

Stories World Meets With Smiles

The Lost Decoy.

ON the occasion of a Mayoral banquet in a small provincial town one of the last guests to leave went to the cloakroom for his coat and hat. He couldn't help noticing the woebegone look on the attendant's face. The poor man appeared worried and sad, and every little while he sighed and muttered to himself. "You seem upset," remarked the guest sympathetically.

"I am upset, sir," said the attendant. "What is the trouble? Haven't the guests tipped you well tonight?"

The attendant answered in an excited voice: "It's not only, sir, that they haven't tipped me, but they've taken the quarter dollar that I put on the tray for a decoy."—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Not Hungry.

They were on the subject of girls. "Look here!" exclaimed McFarland. "Did you ever take a girl out to lunch when she felt a little faint?" "Er—no," admitted Smith, reluctantly. "Well," take my advice and don't. One day I took Miss Jennie Westcott into a restaurant. At first she declined to eat anything, but then she said she believed she did feel a little faint."

"Did she take anything?" "Did she take anything? She seized the menu, glanced over it, said she didn't feel very hungry, and ordered—"

"Well, what did she order?" "Oysters, bouillon, lobster, cutlets, sweetbreads and peas, chicken, shrimp salad, biscuit glace, macaroons, coffee and creme de menthe. It cost me three dollars."

"Well, you ought to be glad," said Smith. "Glad? What for?"

"Why, glad she wasn't hungry."

A Small Order.

Trade was bad, very bad; and Mr. Buggins, the chief grocer of the district, found his takings becoming smaller every day. All his old customers seemed to be leaving the neighborhood, and no new ones arriving. Even old Mrs. Robinson, to whom the firm of Buggins had supplied the necessities of life for many years, had not been near the shop for weeks.

One morning, however, she again entered the door, and Mr. Buggins, delighted, hastened to attend to her in person.

"And what may I get for you today?" he inquired.

"A cent's worth of soap," came the reply.

Mr. Buggins' face was wonderfully expressive of outraged feelings; so was his answer.

"A cent's worth of soap!" he retorted. "Certainly, I suppose you'll be washing the canary this afternoon?"

Composing Letters.

It is related of a merchant that, impatient at the long delay of a customer in settling his accounts with him, he said at last to his young clerk: "Write to that man and tell him that I can wait no longer!" "What shall I write to him?" the young man asked. The merchant was hurried and answered crossly and without thought: "Something or nothing, and that soon!" In a few days a check came from the delinquent, paying the entire amount of his indebtedness. Surprised, the merchant asked his clerk: "What did you write to that man?" "Just what you told me to," the young man answered. "I did not tell you what to

write." "Yes, you did; you said: 'Something or nothing, and that soon.' I wrote that."

True, O Uncle Joshua, it takes someone more wise than a fool to "compose a letter."

Talk That Counts.

Ephum Johnson was up before Judge Shimmerpate on a cruelty to animals charge.

"Deed Ah wasn't abusin' dat mule, Jedge," the old man demurred.

"Did you not strike it repeatedly with a club?"

"Yassah."

"And do you not know that you can accomplish more with animals by speaking to them?"

"Yassah; but dis critter am diff'nt. He am so deaf he caint heah me when Ah speaks to him in de usual way, so Ah has to communicate wid him in de sign language."

A Household Hint.

The black silk slip cover that comes with a gift umbrella is rarely utilized for its original purpose. But the deft fingers of a handy housewife may easily transform it, at slight trouble and expense, into a fashionable skirt. No refitting or reshaping necessary. Simply turn the affair upside down, cut off the metal end, and attach a belt. See that the slash comes at the side.

How Pat Got Even.

Pat was over in England working with his coat off. There were two Englishmen laboring on the same railroad, so they decided to have a joke with the Irishman. They painted a donkey's head on the back of Pat's coat, and watched to see him put it on. Pat, of course, saw the donkey's head on his coat, and, turning to the Englishmen, said: "Which of yez wiped yer face on me coat."—Lippincott's.

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Here Is Another

This Man Is Looking for a Willamette Valley Farm

and wants to trade 2080 acres six miles Echo, UMATILLA COUNTY, Oregon. JUST THINK! 1000 acres in wheat now; land all tillable, all fenced and improved; plenty of water. With place goes 28 horses, a combined harvester, drills, harrows, in fact everything needed on a farm. Crop goes with the place. PRICE only \$39 an acre, or \$62,400; MORTGAGE \$13,200, long time at 6 per cent. Will trade for a Valley farm to the full amount.

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