# Being A Witness

I did not know [illegible] under certain [illegible] possible for [illegible] the [illegible] have been [illegible] life possessed [illegible] the occasion [illegible] set forth [illegible] warping them.

But when I went [illegible] witness stand in a case in which I had no interest I [illegible] possible for me [illegible] at times [illegible] It seems that [illegible] thoughtlessly [illegible] else. The lawyer [illegible] of the case [illegible] in such a way that [illegible] understand.

The attorney [illegible] me as a witness [illegible] nodded en[illegible] ed his questions [illegible] but I suppose he [illegible] too far.

"You were [illegible] the contract" asked [illegible] yer.

"Yes I was [illegible]"

"You heard [illegible] payment?" he [illegible]

"Yes I heard [illegible]"

It all seemed [illegible] then I had [illegible] when he made a [illegible] said so I didn't know I was [illegible] Smith had taken [illegible] contract afterward and [illegible] ed the details.

So I sat there [illegible] and smiled [illegible] stenographer [illegible] ing girl. Besides I didn't know what was coming.

"Take the witness" said the [illegible] ly lawyer.

I didn't know what was going [illegible] take me but I [illegible] the lawyer on the [illegible] case. He took [illegible] he handled me very gently at first. Later he jumped [illegible] his feet. After he had me [illegible] while he didn't want [illegible] would have wanted me after he had finished.

"Do you mean to tell the j[illegible]" he began "that you were there when Smith is alleged to have made this contract?"

"I said that was the impression I intended to convey." Then I began to run over the circumstances in my mind. I could remember all about it. I recalled that Smith was smoking a vile cigar at the time. He always smokes cheap cigars. He had his hair plastered down over one side of his head, just as he always wears it."

"What hour of the day was it?" asked the hostile lawyer speaking up suddenly and giving me no time for thought.

I pondered awhile and he repeated the question. Then I had to admit that I couldn't remember. I didn't realize it at first but he had me beaten to a pulp in the hands of the [illegible]. Then he wanted to know the day of the week and scored again. I was equally shy on the day of the month and everybody looked at me askance. I [illegible] I thought it was in January.

"In January eh?" pursued the lawyer. "Last January?"

[illegible]

[illegible] Smith is the kind of man [illegible] to as a [illegible] of his size. But I didn't know anything about his being out of the city. I had to admit it. I [illegible] something about there being so [illegible]

"[illegible]" exclaimed the lawyer. "You [illegible] about some other Smith [illegible] a fact that you don't know much about this case?"

I had to admit that I didn't know much about it. Then it was drawn out of me that I had not been looking at Smith when he made the agreement. I had merely heard him talk [illegible]. That is I had thought I heard him talking.

I know now that to have been sure [illegible] I should have been within a foot of Smith's face while he talked. I ought to have watched his lips move to be sure that no ventriloquist was deceiving me by pretending that Smith was talking. It was my duty to have had six or seven reputable witnesses present to identify Smith and to be sure he was not talking through his hat. Finally the lawyer asked me a hypothetical question.

"If a witness," he said, "should testify that at a certain time and place he heard statements made by a certain person when the said person might have been away fishing at the time, the said witness not having looked at said person while the said words were being spoken, but just making a rough guess that the said person was speaking, would you say that said witness was morally oblique or just mentally unbalanced? Answer yes or no."

I had to give it up. Then I left the witness stand branded as an unmitigated liar after the lawyer had said to me in a tone that was more than peremptory: "You may stand aside!"
—RICHARD S. GRAVES.

