letter before him and was reading aloud, while at the same time the other sailor held his hands over the reader's ears. The friendly waiter, impelled by curiosity, paused before the table.

"Why," he asked, 'do you hold your hands over your friend's ears while he reads that letter out loud to you?'

"Because," was the dignified answer, 'the letter is from my sweet-heart. Jack is reading it because I can't read myself. That is all right, but I don't want him to hear a word of what is written.'

A Home Thrust.

"All sorts and conditions of men have excellent explanations for their positions in life," said the Senator. "A tramp, however, came under my observation who had no illusions about the cause of his own condition.

"A fine-looking and fashionably dressed woman had just alighted from her limousine at the hotel entrance, and was suddenly approached by this shabbily dressed man who requested a dime.

"No, I have no money to spare for you. I don't see why an able-bodied man like you should go about begging."

"I s'pose, ma'am," replied the lazy tramp, 'it's fer about the same reason that a healthy woman like you boards at a hotel instead of keepin' house.'

His Cue.

A couple of stars were rehearsing in a new play. This is a lie, comments the reader—plays don't have two stars. Yes, but this was a very modern play, with a very reckless manager. They do almost anything these days.

Well, anyhow, as we were saying before you interrupted, a couple of

stars were rehearsing, and the first star said:

"Now, in this scene I am supposed to exit at the rear, while you stand in front, facing the audience. Now, what will be your cue to resume your lines?"

"The look of satisfaction on the faces of the audience," answered the second star.

Force of Habit.

"That new hired man of yours must have been a bookkeeper before he came to you."

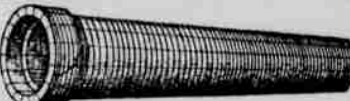
"Why so?"

"Every time he stops work a few minutes he tries to put the pitchfork behind his ear."



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JOHN BIEVER.

Bird Island, Minn.

April 24, 1914.

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HEANEY & PALMISTON.

Elginham, Mont.

June 10th, 1914.

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