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CHAIRMAN SIMMONS TO CHAIRMAN BUTLER.

Populist Leader Waxes Foxy and Sets a Trap That Doesn't Catch the Democrats.

BUTLER'S GLARING INCONSISTENCY.

He Tries to Draw the Democrats Into a Joint Discussion on an Issue the Populist State Convention Positively Refused to Make. — A Withering Rebuke.

Chairman Simmons wrote a letter to Chairman Butler yesterday that shows that the Democrats have no intention of letting the Republican-Populist machine change the issue of this campaign.

The issue is White Supremacy vs. negro rule. The Republicans know that upon this issue they can make no headway because nine-tenths of the members of their party are negroes. They have therefore arranged with the Populist leaders to act as the cat's paw to pull the chestnuts out of the fire for them. In consideration of Republican support of Senator Butler, the Populist machine has agreed to take the lead and try to get up a hot fight between white men, and thereby let the Republicans restore negro rule and then vote for Butler for United States Senate. To the accomplishment of this secret fusion, by which the Populists get Butler and the Republicans get negro rule, Butler addressed the following letter a day or two ago to Mr. Simmons, Democratic Chairman:

Raleigh, N. C., April 20, 1900.

Hon. F. M. Simmons, Chairman of the Democratic State Executive Committee, Raleigh, N. C.:

Sir: The candidates of the People's Party for Governor and the candidates for other State offices, and the candidate of the People's Party for United States Senator, desire a joint discussion with the candidates of the Democratic party for said positions respectively, in order that the voters of the State, who must, in next August, cast their ballots in approval or disapproval of the proposed Constitutional Amendment, the Election Law, and other issues in the State may hear the facts and arguments that can be presented by both sides, and render their verdict accordingly. If your committee and the candidates of your party will agree to such joint discussion, I will be glad to confer with you at once, with a view to arranging a series of appointments to begin immediately after the close of the list of appointments for your candidates already announced, extending to and including May 8th, 1900.

Very respectfully,
(Signed) MARION BUTLER,
Chairman People's Party State Executive Committee.

To this letter Mr. Simmons made the following reply:

Raleigh, N. C., April 21, 1900.

Hon. Marion Butler, Chairman People's Party State Executive Committee, Raleigh, North Carolina:

Sir: I received this morning your letter of the 20th inst., in which you suggest a joint debate between the candidates of the Democratic party for State offices, and the candidates of the People's Party for like positions.

The question to be presented to the people for their approval in August, and around which all other questions center, is the adoption of the Constitutional Amendment. The People's Party in its late State convention while urging objections to the amendment, declared concerning it, "we do not make it a party question," and expressly said that it "must be determined by the judgment and conscience of each individual voter." In your letter you ask for a joint debate upon the amendment, thereby disclosing a purpose on the part of the organization of your party to commit your party to a position which it has expressly refused to take in its State convention. This attempt to raise an issue not made by your convention is manifestly the result of a secret understanding with the Republican party and in line with the action of your party organization since 1894, which has been employed to foster schemes of co-operation with the Republican party and to prevent the individual voter of the People's party from participating in the naming of candidates or dictating its policy. It is a matter of common knowledge in North Carolina that there is a perfect understanding between the leaders and the Federal office-holding element of the Peoples party and the Republican party, and in pursuance of this understanding they have secured the nomination of a State ticket and asked for a joint debate in order to divide and divert the attention of the white people while their Republican allies are engaged in their schemes of attempting to again fasten negro rule on the State. Later on, by these same tactics, the People's Party will unquestionedly be led into fusion with the Republican party upon the legislative, county and Congressional tickets in all counties, and districts where it is thought that fusion will do any good towards the defeat of the amendment and the perpetuation of negro suffrage in North Carolina.

Under these circumstances it is impossible to consider the organization of the Peoples party as now constituted and controlled in North Carolina, as having an existence separate and independent from that of the Republican party. Until the organization of the Peoples party in this State proves its right to be treated as a political entity, separate and distinct from the Republican party, by refusing to fuse with that party upon State, county, legislative and Congressional candidates, the Democratic party cannot consider your proposition.

