

The Scrap Book

TO BE DETERMINED LATER

Just Then Mamma Didn't Know What She Might Have to Say to Her Son-in-Law.

Wimpleton was on the war-path. He had worked his courage up to boiling-point. And he told the old, old story to the fair one of his heart. To his delight, the maid reciprocated his affections.



There was only one stumbling-block—the girl's prim, proper, and precise mamma, of whom little Wimpleton stood in great awe, and well he might. "I love you," said the maiden; "but you must ask mamma."

"Ahem! Mrs. Doodles," he said, flushing like a beet, "I have come to inquire—I have come to ask—ahem!—what would say to me as a son-in-law?"

CARVED BY MOTHER NATURE

Remarkable Sculptured Face Visible to Travelers in the Deserts of Southern Wyoming.

Coming across a stretch of southern Wyoming desert hills the rider confronts a remarkable, hideous head, looming up from the sandstone rocks. He may be apt to think that he has made a mistake and is in a Chinese wilderness, the land where huge dragons and grotesquely carved rock figures are found in the wildest and most unexpected places. This comparatively soft Wyoming sandstone contains layers and sections of a harder dark stone, which accounts for the heavy markings and the strange irregular shape into which the rock has been cut and carved by the erosion of rains of winter and the wind-whipped storm of the dry summer. The eyes of the "dragon" are small holes being eaten through the rock by the ceaseless sand blast, for the monument is quite thin and sharp if viewed from the side. Doubtless with continual sculpturing it will, before many years, lose its singular expression, and as the holes are enlarged the heavier capping will fall over and leave nothing which resembles the present picturesque head.

MADE-TO-ORDER INFORMATION.

"I understand you have been going to a fortune teller?" "Yes," replied Mr. Growcher. "I'm surprised that a person of your sense should be willing to listen to all that trash about having a sympathetic nature and being about to take a journey and also meeting someone who will mean much in your life's happiness, and so forth and so on."

"Well, I get rather lonely sometimes and like to hear a little good news even if I have to pay for it."

Rough on the Wolves.

"Before the war we used to see a good many pictures of whickered Roostian gents razzing over the snowclad plains in sledges drawn by three snorting horses hitched abreast, and flinging children to the ravening, red-mouthed wolves that were pursuing 'em," musingly said Gap Johnson of Rumpus Ridge. "Last night, while my children were pulling hair and bumping each other's heads on the floor, and wife was slapping 'em right and left and I was cussing 'em in a general way, and such as that, I sorter got to contemplating that if I was tearing across the prairie with my kids in a wagon and the wolves raging around us, if I'd fling five or six of the children out amongst the varmints then wolves would sure get the surprise of their lives. I reckon in about two minutes the children would be feeling right at home and the wolves howling for help."—Kansas City Star.

Only Place to Show Him Off.

"I hear you are going to marry Archie Blueblood?" said one society woman to another. "Is it true?" "Marry him?" exclaimed the other. "Not likely. What on earth could I do with him? He's rejected from the army, he can't ride, he can't play tennis, golf, nor, for that matter, can he even drive a motorcar!" "Oh!" said the friend, "but he can swim beautifully, you know."

"Swim, indeed! Now, I ask you, would you like a husband you had to keep in an aquarium?"

Polite.

Editor:—Why do you use the expression "as polite as a ship?" Contrib:—Because a ship always meets the ocean's wave with a bow. Boston Transcript.

THE APPLE TREE

Year after year it uplifted
Its treasure of bloom to the sky,
Cradled the wee baby robins,
Scented the breeze that went by,
Offered a delicate nosegay
To lie on the breast of the maid,
And gave in the rain and the sunshine
The garden of shelter and shade.

Then came the wrath of the tempest,
Tearing it up by the root,
Laying it prone on the meadow
With its promise of blossom and fruit,
Never again to be sephyr
A petal-kiss to blow,
Or stand like a bride at morning,
Blushingly veiled in snow.

But lo! when the spring returning
Called to the bird and bee,
Life awoke and quickened
In the brave old apple tree.
The sap in its dying branches
Warmed to the sun and shower,
Until, though bent and broken,
It budded and burst in flower.

Keeping faith with the Maytime
After the winter snows,
Its fragrant soul arose,
Triumphant over disaster,
Defying Death's advance;
Dauntless tree, I salute you!
Such is the spirit of France.
—Minna Irving.

SURE IT WAS SEA SERPENT

Officers of Two British Vessels Convinced They Had Sight of Genuine Monster of the Deep.

It was on August 6, 1948, that H. M. S. Daedalus, on her way from the Cape of Good Hope to St. Helena, came near a singular looking object in the water. Captain McQuhae tried to bring his vessel close to it, but the state of the wind prevented a nearer approach than 200 yards. Officers watching carefully through their glasses could trace eyes, mouth and



As the Serpent Looked.

nostril in the mass which floated before them. It looked like a long lizard or serpent.

