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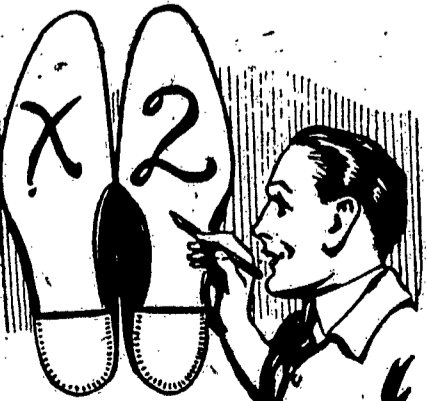
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Somewhat at Fault
By T. B. ALDERSON

Hector Warne was the reliable standby of old Mark Seaton, but Hal Preble was his favorite. They were cousins, close and affectionate as own brothers, but were direct opposites. Warne was staid, dependable, of rather a serious turn of mind. Hal was naturally a rover, loved changes.

"I want to have a talk with you, Hector," said Mr. Seaton one day. "I have heard from Hal. He is at Cresson and I fear is in love again."

Hector smiled quietly. Hal was in love, and always with a new object of choice, half a dozen times a year.

"I have always feared that some scheming adjuress would get hold of Hal," continued Mr. Seaton. "I have been making some inquiries and learn that for a month past he has been regularly calling upon a Miss Deverill, who lives a few miles from Cresson."

"And she is the siren you read?"
"I don't know it for a fact," replied the uncle, but I want to know and intend to. That is why I am going to ask you to sort of look Hal up at Cresson, and particularly to go to Roxbury and find out what kind of a girl this new flame of his is."

"I don't like the task," said Hector quickly. "Playing the spy is not in my line."

"No, but you think enough of Hal to join me in striving to protect him, don't you?" and Hector bowed silently and two days later reached Cresson.

He kept himself completely out of the way of Hal, but learned that his cousin had a suite of rooms at the best hotel, was a gentleman of leisure complete, usually spent his week-ends at Roxbury and to that picturesque little town Hector transferred his abode. Judging from the information Hector received Miss Deverill was entirely worthy of the choice of any man.

She was the daughter of one of the most reputable and favorably known residents of Roxbury, Judge Joshua Deverill. The latter was quite prominent in the public eye. Roxbury had its bad quarter in which a full complement of the dissolute and criminal lived. He had been stern and exacting in arriving to wipe out this black spot in the community by severe court sentences, and this had brought to him the enmity and hatred of the vicious element. He was possessed of considerable wealth and his daughter was a popular social favorite.

From a distance his first Saturday evening in Roxbury Hector saw the pair together. Never in his life had he gazed upon a young lady who in face and bearing so attracted him. The next day the pair were joined by another young lady, a dark, flashing beauty, with whom Hal seemed to divide his attentions. Hector learned that this was a Miss Marcia Lowell, from the city and a close girl friend of Miss Deverill.

Upon Monday morning Hal took the train for Cresson and Hector had a clear field for investigation. Several times he passed Miss Deverill upon the street and returned to his hotel to dream about this paragon of grace and beauty, secretly envying his cousin his great fortune.

By the middle of that week Hector had made up his mind that a report was due his anxious uncle. He wrote a letter stating that the latter need have no apprehension as to the eligibility of Miss Deverill as a niece-in-law.

That evening Hector decided he would not prolong his stay. He, however, coveted one last glimpse of Lois Deverill. It was after dark when he skirted the lawn and posted himself behind a bush. Peering past it he could see the object of his interest seated at the piano. Then Hector Warne saw something else that thrilled him into vivid action. A man stealthily approached the side of the house. He carried a round, sinister looking object from which trailed a fuse. He lit this, placed it under a veranda and started to leave the spot.

In a flash Hector comprehended that he must be some of the criminal enemies of Judge Deverill. He rushed forward, seized the spurting end of the fuse and jerked it loose. There was a flare, the sharp snap of percussion, the man dealt him a blow with a cudgel and Hector went down like a shot.

