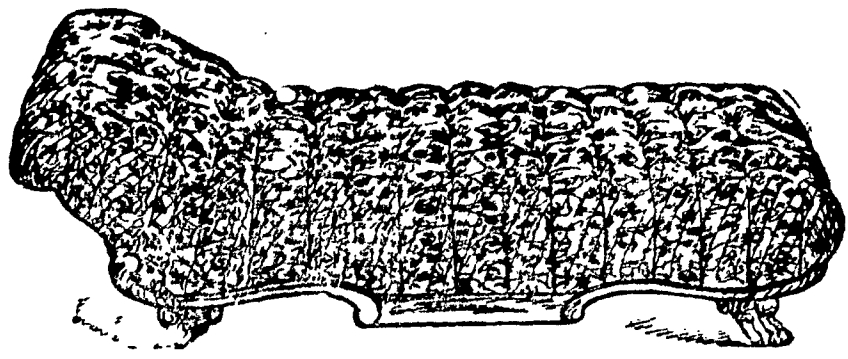


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WILE AND WIT

WIN 'A' WIFE

"And so you want me to consent to your making Helen your wife?" The speaker was Henry Norcross, one of the millionaire manipulators of finance in New York, and the scene was in his private office. The only other person present was Carl Loraine, for some years the confidential secretary of Mr. Norcross and now a suitor for the hand of his employer's only daughter.

"No, Carl, I do not think I can give my consent," continued the broker. "But sit down and we will talk it over. Now why should I give my daughter to you?"

The question was unexpected and was capable of but one answer.

"Well, sir, I love Helen and she says she returns my affection, but will only marry with her father's consent."

"Good girl," chuckled the old man. "I think," continued Carl, "that my habits are good, and the chief objection I can see is my lack of wealth. I am certain that I have endeavored to be faithful to my duties."

After a moment's pause, Mr. Norcross said: "Carl, I am going to explain more fully how I feel about this matter. When I was your age I had no more money than you have, and I lacked the education that has been given you. As you say, you are faithful and of good habits, but I want more than that for my daughter. I have money enough and when I die it will all go to Helen. For Helen's husband I want a man who will be able to handle this property wisely. I have made my money by my wits, while you are to-day no better off than you were three years ago. I have saved from the meager amount you have saved from the liberal salary I allow you. I have seen this feeling growing between you and Helen, and I do not hope to see you wake up. I cannot consent to an engagement, but will make an agreement with you. If within the next three months you succeed in making a thousand dollars by the shrewd use of your wits, I will consent to your marriage to Helen."

Noting the young man's look of discouragement at this, the old man continued: "Do you remember how last week I made \$8,000 from my broker by learning that he had not shot on C. and Q., then buying up all I could find on the market and selling to him at a large advance? He is my brother, and if he was in trouble my money is his, but in a business transaction I will catch him if possible. Keep your eyes open and your wits on the alert, and I sincerely wish you success."

Ten weeks of the three months had gone by and the one thousand dollars seemed as far away as ever. Mr. Norcross was in his office, preparing to attend an important meeting of the S. and M. railroad. He had stepped into a brick vault that had been built in the rear of his office in order to get a bundle of papers that would give him control of the railroad and permit him to dictate its policy to his own advantage of course.

Just as he stepped inside the vault, a gust of wind swung the door to and the spring lock held it fast. A small barred window prevented any possibility of suffocations, and in a half laughing tone the broker called for Carl to open the door.

A daring thought came to the young man and he rose to the occasion.

"I'm afraid I have forgotten the combination," he said. What the old man said was to the point, but profane. When he quitted of a trifle, the young man said: "I think a check for a thousand might set my wits to working."

Again the violent language flowed through the little window, until the young man reminded Mr. Norcross that the board meeting would be called in twenty minutes. After a pause, a question floated through the window. "Shall I put the name of Carl Loraine on that check?"

"If you please," was the polite reply. The check fluttered out through the window and in a moment the door was opened.

Furious at the trick, Mr. Norcross stopped long enough to say, "That was rascally, not the exercise of your wits."

"One moment," replied the young man. "Speaking of wits, you forget that a key is hanging inside the vault, to be used in just such an emergency as this. I presume your wits failed to work promptly this time."

