

## CYNTHIA'S WOOERS

The old lady drew her chair a little closer to the old man.

"I sent for you to come over, Ned," she said, in carefully modulated tones, "to have a little family consultation. I want to talk to you about Cynthia."

"Oh, Cynthia. What about Cynthia? Ain't comin' down with anything is she?"

"No, no. She's got two beaux."

"Well, ain't that enough?"

"Wait, Ned. Both of 'em are in dead earnest. And what I'm scared about is that she may marry one of 'em."

The old man's face suddenly wrinkled.

"Well, that's all the law allows, ain't it?" he chuckled.

"Come, Ned, we've got to look at this matter in a serious light. It's our duty to do the best we can for Cynthia. We promised brother James we would. If there's danger of Cynthia makin' a poor choice it's our duty to try to set her right."

"Then you don't think much of these two fellows?"

"One of 'em I don't. The other is Cy Hobson."

"Yes. He's a sewing machine agent. Doing real well, too."

"He comes of good money-making stock."

"That's right. And he ain't going to peddle sewing machines forever. He's promised a chance to be the agent of the company over at Braceville."

"Who's the other fellow?"

"He's a choofer. He drives an automobile."

"You mean a chuffer. Well, what about him?"

"I don't know. He's just a young fellow that's runnin' some rich man's auto and he happened to see Cynthia outside one day, when he broke down, and he asked her if he couldn't have some water, and he's broke down right in front of the house three times since. And every time he's wanted something."

The old man looked thoughtful.

"And Cynthia is always round in time for the accidents, is she?"

"She has been, so far."

"And you don't think a chuffer is good enough for Cynthia, eh?"

"No, I don't. But I've known Cy Hobson since he was a boy, and I don't think Cynthia could do better."

"And what does Cynthia think?"

"She'd be all right if this choofer hadn't come around."

The sound of a mellow horn came from the highway.

"It's that choofer," said the old lady. "There, he's stoppin'. Broke down again, I s'pose. And there's Cynthia comin' down the driveway. See him laughin'. I tell you this ain't a goin' to do, Ned. That girl's got to finish her churrin'. Well, well, look at that! He's backing that machine up the driveway."

"That's a fine car," said the old man.

"See there; Cynthia's bringing him a rope. He's fastenin' it to the machine. There, he's gone back with the other end of it. Now, they're both out of sight."

"Don't get excited, Jane."

"Well, I don't like these mysterious doings. There they are. I declare if Cynthia isn't getting into the seat!"

"Hark!" cried the old man.

They could hear the soft rumble of the engine and then, mingled with it, came a steady splash, splash, splash.

The old man suddenly chuckled.

"Well, if that ain't blamed clever!" he cried. "The boy has harnessed up the dog treadmill to the automobile and he's makin' it do the churrin'! What do you think of that?"

The old lady sniffed.

"I don't think much of it, and I guess the man that owns the automobile ain't goin' to think much of it, either." She suddenly turned on the old man. "See here, Brother Ned, you've got to assert yourself. If Cynthia's going to marry Cy Hobson this other thing's got to stop—and I as good as promised Cy he could have her."

The old man suddenly frowned.

"Tell you what I'll do, Jane. I'll invite Cynthia to come over to our house and stay a week or ten days. That'll keep her out of the way." Then he added, "I want you to leave all this to me, Jane."

The next morning Cynthia departed for her Uncle Ned's comfortable farmhouse a dozen miles away. Scarcely an hour after Cynthia's departure, the mellow horn was heard in the highway. But there was no Cynthia to answer the summons.

A few hours later there was another caller, a young man with a self-assured air, a light blue necktie, and a broad-brimmed gray hat.

"Howdy, Aunt Jane," he cried as she opened the door. "Where's Cynthia?"

"She's gone to her Uncle Ned's to spend a few days."

The young man's face clouded a little. "That's too bad," he said. "I wanted to ask her to go to the spell-in' bee at Henry Thompson's next Friday night."

"That's too bad," said Aunt Jane. "Can't you drive over and ask her?"