Hector opened his eyes to find himself lying on a comfortable couch in the Deverill home. Two men were standing near, one of them palpably a physician, for he was saying: "A painful burn on the arm and the shock, but that will soon pass by." The other advanced to the couch. He was Hal Preble.

"Well! well!" he called. "Been playing the hero? The good people here found a letter in your pocket in which I was mentioned, guessed who you were and wired me. What ever put it into your head that I was going to marry Lois Deverill?"

"Aren't you?" cried Hector in an eager gasp.

"No," her friend, Marcia Lowell, whom, as an intermediary, Lois has helped me to win, is the happy one—with myself." There were two other happy ones before Hector left Roxbury. He did so to arrange with his uncle for a double wedding.

HOW GAS, OIL, STEAM ARE COMBINED IN LATEST TYPE OF ENGINE.
—The London Times of May 27 reports the invention by an Englishman of a new form of prime mover, consisting of a combined internal combustion (gas or oil) and steam engine. With the ordinary gas or oil engine one of the greatest mechanical problems is the removal of the heat generated by the combustion of the fuel, and in the majority of cases this heat is lost or wasted, in the sense that it is not converted into useful work.

In the new invention arrangements are made to utilize the waste heat for the generation of steam; and the piston, after being driven in one direction by gas or oil, is driven in the other by steam. By this means the inventor hopes to increase the fuel efficiency at least 20 per cent, and to increase the elasticity of the engine by storing steam in a reservoir so as to sustain for a short time a large overload which would ordinarily stop the engine.

IN DEFENSE OF OLD BELIEF
How Explosions Produce Rainfall is Explained by Eminent English Meteorologist.

Belief in the influence of explosions in producing rainfall is persistent, despite contrary evidence brought out by meteorologists. Recent support for the view has been noted by William F. A. Ellison, and he contends in the English Mechanic that the torrential rains that have visited southeastern England during the last few years have been directly due to the gunfire of the war. A spring of drouth has followed the signing of the armistice. Clouds following airplanes have been lately observed in clear weather, and Mr. Ellison argues that the true explanation is not the churning of the air by the propeller, but the discharge into dust free saturated atmosphere of minute solid particles of carbon, which become nuclei for the condensation of the moisture. The same thing has been noticed in the clouds drifting away from tall chimneys, although the visible smoke ceased near the chimney tops. In the absence of water vapor no amount of gunfire can produce rain, but the English climate usually supplies the saturated atmosphere, and the explosions and the fine dust particles, it is declared, add just the meteorological balance, causing necessary conditions to upset the precipitation.

How Bamboo Needles Are Made.
The operation of making a bamboo needle for the phonograph is a rather prolonged and intricate one. For the wood must pass through several operations before it becomes suitable for the purpose. The hard point of the needle is formed from the enameled cortical surface of the cane. The poles, 20 feet long and from 2 to 3 1/2 inches in diameter, carefully selected, are sawed into pieces about an inch long and split into prism-shaped blanks for needles. To force out the sap and replace it with oil and wax in the myriad cells of the cane the bits are put in drip kettles and lowered into vats laden with an oily mixture at 340 degrees F., where they remain forty hours. Then they go into tumbling barrels containing hard-wood sawdust, where they get cooled and polished.

How to Start Coal Fire.
Although a coal fire always burns better, especially at the start, when lighted from the bottom, it has been found to be much more economical of coal if the paper and kindling wood are placed above the coal, says Popular Mechanics Magazine. A few small coals and cinders are spread over the top of the kindling wood to enable a coal fire to be started. After the top layer begins to burn properly, the fire will spread slowly downward, if the draft is right. This method secures the most complete combustion because the gases from the unburned coal at the bottom must pass through the burning layer at the top, and thus become completely burned. It is admittedly harder to build and control this kind of fire, but the saving in fuel often justifies the extra trouble.

