

BOWSER HAS NEW IDEA

Tries to Convert Wife to Belief in Transmigration of Souls.

SEES PLAYMATE IN A TRAMP.

Experiment Ends in a Personal Encounter in Which the Hobo Does Not Come Out the Worst—Mrs. B. Consales Hubby

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Mr. Bowser had seemed absent-minded at dinner, and for half an hour afterward he smoked his cigar in silence and had no interest in his evening newspaper. Finally he aroused himself, with a start, and said:

"Mrs. Bowser, I want to talk with you for a few minutes on a very serious matter, and I trust I may have your undivided and respectful attention. If you can restrain your fondness for sarcastic remarks I hope you will do so for this once."

"I hope you are not going to tell me that you have discovered a new planet in the heavens," she answered.

"I am not looking for new planets just now, though I may begin later on. This afternoon a man from Troy came



A TRAMP AT THE BASEMENT DOOR.

into the office on business. He had a dog with him, and you know that I seemed to recognize in that dog an old and dear friend of mine who died at least ten years ago? Same eyes, same mouth, same hopeless expression of face. Why, I rose out of my chair at first sight of him."

"And then you sat down again," she replied. "I expected you'd get back to that nonsense again. It's only a few months ago that you scared the cook away by your talk about transmigration, telling her that she'd probably turn into a cat when she died, and if I were you I'd let it alone. I tell you it's all hooey."

"You call the theory of transmigration all hooey, do you?" she sharply asked as he turned on her.

"Of course I do. At least it is a theory so far fetched that no sensible person will waste any time over it. Let us talk about something else. I was reading today that big money could be made by starting huckleberry swamps."

"Never you mind about that, Mrs. Bowser. Let the huckleberry business take care of itself. The question before us is, what becomes of our souls after the breath leaves the body? Do you care whether your soul passes into the body of a dog or a dove? If you don't, it is something to me what becomes of mine. I don't hanker to come back to earth as a hippopotamus or an alligator. You call the theory of transmigration all hooey, and yet it is gaining ground every day, and millions of people believe in it."

"Well, if they want to believe in such rubbish let them go ahead."

"There you go again! Rubbish! Rubbish! By what right do you call the belief of at least a billion people rubbish? There is either good foundation for this belief or else all these people are fools. How can you say what becomes of your soul after death?"

"And how can you?" she queried.

"I can't exactly, and yet when I look into the face of a dog from Troy and recognize the features of a dear old playmate who died in Kalamazoo many years ago it goes to convince me that there is more in the theory than I ever accepted."

"I trust your dear old playmate was well and that you enjoyed his call. Did you mention that you used to play ball and hopscotch with him? Did you ask how he liked being a Troy dog for a change? Did he seem to also recognize you?"

"Smiling already. That's you all over. I never set out to talk with you on any matter of deep interest unless you try to belittle it. Woman, right here and now I boldly announce myself as a transmigrationist of the deepest dye, and if you have got any sense in your head I can prove the theory in ten minutes. Yes, I can do it in one. Look at that cat, will you?"

The family feline had been out on the fence walling over the fence and showing who was boss, but had come in with a look of innocence and modesty on her face and was sitting up on the hearth rug. Mrs. Bowser regarded her for a moment and then observed:

"Yes, it's our old cat, and who does she remind you of? By thunder, but it's strange that I never remarked the likeness before! Mrs. Bowser, as trustee of you live, the soul of your sister Hannah, who died three years ago, has passed into that cat! Look at her, I say! If that isn't Hannah's expression to a dot, then I'll eat my hat!"

"Nonsense! You must be crazy. She looks like any other cat, and that's all there is to it. You can see what silly things your theory leads to. It's a shame to compare her to Hannah."

"And you see no resemblance?" she asked. "You can't see that she sits with her chin cocked up just as Hannah used to after I had told her that she shouldn't climb fences and roll over on the grass?"

"No, sir, I can't, and I want you to quit making such comparisons."

"Then it's because your well known obstinacy won't permit you to. Hannah's soul went into that cat as sure as you're born, and that's why she's hung around as she has. That's only one case, however. All human souls do not pass into the bodies of animals. Some of them pass into other people. When I die my soul may pass into the body of some dear little babe who will grow up to be a celebrated statesman, poet or philosopher."

"Or a junk dealer or knife grinder," suggested Mrs. Bowser.

"Mr. Bowser had just got red in the face and was about to resent the sneer when the cook came up and said there was a tramp at the basement door who wanted money for a night's lodging and demanded to see the master of the house."

"Perhaps it's some one into whose body the soul of one of your old friends has passed," said Mrs. Bowser as Mr. Bowser rose up. "You may even find the man to have the eyes and nose and chin of your brother Joe, who was drowned in the Ohio river ten years ago. If it proves to be so, you will of course use him very tenderly."

The transmigrationist turned and stared at her and nodded his head in an ominous way, but she had given him an idea, and he meant to work it out. At the basement door he found a burly big tramp who was a believer in the rights of man and who lost no time in saying:

"Why should I be compelled to sleep on the ground beneath a tree while you occupy a hair mattress in a luxurious bedroom? I'm wanting a dime to put me up somewhere."

"And you shall have it," replied Mr. Bowser as he walked the man down to the gate to be out of earshot of Mrs. Bowser. "You have arrived at an opportune moment. You know what 'opportune' is, don't you?"

