

## Bowser Joins A New Club

Tender Spring Lambs Make Him  
a Regular Member of the  
Organization.

### HE IS GIVEN A FROLIC

It Turns Out Just as Mrs. B. Predicted.  
How Her Better Half Was  
Initiated.

[Copyright, 1901, by E. C. Barretto.]  
"Did you meet Mrs. Green at the  
gate?" asked Mrs. Bowser as Mr. Bowser  
reached home the other evening.  
"I have no recollection of anything,"  
he replied.

"She was in here a minute ago and  
wanted us to come over to her house  
this evening and play cards. I partly  
promised her."

"You shouldn't have done so. I have  
an engagement this evening."  
"Couldn't you put it off?" She wants  
to make up two tables."

"Then she'll have to wait. I've been  
elected a member of the T. S. L. club  
and must be on hand this evening to be  
initiated. I hope dinner is all ready."

"What kind of a club is it?" asked  
Mrs. Bowser as she followed him down  
to the dining room.

"It is composed of professors, sav-  
ants and philosophers. It was this



"TO FIND MR. BOWSER SITTING ON THE  
SILL."

club that settled the fact that a cat's  
whiskers help her to see in the dark.  
I had rather be a member of the T. S.  
L. than to be elected to congress."

"And what is the real name of the  
club?"

"The Tender Spring Lambs."

Never Heard of the Club.

Mrs. Bowser reflected for a moment  
and then said:  
"I never heard of such a club. It  
doesn't seem to me that any dignified  
professor would join such an organiza-  
tion. Are you quite certain that it  
isn't a lot of fellows who want to gyp  
you?"

"Gyp me?" he hotly exclaimed. "Mrs.  
Bowser, you seem to forget who I am.  
Do I look like a man that anybody  
would dare gyp?"

"But you joined the Ancient Horse  
Marines, and they made you dance and  
sing."

"Never! Never in this world!"

"You joined the Honorable Black  
Crows, and they made you stand up  
on a chair and caw."

"Woman, what are you saying?"

"And you joined the Very, Very  
Ancient Mossbacks, and they made you  
drink vinegar and then rolled you in a  
snowdrift. You told me all about it  
yourself. There is no knowing what  
these Tender Spring Lambs have in  
store for you."

"I have been elected a member of  
the T. S. L.," said Mr. Bowser as he  
tunked on the table with the handle  
of his knife and looked very deter-  
mined. "I have been notified to report  
this evening for initiation. I shall re-  
port. I shall be initiated."

"Very well," replied Mrs. Bowser. "I  
know you would enjoy the evening at  
the Greens', but if you want to go off  
and cawer around and let folks make  
sport of you I have nothing more to  
say."

Did Not Say Another Word.

Mr. Bowser's face went so red that  
she looked for a stroke of apoplexy,  
but he managed to hang on to himself  
and draw back from the grave. Not  
another word was said during the  
meal. When it was finished she said:  
"I will go up and lay out a clean  
shirt and your Sunday suit."

"You need do nothing of the kind,"  
he sulkily answered. "The old guy  
hasn't got so old that he can't help  
himself."

She entered the sitting room, and he  
passed upstairs. When he came down  
half an hour later she was feeling sor-  
ry that she had said what she had, and  
she therefore observed:  
"Well, I hope you will enjoy yourself  
and come home and tell me all about  
it."

"There's no use of your sitting up  
and burning the gas. I may not be  
home until midnight."

"Well, I will at least leave a light  
for you. Don't go away mad at me."

"I am not mad," replied Mr. Bowser,  
"but when you treat me as if I were  
only a child I cannot help but resent  
it. You ought to understand by this  
time that men would as soon think of  
guying the czar of Russia as me. If it

## Humpy Skinner as A Horse Watcher

He Gets Along All Right Until Some  
Bad Boys Interfere.

[Copyright, 1901, by Homer Sprague.]

Humpy Skinner was going to the  
hardware store the other morning after  
a paper of carpet tacks when a man,  
driving a one horse wagon, stopped at  
the curb and said:

"See here, bub, if you'll mind my  
horse for a few minutes, while I get a  
shave and a hair cut, I'll give you a  
nickel."

"I will, sir," was the reply.

"I don't want no fooling around,  
mind you. You just attend to the  
horse and keep out of the wagon."