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**The queerest epitaph in the West was found on a pine board marking a newly-made grave near Tombstone, Ariz. Six playing cards found in the hand of the grave's occupant by a fellow poker player were tacked on the board.**

## DEADLY RATTLE SNAKES.

### The Sidewinder the Black Diamond, and the Kansas Rind

In a few more years the deadly [illegible] snakes of the paths of sunny Kansas will be a rarity [illegible] Sedgwick county says the Wichita Eagle. There are but few Wichitans who have seen a rattlesnake [illegible] free to craw at their own [illegible] the [illegible] The rattlers are [illegible] Kansas [illegible] of a species known as the [illegible] prairie rat[tler] [illegible] Some scientists have declared [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] a true specimen of the side[winder] [illegible] in the [illegible] New Mexico [illegible] the horn is very near the [illegible] with a small black streak [illegible] the center of the horn reaching about half an inch above the head. No [illegible] reason has ever been set forth [illegible] as to why these horns were [illegible] on the snake's head by [illegible] nature. They are never used [illegible] as an [illegible] to the snake.

[illegible] resembles the black diamond rattler. In fact, [illegible] specimen [illegible] of that people would fancy for a black diamond rattler than the original white diamond snake. The tongue of the sidewinder is longer than that of the black diamond and is of a [illegible]. Its fangs are also better [illegible] and are generally [illegible] An [illegible] difference [illegible] the rattles. The [illegible] and the prairie rattle makes [illegible] singing noise [illegible] As for the bite, [illegible] difference between the sidewinder and the black diamond; both are [illegible] but not so [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] snake [illegible] over the head [illegible] teasing it into a frenzy and [illegible] the rattler [illegible] become [illegible] tears an ugly gash in its [illegible] with its fangs and dies in a few minutes from the effects of the poison from the pouch in the upper jaw which exudes the poison when the pouch is forcibly thrown in contact with any resisting object.

If the specimen now on exhibit here was turned loose it would not live through the next winter as it requires a very hot country. It is very sluggish in its movements but if a hand was thrust into the cage its fangs would be jerked through the flesh before one could wink an eye. There must be an exception to this however. There are men who could reach in the cage and pick up the snake and never be bitten. These men are scarce. It is not so much in the man's hand as it is the scent about their person that obviates all danger of being bitten. Every person could charm the snake in the window by a careful attention to a few rules.

First the person who could charm the snake must have a very steady nerve. They must be competent to look the snake in the eye without batting the eyelids. Not a muscle about them must move until the snake begins to get uneasy. Then a quick movement of the body with the eyes still glued upon the snake's head will scare the snake until it draws back as if to strike. This is the crucial moment. If the head of the snake settles slowly to the ground it producing its forked tongue, the person can place his hand unfalteringly upon the snake pick it up, and wind its cold glossy body about their neck, keeping a calm demeanor and a steady nerve always. The least quake or tremble will lose to the person all power over the mind of the reptile and it will strike as soon as it recovers its own lost sense. It would be well to try this on a bull snake first, for if it doesn't work the snake's bite won't kill.

# SOME RULES SHE FRAMED

It seems to me [illegible] spoke up the girl who had on a real Irish lace jabot that you have a [illegible] way of entertaining company. [illegible] sat scribbling at that desk [illegible] came in.

We're still here you know [illegible] minded the girl [illegible] that flaunted the [illegible] observer.

I was finishing [illegible] with notes for [illegible] the girl who wishes to be a [illegible] explain ed the young woman at the desk. When I've read [illegible] be glad you came [illegible]

Rule 1 [illegible] in your hair.

I did it and I know I had appeared [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] I guess I was [illegible] the first girl he had ever owned [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Never [illegible] with Mrs. [illegible] and ad[illegible] made conversation [illegible] felt so[illegible] for [illegible] she seemed so scared on [illegible]

The next day I heard her say to some one: "Humph I guess I know why that [illegible] was shining up to me so. I'm not so dumb. I've got a nephew here. Ha Ha. I wouldn't have [illegible] if the nephew had been anything but the [illegible] stupid that he was.

[illegible] my feelings to have my taste so impugned.

Rule 3 Always [illegible] men with sisters when you are choosing an assortment. The sister [illegible] an important [illegible] If you can make her like you she has it in her power to invite you to dinner or to spend a week end with her and incidentally with him and she can drop admiring remarks about you before her brother [illegible] his attention [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] so it is a good investment to take her to the matinee occasionally and not be sparing with [illegible] invitations.