Why Skunk is Typically American.
The observer was told the other night what the typical American animal was and he is interested enough in the discovery to pass it on to others. "It is the skunk," his informant told him, "for three reasons: First, the skunk is found only within the confines of America. Second, it has a star on its forehead and stripes running through its back. Third, it is like a typical American—if let alone it harms no one, if interfered with it fights to a standstill. That is, it fights until it stands still and the other fellow runs."
—Columbus Dispatch.

How to Control Son-in-Law.
"After all, despite everything that has been said against him, a son-in-law has his admirable side," admitted Farmer Grimm. "If you free your mind in full to the hired man and tell him what he is, he will puff up and demand his pay and quit. If your boss and bully your son too systematically he will run away. But just as long as you feed your son-in-law and do not actually beat and maul him, you can say what you please to him and he will remain faithful."
—Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.

WHY
Feeling of Pain Follows Cutting of Finger.
It hurts when you cut your finger—or, rather, where you cut it, says the Book of Wonders, because the place you have cut is exposed to the oxygen in the air, and as soon as it is so exposed a chemical action begins to take place, just as when you cut an apple and lay it aside, you come back and find the cut surface all turned brown. If the apple could feel it would hurt also, because the chemical action is much the same. The apple has a skin which protects its inside from the oxygen in the air, and you have also a skin which protects you from the oxygen as long as it is unbroken.

What happens, of course, is this: When you cut your finger you sever the tiny little veins and nerves which are in your finger. They are spread all over your body like a network under the skin, close to the surface in most places. The nerves when cut send a quick message to the brain, with which they are connected, telling that they are damaged, and the brain calls on the heart and other functions to get busy and repair the damage along the line.

There may be some hurt while this process of repairing is going on, but the principal part of your hurt, outside of what we call your feelings, is due to the fact that the inside of you is thus exposed to the chemical action of the air.

ARE KEPT CLEAN BY TRAFFIC
Why Busy Rails Don't Rust is Made Plain by the Observation of Simple Facts.

It has often been observed that the rails on the main track of a railway are not so liable to rust as those of sidings. The railheads on the main line keep bright while those on the sidings are soon badly corroded. Attention to this fact was drawn by George Stephenson as far back as 1843. It has been suggested that freedom from rust on the part of the main track rails was due to some galvanic action which was intensified by the vibration of the rails in use. However, one would naturally expect that the vibration would increase rather than decrease the oxidation. The true explanation is probably that the railhead is kept clean by the hammering of it while the wheels pass over it; also that a certain amount of oil is scattered on the rail from the wheels, all of which assist in preventing oxidation. Rust forming on the siding would collect and hold moisture, causing further rust. A paper on this subject was presented before the American Electric Chemical Society by Oliver P. Watts.—Scientific American.

Why Animals Submit to Man.
According to a bulletin of the Lithuanian national council, the Lithuanians live in square contradiction to Maeterlinck's famous dictum about animals in his eloquent argument for the dog. The Belgian mystic holds that the horse submits to the rule of a man through fear, the cat tolerates man because not strong enough to get rid of him, while the dog, possessing a genuine affection, is the one real friend of man among the so called "dumb" animals. Lithuanians are fond of animals, but it is the horse above all others that is the object of their tenderness. Some observers insist that this preference for the horse must certainly be labor. It is noticed in young Lithuanian children of both sexes. Many persons declare that a single glance suffices to tell whether a horse has been raised and cared for by Lithuanians. Lithuanian horses are not only the working implements, but the friends of the owner. They give the impression of having learned to suffer and to rejoice with him. No Lithuanian in the full possession of his mind and senses would dream of abusing his animal.

Why Dogs Bark at the Moon.
The full moon especially irritates the dog, because it impresses his eyes, whether it is far away or near, he does not know. All he knows is that his nose remains unsatisfied. Therefore, when you tie your dog during full moon he will strain at the chain. He wants to get at the moon—chase it, bite it, eat it.

There is a foreign saying: "The dog barks at the moon because he thinks it a piece of green cheese," which saying certainly bears out our own observations. A dog eyes anything that seems eatable curiously, interestedly. If he didn't he would starve in the wilderness. But before he eats he must smell; the article might not be palatable. He barks at the moon because it won't give his nose a chance.—Springfield Republican.