"Nope," the young man replied as he backed across the porch. "Too busy. Sold three machines last week. Got one in my wagon now that I'm deliverin' to Aunt Truly Grimsom. Tell Cynthia I was sorry I couldn't see her. Good-by."

Four days later Aunt Jane was

surprised to receive another call from Cy Hobson.

"Cynthia ain't home yet, Cy," she called.

"I didn't s'pose she was," he answered.

There was a moment's silence.

"Business pretty good, Cy?"

"I can't complain."

"It takes a good head to find to your business, Cy. Been over to see Cynthia yet?"

"No, I haven't." He paused and slowly shook his head. "I saw her though."

"Saw Cynthia? Where?"

"'Bout three miles 'tater side of the village, in an automobile."

Aunt Jane drew a quick breath. "I wonder what Brother Ned will say to that?" she cried.

"Well, he seemed to be taking it pretty coolly, on the back seat of the car behind Cynthia. They were all laughing when I passed by."

Aunt Jane nodded with slow dignity.

"I can't understand about Ned's behavior. Why, he seemed to favor you right along. Well, I'm going to drive over to my brother's this very afternoon, and I'll bring Cynthia back with me."

Early that afternoon an erect old lady driving a stout horse attached to a phaeton was halted at a turn in the road by a big touring car. The horse arose on his hind legs, but before he could leap the driver of the car jumped down, caught the scared brute and quieted him. The old lady sat bolt upright during this performance. Now she spoke.

"I've come to bring you home, Cynthia," she said.

The girl in the car waved her hand. "I'm on my way, aunty."

Aunt Jane noted that there were three persons in the car. One was her niece, one her brother, the third was a handsomely groomed and cloaked lady.

"If you will kindly turn my horse around, sir," she said to the young man, "I will be obliged to you."

"Certainly," she answered. "But I think it will be safer for you to alight. He seems strongly disposed to bolt."

With great dignity Aunt Jane stepped into the roadway, while the young man turned the horse about.

"And now," he gently suggested, "I think it would be well for me to drive your horse back to the house. He still seems inclined to make trouble. I'm familiar with horses. And I want you to take a seat in the car. My sister here has something to say to you. Mrs. Gardner Burt, Miss Radford, Miss Cynthia, will you kindly assist your aunt?"

And before she knew Aunt Jane was bundled into the big car. As she took her seat, Cynthia ran forward and stepped into the phaeton, and an instant later the young man and she drove ahead. Aunt Jane had no time to protest.

Then the lady moved a lever and the car started at a discreet pace.

"How do you do, Jane?" a voice from the rear seat inquired.

"I'm quite well, Edward," she replied with freezing dignity.

Then the lady spoke.

"Miss Radford," she said, "I call this a fortunate meeting. We were on our way to your home. Miss Radford, as my brother's only immediate relative, and as the head of the family, I ask the hand of your niece for him. You will find George an exemplary young man. I am sure. His prospects are excellent. He is the owner of several inventions, and is a partner in an automobile factory that promises to do an unusually good business. He met your niece when she was at school in the city and brought her to see me. I think her a sweet and lovable girl, and we will feel much honored by the alliance."

She paused and glanced slightly at Aunt Jane's stony countenance.

The old lady looked ahead at the distant phaeton. There she settled herself comfortably in the upholstered seat.

"I don't seem to be anything but a passenger in this affair," she stiffly remarked. Then she suddenly smiled. "But I guess mebbe it's all right."

**Capriciousness of Coffee.**

Coffee, as experts are aware, has a very extraordinary property. It is one of the most absorbent matters in existence. Coffee beans placed in a damp room swell and double their weight. Here is the chance of the dishonest grocer. Not content with the amount of profit made upon coffee, he places pails of water in a room with piles of uncovered coffee beans, and by swelling the coffee adds something like 50 per cent. to his profits. The flavor is ruined, but that does not matter to him. So absorbent is coffee, not only of moisture, but of gases and flavors, that shippers of Brazilian coffee always stipulate that the sacks of fresh Rio beans shall never be carried on a steamer which has raw hides as any part of her cargo. These will taint the coffee more surely than anything else and render it unfit for use. The useful side of this quality of coffee is that in a sick room a handful or two of fresh roasted and ground beans acts as an excellent purifier and deodorizer.