Rule 4 Never try to be nice to a discarded sweetheart.

"What do you think I got for my pains in the case of Alfred Easterly? The affair was so long ago that I had almost forgotten him when he reappeared, and all I could do was to wonder why I ever had been insane enough to fancy I liked him.

But when I remembered how hard he had seemed to take my refusal I couldn't help but feel sorry for him so I tried to be just as nice as possible to show him there were no hard feelings. The more I saw of him the more aghast I was at the thought that once I might have married him. I really considered the time I devoted to him a personal sacrifice and then what was my reward?

"I sat back of him on the suburban train and heard him say complacently to another man about like him that he guessed Ethel Dowler wished she had not been so hasty and could get him back, but it was too late, all her trying would do no good."

Rule 5 Never go on the principle that the Summer men who ask for your town address and inquire if they may call on you will never think of it again.

"The very nicest one at the lake called at 11 o'clock this morning and, our maid being busy, I went to the door with my head all tied up in a towel. I was having a dry shampoo and cold cream on one side of my face. I had thought it must be a peddler."

"Why didn't you have presence of mind enough to tell him that your sister wasn't at home?" inquired the girl with the Irish lace jabot.

"I'd like a copy of those rules," said the girl with the ruche. "I'm going to send them around for Christmas cards. I'll add to them in the meantime."

## LOST SIBERIAN RAILWAY.

### How First Steel Road of Northern Asia Mysteriously Disappeared.

Near Irkutsk in Central Siberia is a series of rapids on the Angara river. After many disasters the river transport companies decided in the early '70s to build a short railroad for transshipment of freight around the rapids. The twelve mile road was probably the first railroad built in Asia outside of India and certainly the first one built in northern Asia.

There was no regular service about two trips each way being made a week as cargo offered. With the improvement of the roads through this region the Russian government traffic in this part of the river was gradually abandoned and the railroad finally [illegible] The locomotive was acquired by a farmer to be used [illegible] a threshing machine the cars were taken off on barges and the road was [illegible] abandoned.

Some fifteen years ago writes L. Lawton in the [illegible] Review [illegible] floating [illegible] road entering [illegible] heart [illegible] which had existed many years [illegible] is a vast region [illegible] And [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] forest was [illegible] as a [illegible] that visible [illegible] branches of the [illegible] got a sleeper [illegible] gestion [illegible]

[illegible] beneath the surface and there sprouted [illegible]

### Monte Carlo's Gift to Science

[illegible]

[illegible] chief servants of the Evil One. This Prince however endeavors to atone for [illegible] offenses against morality by very genuine services to science and especially in everything pertaining to the sea and the mysteries veiled within its depths.

A very large portion of the wealth that owes its origin to rouge et noir roulette and the other wicked games that so allure visitors to Monaco, the beautiful garden spot of Europe has been expended in scientific research.

The Prince does not merely encourage such research by liberal donations but is himself an ardent worker, and is never so happy as when at sea in the yacht he has especially fitted up to enable him to pursue the studies and explorations to which he is so devoted.

The crowning proof of the Prince of Monaco's devotion to scientific study of the sea was given in his announcement to the French Minister of Public Instruction that he has founded an Oceanographic Institute to be established in Paris. For this purpose he has given the sum of 4,000,000 francs ($800,000).

This institute is to be built on land acquired by the Prince in conjunction with the University of Paris in the Rue St. Jacques and the Rue d'Ulm. And when built it is to receive the scientific treasures of the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco including laboratories collections aquariums and everything pertaining to it.

The gift represents the expenditure of a very large sum of money and of years devoted to earnest work. It is in housing maintaining and increasing those treasures that the $800,000 is to be employed.

The statutes of the new institute provide that it is to be controlled by an international committee membership which shall be open to eminent authorities in the various departments of oceanography, irrespective of the country or nation to which they belong.

# Errand of Love

There was a wild hunted look in the eyes of the young man who slunk furtively into the reading room of the [illegible] and sought a dark corner. Another young man in a pepper and salt suit who had observed his entrance got up and went over to him.