As the humor of the situation dawned on the irate broker, he smiled grimly, and in spite of his great haste, he paused long enough to say, "You'll do. I think you will find Helen at home this evening."

Typhoid in British Army.
In India alone the losses to the British army from typhoid fever amount to half a battalion a year. The latest reports furnish proof that the practice of anti-typhoid inoculations in the army has resulted in a substantial reduction in the incidence and death rate of enteric fever among the inoculated.

Where People Are Crowded.
Some of the blocks in the tenement districts of the lower East side of New York city are so crowded that if the beds of the occupants were placed on the ground they would entirely cover it.

TO MAKE WAR MORE HORRIBLE.

Lots of Inventors at Work on Great and Gruesome Devices.

This government expends a small sum each year for testing new devices of a possible military value. The Board of Ordnance and Fortification is supposed to have the duty of encouraging inventors and assisting in the development of their inventions.

Last year only \$5,000 was expended by the board, which, with its accumulated allotments of previous years, has now on hand more than \$100,000. Comparatively few experiments are made, says Harper's Weekly, and the vast number of suggestions are apparently shelved without much more attention than polite acknowledgment to the authors.

Nearly all the devices submitted are intended to increase the terrors of war by adding to the efficacy of the means of fighting. Perhaps an exception should be made in favor of an ear protector, the invention of a New York man, adapted for use by those who are on duty in the turrets of battleships and those stationed at the coast fortifications.

Ordinarily the blast of a big gun has an effect upon the drum of the ear; it is at best unpleasant, and sometimes it proves disastrous, as in the instances of men who have lost their hearing. The ear protector is a little celluloid bulb so pierced that it may be placed in the ear and protect it from the noise and shock while not interfering with the hearing, an advantage, of course, over the crude method of stuffing the ears with cotton so that nothing can be heard and when orders can only be appreciated by pantomime.

Some of the other inventions which have been favorably received may be regarded as having a tendency to encourage peace since they would introduce into warfare factors of devastation which would by their diabolical results promote international disarmament. Of this class must be considered those bomb dropping devices, which, if successful, would destroy whole armies; the inflammable projectile capable of burning up a camp, the nitroglycerine missile, a scheme for pouring burning sulphur into trenches, and kindred methods of wholesale obliteration.

There is, too, the usual proportion of armored cars, including the highly protected motor which shall penetrate the enemy's lines and afford its steel-shielded occupants a chance to pick off the opposing marksmen and incidentally strew high explosives along a death-dealing route. One of these hurtling cars makes the famed Judgement look like a nursery toy.

One of the conditions which seems to be fully met by incipient invention is the use of smoke for various purposes, in form, that of a shield which will permit a man upon an enemy without his discovery of the advance.

The country does not look yet, with all the cry for universal peace, the means of increasing the havoc of war.

Uses of the Kinematograph.
The kinematograph has demonstrated its usefulness to the science of medicine in more ways than one. Dr. W. G. Chase of Edinburgh used it to procure films illustrating the convulsions accompanying an epileptic fit. The thoroughness with which the subject has been pursued may be judged from the statement that the films exhibiting epileptic seizures measure 1,500 feet and contain nearly 22,000 minute pictures of attitudes assumed during the convulsions. The value of such records lies mainly in using them to instruct medical students, so that they may recognize the character of a fit when encountered by actual practice. It seems very possible that the kinematograph will be used extensively in the future to make permanent record, but only of such seizures as those described, but that difficult and unusual surgical operations will be thus depicted.

Among Buried Treasures.
Near the Lucrine lake, to the north of beautiful Baiae, Italy, where the villas of Romans of imperial times crowded each other to the water's edge, and where, in consequence, to this day the ground is full of archaeological treasures, a very fine mosaic was recently discovered. In form it is a parallelogram, measuring about 5 1/2 yards by nearly 70 yards. The piece represents a hunting scene, in which there are many wild beasts and several hunters, the favorite subject for large mosaics in those days. It has been bought for \$1,500 by the Ministry of Public Works for the decoration of the great monument to Victor Emmanuel in Rome, which is slowly taking form and will eventually dominate all old Rome.