**The Original New England.**

It is not generally known that the original New England was on the Pacific coast. In 1579, at the close of a month's stay, Francis Drake took possession of the country for his sovereign, Elizabeth, and named the new acquisition Nova Albion (New England), because he thought the white cliffs near what is now Point Reyes resembled the chalk cliffs near Dover.

**BATH WHICH GO ON SPINNING.**

Drunkardness fatal to Whipped Main in the Philippines.

Among the curious inhabitants of the Philippines, according to Professor Clinton, of Washington, are fruit-eating bats, some of which are nearly as large as cats, with wings three feet in extent.

During the day these curious creatures remain hanging from the branches of trees in roosting places, where they congregate by the hundreds. They avoid the thick forests, and sometimes roost in a lone tree on the plains.

At twilight they become animated and attack the fruit orchards and coconut groves. They are fond of the juice from which the natives make tuba, or palm beer, and drink it from the bamboo cups in which it has been collected. Sometimes the bats are so intoxicated by it, and fall helpless upon the ground, to be killed by their enemies in the morning.

**Spiders That Chase Men.**

There is, according to an explorer, a large and fierce South American spider which chases men if they come too near its lurking places. On one occasion he was pursued by one. "Riding at an easy trot over the dry grass," he writes, "I observed a spider pursuing me, leaping swiftly along and keeping up with my beast. I aimed a blow with my whip and the point of the lash struck the ground close to it, when it instantly leaped upon and ran up the lash, and was actually within three or four inches of my hand when I swung the whip from me."

**Newspapers in Germany.**

Germany, which stands at the head of Europe for the number of its newspapers, has over 5,500, of which 800 are dailies. England takes the second place with some 3,000, but has the most dailies—809 in all. France is close behind with 2,800, of which a quarter appear daily, bi or tri-weekly. Italy has 1,800, while in order follow Austria, Spain, Russia, Greece and Switzerland.

**Shipbuilding in England.**

The activity in shipbuilding in England is now greatly reducing the number of unemployed in the shipbuilding industries. A year ago there were above 11 per cent. unemployed. Now, by a board of trade report, it is shown that the unemployed are brought down to about 5 per cent.

**A Queen's Pastime.**

The favorite amusements of Queen Wilhelmina of Holland are skating and riding, but as a child her hobby was the keeping of poultry. Her Majesty is devoted to animals, and is averse to sport, as she cannot bear to think of the animals in her preserves being slaughtered.

**Apple Trade in Australia.**

Apples grown in Tasmania, south of Australia, are shipped 11,000 to British markets, and yet they pay so well that Tasmania apple orchards have sold as high as \$1,100 an acre. Five hundred dollars an acre is a moderate valuation.

**Refused a Seat in Senate.**

George R. Peck, the general counsel of the St. Paul road, is one of the few men in the United States who refused to go to the United States Senate. He was appointed once by the Governor of Wisconsin and would not take the place.

**India's Idle Wealth.**

There is in India a large element of wealth which is wholly inactive. The hoarded wealth in the form of ornaments, jewelry and buried treasure has been estimated at many millions. It is largely held by princes, rajahs and other nobles.

**Source of Revenue.**

It has recently been discovered that the hair in the ears of storks is of a quality which permits its being used in the manufacture of 'camels' hair brushes. And the packeries have another source of revenue.

**Named from Appearance.**

The secretary bird is so called because it has upon its head feathers which suggest a pen behind the ear. Indigenous to South Africa, it is a British subject now, and is represented in the London Zoo.

**Fish With Double Eyes.**

Fishes have, been discovered in Guatemala with two pairs of eyes. One pair does duty above water and the other below, the fish thus being able to see equally well in two elements.

**Fraud in Beer Selling.**

A German sanitary expert points out that the reason why beer is often sold at a temperature as low as to be injurious to the stomach is that at that temperature it is difficult to tell stale beer from good beer.

**Most Powerful Eyes.**

Light blue eyes are generally the most powerful, and next to those are gray. The lighter the pupil the greater and longer continued is the degree of tension the eye can sustain.

