

### THE MITTEN CODE

Brief Rules for the Guidance of Unfortunate Suitors.

#### WHAT TO DO WHEN REJECTED

Always Try to Parry the Blow With a Ready Reply, Because Staring in Reproachful Silence Gives the Lady a Chance to Change Her Mind.

Incredible as it may seem, proposals of marriage are sometimes refused, usually because the lady thinks she knows better.

To comfort one's self fittingly when rejected is no easy matter. The young beginner is advised to give some thought to his next move in the event of his proposal being declined. To stand staring in reproachful silence displays a lack of savior faith and incidentally gives the lady a chance to change her mind.

The really nice young man when rejected inclines to gloom. The average young man takes up an attitude of sprightliness. To display relief when rejected may not seem in the best taste, but if a girl has refused you that is sufficient evidence that she has no taste at all.

Let us consider the method of the really nice young man. He hints at a broken heart—a picturesque but im probable happening. He asks if there is no hope. Always he speaks in "flow tone." There is the authority of the best fiction for this. Apparently he never shouts an inquiry from the door steps as he is departing. He mentions suicide in a noncommittal way and eventually takes his leave "with one last fond, lingering look at her." One can only hope he does not spoil the dramatic value of his exit by tripping over the doormat.

So much for the really nice young man. The average young man has a variety of methods for keeping his end up in the event of being rejected. He imports an air of levity to the proceed ings which must be distinctly irritating when one is expecting time honored references to fractured hearts and blighted hopes.

Copying the average young man, you may therefore when rejected laugh heartily and then remark:

"Well, but, looking apart, isn't the weather beautiful?"

There is something about this formu la which prevents the waste of any question except annoyance.

Another gambit in taking refusals is to smile with satisfaction and say the simple words:

"I win!"

While the damsel is puzzling out what the words may mean you can effect your escape.

In the event of an emphatic refusal you can always ask intelligently:

"How did you guess I was jolly?"

An effective way to prevent a lady promising to be a sister to you is to get there first by promising to be a son to her, and you can follow it up by saying:

"Oh, well, I must be getting along. I've got another call to make."

There is a subtlety about this remark which enables you to take your leave quite easily.

Always try, however, to be ready to say something at once. If after her "No" you think you have been silent overlong, assume a puzzled look and say:

"Let me see—what were we talking about?"

Should the girl give reasons for re fusing you remark:

"Yes, that's just what Jane Jones said last month when I proposed to her."

It may happen that the lady answers your proposal thus:

"No, Harold, I can never be yours. I am affianced to another."

The best thing to do to avoid ex posure of your disappointment is to ex claim:

"Yes, I knew that when I asked you."

Another formula when rejected lies in taking a list of names from your pocket, consulting it and remarking:

"You're Miss Susan Smith, aren't you?"

Then you put a tick against the name, sigh relievedly and take your leave.

If you have come primed to say "Thank you, Harriet; you have made me the happiest man in all the world." In answer to her acceptance there is no reason why you shouldn't say it in reply to her refusal.

In the event of receiving a refusal by letter pretend that you did not get it. This has a disquieting effect. Or if you want to get even wait till she questions you about it and then say with every symptom of glad relief:

"Oh, that letter was from you, was it? I couldn't quite make out the sig nature, and I thought it was from some one else on a similar matter."

A sportive remark is permissible sometimes when one is refused with lofty contempt:

"That's all right, old girl. Truth is I only asked you because I was feeling a bit sorry for you."

The main point is to be ready witted enough to keep your hat and stick in your hand. Do not leave the house whistling, though. It prevents you from exhibiting an amused smile when she peeps at you from behind the front room curtains.

With luck and practice you will be able to take a refusal of marriage quite well. Don't propose merely for practice, however. Your luck may not hold out.—London Opinion.

### THE OPIUM HABIT.

Its Effects as Described by Bill Nye in His Memoirs.

I have always had a horror of opi ates of all kinds. They are so seductive and so still in their operations. They steal through the blood like a wolf on the trail and they seize on the heart with their white fangs till it is still forever.

Up the Laramie there is a cluster of ranches at the base of the Medicine Bow, near the north end of Sheep mountain. Well, a young man whom we will call Curtis lived at one of these ranches years ago, and, though a quiet, mind-your-own-business fel low who had absolutely no enemies among his companions, he had the misfortune to incur the wrath of a tramp shepherd, who waylaid Cur tis one afternoon and shot him dead as he sat in his buggy. Curtis wasn't armed.