Humpy heroically replied that he  
would guard the horse with his life,  
and the man put the end of the hitch-  
ing strap into his hand and went his  
way. It was not more than three min-  
utes later when four or five boys of  
Humpy's acquaintance came along.

"I'll bet," said one of them, "that  
you'll get a goat for your horse."

"Watchin' a horse?" replied Humpy.  
"Where's the owner?"

"Gone to get shaved."

"How much you gain to get?"

"A nickel."

"That settled it. The goat's whiskers  
could wait. They had waited for four  
years, and they could wait a year  
longer."

"This is a proud day for you, Humpy  
Skinner," said the biggest boy as he  
looked at the horse watcher in a spirit of  
envy.

"Oh, I've watched horses before. I  
once watched a horse who had kicked  
a cow to death. Another one had been  
bit by a mad dog and had a game leg  
on him."

"Phew! I don't believe Christopher  
Columbus ever had any such adven-  
tures as that. Humpy, you are goin' to  
be a great man when you grow up. I  
don't believe it'll be a year before you  
will dare to throw stones at a police-  
man. Can I smooth the horse's nose?"

"I wouldn't try it if I was you," re-  
plied Humpy as he grew more impor-  
tant. "If he didn't like the smell of  
your hand he'd rear up and run away.  
I don't want three or four persons kill-  
ing around here, you know."

"No, that's so. There hasn't many  
boys as thoughtful as you are, Humpy.  
Do you think this horse is what they  
call an Arab steed?"

"Of course. Can't you see it stick  
out all over him? Look at that eye."

"It's got a tear in it."

"Well, don't all Arab steeds have  
tears in their eyes? That's the way to  
tell 'em from Leghorns or Shanghais."

"Do you think this Arab steed ever  
went bounding over the desert?"

"For sure, Jimmy. There isn't the  
slightest doubt in my mind that he  
used to career and career. Why, you  
can see sand in his feet now. I'm tell-  
in' all you boys that it's an awful re-  
sponsibility to be put in charge of an  
Arab steed."

"I led a goat one time," put in boy  
No. 3 as he crowded forward to get a  
share of the glory.

Humpy looked down upon him in  
lofty contempt, but one of the others  
boxed his ears and warned him to keep  
quiet or take the consequences. All  
stood back and looked at the horse in  
a sort of awe for two or three minutes,  
and then Jimmy said:

"We had all about Piny in our school  
lesson the other day, but it didn't say  
that he ever watched a careering Arab  
steed. That means that Hump Skinner  
is a bigger man than Piny was. If he  
keeps on this way, where is he goin'  
to end up?"

This was a poser, and the boys were  
meditating over it when a policeman  
came sauntering along and halted to  
ask:

"What are you boys up to now?"

"Watchin' this Arab steed while the  
man has gone to get shaved," answered  
Humpy for the crowd.

"Arab cow, you mean! He'll be in  
the bone yard in a month from now."

The officer gave the horse a poke  
in the ribs with his club and passed on,  
and a moment or two later a butcher  
boy with a basket on his arm halted  
before the crowd and demanded:

"Now, then, who's went and gone  
and harnessed up this old skin and  
bones, and what's he doin' here?"

"He's a-mindin' of his business," re-  
plied Humpy, whose feelings were hurt

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9:50 A. M. Lv.	Plumas	Lv. 2:45 P. M.
1:12 P. M. Lv. 6	Boyle	Lv. 1:32 P. M.
2:17 P. M. Ar.	Amodeo	Lv. 12:01 P. M.
3:50 P. M. Lv.	Amodeo	Ar. 11:16 A. M.
4:20 P. M. Lv.	Hot Spies	Lv. 11:00 A. M.
7:30 P. M. Ar. 4	Madeline	Lv. 7:15 A. M.

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## LOCAL CIVIC ACHIEVEMENT.

Work of Improvement Association in  
Framingham, Mass.

An encouraging evidence of what per-  
sistent effort may accomplish in the  
way of civic progress is shown by the  
work of the Framingham (Mass.) Im-  
provement association. Not content  
with the field usually designated as  
"village improvement," this association

has aimed to "aid in perpetuating the  
higher interests" of the town. It has  
been active in good works and has be-  
come a recognized influence. This in-  
fluence has become a real power in the  
community. As an example, mention  
is made of the fact that the Boston and  
Worcester street railway, being oblig-  
ed to double track its line through the  
town, petitioned the selectmen for a  
relocation. The meeting or hearing  
given was largely attended, but the  
plans of the road were rejected. Then  
the railroad managers appealed to the  
executive committee of the improve-  
ment association in order to confer  
with them and learn what would be ac-  
ceptable to the majority of the citizens.

