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J. O. Williams

Hendersonville, North Carolina.

DROPPED INTO LAW

The Hotel Man Turned His Court Experience to Account. A Missouri judge, traveling on circuit, once had before him in a small country town a case in which a tavern keeper was held for the payment of a large amount of money which he had not agreed definitely to pay. The court declared that, although his agreement was not on record, it was involved by construction or implied in his participation in a business proceeding connected with it.

After judgment had been rendered the court adjourned for dinner, and the judge found that the only eating house in the place was the inn kept by the defendant in the case he had just decided. He also found that the defendant personally superintended the preparation of the meals and that the food was charged for on the European plan.

The judge called for two boiled eggs, which, with the other food he ordered, were brought to him done to a turn. He ate them, and at the end of the meal the bill was presented to him. He was astonished to read on it the following items: Two boiled eggs, 15 cents; two chickens at 75 cents, \$1.50.

Calling the proprietor, he asked: "How's this? I've had no chickens. Why do you charge me for them?" "Those are constructive chickens, your honor," answered the innkeeper.

"What?" "Why, they are implied in the eggs, you know," the man persisted. His honor began to understand and said no more.—New York Times.

CUPID AT THE BAR.

Why the Loving Maiden Pined as a Grand Jury.

"If you were a jury, Clara," said the embarrassed young lawyer hesitatingly, "I could plead my cause with more self-possession." But in Cupid's courts I don't think I can claim to be a first class advocate.

"Perhaps you have not had an extensive practice, William," suggested the maiden softly.

"That's it exactly, Clara," eagerly rejoined the young man, moving his chair a little nearer. "I'm a new hand at this business. But if I felt sure the jury—"

"Meaning me?" "Yes—wasn't prejudiced against the counsel!"

"What kind of jury are you considering me, William?" she asked, with downcast eyes.

"A common jury, of course. You couldn't be a grand jury, you know."

"Why not?" "Because I don't plead before grand juries."

"I think, William," said the blushing maiden, "I would rather, for this occasion, be considered a grand jury, if you don't mind."

"Why, dear?" "Because"—And she hid her face somewhere in the vicinity of his coat collar—"because I have found a true Bill!"—London Answers.

A Seaside Hero.

No man is a hero while seasick. Lafayette was sent by Washington and congress to France to ask further supplies of men and money for the American colonies. He sailed from Boston in the frigate Alliance, and a passage had to be cut for the ship through the ice. Off the Newfoundland banks the ship was assailed by a terrible tempest, which threatened destruction, and Lafayette was very seasick. His aide-camp, the Chevalier de Fontbaud, who relates the incident in his memoirs, heard him soliloquizing thus on the hopelessness of the situation and the emptiness of glory:

"Diab! I have done well certainly. At my time of life—barely twenty years of age—with my name, rank and fortune and after having married Mlle. de Noailles, to leave everything and serve as a breakfast for codfish!"

The Moslem Faith.

Myths of the most bewildering kind spring up and flourish and often bear a false harvest in the minds of ignorant Mohammedan populations during times of crisis. A saint or two can work wonders among them at the psychological moment, and saints of the most truculent type are as common in Morocco as blackberries are in England. These people have no ideas of evidence or of probability. Though they lie freely themselves, their credulity in the word of a holy man is boundless.—London Times.

Depends.

"The man who stands on the verge of old age and has nothing saved, with which to guard against the future has truly lived a wasted life. Don't you agree with me?"

"That depends. Are you advancing this as a moral proposition or are you selling some sort of newfangled insurance?"—Pittsburg Post.

The Right Title.

Geddie-Dubley is publishing his verses at his own expense. He calls the book "Wisdom In Fancy." Queer title, isn't it? Wise—Yes, but it's pretty near right. To be exact, he should call it "Wisdom's Infancy."—Exchange.

It Was Soaked.

Mrs. Jayback—Why, you're wet through! Mr. Jayback—I know it. I'm soaked. Mrs. Jayback—But where's your umbrella? Mr. Jayback—It's—it's what I am.—Cleveland Leader.

His Contributions.

"Do you make any systematic donations to benefit the health and comfort of your fellow man?" "Yes. I buy an umbrella about every two weeks."—Washington Star.

THE NERVOUS MAN.

My Complaint and How the Noise Nuisance Was Remedied.

