

ADVERTISEMENTS.

THE STORY OF A COAT.

HOW THE MOTHS WERE KEPT FROM A WOOLY OVERCOAT AND HOW A CONGREGATION WAS BROKEN UP.

We stowed it away in a box lined with tar paper and let it hibernate for a few weeks, when a friend, happening to hear us speak about it, told us that it would draw the house so full of moths that they would eat everything on the place except the window weights and the buggy wheels. He said if he wanted to catch a moth he would bait with tar paper. The only thing to knock out moths was gum camphor. So we transferred the Terror of the Storm to another box and embalmed it in camphor. I think it took about a ton; not more than that. It came to the house in a cart.

CAMPFOR GOOD FOR MOTHS.

Well, the thing slept alone until some time in the fall, when I spoke about it to a visitor, who said he was an importer of wolles for fifteen years, and that he discharged a porter or salesman who used camphor for headache the minute he came into the store.

He said he wished he could find a moth just to show me how greedily it would devour camphor. The only way they ever used it was to lay it out on the sidewalk in front of the store to draw the moths out of the place. Tobacco, he said, was the only moth slayer. That knocked them cold, but nothing else would. So we roused up the Terror once more and enticed him into a barrel, in which we introduced a cargo of tobacco, broken and powdered, and went around weeping and sneezing the rest of the week.

You know how cold we all thought it was going to be a few Sundays ago, and how much it looked like snow and hail and rain? I hated to have so much dead capital lying about the house, and fearing it would be the only opportunity this winter to wear the Terror I hauled it forth, got under it and crawled into it. I wore it to church. I went early in order to find an empty pew into which I could get that coat. I hadn't been in the sanctuary very long before I heard the sexton telling a deacon that it was no use trying to do anything with that old heater. The more you tinkered at it the more it made gas.

"Nobody will be able to sit in this church this morning," he said, "unless we turn off all the heat. Just go in there and smell for yourself."

And the deacon came in and smelled and told the sexton to go down and pour water on the fire and to break the heater up Monday morning. I couldn't notice anything myself, but as I was in a strange church I hated to say anything. A little later a severe looking man placed a tract in my hands and went away and watched me read it, sitting where he could observe the effect. It was a story of a man who smoked tobacco until his system and being were just saturated with it, and then used drugs to conceal the odor. He was entirely cured of the habit by a little child, a dear little girl, who put a cartridge in his pipe and blew the whole top of his head off.

SYMPATHETIC FRIENDS.

I was deeply affected, and must have displayed my emotion, for the man looked radiantly happy, and gave me another tract, much worse than the first, telling about a man who was very vain and thought of nothing but dress, and at last stole money to buy a dizzy overcoat and was sent to the State Prison, where he contracted a terrible disease that racked him for weeks and months in terrible agony before he died. I began to wish I had stayed at home. Another man, who sat just behind me, told me that he didn't think I ought to be out at all; that when the grip reached that stage it was perilous, and a man owed it to his neighbors as well as himself to stay in the house.

All these things made me feel so uncomfortable that I left the house just before they passed the plate around. I regretted this, because it looked as though I went to a strange church just to air that storm coat. That really wasn't the reason—at least, not the principle, or at any rate not the only one. I had other, and I trust better reasons than that. What the present civilization demands is not so much the discovery of new groups of asteroids so far away that it requires the united efforts of five men, working ten hours a day for three years to see the place where they thought they were when they began looking, but an inodorious, or at least a pleasantly fragrant preparation that will kill or keep the moths out of a nine dollar overcoat without destroying the peace and good feeling of an entire neighborhood.—Bob Burdette.

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