Concerning the suggestion contained in your letter as to a joint debate between you and the Democratic candidates for the Senate, you are informed that the Democratic party has no candidate for the Senate and that it does not propose to discuss or consider the Senatorial question until after the question of whether North Carolina is to be governed by the white man or by the negro has been settled in the August election. From that paramount and all-absorbing question the Democratic party does not propose to be diverted, either by Senatorial contest, sham tickets, or cunningly devised schemes to "play politics."

Yours truly,
F. M. SIMMONS,
Chairman Democratic State Ex. Com.

That's the way to treat decoy ducks!

This is the Way It Works.

(State Journal (Republican).

The Western voter has not the remotest idea of Eastern conditions. The former can not understand why there is such intense hatred of Republicanism in the East and why the white people are all Democrats.

In a number of counties the negro vote outnumbers the white vote and in all the counties east of Raleigh and nearly all east of Charlotte the negro is in the majority if the white vote divides. It is natural with the negro or any other race of people to seek office and its emoluments, and if the white people divide the negro at once takes charge of affairs. Go back twenty years and there was a large per cent. of white Republicans in all the Eastern counties. In some instances they outnumbered the white Democrats, but the negro outnumbered the white Republicans. This enabled the negro to run conventions, control nominations and by this means he was soon in control of nearly all Eastern counties while some good white Republicans and some good negroes were put in office, bad white men and the ignorant negro were running party machinery and in the saddle. This state of affairs soon drove the bulk of the white Republicans into the Democratic party. They had to go there for self-preservation. However much they disliked Democracy, they preferred it to ignorant negro rule.

Now this state of affairs confronts us in the East. In many of the counties, with honest elections, that is, with a free negro ballot, he controls the counties and in some instances the Judicial and Congressional districts, and in all of the counties he would control if the white people divide.

The negro never fails to take advantage of his opportunity; the past and present is proof of this fact. They go to Congress, they have been solicitors, they go to the legislative halls, they hold county and minor offices. They swarm like bees after positions, county, State and Federal. They demand it, they claim they do the voting and are entitled to them. They run Republican conventions. We speak not from hearsay but from actual observation. This state of affairs prevents the white people dividing and considering any other question but the negro; thereby the interest of the State suffers.

We ask our white people of the West, white Republicans, should the negro be allowed to control, and with present conditions and a free ballot can he be prevented? Should the wealth, wealth-producing and industrial class and business interests of this section be held under ignorant negro domination? Consult your own conscience and white manhood and imagine yourself in like conditions and then cast your vote. But some say it will not disfranchise all the negroes. No; it will not disfranchise the intelligent and better element of the negro race, and should not they cast their votes intelligently as much so as any white man? But it disfranchises the ignorant ones who should be disfranchised, and to disfranchise this class, which is very large in the East, would so much diminish their votes that it would remove all danger. One thing certain, it would make it less dangerous than at present and if we can not do all that should be done let us make what improvement we can. But there are some who say it is wrong in principle to disfranchise the negro. Would this be so if it improves the conditions of the country? Is the principle right that gives the negro an opportunity to outvote and control the white man? If so, the principle is as black as the negro and the man who advocates it is as black as the principle. Remove this cancer from the political body in the East and you free the white man in political thought and action, and then the Eastern white man will divide along political lines.

The Crisis is On, Settle It.

(State Journal (Republican).

There is no disguising the fact as to negroes holding office in the East; they hold almost every kind of official position by election and appointment, and he was so aggressive in this respect under fusion rule that it drove almost all Populists back to the Democratic party in the last campaign. You can't humiliate him back when Republicanism is successful in the State or Eastern counties; he can't be advised or controlled and we have been carrying this load each campaign for years. It is a fact that can not be denied and must be admitted—there is too much truth in what is said about the East. For the last three years we have been located so as to observe these facts. We do not say these things to injure Republicanism, but for its benefit. Let Republicans, and especially Western Republicans, seize the opportunity now presented. Vote for the amendment, and make the above conditions impossible.

POPULISTS AND THE AMENDMENT.

The Intelligent Element of the Party Will Favor It's Adoption.

Charlotte Observer.

