



**A SOLICITOUS EMPLOYER.**

**PENWIPER:** 'I would like to get off to-day, sir. I—'  
**Head of Firm:** 'Oh, that's all right, Penwiper; you needn't say any more. I hope your dead grandmother will have a good time.'

**GOOD ADVICE.**

'You ought to be married, sir,' said the phrenologist to the victim on the stage. 'Yes, sir, you ought to be married. You have no right, sir, to have lived a bachelor so many years. Now, look at your clothes, sir! Who mended your coat, sir? Tell me that.'  
 'My third wife, sir.'

**SHE TOOK THE VEIL.**

*At the D.I.C.—How: 5 p.m.*

She took the veil—'twas at the twilight hour,  
 When eve her dusky mantle gently spread  
 Athwart the counters, and the gaslights shed  
 A yellowish hue of dim, uncertain power.

She took the veil—most skillfully and sly,  
 When clerks were busy and cash-girs were flitting  
 From desk to counter, as indeed befitting  
 The trade's exactious and a prompt supply.

She took the veil—unmindful of the 'walker';  
 She saw not him who fixed his watchful eye  
 Upon her movements ever anxiously,  
 Awaiting only the right time to balk her.

She took the veil—and, calmly, then arose  
 And turned to go—when sudden, sharp and clear  
 A voice rang out: 'Policeman, quick, come here!  
 Here's a shoplifter! Come and search her clothes!'

**MAN.**

**MAN** that is born of a woman is small potatoes and few in the hill.

He riseth up to-day and flourisheth like a rag-weed, and to-morrow or the day after the undertaker has him in the box.

He goeth forth in the morning warbling like the lark, and is knocked out in one round and two seconds.

In the midst of life he is in debt, and the tax-collector pursueth him wherever he goeth.

The banister of life is full of splinters, and he slideth down it with considerable rapidity.

He walketh forth in the bright sunlight to absorb ozone, and meeteth the bank teller with a sight-draft for three hundred and fifty-seven notes.

He cometh home at eventide and meeteth the wheelbarrow in his path and the wheelbarrow riseth up and smiteth him to the earth, and falleth upon him and runneth one of its legs into his ear.

In the gentle spring-time he putteth on his summer clothes, and the south wind striketh him far away from home, and filleth him with woe and rheumatism.

He layeth up riches in the bank, and the manager speculateth in margins and then goeth to 'Frisco for his health.

In the autumn he putteth on his winter trousers, and a wasp that abideth in them filleth him full of intense excitement.

He buyeth a watch-dog, and when he cometh home late from the lodge the watch-dog treeth him and sitteth beneath him until rosy morn.

He goeth to the horse-trot and betteth his money on the brown mare, and the bay gelding with a blaze-face winneth.

He marryeth a red-headed helress with a wart on her nose, and the next day her parental ancestor goeth under, with few assets and great liabilities, and cometh home to live with his beloved son-in-law.



**HE ADMIRED FRANKNESS.**

**A MAN** stood thoughtfully leaning against a lamp-post. A stranger approached him, and, after a moment's scrutiny, said: 'Excuse me for this intrusion upon your apparent meditation, but I wished to ask you a few questions.'

'Certainly,' said the man, bowing and regarding the fellow with a kindly eye.

'I thank you for your consideration,' rejoined the fellow bowing with equal courtesy, if not with equal grace. 'I wish to ask you if you do not admire that quality which we term frankness?'

'Yes, of course I do.'

'I am delighted to hear you say so, sir. Now,' he added, after a short pause, 'you may think me very peculiar, and doubtless I am, but something impels me to be frank with you.'

'All right, sir; go ahead.'

'Thank you, I'll do so. Now, just a few moments ago, as I stood over there regarding you, it struck me that I did not like your looks, and I debated with myself the question whether or not I should tell you. The delicate consideration, the bright hue of reason that sometimes lights up the dark ground of impulse, suggested that I should first discover whether or not you were an admirer of frankness. I am glad that you are, for it gives me the opportunity of telling you without malice that I do not like your appearance. See?'

'That's all right,' the man quietly replied. 'You have a right to express your opinion.'