"If it's turning me over to a cop, don't you try it on!" replied the man. "Oh, you need have no fear. Have you ever heard of the theory of transmigration?"

"Never."

"Well, it's the theory that when a person dies his soul passes into the body of some one else. For instance, you strongly remind me of a boy named John Davis, whom I knew years ago. He died when I was fifteen. He was a good boy and a liberal hearted boy."

"And you are wondering if his soul passed into my body? Wonder no longer. It did. You have hit the nail on the head. I know you by the minute you opened the door. How are you, governor? Shake!"

"He Agreed With Bowser. 'This—is is almost incomprehensible,' said Mr. Bowser as he extended his hand."

"Not at all, governor. I'm Joe Davis, your old playmate, and I've called for that dollar you was owing me when I died. Fork over."

"But I never owed you a dollar. Now that I come to look at you more closely I see—"

"You see your old playmate, and he wants his dollar."

"He can't get it, and you take yourself off."

Mr. Bowser turned away, but he hadn't taken two steps before there was a mizup, and he was one of the mixers. When the conflict had lasted three minutes the tramp jumped the fence, and Mr. Bowser sat up and saw Mrs. Bowser beside him and asked what had happened.

"You just met the soul of a dear old playmate that had passed into the body of a tramp, and you were thrown down and rolled on the grass until you will smell of new mown hay for a month to come. Let's get into the house before the soul of some other dear old friend that has entered the body of a policeman comes along and uses his club."

M. QUAD.

Will Do It Good.

First Daughter—Listen to papa airing his French.

Second Daughter—Well, it's awfully weak. A little air will do it good.—Harper's Weekly.

The Greater Danger.

They were about to entertain a few friends, and her husband suddenly bustled himself with the umbrellas carrying them upstairs. When he had taken up the last one she said to him, somewhat amazed:

"Why, dear, why do you hide the umbrellas like that? Are you afraid your friends will steal them?"

"No," said he; "I am afraid they will recognize them."—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Didn't Want Much.

Here is an advertisement from an old copy of an English provincial journal: "Wanted, for a sober family, a man of light weight, who fears the Lord and can drive a pair of horses. He must occasionally wait at table, join the household prayer, look after the horses and read a chapter of the Bible. He must, God willing, arise at 7 o'clock in the morning and obey his master and mistress in all lawful commands; if he can dress hair, sing psalms and play at cribbage, the more agreeable. Wages, 15 guineas a year."

For Cleaning Silver.

Advertisement for 'The Secret of a Beautiful Face' by Dr. R. V. Pierce. Includes an illustration of a woman's face and the text: 'The Secret of a Beautiful Face lies in keeping the skin protected as well as cleansed. Just washing is not enough—that only leaves the delicate surface more exposed to the irritation of dust and germs; to merciless attacks of sun and weather. After washing, apply Robertine and experience its delightful refreshment. You will admire the lineless softness it imparts to face, neck and arms. It not only stimulates a radiant glow, but protects the skin from becoming coarse. It prevents burning, tan and freckles. All you desire for a Beautiful Face is ROBERTINE.'

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To overcome the well-grounded and reasonable objections of the more intelligent to the use of secret, medicinal compounds, Dr. R. V. Pierce, of Buffalo, N. Y., some time ago, decided to make a bold departure from the usual course pursued by the makers of put-up medicines for domestic use, and so has published broadcast and openly to the whole world, a full and complete list of all the ingredients entering into the composition of his widely celebrated medicines. Thus he has taken his medicines and patients into his full confidence. Thus he has moved his medicines from among secret nostrums of doubtful merits, and made them medicines of known composition.

By this bold step, Dr. Pierce has shown that his formulas are not secret, and that he is not afraid to subject them to the closest scrutiny.

Not only does the wrapper of every bottle of Dr. Pierce's (Ladies) Medical Discovery, the famous medicine for weak stomach, torpid liver or biliousness, and all catarrhal diseases, wherever located, have printed upon it, in plain English, a full and complete list of all the ingredients composing it, but a small standard medical work, containing very numerous extracts from the leading medical journals, is enclosed in each bottle, endorsing the prescriptions contained in Dr. Pierce's medicines. One of these little books will be mailed free to any one sending a postal card or letter, to Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y., and requesting the same. From this little book it will be learned that Dr. Pierce's medicines contain no alcohol, narcotics, mineral salts, or any other poisonous or injurious agents. The most valuable for ailments contained in Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription for women, and his Little Book for the Young, are the most valuable medicinal plants entering into their composition.

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"Why lead?" a visitor asked.

"This," the binder answered, "is a novel code book for use on a battle ship. All such volumes are bound in lead."

"But why?"

"So that in the event of the ship's destruction the books will sink with it, for they contain secrets of immense value, and every precaution must be taken to keep those secrets dark."

Simple Cure for La Grippe. A bookbinder was putting a binding of red on a book.

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For Old Bones. "Did you say the Rogersons are a very 'chippy' family?"

"Indeed I did. You know the skeleton in their closet?"

"Yes."

"Well, they have sold it to a medical school."—Harper's Weekly.

It Does the Business. Mr. E. E. Chamberlain, of Clinton, Maine, says of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy: "I have used it for cholera and it cured me. I used it for cholera and it cured me. I used it for cholera and it cured me."

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