"What's the matter Lovel?" he inquired. "You aren't ill, are you, or have had bad news of anything?"

The first young man glared at the other. Then he spoke. "I've been buying a veil," he explained intensely.

His friend in the pepper and salt suit seated himself deliberately. "You have been buying a [illegible]" he said [illegible]

[illegible] almost snouted the hunted young man. "And I came in here to [illegible] back into real existence again. [illegible] have been seeing [illegible] things [illegible] another min[illegible]

[illegible] I was [illegible] Marie's last evening and she was [illegible] take a train east to [illegible] She said her [illegible] was broken [illegible] have time to go [illegible] and buy a [illegible] It was a mighty [illegible] how [illegible] always are. But [illegible] just [illegible] and [illegible] as a shop [illegible] sure that [illegible] wanted I could [illegible] specialties [illegible]

[illegible] always passed for an [illegible] aroused his [illegible]

[illegible] passed [illegible] first young man [illegible] two and a [illegible] have spots [illegible] they would hurt her eyes. And it was to be a dark Bordeaux shade. She said I could easily remember the color if only I'd think of Bordeaux wine. It didn't sound difficult.

But when I got into the first shop and found I had to plow through a wall of women four deep around the [illegible] I began to look seriously. A young woman with a large [illegible] and a roving eye hailed me across the feathered hat just be[illegible] and I shouted back that I wanted a veil for my sister. It was easier to say sister than to explain in [illegible] After she had held up a bunch of veils at random and I had shrugged back that they would not do there was a break in the ranks and I got up to the counter.

As the women customers stopped proceedings and looked at me I tried to tell the young woman about the veil but somehow I did not seem to make it clear to her. She seemed awfully hurt because I would not take a [illegible] automobile veil with velvet ribbon on the edge for she said it was the very latest thing. She draped it around her face coquettishly and gazed upon me in a grieved voice [illegible] witness that it was becoming. I'm a [illegible] man and it confused me to have a fair creature embowered in the folds of [illegible] gaze at me with [illegible] Besides all the other women were watching. They seemed to think she was flirting with me.

Her feelings appeared to be so hurt that I simply had to get out. I said I would take the blue veil and she said she knew I was a man of discernment and that it was only $3. Then I tried another store and very firmly told a meek elderly saleswoman what I wanted. I remembered by this time that it must be lace. She seemed anxious to please and she stacked up the counter with [illegible]

I had no idea there were so many kinds of lace veils. Some were thick and some were thin and how was I to know which was the kind Marie wanted? The saleswoman said when I asked her that some liked them one way and some another and didn't I think this one with the double scalloped edge was real stylish? She said it was a veil that would please any young lady. But it was brown and that saved my life.

When I hesitated between two which I thought might do, though I couldn't tell whether the spots were too close together she deftly tied one across my face so I could judge them better. As the filmy folds were dangling down my back two girls whom I know slightly came by, stared at the pleasing spectacle and backed away into the next department, watching me open mouthed. I couldn't have told whether the spots I saw were on the veil or not.

"I was hot and tired and mad. So I bought the veils because if one wasn't long enough Marie could sew them together or something and I could tell her I struck a sale and the two cost just what she said one would be. I tell you I was mighty glad when I saw the heels of that messenger boy starting off with the package to Marie's."

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He began to look more cheerful and mop his face. Then suddenly he beat his hand on the table and sprung into the air.

"I've had a feeling that something was wrong after all!" he cried. "Those veils I bought were champagne color instead of Bordeaux!"

He dashed wildly out of the club with a yard or so of pale-blue chiffon automobile veiling streaming from one pocket.—Chicago News.

## WHAT CALIFORNIA HAS DONE.

### States' Billion and a Half Yield in Gold Altered History of World.

When in 1850 California peopled by the gold inrush from the four quarters of the globe knocked for admission as a state before the politicians in Washington had time to organize it as a territory it precipitated the section contest in congress which incited the Clay compromise of that year—the last of the concessions and deals ever arranged between the North and the South says Leslie's Weekly. September 9 the date of California's admission in 1850 has been celebrated [illegible] every year since that time [illegible] a great national however as well as a state landmark.