I, as a Populist, have heard some very flimsy excuses given by some very able men for not supporting the constitutional amendment. Some claim that it was gotten up by the classes, not so much to get rid of the ignorant negro vote, as to eliminate the poor white voter; that it is the intention of the classes to wrench the government out of the hands of the masses and put it in the hands of the classes. Now, there is not a white voter in the State that can be led to believe such, if he will stop to think for a moment. The fifth section confers no favors upon the rich that it doesn't confer upon the poor white man. In fact, it is the fifth section that makes it easier than ever before for the classes to vote. It says, as plain as can be said, that no lineal descendant of any such person shall be denied the right to register and vote at any election in this State by reason of his failure to possess the educational qualification prescribed in section four. That is, any one who could vote before 1867, or his descendant, can vote regardless of their political convictions, as it makes it obligatory upon the registrar to place their names on the registration books, and once there they have the guarantee of the constitution to their right to vote, something they never had before in this State.

Now, as a Populist, I want to see such an amendment to the constitution. If it had been in the constitution in 1892 many of our Populists would not have been disfranchised at the polls, as we were, and as to the classes wanting to get rid of the negro, that is all nonsense. The negro has always voted with the classes against the masses. His vote has always been on the side of high tariff, trusts and monopolies, or, in other words, he has voted with the classes against the masses. The classes have no desire to see the negro deprived of his vote, as the classes are not running this campaign. The great mass of white voters, regardless of party, are working for the success of be amendment, as all know that the adoption of the amendment means better politics, purer and freer from abuse. Some say, "Just adopt the amendment and the next step will be to get a property qualification of at least five hundred dollars worth of property, which would enable the classes to drive the last nail in liberty's coffin." Now, we know that will never be. Just think for a moment of the large number of teachers, preachers and professional men that don't own anything more than their salaries. Some of the most learned and brainiest of men in our State don't own the house they live in. Deprive these men, who mould public opinion and keep going the great engine of intellectual progress? No, never in this State. No one but an enemy of the amendment could start such rumors. Of course there are some Democrats who oppose the amendment, but I notice they are as jovial, the men that could cry negro the loudest at our Populists in the past campaigns.

As a citizen of this State I believe it is to the best interest of the whole people that the ignorant negro vote be eliminated even for his own good. It would be much better for the negro if he had no voice in the elections, as his obstinacy in elections creates an enmity between him and the white man. When he is up for some offense at court he many times fails to get the justice he deserves, where, if he did not come in conflict with the whites he would get better treatment at the hands of the whites; and again, the ignorant negro is used by designing politicians for what they can get out of him. He is boss-ridden, has no opinion of his own, and does not express one or vote in opposition to the wishes of his leaders. If he does, he is ostracised by his race as an outcast and loses his racial standing, which is more to him than gold. In other words, he is invariably found opposing any man or measure that is got up by the Democrats, it makes no difference how much it might promote his welfare, or the industries of his State. He need only to be told that it is a Democratic measure and he is no longer for it; and it makes no difference how obnoxious a measure is, if it is gotten up by his party, he is found supporting it even if it is against his interest as a laborer and consumer. So we see that prejudice is the weapon that he goes to the ballot box with. For a generation he has voted, and invariably he has been found as a race contending against reason and right. He is voted by bosses who are in every voting precinct. To illustrate, I met a colored man the other day. He said to me: "They say that they is gwi' to stop us niggers from voting. I don't care if they do. I has voted two times and I haint got nawthing to show for hit yit. In fact, I doesn't know who I voted for or what I voted for." So this man was noting more than a piece of machinery in the hands of another. He had no opinion of his own or principle to defend. This is only one instance out of thousands that any man can find throughout the South if he will take the trouble to inform himself. Why would not intelligent men want the vote of such a class eliminated? None but office-seekers could wish to see the property of the people jeopardized by such a voter. I, as a Populist, have always accused our Democratic friends of not being consistent in their speeches, when they advocated the elimination of the negro vote and said that they did not want the negro out of politics, as he was their only slogan to use to keep the ignorant whites in line. Now they have shown to us that they meant what they said. Let us, as Populists, be consistent with them and vote for the amendment, as many times have we said if it was not for this cry of negro we, as Populists, would have some showing. Let us Populists be found ever ready to join hands with any party that offers something for the good of our country.

C. GIBSON.

WHITES ARE ALL RIGHT.

The Results of White Supremacy in Louisiana.