The association called two public  
meetings to present plans and call out  
a frank expression of opinion, and in  
this way the problem will find its so-  
lution with the least possible amount  
of friction. More than 500 citizens at-  
tended each meeting. Probably this is  
the first instance on record of this  
kind. It is an encouragement to every  
society looking to civic progress and  
the defense of the town beautiful, for  
the Framingham association made  
clear that their interests were not com-  
mercial, but to promote and preserve  
the beauty of the village and secure in-  
spiration for further opportunity to  
contribute to what Mr. McFarland  
calls "a more beautiful America."

Every town, village and hamlet that  
makes its contribution to local charm  
and beauty contributes to "the grand  
total" for which Mr. McFarland bat-  
tles.

Another unusual success scored by  
the Framingham association is in the  
fact that the old town hall at Center  
Village, by the vote of the town, has  
passed into their custody. The asso-  
ciation will spend about \$4,000 in re-  
novating and remodeling the building  
and improving the grounds. This historic  
spot will then become a social center  
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## TOWN GARDENS.

Making Beautiful an Unsightly Back  
Yard at Little Cost.

For the adornment of the town back  
yard of ordinary size nothing is more  
suitable than old fashioned mixed bor-  
ders, where anything can be planted  
and a bouquet cut every day without  
the effect being spoiled, says the Wash-  
ington Star. The back yard of a town  
lot of twenty-five or thirty feet is  
ample room for a garden of those an-  
nuals that are easily grown from seed.

If there is a little grass in the yard,  
so that a strip can be left on each side  
of the walk from the back door to the  
wood shed or alley gate, it will add to  
the effect. Dig a border from six to  
eight feet wide along the fences, the en-  
tire length of the yard. Leave the  
grass strips between the border and  
the walk, or, better still, take up the  
sidewalk and make a bed down the  
center of the yard. In a yard thirty  
feet wide there will be room for a bed  
three feet wide down the center.

If the wood shed is unsightly plant  
tall annuals, such as morning glories,  
to cover it. Dig the border deeply and  
break all the large lumps. If the  
ground is sandy or otherwise poor dig  
in a good coat of well rotted manure  
and make the surface smooth and  
even. A garden should not be attempt-  
ed with the idea of planting the or-  
dinary annuals if the yard is much  
shaded by adjoining buildings and  
trees, but there are many plants that  
are fit for shady places. The following  
annuals can be sown directly in the  
border: Asters, nasturtiums, petunias,  
mignonettes, candytuft, zinnias, core-  
opsis, gillardias, sweet peas. If space  
permits introduce a few of the hardy  
perennials scattered along in clumps of  
six or more. Among them are blue  
larkspur, peonies, phlox, German iris,  
columbine, Ageratum, geraniums,  
verbenas, heliotrope, dahlias, gladioli,  
cannas and hollyhocks may also be  
planted in the border. It is also an  
excellent place in which to plant old  
tulips, hyacinths and other bulbs.

## Public Art in the Country.

The farmer needs to be trained to ap-  
preciate the value of pleasant house  
surroundings, says American Homes  
and Gardening. His house grounds  
should be well kept, his barns should  
be devoid of advertisements, and he  
should manfully resist the persuasions  
of the advertising man who would  
paint signs on his rocks or stand them  
up on the meadows facing the rail-  
roads. These things are commonplace  
enough in themselves, and yet if no  
more was done than improve these  
matters, the country would be a pleas-  
anter place to visit and to travel  
through. The country does not need  
monuments. It does not require costly  
works of art, it does not call for the  
things the city demands as a matter  
of course; its needs are its own, but  
they are quite as urgent as any of  
the matters which appear so essential  
in the cities; its claims to artistic con-  
sideration are important.

## Value of Cinders.

"Every spring many tons of cinders  
are carted away from houses and  
dumped into the river," said a Kansas  
City (Mo.) citizen recently to a Kansas  
City Star reporter. "This should not  
be. It is a waste. Cinders make ex-  
cellent walks and drives. They pack  
well and shed the water. Muddy al-  
leys could be improved by the use of  
cinders. I shovel cinders on my drive-  
way and about my barn all the year  
round."