The California gold discovery of 1848 swung civilization's advance line [illegible] at the Missouri river as far westward in a single year as it had moved in all the previous 240 years since Newport, Gosnold and Capt. [illegible] Smith established their settlement at Jamestown Va. It drew the center of the country's political gravity far into the Mississippi valley [illegible] the west the dominant section [illegible] and politically gave the free states the preponderance which enabled them to preserve the Union when war came a dozen years later and exerted an influence on United States history and development which will [illegible] felt while the country remains on the roll of the nations.

On world history California has had a profound sway. Its gold discoveries [illegible] so much of the nation's great [illegible] metal into trade channels [illegible] half a dozen years that it gave a new impulse to industry and commerce in every continent. Immediately [illegible] the United States incited that [illegible] gold all over the earth which resulted in the discoveries in Australia in 1851 by Hargreaves, a returned Californian, in Comstock's [illegible] in Nevada in 1858 of the world's [illegible] silver which bore [illegible] the [illegible] of the gold [illegible] of Pikes Peak in [illegible] Montana [illegible] which [illegible] these [illegible] and in the [illegible] 1884 [illegible] the Rand in South Africa of the field which has [illegible] developed into the greatest gold producer on the globe.

From Marshall's time to today California has added $1[illegible] to the world's gold stock.

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### Animals Endurance in Water

The polar bear carries the blue ribbon for long distance swimming. He spends much of his time in the water. Journeying across polar wastes from continent to continent his body is immersed in freezing water which is the greatest detriment to man in long distance swims. If one member of a family is a good swimmer it may be taken for granted that all the rest of the family are. Several animals, as hedgehogs rats etc. who would at first glance be considered bad performers in the water are in reality fairly respectable swimmers.

When forcibly thrown into water squirrels are first evidently alarmed at the thought of trusting themselves to so treacherous an element and at starting some of them will spring into the air as if inclined rather to fly than to swim. But once well afloat they paddle away with such rapidity as to exhaust themselves in a few minutes. In this action the head and [illegible] are carried very high out of the water while the rest of the body [illegible] beneath the surface. In [illegible] contrast to the [illegible] of hares and rabbits which in swimming are [illegible] ship down by the head. Like the squirrel these two animals show great timidity in the water and naturally so for their [illegible] so low and stern so high that the slightest ripple on the surface sends their noses under water and so drowns them. In perfectly still water both can swim considerable distances.

The ruminant family all take freely to the water except the wild sheep and the camels. Of pigs it is commonly reported that so queerly fashioned are they that if they attempt to swim they cut their throats with the fore feet but this is only an old wife's fable. Whether wild or tame they are all good swimmers, but owing to the shortness of their legs they just touch their throats with their fore feet and beat the water very high. Many of the islands of the southern seas are now inhabited by wild pigs which are the descendants of those who have swum ashore sometimes great distances from wrecked vessels. Camels cannot swim. They are buoyant but ill balanced and their heads go into the water. They can however be taught to swim rivers with the aid of goat skins or jars fastened under their necks. During the Beloochistan expedition of 1898 the camels were lowered into the sea from the ships, and their drivers plunging overboard clambered on their charges causing the animals' heads to come up and thus assisted they were successfully piloted ashore.

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### Germans Shocked at African Manners.

The natives of German East Africa have contracted the vulgar habit of drinking soda water directly out of the bottles instead of pouring it first into a glass. To check this the government officials have issued a regulation that all natives discovered drinking out of bottles will be liable to severe corporal punishment or imprisonment, lest refilled bottles so used should find their way to tables of Europeans.

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**A candidate for Parliament from Bodmin, England, a fishing town, is canvassing some of his constituents at sea in a steam launch.**

ROCHESTER, N. Y.