

The Daily Reporter.

SENATOR MASON'S WIFE.

She Gave Him a Nice Dinner but Didn't Appreciate His Joke.

"It is only about twice a year," remarked State Senator William E. Mason the other day to an *Arkansas Traveler* reporter, "that I'm smart enough to fool my wife. Last Monday I played a trick that ought to serve as a capital suggestion for other husbands to conduct operations on. Along about 4 o'clock in the afternoon I began to get faint and hungry; I had been working hard all day and was as famished and as fagged as a hunted wolf. As I sat in my office chair wondering what I was going to find for dinner when I got home, an entirely new and marvellously brilliant idea flashed upon me. It broke upon my intellect much as a stray plank dances before the vision of a drowning man. It made my mouth fairly water as it developed its details in my greedy brain. I made a bee line for the telephone and called the central office.

"Give me 5.568," said I, and then I chuckled all over, and my mouth kept on watering.

"Bur-r-r," went the telephone. I put my mouth close to the funnel, and in a shrill, falsetto voice asked: "Is that Senator Mason's house?"

"Yes," came the answer, and I recognized my wife at the other end of the wire.

"Is the Senator at home?" I asked in the same feminine voice.

"No," was the reply.

"Well, then, is Mrs. Mason there?" I inquired.

"Yes, I am Mrs. Mason," was the answer.

"Oh, is that you?" I cried, "how do you do?"

"Why, how d'you do?" responded my wife, but I knew by her tones that she hadn't the remotest idea whom she was talking to.

"How are all the children?" I asked.

"They're all very well," said wife.

"Well," said I, "I happened to be in town shopping to-day, and I thought I'd go over to your house to dinner."

"Well, that sort of staggered wife. She mustered up voice enough to ask:

"Who are you?"

"Then I answered:

"Why, don't you recognize the voice? I'm Mrs. Mya-yah!"

"I don't catch the name—speak louder," she pleaded.

"Mrs. Mya-yah!" I repeated, and with that, in order to preclude all embarrassing complications, I shut off the telephone as tight as I could. Then I threw myself into a chair and laughed till I like to went into apoplexy. Laugh? Well, you ought to have seen the plastering fall around me! But, to make the long story short, I reached home about 5:45, and of all the dinners I ever clapped eyes on—gosh it was a banquet! Wife had her new black silk dress on, and she had slicked the children up so that I could hardly identify them.

"I think we'd better wait dinner a while, dear," said wife.

"Why so?" I asked. "Bless you, I'm as hungry as an alligator."

"Then wife told me she was expecting a lady guest, and she repeated the details of the telephone of the afternoon. It was a fearful ordeal, but I managed to look innocent, and of course I wondered who the lady could be.

"Indeed, I don't know," said wife, "but her voice was strangely familiar. I've been puzzling myself almost to death trying to guess who it was."

"Well, we waited fifteen minutes and then she sat down to the banquet—and then she said it was! We had soup and a royal turkey roast, and about a dozen fish and a big salad, and wife had sent out little side dishes, a portion of pink ice cream and bought a gal. of pink ice cream and a frosted cake for dessert. I stood and ate like a man. When it came to the pink ice cream, I couldn't stand it any longer. As I was slicing it off I looked at wife kind of sideways and said in a falsetto voice:

"My dear, I'm sorry Mrs. Mya-yah didn't come."

"Wife dropped her Dresden china coffee cup as if she'd been paralyzed.

"William E. Mason—you brutal she gasped.

"The children enjoyed the joke just as much as I did—yes, and wife, too, got to laughing about it after awhile. Our boy Louis said: "Do it again, pa; its mighty jolly to have a big dinner once in awhile."

"But look here, you reporter; you aren't taking notes on me? Come, come, now, that's not right; you mustn't tell the story on me. Put it on somebody else—put it on Bill Campbell.

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