"There are twice as many negroes in my town, Le Compte, Louisiana, as white men, but at the election not of his votes cast 178 were cast by white men. Only two negroes voted."

Thus spoke Mr. Chas. L. Hardy, of Louisiana, who is visiting his cousin, Mr. H. B. Hardy, in this city. Mr. Hardy is a native of Northampton county, N. C., but has been living in Louisiana for twenty years or so. He has prospered in his far Southern home but his heart turns back to the scenes of his boyhood, and he is contemplating returning to this State one of these days. Speaking of the political conditions in Louisiana, Mr. Hardy said:

"We have had no trouble in Louisiana since 1878. That was the year of such violence and danger as men who lived in will never forget. It taught the white people a lesson they have not since forgotten. While we read of race troubles and negro offenses in other states, we have known nothing about it in our State since that memorable year. Few negroes vote with us. They do no care to vote and do not try. They know that the whites intend to control, and they wisely accept the condition of white government, turning their attention to other matters. Though they are in a large majority in my place there is never the slightest friction in politics. They never go about the polls, but on election day work as usual. They say to each other: 'If we vote, the white men will not count our votes, and as what's the use of going through the form of going to the polls?' and they act upon that idea.

"The Constitutional Amendment recently adopted in Louisiana gives the ballot to every native-born white man in the State who registers, whether he can read and write or not, but no negro can vote unless he owns $300 worth of property or can read and write. In North Carolina I understand, that you have copied our amendment except that you have left out the property qualification."

Speaking of the fact that out of 130,000 negro voters in New Orleans only 1,300 can now vote under the new constitution Mr. Hardy said that in the country districts the proportion of negroes who can vote is smaller than in the city of New Orleans. In fact the negroes do not care anything about voting, said Mr. Hardy.

"The big fights with us," continued Mr. Hardy, "are in the primaries. After the nominations are made the election is a matter of course. But we have hot fights in the primaries, and as there are usually several candidates the friends of each works actively for his nomination. Sometimes it is very hotly contested and then the vote is pretty full. After the nominations are made, the interest abates because almost always the nominee is elected."

Asked as to the constitutionality of the grandfather clause—Mr. Hardy said that since its adoption there had been no discussion about it and no litigation or suggestion of litigation looking to contesting it. The people want white rule, and intend to have it, and nobody seriously opposes the new constitutional regulation of suffrage.—News and Observer.

They Didn't Dare.

The Messenger and Intelligencer knows of many Populists in this county who have already emitted their intention of voting for the amendment, and it believes that before the election all of them, except some ten or fifteen, who are politically Republicans, will do so.—Wadesboro Messenger and Intelligencer.

The Populist leaders, who while criticizing the constitutional amendment, were particular to declare in their platform, "WE DO NOT MAKE IT A PARTY QUESTION," knew the existence of the sentiment of which our Wadesboro contemporary speaks. They were forced to put that declaration in the platform by the rank and file of the party, but the cunning writers of the platform prefaced it by as arrant a lot of falsehoods and misrepresentations as were ever embodied in a political document. Still, with all their falsehoods, they did not dare make the constitutional amendment a party question because they knew it would cost them the vote of most of their white men in Eastern North Carolina to make opposition to the amendment a test of party fealty. In order not to drive off the best class of their voters they were careful to emphasize this fact. Here are the declarations:

1. It "must be determined by the judgment and conscience of each individual voter."

2. "We do not make it a party question."

3. "The question is above party."

Here are three declarations that are put in to hold the honest Populists who believe in White Supremacy, but it is now the purpose of Butler, Alex. Thompson, Garrett, Pearson, and the rest of the Fusionists who hold State or Federal jobs to try to whip the White Supremacy Populists into line to vote against the amendment. But these paper-makers can't do it. In Anson and other counties the Populists who believe more in principle than in office are going to vote to remove the "nigger question" from politics, and they know that it can be done only by the passage of the amendment. They know, also, that Butler and Co. are opposed to the amendment because they depend upon the solid negro vote for their election.

The bosses didn't dare to make the amendment "a party question." They were forced to leave it to "the judgment and conscience of each individual voter," but mark it! from now on the Populist machine will try to make every Populist in the State vote against the amendment and for its necessary adjunct, a return to negro rule in North Carolina. And mark it! they will fail in the attempt.—News and Observer.