'You are a considerate man,' said the fellow. 'Now, still believing that you are an admirer of frankness, I should tell you that I would not trust you ten minutes.'

'That's all right,' the man rejoined.

'And furthermore,' the fellow continued, 'I feel that you are a pickpocket.'

'A man has a right to express his feelings. You acknowledge that don't you?'

'Assuredly, sir. I have expressed my feelings, and why should you not express yours?'

'I should express mine, and shall do so, but before I give you an expression of those feelings you must promise to treat me with as much consideration as I have treated you.'

'Oh, I promise that.'

'All right, here goes,' and picking up his foot with an electric jerk, he kicked the fellow into the street. 'That is my opinion of you.'

The fellow rubbed himself for a moment, and then, through a horrified grin, said:  
 'Look here, I do like frankness, but I don't care to see a man so precious outspoken.'

**TRYING TIMES FOR BOBBY.**

**UNCLE JAMES:** 'Well, Bobby, are you gaining any prizes at school nowadays?'  
**Bobby:** 'No, sir; the other fellows get them all.'  
**Uncle James:** 'But you'll keep on trying, of course?'  
**Bobby:** 'What's the use! The other fellows keep on trying too.'



**UNCLE GEORGE:** 'Well, Colonel, I'll take £50 for Old Sol. You'll find he's a fine horse.'  
**Colonel:** 'Yes, but what is that scar on his fore-leg?'  
**Georgey (speaking from recent recollections):** 'Oh, uncle, p'raps dat's his vaccination marks.'

**TRY TO SMILE.**

**THEIR REASONS FOR NOT FIGHTING.**—Boy on the street to boy in the yard: 'If yer think yer can lick me, why don't yer come out here and try it?' Boy in the Yard: 'Oh, I'm 'fraid a cop might arrest me fer doin' yer up. You come in here if yer want ter fight.' Boy on the street (sneeringly): 'Yes, you want yer father to catch me, don't yer?'

'They say a man can leave an umbrella out of doors in Norway all day, and find it where he left it the next morning. This would go to show that they have very poor umbrellas in Norway, or else the climate is phenomenally dry. "These firemen must be a frivolous set," said Mrs Spillkins, who was reading a paper. "Why so?" "I read in the papers that after the fire was under control the firemen played all night on the ruins. Why didn't they go home and go to bed like sensible men, instead of romping about like children?"

'And she said that I was no lady.' 'The idea! And what did you do?' 'I just slapped her face and scratched her eyes most out.'

**SAD IF TRUE.**

There was a young man from Havana,  
 Who liked to sing 'Eileen Allana';  
 But one night at the gate  
 He lingered too late,  
 And was struck by a raucid banana!

Omnibus driver, to quiet stranger in suburban road, 'Hi, mister, jest hold that there horse for a minute while I get down, will yer?' Stranger nervously, 'Wh-wh-which one?'

'Why, the off'un, to be sure.' 'My good man, I am totally unacquainted with horses, and it's quite impossible for me to tell which of your animals is an orphan.'  
 'The sun is fifteen million years old, and will last fifteen million years longer.' This fact will quiet a great deal of anxiety and alarm. An impression had got abroad that the sun would last only fourteen million years longer. The sun holds its age well. Oldest inhabitants say that it does not look a day older than it did sixty-five years ago.

**A REMINDER.**

'WELL, sir, what can I do for you this morning?' said old Mr Scadds, as young Dolley entered his counting-room.  
 'I want your consent to our engagement, sir,' replied Dolley.  
 'Your daughter and I love each other and want to marry.'  
 'Indeed?' snorted the father. 'Anything else?'

'Well, sir, I might mention before I go that Austin Corbin gave his daughter \$5,000,000 as a wedding present.'



**HE:** 'Don't you think you had better put the sleeves of my overcoat round your neck, little sweetheart? Eh?'

**SHE:** 'Yes; but then you will catch cold, darling; had you not better put it on first?'



**OUR DOMESTICS.**

**MARY:** 'Oh, missus, the baker told me to tell yer the bread has risen; but I've measured it with the tape measure, and I can't see any difference in it!'