

The Temperamental Boob

By H. B. KNIGHT

herited for it. Now she's going to marry a Hindu! You thought you'd become a wonder in New York. You spent your last ten bucks for a typewriter. Now the landlady's fired you out into the street. Bill Williams, I agree with you, you're an ass!"

Downheartedness his only sense of feeling. Bill's mind soon became exhausted with all he sorrowed and pined over his hard luck. His worries had prevented him from sleeping well nights and he had not eaten just as much as his young and ravenous appetite required. Then, too, he felt weak and tired. Before long slumber welcomed his disconcerted mind.

Sweet dreams came to him, as they come to all the crestfallen, weary and sad. He dreamed that he was home, and the Singer millions his. And the Singer, too, had not won his sweetheart, but had gone to where he belonged, in the East. His first and childhood love was his wife. Once more he was rhyming and chanting songs of love to the girl who had been his inspiration and caused him to come to the great, writhing Babal and strive against fate. He had reached his goal—realized his ambition. Love had not trifled with him; it had made him and the man whom he so fondly adored happy. But the delectable, beautiful vision did not last long.

He was soon awakened by a sharp, stinging rap on the skin-thick soles of his shoes. His beautiful vision vanished. The blood no longer tingled in intoxicated fascination in his veins; it boiled in incensed passion at his indulgence in allowing himself to doze away and thus bring him into the clutches of the law.

He endeavored to collect his senses and try and elude duress at the hands of the being who disturbed his nap. He stretched himself and yawned for time. Something flapped poignantly against his nose, fluttered with the wind in his eyes. Slowly he opened his sleepy organs of vision, wondering what it might be. The sunlight was very strong, but he succeeded in making out an inscription—it was his name.

He had to blink several times before he could really see, for Ol' Sol's candescence hurt his somniferous sight. Now he grasped the paper in his hands and read it in a spell-bound, incredulous wonder and astonishment. Evidently he did not believe what he saw, for he rubbed his eyes and pinched himself to ascertain that he was not "seeing things" in a seance.

Another sharp wallop greeted his surprise. He turned up his eyes to the unknown bystander, who held up his feet.

"Wake up, sleepy post—I've decided to take you back. I guess I was wrong."

His surprise was even greater when he discovered that the imaginary vision was his stubborn and bigoted father, who always loved to have his own way. His heart beat loud for joy when he beheld the second person. He wished to speak, but his tongue became paralyzed. "Darling" was all he could say.

The girl's buxom countenance became suffused in red. She attempted to hide her deep emotion by saying: "The Courier will publish in book form the 'scripts—the, er, very personal and friendly verses that you wrote to me from the time we were little children."

"They are your property," interposed honest Bill.

"No, they're yours," argued the fast girl; "you wrote them. And this is the initial check for one thousand. The company is famous for its work. The provisions for royalties that I have made will be faithfully carried out."

"And," continued the youth, huskily, "you remember, when I should make good—you remember the old contract—will it be carried out, Marjorie?"

The girl could no longer control her emotions.

"It will," she said, in a moved voice, and buried her blush in the boy's arms, even if it was broad daylight and the hundreds who teemed Times square did laughingly look upon them.

Pigeons May Come Back. When they hear the current report that a number of the Connecticut state game commission has seen several passenger pigeons, persons who knew the story of bird life in North America are almost as surprised as if he had said he had seen specimens of the great auk. The passenger pigeon has been considered equally extinct. Less than a century ago it was the most plentiful game bird on the continent, and flocks of passenger pigeons are said to have darkened the landscape like a cloud passing beneath the sun. This seems likely enough, when one recalls Audubon's estimate of well over a billion pigeons in a migrating flock. Their reappearance would be a true return of the native, and would be widely welcomed.

Politics and Hairdressing. In ancient civilizations a distinctive style of hairdressing had sometimes had its origin in politics, as for instance the pigtail imposed on the Chinese by their Manchu conquerors. The soldier class of old Japan shaved their heads except for a topknot of hair, Abesom, so far as his long hair goes, has had many imitators, some of whom tied it with ribbons like a school-girl of today. The "love locks" of the English cavaliers were tended as carefully as any woman's, no doubt to emphasize the difference between the warriors and their enemies, the "cropped" Persians.

Mass Suggestion. Said the Episcopate editor, "Maybe the Episcopate can improve our revenues by raising the price of the poetic license."

"You are an ass!" he exclaimed. "Yep, Bill Williams, you're an ass. You thought you'd be rich some day, but you're not. You thought you'd have the price of a Singer building, but you won't. You haven't even got a girl. You're no good—absolutely no good!"

With this highly encouraging opinion of himself he succeeded in somewhat depressing his spirits. In a frenzy, suddenly he snatched a large envelope from an inside coat pocket and tore it to shreds. He felt that in doing this he had wreaked a horrible vengeance upon the world—at 3, really, he felt mean with it.

He dug his hands deep in his pockets and continued brooding.

"You boob! You wanted romance, and now you've got it. You left a good girl and a good girl—and got dished."

FOR THE BENEFIT OF ILLITERATES

Bill Introduced In Senate and House In Their Behalf—The Church Organization Will Also Give Practical Aid.