GOOD ROADS NOTES.

Need of Better Highways.

EVERY owner of an automobile wants good roads so that he may drive his horseless vehicle over them. He is not selfish in this. The man with the hoe—the farmer—wants good roads so that he may bring his produce to market and his family and himself to the neighboring town with a less expenditure of time, wear and tear, and trouble. In sections of the country where the farmer has good roads he would not lose time for more than their cost and go back to the old system of having to haul through the mud and over the stones. He finds that the value of his property is increased, and he can haul two—yes, three—times a greater load in less time to market, and that he is in every way better because of the good road which connects his property with the neighboring town. In Europe the highway was built before the railway. It was their only means of communication until within the last sixty years. Afterward the railway came, and their system of highways was found so useful that they have been kept up, and, indeed, improved.

It has been claimed that we do not need better highways because of our excellent system of railways. Let us see. Every pound of freight which is carried by the railways, except such as is hauled at factories, quarries, mines, etc., at side tracks, must first be carried over our highways. Every passenger who travels on the railway must, to reach the railway, first pass over some portion of the highways. It can safely be said that the highways of this country carry more passengers and more freight than the railways, but of course for a shorter distance.

General Roy Stone when he was Engineer-in-Chief of the Department of Agriculture, said that the annual cost of hauling in this country over the highways was $916,111,055. General Stone estimated that nearly two-thirds of this vast expenditure is chargeable to the bad condition of the roads.

Let us see what our neighboring States have done to improve their highways. Several of them in the past few years have passed good roads laws. The following data of the amounts spent by the States and counties under their good roads' law, and the miles of road improved is made up from returns of the authorities in the different States named:

	To	Miles.	Amount.
Mass.	Dec. 31, 1899	279	$137,000
New Jersey	Oct. 31, 1899	125	2,147,475
Connecticut	Dec. 31, 1899	20	120,000
		424	$2,404,475

How does the great Empire State of New York compare with her sister States in this matter? Something over two years ago the Higbee-Armstrong bill for improving the highways of this State became a law. Under it the Legislature has made two appropriations of $50,000 each. The State Engineer's office has advised me that up to October 1, 1899, the State and counties had expended $88,052 under this law, and this had completed seven and a half miles of road, and had seventeen miles in process of construction. By reports since the Higbee-Armstrong bill went into effect he has received 1,[illegible] petitions for the improvement of highways, aggregating about 6[illegible] miles; in other words, the counties and local people stand ready to pay more than half of the cost of 625 miles of road, and all that remains is for the State to appropriate their half under the provisions of the Higbee-Armstrong bill.

It has been estimated that there is something more than $[illegible] a year spent in the State of New York in repairing the highways. The usual method of repairing roads is to plow up a ditch and scrape the grass and roots which are there up on the road. The first time there is a hard rain much of this goes back into the ditch and a very large part in this annual expenditure of over $[illegible] is simply money thrown away.

What does the State propose to do for good roads? They are little arteries which bring the blood of trade to the railways and the canals. If these arteries are poor and if the circulation of trade is sluggish the usefulness of great railways and great canal systems of the State are greatly impaired.—Speech made in New York by Albert R. Shattuck, Chairman of the Committee on Good Roads of the Automobile Club of America.

The Need of Good Roads.

Good roads are a business necessity, not only to the farmer, but to every municipality, industry and enterprise, and all would be equally benefited by improved highways. This proposition is not without supporting evidence, which can be accumulated in abundance. The farmer who must haul to a distant market the products of his acres finds that such transportation is excessively expensive in time and labor involved and in the maintenance of vehicles and beasts of burden. All this increases the selling cost of the product, without conferring any compensating benefit upon anybody. Consumers everywhere are thus compelled to pay a heavy fine for neglect of road improvement. On the contrary, if the public roads should be made solid, smooth and of easy grade hauls from the farm to the preferred market would be rendered of shorter duration and physically less difficult and the stock and vehicle account would be shortened.

These facts are so obvious that they ought to appeal forcefully to every progressive citizen. — Philadelphia Record.

The Road Inquiry Bureau.