How Nerves Direct Taste.
Various nerves in the tongue communicate with a main nerve, which acts as a kind of telephone exchange to ring up the brain. The taste nerves for the tongue concentrate in the eardrum nerve. If this nerve is injured the sense of taste becomes dulled, and it is well known that deaf persons lose the finer perceptions of taste.

When the drum of the ear is stimulated mechanically, chemically or electrically at the point where the nerves meet taste sensations are aroused. Sweet, bitter and sour flavors may be detected; but, strange to say, salt tastes have never been observed by the direct action of the ear. Many sensations we call tastes are merely odors. Pinch your nose and shut your eyes and you will be unable to distinguish between an apple and an onion.

RED CROSS FOR SEVERAL BIG DISASTERS

1,500,000 Lives Lost, 1,000,000,000 in Property Destroyed in 27 Years Since 1870

Preparations for disaster on a scale never before known are being undertaken by the American Red Cross. It has just been named as one of the important features of its wide peace program for the year, the effort will be to secure a record membership for the Third Red Cross Roll Call, November 2 to 11.

Experience shows that suffering incident to public disasters can greatly be reduced by extension of Red Cross machinery for supplying emergency relief and knowledge gained in putting through the Red Cross in the war is being used to the greatest possible advantage.

Because of the lack of the general in many of them it is generally realized how frequently, after year, disaster occurs, with wide devastation, death and suffering in their wake. Since 1870 disasters of peace have cost many thousands of lives and have brought personal injury and property losses to more than 1,500,000 persons, at the same time destroying property valued over \$1,000,000,000. During the war alone, eighty disasters came to the attention of the American Red Cross, including two earthquakes, two great fires, two earthquakes, two volcanic eruptions, two mine explosions, two plant explosions, a race riot, a wreck and the tragic calamity of Halifax. The total of property lost was \$150,000,000.

Speed of Fire Department. That, in brief, is the situation demands a preparedness to give relief comparable to the efficiency and speed required by the department and that is what the Red Cross, to which the people are so lively and true, are so ready to turn accident cases to women and children, and to homeless or starving, is to be. Under its direction, the sources of all communication, emergency relief will be available. The Red Cross chapters everywhere will make surveys looking for emergency food supplies, other hospital supplies, and to secure blankets, clothing, armories and other necessities, housing, refugees, but will also visit physicians, nurses, social workers and others prepared to instantly call for their services in disasters.

Information gathered in these years will be collated and the thirteen Red Cross Divisional organizations in the United States which will establish disaster supply centers and take charge of stations where assistance is given in cases of major disasters, the resources of the Division in which occurs are overtaxed, the relief strength of the Red Cross country will be pooled. International headquarters will have and small disaster centers so be ready for immediate action. The equipment and personnel of fifty base hospitals organized by the American Red Cross will be sent to the Army for service in the disaster manual. The Red Cross, for the guidance of its members, gives at the scene of disaster a comprehensive Relief Manual, compiled by J. Byron Deason, general of the American Red Cross, Department of Civilian Relief, charged with responsibility for Red Cross funds and operations. The Manual, which is distributed to chapters in every country, calls attention to the agency of disaster and urges relief to be effective and to be centralized. In accordance with the Manual the principle of Red Cross service will be to have disaster-stricken communities the resources represented by their own preparation at the disposal of the community without delay.

The local community, as possible, is depended upon to give own relief, with the Divisional Red Cross organization being ready to rush assistance. It is necessary that varied experiences in places it is a person offer sound counsel up a trained staff of relief workers. The file in Divisional disaster preparedness agreement to an agreement to any disaster.

A. N. C. General Secretary, BELLEVILLE, Mo., School of Disaster Preparedness, to grow out of the disaster in the future. The help come to the disaster-stricken communities and the Red Cross chapters.

RELAUNCHING THE School of Disaster Preparedness, to grow out of the disaster in the future. The help come to the disaster-stricken communities and the Red Cross chapters.