A rancher came into town and tele graphed to Curtis' father, and then half a dozen citizens went out to help capture the herder, who had fed to the foothills.

They didn't get back till toward day-break, but they brought the herder with them. I saw him in the gray of the morning, lying in a coarse gray blanket on the floor of the engine house. He was dead.

I asked, as a reporter, how he came to his death and they told me, "opium." The murderer had taken poison when he found that escape was impossible.

I was present at the inquest so that I could report the case. There was very little testimony, but all the evi dence seemed to point to the fact that life was extinct, and a verdict of death by his own hand was rendered.

It was the first opium work I had ever seen, and it aroused my curiosity. Death by opium, it seems, leaves a dark ring around the neck. I did not know this before. People who die by opium also tie their hands together before they die. This is one of the eccentricities of opium poisoning that I have never seen laid down in the books. I bequeath it to medical science. Whenever I run up against a new scientific discovery I just hand it right over to the public without cost.

Ever since the above incident I have been very apprehensive about people who seem to be likely to form the opium habit. It is one of the most deadly narcotics, especially in a new country.

#### Caught a Tartar.

Senator Theodore E. Burton of Ohio, who is a bachelor and has never been ensnared by the wiles of women, tells a story of a young lady and a judge of his acquaintance. The former was a witness in the latter's court. The prosecuting attorney had repeatedly put to her questions which she persistently evaded under the plea that she did not comprehend his meaning, whereupon his honor undertook to bring out the proper responses. Leaning over, he said in a kindly and fatherly manner:

"Young woman, why is it that you insist in refusing to understand the questions of counsel? You are a per son of charm, grace, beauty and more than average intelligence and—"

"Thank you, your honor," interrupted the young woman, "if it were not for the fact, judge, that I am under oath I would return the compliment."

—National Monthly.

#### The "Sting" of Death.

The sting of death physically is noth ing; a man who has lost consciousness in the water, a man who has been under an anaesthetic, a man stunned in an accident—these have been in effect dead, and yet they know nothing of death. In speaking of it the most glaring contradictions pass quite natu rally for axioms. It is the "gentle hand," but it is also the "grisly ter ror." It is "beautiful" and "wonder ful," but it is also "terrible."—London Spectator.

#### A Cargo Hard to Handle.

Asphalt is said to be the most diffi cult cargo for a vessel to unload. The asphalt is taken out of the asphalt lakes in Trinidad in a semifluid state and by the time the vessel reaches a northern port has hardened, so that to unload it it is necessary for the men to go into the hold and dig it out with pick and shovel. This takes time, and a vessel carrying such cargo always has to arrange for a considerable stay in port.

#### Hippocratic Face.

The hippocratic face is a condition of the human face produced by death, long illness, excessive hunger and the like. The nose is pinched, the temples hollow, the eyes sunken, the ears cold and retracted, the skin of the forehead dry, the complexion livid and the lips relaxed with cold. This appearance is so named from having been accurately described by Hippocrates, the father of medicine.—New York American.

#### One Thing Unbroken.

Standing over the shattered remains of their last Dresden china statuette, the exasperated mistress said to the awkward servant:

"Is there anything you haven't broken since you have been with me?"

"Yes, m'am," replied the servant. "I have yet to break me record for de structiveness."—Baltimore American.

#### A Cattish Suggestion.

Ethel—My poor head aches fright fully. Claire—Why don't you take your hair off and rest it my dear?—Lippincott's.

"The poorest way to face life is to face it with a sneer."—Theodore Roose velt.

### THE STEEPLE JACK.

He Must Conquer Many Difficulties in His Dangerous Work.

The successful steeple jack must possess determination, perseverance and industry. He must solve many a practical problem in hoisting great bodies aloft. He must know how to fasten a hook over the summit of a skyscraping chimney. He must have the nerve to paint a steeple that sways like a pendulum at the slender top. He must be able to tear down, build up, add, paint, place electric wires and do many another task that would be difficult enough on the solid earth.

There are many ways of getting up on a steeple, and when all others fail the man will tie a rope around it and then, with a coil on his back, walk round and round it until the entire steeple is covered with rope, and in such case he has probably been round it fully 300 times.