For several years the Department of Agriculture has maintained an office of road inquiry, upon which devolved the duty of circulating and collecting information regarding the good roads movement in this country. The office has had only a small appropriation; so small, in fact, that contributions for its support have had to be made by those interested in its maintenance.

Argentina Getting Interested.

The appearance of the automobile in Buenos Ayres has been the signal for a good roads agitation throughout the Argentine Republic. The Argentine Touring Club has been organized, and roads exclusively reserved for bicycles and light automobiles are already in course of construction.

A NOTABLE CO-OPERATIVE SUCCESS.

Remarkable Association of Farmers Near Rockwell, Iowa.

Notable among co-operative successes is that of an association of farmers near Rockwell, Iowa. It has rounded its eleventh year of existence, and the past year was the most successful of the eleven. It is a wonder to farmers who are not members of it, and it is a thorn in the flesh of the grain buyers. It had its origin in the dissatisfaction of the farmers over the price they received for their grain and hogs from the one purchaser with whom dealings were convenient. At the start ninety-five farmers took stock in the enterprise at $1 a share, the maximum limit of individual holdings being three shares. The members were always paid one-quarter of a cent more for their wheat than the other outside the society, and the association, to protect itself from the allurements of higher prices paid by competing elevators, compelled its members to pay one-quarter of a cent commission in case the grain was sold to a competitor. The result has been that the Rockwell elevators have paid always one-half cent to one and a half cent higher than any other elevators in the county. Efforts to disrupt the organization have been made, of course, but the only effect thus far was to anger the members and to lead them a step further in the co-operative idea. The association now sells coal, salt, flour and other supplies to its members at prices which defy local competition. From a beginning of ninety-five members and less than 200 shares of stock, the association has grown to nearly 500 members, representing 601 shares. From a first year's business of probably less than $50,000, the year just closed has shown a business of a half-million dollars, and increase in the past year of $187,000. This year, too, they have added another elevator, have added 125 new members, declared a dividend of $[illegible], and have a surplus of over $7,000 in the treasury.—New York Post.

WORDS OF WISDOM.

Do not be ashamed of being big-hearted and ambitious to improve yourself in body and mind. Remember that one of the best ways of self-improvement is being of service to others who need help.

The lines on which we think most earnestly and continuously will decide our main desires, our hopes, our motives, our actions, our characters.

A happy marriage depends much more on a good, loving, patient character than all the circumstances of time, place and money combined.

A more glorious victory cannot be gained than this: that when the injury begins on his part, the kindness should begin on ours.

Be content with doing with calmness the little which depends upon yourself, and let all else be to you as if it were not.

A twinge of the conscience doesn't trouble most of us half so much as a twinge of the toothache.

Hope is like the sun, which, as we journey toward it, casts the shadow of our burden behind us.

Wondrous is the strength of cheerfulness, altogether past calculation its powers of endurance.

It is so much easier for a genuine humorist to amuse others than to even satisfy himself.

To him nothing is possible who is always dreaming of his past possibilities.

Equal parts of love and sense make the world go round on the square.

An Awkward Name.

He was dressed like a farmer, and he looked inquiringly at the clerk behind the counter of the chief post-office, and pointed pathetically to a bundle of letters the latter was sorting.

"What name?" asked the clerk.

"Louder," said the farmer.

The clerk repeated his query in a tone calculated to startle even a deaf man. But the man only smiled an unmeaning smile, and said: "Louder."

The clerk took a deep breath, and the yell that came out was loud enough to wake the dead.

"No offence, sir, I hope. Yes, that's my name—Louder, sir."

"Oh, ah!" said the clerk quite softly. "I never thought of that. Yes, here's a letter."

Deadly Shells Now Used.

The ordinary shell which was manufactured thirty years ago only broke into from twenty to twenty-five pieces when it burst. At the present time it bursts into 240, while a shrapnel shell, which used to scatter thirty-seven missiles, now scatters 340. A present-day bomb, when charged with peroxylene, breaks up into 1,500 pieces, and it is estimated that it would effectively kill any one standing within twenty yards of the explosion.

The Average Woman's Letter.

A woman's letter that is punctuated decently is as rare as a picture of a college girl's room that hasn't a basket stuck up somewhere in sight.—New York Press.