He was a nervous man, and he had just moved into a new boarding house. "Isn't there any way to stop those people across the street from having their coal delivered at 5 o'clock every morning? They seem to get about a dozen tons a day and to have it poured into the cellar at that unearthly hour."

"I don't see how I can very well control the neighbors," replied his landlady, "but I will see if anything can be done."

About ten days later the new boarder had occasion to thank her for her efforts.

"I'm glad you succeeded in having that noise stopped," he said. "It is a great relief to me. Have they got their coal all in or do they have it delivered at some other time?"

"Neither," said the landlady. "They deliver it every morning at 5 o'clock, just the same as usual."

"You don't mean—why—well, how do they get it down without making any sound?"

"They don't. It sounds just the same, but you have grown accustomed to it."

"I find it hard to believe that."

"Set your alarm clock at 5 for a few mornings and satisfy yourself. I've rented that room before."—New York Sun.

SIX, SEVEN AND EIGHT.

His Horses, His Carriages and His Reserve Fund.

Townsend Percy, speculator and promoter, who made and lost more than one fortune in the course of his life, used to be fond of repeating some of his mother's witticisms at his expense, generally brought about by his extravagances during his periods of prosperity. Once Percy had driven four-in-hand for a year, when an unfortunate deal made it necessary for him to reduce his expenditures and sell his horses, on which occasion she said to him:

"Townsend, don't you think it would be better to drive one horse four years instead of four horses one year?"

Another time, when on the verge of financial crash, Percy still owned a considerable stable and gave no outward sign of pecuniary embarrassment. His mother met an old friend of the family about this period, who congratulated her on her son's success in life. "I am glad that Townsend is doing so well," said the friend.

"Yes, indeed," remarked the old lady. "Townsend has six horses and seven carriages and \$5."—Harper's Weekly.

Except—

From time immemorial there had been a law in Applegate, County Warwick, England, to the effect that the mayor had the best of everything in town, and, for instance, should one say he had the best coat in the place he must add the words, "except the mayor."

One day a stranger came to Applegate and had dinner there at the inn. After paying his bill he said to the landlady, "I've had the best dinner in the country."

The Landlord—Except the mayor. The Stranger—Except nothing!

As a result the tourist was called before the magistrate and fined £10 for his breaking of the laws of the place. When the man had paid his fine he looked around him and said slowly, "I'm the biggest fool in town, except the mayor."—Harper's Weekly.

Raising Poultry.

No matter when you start in the poultry business, remember that you should always start with the best. If you have not enough money to buy many fowls buy only a pair and get the best you can and remember further that next year's produce may not even be as good as those you start with. It takes years of experience to master the art of raising fine poultry, and it is only after we have successfully studied the problem well that we can successfully make our fowls year after year and show a constant improvement at the end of each season. Begin in a small way and study every point and avoid the mistakes that we once made. Don't expect \$100 worth of poultry to bring you an income sufficient for your family. No investment will do that.—Farmer.

Simplicity.

I do believe in simplicity. It is astonishing as well as sad how many trivial affairs even the wisest man thinks he must attend to every day, how singular an affair he thinks he must omit. When the mathematician would solve a difficult problem he first frees the equation of all incumbrances and reduces it to its simplest terms. So simplify the problem of life, distinguish the necessary and the real. Probe the earth to see where your main roots run.—Thoreau.

Talking Golf.

From the window she saw him coming up the steps. "He comes!" she exclaimed joyfully. There was a bit of ice on the top step (for it was an early day in June). He struck it. Then he struck each of the other steps in succession. "Heavens!" she cried. "He has fooled his approach!"—London Tribune.

Besides Being a Man.

Little Sammy—What's your father, Willie? Little Willie—He's a man. Little Sammy—Oh, I mean what does he do for his bread and butter? Little Willie—He's an artichoke and draws houses.—London Express.

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Sensitive.

Motorist Conoley—Beg pardon, suh, but kin yo' inform me how many miles it am teh Jayville? The Farmer—Waal, as the crow flies—Motorist Conoley—Doan' git pussional, suh, doan' git pussional!—Puck.

THE WEST POINT CHAIN.

It Was Nearly a Mile in Length and Weighed Almost 200 Tons.

