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No one can say that the citizens of New Bern and Craven County aren't putting up a brave front. Who would think this is just about the most poverty stricken place in America?

In the midst of such famine, we'll steer clear of serious talk for the moment, and try to bring a smile to your drawn and emaciated countenance. Perhaps some alleged humor will ease your miss-neal cramps.

Of course, if you're one of the few eating regularly and suffering from indigestion, it is nice to know that you can get temporary relief from this distressing stomach trouble by kicking the cat or whipping the children.

And here's some additional advice that may come in handy. If you want a woman to read your letter, send it to her husband and mark "Personal" on the envelope. Speaking of husbands and letters, a well-regulated husband is one who can't pass a mailbox without feeling in his pockets.

All women are alike, except some are more alike than others. For example, when a woman goes up in the air she usually lands on her husband. And haven't you noticed that every woman likes a bargain, but dislikes being told that she's wearing one.

Something else, when a man has a birthday he wants to take a day off. When a woman has a birthday she wants to take a year (or maybe several) off, and usually does.

It's too late to warn you males who are already married, but if you're single keep in mind that it's dangerous to marry a woman who looks good in black. And remember this, the only way to fight a woman is to grab your hat and run.

Haven't you noticed that nothing annoys a woman like having her friends drop in unexpectedly to find the house looking as it usually does? And, sad to relate, many a man keeps his nose to the grindstone so that his wife can turn hers up at the neighbors.

And another thing, a father is afraid all young men want to marry his daughter. A mother is afraid they don't. Incidentally, you learn sooner or later in marriage that a man is as old as he feels before breakfast and a woman is as old as she looks before breakfast.

Truthfully, or as a member of New Bern's most exclusive club should we say half truthfully, all husbands are alike, but they have different faces so you can tell them apart. The trouble is not what man descended from, but what he descends to.

Isn't it the gospel that a woman never knows what kind of dress she doesn't want until she buys it? What she does know, of course, is that the best combination for a woman is an old head (inside that is), a young heart, and a baby face.

There's nothing more exasperating than a wife who can cook and won't, except a wife who can't cook and will. Honestly, married life is a nice life for a man to lead if his wife would only let him do a little leading.

Of course, if you're cynical

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