

MIKE REILEY'S FUNERAL

Showing That a Mistake May Breed Mistakes

By OSCAR COX

The incident of this story was a recent occurrence. This is mentioned beforehand because there are carping critics who would say after reading it that the plan was farsighted; that such happenings are only to be found in stories and there is nothing probable in it.

"You, it is," replied the poor woman. The newspapers never get mixed up. And Mike enough the hospital people made the mistake themselves. "Now, don't you worry, mother dear. I'll go to the hospital—I'll do no work today—and see if it's Mike. But I'm sure it isn't."

So Kathleen, instead of going to the factory, started for the hospital and on reaching it asked to see the body of the man who had died there the day before. She was taken to where the body lay, and the moment she looked at it the tears started to her eyes, and she turned them away at once, so ghastly was the sight.

"It's my brother, Mike Reiley," she moaned. She went away, stopping at Nora's to break the sad news to her. Nora was broken hearted, but bore her affliction with resignation. She went with Kathleen to Mrs. Reiley and told her that the body in the hospital was Mike's.

After awhile when they had become quieted they took steps to have the body brought to the house for the funeral. They called in friends, who took the burden upon themselves of making all the preparations. An undertaker was instructed to bring the body, and all other details were attended to.

The same evening the body arrived, already in its coffin. A number of friends looked at Mike, each making some remark. "He looks very natural," said one. "He must have died a peaceful death."

"How changed!" said another. "I'd scarcely know him." And so the comments went on. Mrs. Reiley gazed down upon the corpse, her face blinded with tears. Nora would not look at it, saying that she preferred to remember the happy countenance of her lover as she saw it when he looked up at her while she was sitting at her window the last day he ever went to work.

THE MESSAGE IN THE BOTTLE

A Romance That Began In A Most Unusual Way.

You are acting like a child, my little girl. You're very much interested in your bottle. The water was sent by an old man who had reached the age of fourscore, and whose father had been a sailor in the navy.

The Wood Cocco

It really should be "coco-ut," but custom compels the inclusion of that superfluous "u." The term coco or coes by which the nuts are known is said by several authorities to be of Portuguese origin, and the derivation is quite out of the ordinary.

Good Discipline

"Our American militia is the best in the world," said the president of the Descendants of the Signers. "How strict it is! During the annual encampment of our Virginia militia a private was riding one hot day on a trolley car with his uniform coat unbuttoned. This caused a sergeant on the smokers' seat behind to say: 'Button up that coat! Haven't you got any sense of military decency at all?'"

Here That Swim

When Judge Stewart of Vermont presided at the trial of a negro charged with the murder of another of his race he admitted afterward to friends that he had serious doubts of the negro's guilt until he began to pronounce sentence. The negro had pleaded not guilty and repeatedly on being questioned had asserted with much emphasis, "I didn't do it!"

Why Hollow Trees Live

In forests and private parks one may often witness the remarkable sight of a very old tree with a trunk consisting of nothing but a hollow shell and yet bearing branches that are covered with foliage. It would seem to be impossible that the dry bark, in some cases only held together by an iron band, could go on producing leaves year after year in the manner in which it does.

Beautiful Leicester

Leicester has learned how to make herself beautiful from unpromising materials. She has no suitable building stone handy, and therefore out of red bricks, put together by cunning architects, she has constructed a city unlike any other in England. A local art school has fostered the spirit of beauty, and thus Leicester has triumphed over her limitations. She has been described as a rosy red town set in a mass of greenery.

One Who Knew It

A very old lady, who was on her deathbed and in a penitential mood, said, "I have been a great sinner more than eighty year and didn't know it." An old colored woman who had lived with her a long time exclaimed, "Lor, missus, I knowed it all the time!"

His Awful Dream

Sidney Smith had been ill, and a friend having called to see him inquired what sort of night he had passed. "Oh, horrid, horrid, my dear fellow, I dreamed I was chained to a rock and being talked to death by Henri Martineau and Macaulay."

Don't Wait Too Long

Do not place too much confidence in the saying, "It is never too late to mend." A big patch is sometimes as conspicuous as a hole.—Youth's Companion.

Strong Hint

Balladist—Don't you think if I'd cut out one of my four songs it would improve my act? Stage Manager—Yes, about 25 per cent.—Brooklyn Life.

Good His Brother

James, a Boston manufacturer, employed Hobbs as a salesman. Hobbs was a hustler who brought business when he wanted, but who had a habit of sacrificing two or three days a month getting drunk and sobering up directly after getting his pay. He was always in debt. One day James called Hobbs in and said that he would keep him in his employ only on one condition.

Get Even With the Lawyer

Many years ago there lived in Camden, Me., two neighbors, Dr. Huse and Judge Thayer. The doctor had occasion to sue a man and of course employed his neighbor, the judge, as his counsel. After a session of court he came to the judge and asked about his case. The judge said it was dismissed. Meeting him again after another session and asking again about his case, the same answer was given.

Attended to Beforehand

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Important Postscript

William H. Taft when he was president never overlooked an opportunity for a joke. In the closing months of his administration Henry L. Simmes, then secretary of the war, wrote Mr. Taft a very urgent request that he give a friend of Simmes a certain federal position.

The Skin on Boiled Milk

What causes the formation of the skin on the surface of boiled milk is not so obvious as it is made with boiled milk? Dr. Forcher of Lyons, France, says that it is the result of the denaturation of the lime caseinate in the milk. Heat separates the lime and the casein, and the lime combines with carbonic acid from the air to form a thin film of carbonate of lime.

The Amateur Photographer

An amateur photographer was showing some snapshots of Italy. "And these leaning buildings—what are they?" he was asked. "They are some buildings in Pisa," he replied. "That perfectly straight one near them is the famous leaning tower."

A Misunderstanding

She—I was rather disappointed in that gentleman to whom you introduced me last night. He—indeed! How so? She—Why, you spoke of him as a bridge expert, and he turned out to be nothing but a famous engineer.—Boston Transcript.

Another Mrs. Malaprop

"No, she would not listen to reason," said Mrs. Twickenbury. "She was in a most indistinct mood."—Christian Register.

Do Not Allow Idleness to Deceive You

For while you give him today he steals tomorrow from you.—Old Saying.