THE MERRY SIDE OF LIFE.

STORIES TOLD BY THE FUNNY MEN OF THE PRESS.

When She Needs the Dough—Improving Each Shining Hour—Suited the Action to the Word—Encouragement—Natural—Honeymoon Discoveries, Etc., Etc.

When our cook kneads the dough she smiles,
And pats it gently, so
It will not be too crusty. That
Is why she kneads the dough.

When my wife needs the dough she smiles,
And pats me gently, so
I will not be too crusty when
She says she needs the dough.
—Baltimore American.

Improving Each Shining Hour.

"That little boy seems as busy as a bee."

"Yes, he has hives."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Suited the Action to the Word.

Jones—"What made you kick Brown?"

Smith—"He called me a donkey."

Jones—"Well, it seems he was right."—Chicago News.

Encouragement.

"How's your husband, Mrs. O'Mallihan?"

"Sure, Sor, the doctor do be sayin' if he lives to get well, he'll be all right, and if he don't, he'll die."—Harlem Life.

Natural.

"Mr. Shrickeno says he is always nervous when he gets up to sing."

"I don't blame him," answered Miss Cayenne. "He has heard himself before."—Washington Star.

Honeymoon Discoveries.

"Daughter, is your husband amiable?"

"Well, ma, he's just exactly like pa, when he gets his own way about everything he's just lovely."—Detroit Free Press.

A Theory.

She—"They seem to believe in a long engagement."

He—"I suppose they wish to prolong their happiness as much as possible."—Puck.

Not Aspiring.

Bacon—"Men are always looking for exalted lineage."

Egbert—"Unless they are traveling on the railroad; then they are after a lower berth."—Yonkers Statesman.

No Hope.

Wragson Tatters—"Say, Harv, wot's a 'cosmopolitan?'"

Harvard Hasheen—"Well, Wragsy, that's the name they give to a kind of wealthy hobo."—Philadelphia Press.

Safe Reading.

Fudd—"What! reading that novel over again? You have read it a dozen times, at least."

Dudd—"That's why I am reading it again. I run no risk. I know it is a good story."—Boston Transcript.

To the Strict Letter.

"Mary," said the lady of the house, "you didn't put any salt in this bread."

"But," replied the new girl, "didn't the master say yesterday he wouldn't have nothing but fresh bread on his table, mum?"—Philadelphia North American.

Why He Believed in It.

"Do believe in the survival of the fittest?" asked the friend.

"Of course I do."

"For what reason?"

"Because I've got to. I don't know enough about it to put up an argument to the contrary."

Proved Genuine.

Tess—"Do you really believe her complexion is genuine?"

Jess—"There's no doubt of it. I saw the box the label on it said 'None genuine without our signature,' and there was the signature right enough."—Philadelphia Press.

Taken Literally.

Counsellor to suitor—"Even if you are sure of my daughter's love, I do not agree to this union unless you become another man."

Suitor—"With great pleasure, but your daughter will not want to marry another man."—Fliegende Blaetter.

A Bad Break.

Nell—"Mad at him? Why, he wrote a lovely poem to her."

Belle—"Yes, but she never read it. When she saw the title of it she tore the whole thing up in a fit of anger. You see, he called it 'Lines on Mabel's Face'."—Catholic Standard and Times.

A Forecast.

Mrs. Bowers—"It made the preacher's wife awfully mad to see me have a new hat on this morning. I'll wager I know his text for next Sunday's sermon."

Mr. Bowers—"You do?"

Mrs. Bowers—"Yes. Human vanity."—Puck.

Masculine Weakness.

In the rush at the bargain counter a woman faints.

The other women regard her interestedly, but with noticeable aversion.

"How extremely mannish!" they exclaim, and shrug their shoulders and proceed with their shopping.

For after all it is the thoroughly womanly woman who commands the esteem of her own sex.—Detroit Journal.

Jogging With Words.

Hick—"When my wife wishes to be particularly gracious to me she tells me that our little Johnny is his father's own boy, and when she is vexed with me she says Johnny is just like me."

Wick—"Well, doesn't that show that she is always in the same mood?"

Hick—"No, it doesn't. Sometimes she intends to be complimentary and sometimes she doesn't."—Boston Transcript.