Captain McQuhae's report caused a great deal of excitement, and although scientists endeavored to show that there could be no such thing as a sea-serpent, the popular imagination would not be calmed.

Nine years later the captain and officers of the Castilian, sailing from Bombay to Liverpool, and about ten miles away from St. Helena, sighted "a huge marine animal, which reared its head out of the water, 20 yards from the ship. Its head was shaped like a nun-buoy, and we (the ship's officers) conclude that the monster must have been 200 feet long. I (the captain) am convinced it belonged to the serpent tribe."

Cheap Alcohol.

While the demand for gasoline is still increasing so rapidly in America, the problem of motor-fuel shortage is ever becoming more serious in many parts of the world. Alcohol is the substitute fuel most considered, but the British committee of inquiry finds that home vegetation offers little hope of aid; for such products as potatoes and artichokes yield only 20 gallons of 95 per cent alcohol to the ton. Tropical and subtropical plants are more promising. The most encouraging source of alcohol so far brought to notice appears to be the flower of the mahua tree, so common in parts of India, as this material can be dried, packed and exported, and supplies 90 gallons of 90 per cent alcohol per ton. It is suggested that if the aerodromes for airplane routes be established near production areas of this tree, the tropical chemist should be able to provide alcohol at a cost not exceeding 14 cents a gallon.

Switch Tends to Itself.

The door-bolt switch is a novel electric lighting appliance designed to lessen the lighting expenses of hotel proprietors. The switch is mortised in the door-jamb, and connected in series with the wall switch. So installed, the new appliance is operated only by the locking of the door on the corridor side. Its operation turns out the lights in the room carelessly left on, and makes the wall switch inoperative. When the guest returns or the door is unlocked by any person, the wall switch can again be used in the regular way for turning the lights on or off.

Absent Minded.

My most embarrassing moment was when I was in an elevator in one of the department stores. I happened to work in the post office, while three-cent stamps were being used. I entered the elevator on the main floor and wanted to get off on the third floor. After passing the second floor, I called out, absent-mindedly: "Three cents, please."

The people gazed at me, and I walked out, very much embarrassed.—Chicago Tribune.

Change of Mind.

Mr. Styles—I was mistaken when I said you had no capacity for business. Mrs. Styles—I thought you'd change your mind. "You certainly have helped along the millinery and dressmaking business a whole lot!"—Yonkers Statesman.

"FATHER OF POSTAGE STAMP"

Sir Rowland Hill Had to Fight Hard to Get Great Britain to Adopt Scheme He Advocated.

The power of a postage stamp, in our taxation, in 1778, rent her American colonies from Great Britain. Viscount Hill, a tough old British soldier, ancestor of Sir Rowland Hill, the great philanthropist, and inventor of penny postage, was born on August 11, 1772. His fighting qualities blustered again in his descendant, Sir Rowland. In 1835 his fearless originality and largeness of view flung itself into the question, "How shall the poor send letters at 1 shilling and 4 pence (33 cents) each?" The government hostile to him, he suffered insults, yet he steadily pressed his scheme—the penny stamp. Every obstacle was thrown in his path. Parliament fanned at the mouth, and declared he would ruin the country, and upset the throne. The official world guffawed when he appeared before a commission of post office inquiry to describe his invention—the penny stamp—"an adhesive postage stamp, a bit of paper, just large enough to bear the imprint of her Majesty's bust, and covered at the back with a glutinous wash."

But the diplomatic ability, and the dare and push of his old ancestor in his veins, carried him through to triumph for the people. On January 10, 1840, penny postage was established. The gross revenue rose from 1,000,000 pounds to 4,000,000 pounds. The business of the money order office multiplied fifty-fold. He was buried in Westminster abbey London—the highest honor a grateful nation could accord him.—Kansas City Journal.

QUEER CAUSES OF SNEEZING

Hard to Explain Why Simple Things Have Such a Peculiar Effect on Some Persons.

Some people sneeze for curious reasons. There is a clergyman who can never cross the road on a very hot day without carrying an umbrella. If he does he is immediately taken with a violent fit of sneezing. Another man is similarly affected by exposure to bright gas light.

Clergymen seem to be particularly sensitive in this direction. Another wearer of the cloth used to sneeze whenever he came near to a dead hare. A similar case is that of a young man who could never go near a horse without sneezing.

Peculiar odors have been known to cause sneezing. A druggist's wife always sneezed when ippecuanha was being used in the shop, and another person always found sneezing necessary whenever he entered a room where there were violets. And there is an account of a well-known physician who was fond of chocolates, but could never eat one without suffering spasms of sneezing.

Perhaps the most remarkable case is that of a man who, whenever he sees a picture of a bayfield, immediately proceeds to sneeze his head nearly off.—London Tit-Bits.

Queer Nest.