But a steeple is not the most diffi cult height to climb. Straight, tall chimneys are the hardest of all. There a man has to work with might and main to lift himself inch by inch from the ground to the top. Sometimes the top is 300 feet high. When it is reached a pulley is placed over the edge, a pulley is made fast, the swinging chair is hauled up and work begins.

When the chair is near the top it is easier to work, because the ropes are short, but when they lengthen as the ground is approached there is a ten dency to swing, and the wind gives impetus.

The steeple Jack's safety depends upon the hook, and until he has raised himself almost to the top it is impos sible for him to see whether or not the hook has been properly adjusted. More than once a steeple climber has seen when within ten feet of the top that corrosion of the iron and the col lection of soot have so thickened the wall that the hook is merely balancing on the top, so that the slightest pull in the wrong direction would drag it off. Again, the bricks are often loose at the top, and the hook is likely to tear them away.

One of the natural difficulties to con quer is the swaying of all high steeples and chimneys. In a gale a steeple point will sway a foot and a half. Usually it sways from seven to nine inches. Painting it means reaching for a spot on the right side, and find ing it on the left, and when making a dive for it on the left, to see it sway back to the right. Yet in spite of the constant danger a born steeple Jack ex ults in his work and is at home, like the ironworker on the skyscraper, only when high above the world. He can stand triumphantly at any height, if he can have two and one-half square inches to bear his weight.—Harper's Weekly.

#### MERCIFUL CAESAR.

A Story of the Great Roman and a Band of Pirates.

Caesar traveled with the retinue of a man of rank, and on his way to Rhodes he fell in with an adventure which may be something more than legend. When he was crossing the Aegean, his vessel is said to have been taken by pirates. They carried him to Pharosacusa, an island off the Car ian coast, which was then in their possession, and there he was detained for six weeks with three of his attend ants, while the rest of his servants were sent to the nearest Roman station to raise his ransom.

The pirates treated him with politeness. He joined in their sports, played games with them, looked into their habits and amused himself with them as well as he could, frankly telling them at the same time that they would be hanged.

The ransom, a very large one, about \$10,000, was brought and paid, Caesar was set upon the mainland, near Mi letus, where, without a moment's delay, he collected some armed vessels, returned to the island, seized the whole crew while they were dividing their plunder and took them away to Forcenus, the seat of government in the Asiatic province, where they were convicted and crucified. Clemency was not a Roman characteristic. It was therefore noted with some surprise that Caesar interceded to mitigate the severity of the punishment. The poor wretches were strangled before they were stretched on the crosses and were spared the prolongation of their torture.—James Anthony Froude.

#### Making It Plain.

"Popper," said little Willie Billups, "what does the paper mean when it says that when it comes to getting next to the people, Colonel Blinks has all the other candidates lashed to the mast?"

"That is the slang way of saying, my son," returned Billups, "that for keep ing his eye peeled old man Blinks has his opponents skinned a mile."

"There are people in this world for whom the English language is not good enough when they come to the expression of what few ideas they have in their mental garages."—Har per's Weekly.

#### Highly Efficacious.

"George is not naturally a hasty man, and as his position requires great patience and capacity for waiting, he took a regular training course in both."

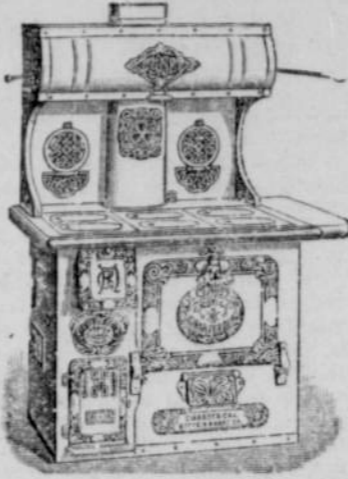
"How did he do it?"

"He always went with his wife shop ping to match things."—Baltimore American.

#### The Rolling Ocean.

Sho—Shall I have your lunch brought up to you here, dear? He (feebly)—No, love; have it thrown straight over board. It will save time and trouble.—London Sketch.

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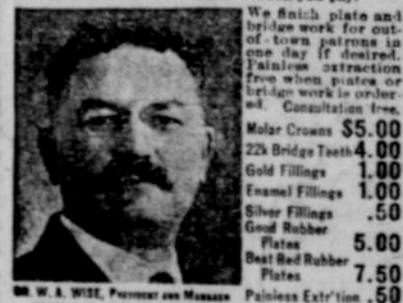
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