**Prayer Time in Persia.**

In Persia bells are rung for prayer five times a day, and merchants close and customers rush off to the mosques, leaving all business at a standstill.

**CHIMES IN DISCORD.**

Methods by Which Great Bells Are Put in Tune.

When certain bells in a chime produce discord they can be tuned. The tone of a bell may be raised or lowered by cutting off a little metal in the proper place. To lower the tone the bell-tuner puts the bell in his lathe and removes it out from the point where the swell begins nearly down to the rim. As the work proceeds he frequently tests the note with a tuning fork, and the moment the right tone is reached he stops the turning.

To raise the tone, on the contrary, he shaves off the lower edge of the bell, gradually lowering or flattening the level, in order to shorten the bell, or of two bells of equal diameter and thickness the shorter will give the higher note.

A notable instance of bell-tuning recently occurred at Lausanne, France, where twelve bells, in three neighboring steeples, had only seven separate notes, and produced a most curious discord.

**Skim Milk as a Fertilizer.**

Skim milk as a fertilizer for crops is interesting many farmers abroad, several of whom declare that astonishing results have come from its use. In the vicinity of one farm a dairy had a lot of skim milk that could not be used. Two farmers took the milk and poured it on their lands as an experiment. One emptied seventy-five cans and another 150. Remarkable results have been obtained. Their grass is now seven times as vigorous as on adjoining fields where the milk was not used, but which were covered with commercial fertilizers.

**Value of Paper Gas Pipes.**

Gas pipes of paper are being made in France. Manila paper is cut into strips equal to the length of the pipes to be made. They are then placed in a receiver filled with melted asphalt and wrapped around a core of iron until the desired thickness is reached. After being submitted to a strong pressure, the paper is coated with sand, cooled, the core withdrawn and the outer pipe surface covered with a waterproof preparation. It is claimed that these pipes are good as, and more economical than, metal ones.

**Indian Mine Workers.**

The inhabitants of Cape Town colony, South Africa, demand that the British East Indians, who are now employed in the mines, be compelled to register, so that there may not be any further importations of obnoxious laborers. They are equally opposed to Chinese and Indian laborers, while the mining companies want any labor (Asiatic or negro) which will enable them to exploit the mines.

**A Valuable Find.**

A laborer who was clearing away some rubbish from an old outhouse at Netherhampton, near Salisbury, England, found seven old spoons, each of which was stuck on end in the earth. The spoons have been cleaned, and are of silver and gilt. They are dated 1529, and a local jeweler has valued them at \$250 each.

**Collecting Forged Art Works.**

The ingenuity of collectors in the discovery of new fields having been exhausted, there is still open to them that of collecting the finest specimens of forged or spurious works of art and this is capable of becoming a hobby, scarcely less interesting or admirable than the pursuit of the genuine article.—Art Journal.

**Utilizing Ocean Bells.**

High hopes are entertained that much of the labor of the cotton stalks in the South will soon be utilized for making paper, and scientific students of the boll weevil believe that if the stalks can thus be disposed of at a profit the weevil will do little damage to cotton.

**Many Deserted Wives.**

During the year 1904 26,000 deserted wives have been relieved by the Berlin poor law officials at a cost of \$125,000. A great majority are cases of matrimonial troubles resulting from drunkenness, which breaks up homes, at least temporarily.

**Cause of Shipwreck.**

Unusual currents, an uncharted rock, and a defective light on Barber's Point are the reasons assigned by Captain Thomas Peabody, in the investigation of the wreck, for the stranding of the transport Sheridan on a reef of Oahu Island.

**School for Elephants.**

There is a training school for elephants at Ayl, in the Congo State, where twenty-eight elephants are taking lessons. The training operations have produced encouraging results.

**Alpine Robbers.**

In the Tyrolean mountains two burglars were captured who had made a specialty of breaking into the Alpine refuge huts and stealing the provisions and wines stored there.

**Germany's Rich Widows.**

Germany, has rich widows. The engagement is announced in Cologne of Prince Heinrich von Hanne, to Frau Oelbermann, who is over sixty years old. Her husband left her a fortune of \$20,000,000.

**NEW TYPE OF AIRCRAFT.**

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