From an ironmaker's point of view the greatest achievement during the Revolutionary period was the making of the great West Point chain. This massive chain, which has probably never had an equal since the first hammer struck upon the first anvil, was stretched across the Hudson river at West Point to prevent the British fleet from making a second attack upon Kingston and Albany. It was nearly a mile in length and weighed almost 200 tons, many single links being as heavy as an ordinary sized man. To complete it in six weeks sixty men hammered day and night at seventeen forges, and the cost of it was placed at \$400,000. "The great chain is buoyed up," writes Dr. Tacher, "by very large logs, pointed at the ends to lessen their opposition to the force of the current. The logs are placed at short distances from each other, the chain carried over them and made fast to each by staples. There are also a number of anchors dropped at proper distances, with cables made fast to the chain, to give it greater stability." No British ship passed this iron barrier. With its aid West Point became the strongest military post in America—so strong that treachery was tried where force of arms had failed. When Benedict Arnold was plotting the surrender of West Point he wrote Andre and said, "I have ordered that a link be removed from the great chain and taken to the smith for repair." The chain, however, remained in place till the end of the war, and links of it are still to be seen in the museums of Albany, West Point, Newburg and New York.—Exchange.

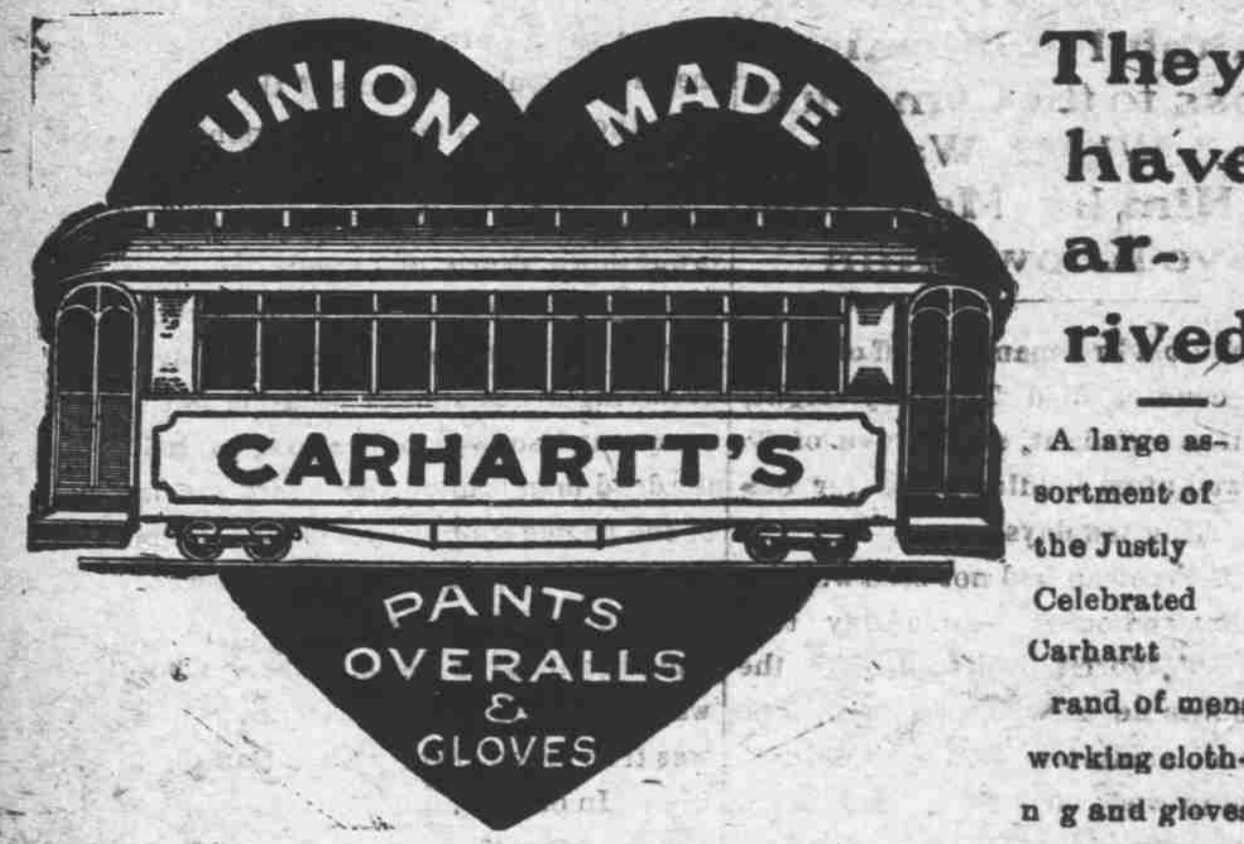
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