WILL PROMOTE EDUCATION

The Significant Movement of the Times Is That of the Centenary of the Methodist Episcopal Church South—Will Spend Millions Among the Uneducated.

The fact that several thousand soldiers were unable to understand the orders given them from their superiors and that many, many thousands could not sign their own names to their questionnaires brought to light a condition so serious that two Southern Representatives at Washington are now introducing bills to promote the education of illiterates throughout the length and breadth of America. Senator Hoke Smith, of Georgia, has introduced a bill in the Senate "to promote the education of illiterates, of persons unable to understand and use the English language, and other resident persons of foreign birth," and the same measure has been introduced in the House by Hon. William B. Bankhead, of Alabama.

The introduction of this important bill means a great deal to the South, which, because of its negroes and mountain whites, has long borne a reputation for illiteracy out of proportion to that of the rest of the country. Just what steps will be immediately taken as the result of the passage of the education of illiterates bill at Washington cannot be stated at this time, but, certainly, practical measures will be put into operation for the establishment of schools in both rural districts and cities.

Other organizations besides that of the government are at work on the same problem—the establishment of schools in the heart of tenement districts and rural communities being a matter of first importance with all of them. One of the most significant movements of the times in this connection is that of the Centenary of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, because that denomination will expend within the next five years over \$3,000,000 among the uneducated classes in the Southern and Western States. The church is to raise a fund of \$25,000,000 in an eight-day drive in April, the financial campaign being a part of the Centenary Celebration of the denomination. The money is being raised with a view to putting the work of the church on a business basis, the church considering its duty to the illiterates here in America to be among the matters of first importance which it should undertake. A survey has been made and the result of the campaign will be the apportionment of \$3,000,000 among the various illiterate population as follows: Mountain population, \$750,000; immigrant, \$900,000; negroes, \$600,000; Indiana, \$150,000; cotton mill population, \$150,000; Christian literature for all of them, \$100,000.

With the definite step undertaken at Washington, with one denomination already completing its plans for furthering the work among them, and with other churches and organizations getting ready to join hands in their behalf, it is more than possible that the illiterates of the South are in a fair way to soon become educated citizens of the United States.

METHODIST LEADERS RETURN FROM FRANCE

Three prominent leaders of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, have just landed in America, after spending two months in Europe, where they went for the purpose of investigating actual conditions and deciding upon a program for the expenditure of \$5,000,000, which sum will be allotted to European upbuilding by the Centenary Commission of the denomination. The three returning church leaders are Bishop James Atkins, Chairman of the Centenary Commission; Bishop Walter Lambuth, who has been in Europe for nearly a year in the interest of his church; and Dr. W. W. Pinson, General Secretary of the Mission Board.

Dr. Pinson and Bishop Atkins returned to the headquarters of the denomination at Nashville the latter part of the week, and Bishop Lambuth went directly to his home at Oakdale, California.

While the plans for the European work have not been announced as yet, the returning members of the commission say that they have mapped out a very satisfactory program and that five million dollars of the Centenary fund will be expended in upbuilding schools and churches in the devastated lands of Belgium, Italy and France.



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STATE PREPARING FOR SOLDIERS' RETURN

To see that the returning soldier and sailor does not meet conditions that will cause his demobilization to become his demoralization, is to be the first peace responsibility of any community, says the government. The first reconstruction work that any city, town or community undertakes after the war should be to protect the soldier from the social vices, from which he has been more or less free in the army. The War Department has announced that it is returning the soldiers to their families and to civil life uncontaminated by disease, and that it holds the community in which they live responsible for further protection and welfare.

"There must be no peace with prostitution, no truce with the red light district, no armistice with venereal diseases," says the Government. While many war institutions will go to the scrap heap as a result of the close of the war, war on venereal diseases will continue. Unconditional surrender is the Government's demand from this enemy at home.

North Carolina has already begun to assume her responsibility to her soldiers, sailors and private citizens as regards venereal diseases. The State Board of Health is waging an active campaign for the eradication of this great health menace by endeavoring to inform and educate as far as possible every citizen as to the nature and danger of disease and by suppressing the prostitute and the near prostitute. Several of the largest towns have appropriated funds for establishing venereal disease clinics. The citizens of Asheville have voted to establish a free clinic and have purposefully set about to make their town a safe home for all their people as well as for the returning soldiers and sailors. Wilmington has also appropriated funds for a free venereal disease clinic, and it is understood that Greensboro and Winston-Salem will do the same in the near future.

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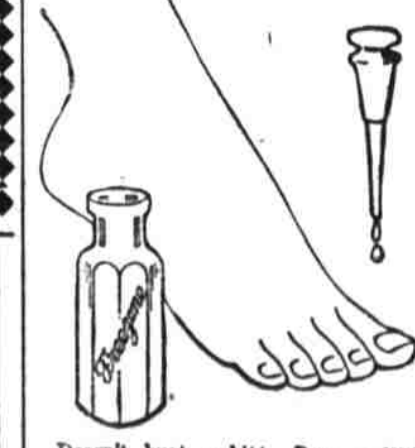
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The Pneumonia Season.

The cold, damp weather of March seems to be the most favorable for the pneumonia germ. Now is the time to be careful. The quickest a cold is gotten rid of the less danger. As soon as the first indication of a cold appears take Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. As to the value of this preparation, ask anyone who has used it.