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Grade Crossings in Austria.
They have no grade crossings in Austria. A railroad with 728 bridges has just been opened by the Archduke Franz Ferdinand. It connects Trieste with Assling, passing through Tyrol. Besides the 728 bridges there are 47 tunnels on this wonderful railroad. The bridge over the Isone river is one of the 50 largest bridges in the world and has a span of 270 feet. The reason for the multiplicity of bridges is the mountainous country through which the railroad runs, but the level crossing for a railroad is not tolerated in Austria.

TRAINING WILD ANIMALS.

The Tiger While Most Bloodthirsty is Least Treacherous.

Of all the big cats, including that magnificent jungle monarch of might, the lion, and including those beautifully spotted orange and black villains, the jaguar and the leopard, and their cousin, that noiseless, lightning-swift traitor, the panther, trainers prefer to handle the tiger, says a writer in Appleton's Magazine. This is contrary to the popular belief which credits the tiger as the most bloodthirsty of all wild beasts. The tiger is, however, the quickest to learn, and the easiest to handle.

Whereas the lion always remains a nervous, high-strung brute, after a time a lion becomes phlegmatic and lazy and requires urging, which is apt to cause trouble. Whereas the tiger is a demon incarnate and merciless, once aroused, he is at least an honest fighter who gives ample warning when about to attack and only as a rare exception attacks a man from behind, unlike the jaguar, the leopard and the panther, which are treacherous and almost invariably attack when a back is turned. Again, of all this dangerous family the nature of the tiger comes nearest that of an ordinary house cat, and, always comparatively, the tiger it is that is most appreciative once the master has succeeded in establishing his trust.

Then, like the domestic cat, he likes to brush up against the person of his trainer, loves to have his back rubbed and groomed and the top of his head scratched to soothe the everlasting itch between the ears, while he emits puffs of satisfaction, forgetting that the least unforeseen accident may arouse murderous instincts that would in a twinkling convert the friendly meeting into a shambles.

Romanes of Language.

"Influenza" was originally an Italian word for "influenza," and among other things, for the "Influence" of the stars, which manifested itself balefully in epidemics of disease. Hence "influenza di febbre scarlattina," for instance, meant the epidemic of scarlet fever. And so, when eighteenth-century Italy was prostrated by the sneezing, snuffling scourge and passed it on to England, it was naturally spoken of as "the" influenza—"the" epidemic; though on the way through France it acquired also the name of "la grippe." In allusion to its ferocious way of seizing its victims.

Two centuries ago little girls called their toy babies "poppets" or "puppets" instead of "dolls." Probably "popsy-wopsy" is simply another form of the word "Puppet" is descended from the French "poupee" and the Latin "pupa," a little girl or doll, from both of which have come other English words "Poupee has given 'puppy,' so called because the tiny denizens naturally patted as a plaything, and the Latin word survives in the sense of a chrysalis, and has a descendant in the 'puppl' of the eye, the baby that any one may see reticulated in it.

"Puppet" has had a curious history which began with the biblical account of the creation, when the Lord God said: "It is not good that the man should be alone, I will make him a help meet for him." That is to say, a fit assistant. But the two words have become curiously combined into a "helpmeet," and they are constantly used as one. Moreover, the confusion is increased by the corruption of the words into "helpmate," and Macaulay writes of the waiting woman who was "generally considered as the most suitable help mate for a parson."—Chicago News.

"Toffee" as Made in England.
It may be possible that there are some persons who grow old so thoroughly that they actually forget that they ever were children, but I can't help wondering if any man or woman ever lived to such an age as to become impervious to the delights of "toffee," or the butterscotch that has made Doncaster a household word to every civilized nation under the sun.

Of course, you have eaten it. I will give you the secret recipe for this candy, for it is made nowhere as in England: "Take three pounds of 'coffee,' or 'C' sugar, butter to the amount of a pound and a quarter, with half a teaspoonful of cream of tartar. First dissolve the sugar in just as much cold water as may be required for the purpose, then mix all the ingredients together, and boil them, without stirring the mixture until it will snap when dropped in cold water. At this moment remove it from the fire; add eight or ten drops of lemon extract, according to its strength, and pour the mixture into well-greased pans to be cut into squares as it cools."—Bohemian.

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