"Sunfish venture close to the shore to lay their eggs and guard them," says Dr. E. F. Bigelow in *Boys' Life*. "This is a strange fact. They begin in the southern part of our country in April, and may be found farther north in the summer preparing a circular nest in the sand by removing all the twigs, plants and debris from a sunny spot about as large as one's head. Then by swaying her body the female removes the sand and gravel to a depth of from three to four inches. Exactly how is this digging done? Is some of the sand and gravel taken in the fish's mouth? It is interesting to note what cozy places these nests occupy. Such spots are sometimes like miniature houses as the aquatic plants are so close together at the top that one may well imagine them to form windows for sun parlors. When the young are hatched the sunfish, like the bullhead, guards the nest against all intruders."

Signatures to Treaty.

Signatures on treaties have become easy to arrange now that the system of alphabetical order is followed, but formerly the fight for precedence was a cause of grievous difficulty. The order in which names appeared on treaties used to be determined by the status of the realms concerned. But this device involves such interminable disputes that other systems were suggested, and as long ago as 1718, at the signature of the Quadruple alliance, each power signed the first copy which was to remain in its own possession. At Aix-la-Chapelle, in 1748, the contracting parties each signed one copy for each of the others. Finally, the present plan of alphabetical order (according to the French alphabet) was adopted.

Beverage of Pine Balsam.

The threatened emptiness of "the cup that cheers, but not inebriates," reminds a correspondent that Cowper was less original than many readers suppose in framing that line.

Long before his time, Bishop Becket applied the same encomium to a drink made of pine balsam, in these terms:

"The luminous spirit lodged and detained in the native balsam of pines and firs is of a nature so mild and benign and proportioned to the human constitution as to warm without heating, to cheer but not inebriate, and to produce a calm and steady joy like the effect of good news, without that sinking of spirits which is a subsequent effect on all fermented cordials."

How Frogs Protect Eggs.

In the manner of disposing of their eggs many species of frog exhibit remarkable peculiarities. One of the most curious, a tree frog, native of Paraguay, makes its nest in a bush overhanging a pond. The lower ends of a number of leaves are drawn together and fixed in that position by a number of empty egg capsules. The eggs are also covered with a shield of empty capsules to protect them from the sun and air. When the eggs are hatched the plug at the bottom appears to fall out and the tadpoles tumble into the water.

And the Fly Escaped.

One of the queerest stories of automobile wrecks comes from Geneva. A man driving along the state road toward Waterloo had the windshield of his machine open. A dragonfly entered through the opening and hit him in the face. He tried to brush it off, moving the steering wheel unconsciously, ran into the ditch and through a fence and had a bad smash-up. And the worst of it is, the sufferer can't sue the fly for damages.—Buffalo Express.

Measuring Rainfall.

The quantity of rain which falls is measured by rain-gauges or pluviometers, which are variously constructed. One of the best is that known as Symon's rain-gauge, consisting of a funnel-shaped receiving vessel to catch the rain, and a glass measure of much smaller diameter to measure it. To simplify calculation, the internal area of the measure is usually one-tenth that of the mouth of the funnel.

Change the Gears!

Charles' uncle was a tall man, and one day when he had Charles out for a walk he forgot the length of a child's step, and poor Charles was almost running to keep up. They came to a rise in the grade of the walk and Charles stopped and said: "O, uncle, please change into low; I just can't make it on high."

Inflamed Eyes.

Nothing brings surer relief to inflamed eyes than a wash with boracic acid water. And one thing that its user must remember is to have the preparation free from any foreign particles, however minute, or they will cause irritation. The boracic acid should be thoroughly dissolved in water that has been boiled and cooled.

The Meanest Man.

The meanest man in the world, regardless of previous conclusions, is the man of our acquaintance—you know him, too—who took out a card in the American Society of Astronomy and now doesn't have to give excuses when he gets in at 4 a. m.—Tampa Tribune.

To Renovate.

Before you renovate the furniture remove all dirt and the old varnish. This is quickly accomplished by using a warm solution of soda and water.

Just So.

Save daylight as we may, night always arrives in dew time.—Boston Transcript.

"Number, Please."

"I hesped in numbers, for the number came," said Alexander Pope. But that was before the era of the telephone.—Birmingham News.

Powerful Dam.

By raising eight and a half feet the dam which impounds water for Bombay its capacity was increased 10,800,000 gallons.

Old Rule Ignored.

Did you ever notice how often a "gentlemen's agreement" ignores the old rule, "First catch your gentleman?"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Perfume From Philippines.

The shrub from which the French manufacture the perfume known as cassie has been found growing abundantly in the Philippines.

It All Depends.

Ardent Wooer: "Do you think that money is necessary to happiness?" Demure Damsel: "Not if one has unlimited credit."

A Mystery.

One of the great mysteries of life is why the wise who admit they know so much seem always to own so little.

Oldest Bank Notes.

The oldest bank notes in the world were issued in China 2,897 years before the Christian era.

Vast "City of Dead."

It is estimated that something like 15,000,000 dead are interred in the Roman catacombs.

Sensible.

Japanese girl babies have their heads shaved until they are three years old.

Largest Custom House.

New York has the largest custom house in the world. Cost, \$4,500,000.

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