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I'm Going to Be the First

(Continued from Page 2.)

only way I had to make money. A congressman finds out right off that he can't keep up his law practice. He is smart, but he can't make a good deal, and then the other fellows get him between them and squeeze him out of practice. It is several years since I was in a court, or a law office, or even looked into a case.

"Yes, the stories help, undoubtedly," said Champ Clark grinning. He is famous for his stories, and here he shocks his critics. Well, the east was once used to dismiss Abraham Lincoln with the comment that he was a coarse person who told vulgar stories to make a hit with an audience. Must be short and snappy," Clark explained. "There must be a good denouement, concealed to the very last. It must be concealed, so if the audience catches the point it spoils the story. That is the trouble with a long story. They are bound to guess the point."

"I'll tell you what I think is the best story of them all, but first I'll tell you the story of the story. An old man cut in Missouri tried to come outside by hanging herself with a blind bride. His son cut him down and put in time."

"On that foundation I added this: When the son cut him down and brought him to the old man complained feebly: 'It ain't right, Henry; you've kept your old father out of heaven.' 'You'd cut a hell of a figure in heaven looking through a blind bride, wouldn't you?' retorted the son. 'Do you get it? Confess, at the risk of losing Clark's respect, that I didn't. Neither did friends to whom I told it. Victor Mordock explained the point. He says they only use 'blind brides' on puns and frisky coits in the Missouri country and the irreverent son was kidding the old man for trying to make a coltish debut in the golden city. Now, in my country every old fellow hobnob wears 'blindiders,' as we call them, and if any youngsters has a frisky colt he shows off his colt and his horsemanship alike before the girls by driving him with an open blind. Stories are sometimes geographical in their wit. Clark himself said that later."

"Now I regard that as my best story," Clark said. "At least it is my most successful. Bob Taylor stole it, after I had used it for years, and told it in his lectures, and finally put it in his book. A friend of mine named Jordan put the climax on the story of my story, though. He supposed I had made it all up, and he told it one night before an audience out of our country, an audience that had the old man

whose son cut him down on the front seat. The old man broke down and cried and that rather spoiled the point for Jordan.

"Yes, stories are sectional in their points lots of times," Clark admitted. "In the south the point usually turns on the ducky, and he generally gets the worst of it. A good story illustrating this, and a good platform or stump story, is that of Gen. Mahone, a little man about as big as Tom Thumb, who used to be a character.

One of Champ Clark's Popular Stories. "A big ducky dreamed that he died, and arrived in Heaven's gates, but St. Peter wouldn't let him in because he was not on horseback. Coming sadly down the trail he met Gen. Mahone and told him of the situation. 'There was no admission above except for mounted men.'

"Get down on all fours," directed Gen. Mahone, promptly, "and I'll ride you in." Well, the ducky got down on all fours and Gen. Mahone rode him up to the gate.

"Whose there?" demanded St. Peter. "Gen. Mahone." "Are you on horseback?" "I am."

"Very well. Just hitch your horse outside and come in."

The stories of the blind bride and of Gen. Mahone and the Dick Goodman dog story are the three which Champ Clark selected to tell me during his interview.

Clark stood on a steamship dock with an English friend who was bragging about the wit and intelligence of the British newsboy. Clark stuck up for the American newsie as without a peer.

"Try one out," Clark insisted. "Me boy," began the Britisher to the youngster he had called over, "can you tell me the time of day by your nose this morning?"

"Ask your own nose," retorted the kid. "Mine ain't runnin'."

Clark says the baffled Britisher reached nervously for his handkerchief and didn't recover for some minutes. That story is usually coupled with talk on Declaration of Independence themes.

Clark is a force on the floor few care to face. He made the statement in a tariff debate once that the Dingley law had failed to produce the promised revenue. Grosvenor and Serono Payne jumped to their feet. Of Grosvenor Clark promptly demanded to know whether there would be a river and harbor bill permitted during the session, and of Payne the chances for a public buildings bill, both very delicate propositions then with the republican leaders. The two old gladiators sat down quietly and Clark continued his tariff attack.

Champ Clark has his very serious side, and in serious mood he discussed for me the problems as issues the house democrats face. "The democratic party has no basic differences since silver," he said, "and that seems to be settled. The effects of the '96 split continued to harass and irritate and divide democrats until the house democrats got together in March 1911, without a man missing, and the getting together of the house democrats had a most wholesome effect on the democrats of the whole country, as evidenced by the result in November. I don't mean that there are not still democratic differences, but they are such as can be easily reconciled in one way or another. The democrats are more thoroughly united today than at any time since the polls closed in 1896.

"Consequently the situation is not a question of a getting together, but of staying together of the democrats, and I believe the every democratic member of the house will work faithfully and honestly to make a record that will satisfy the country and the party. I have got acquainted with about half the democratic members of the house. They are a very superior class of men to come in on a landslide. There doesn't appear to be a crank or low grade man among them.

"The republicans, on the other hand, are worse split up now than we were in 1896. They are split up over both measures and men. There is a hallucination to the public mind that republicans always get together. This is not true. They split in '72, and the result was a democratic congress in '74, another in '76, and the election of Samuel J. Tilden president. They

split again in '82 and in '84 swept the country, electing a president and congress. As this present one is the worst split they ever had they'll be longer in recovering.

"The house will pass a tariff bill, or bills," he said with emphasis when that topic was touched on. "In my judgment it will be bills. It is absolutely ridiculous for President Taft, senator Cummins or any other republican to claim that they have originated the idea of a revision by schedules. When Judge William L. Springer, of Illinois, was chairman of the ways and means committee of the 57th congress that was his way of revising the tariff. The house passed several of the so-called 'popgun' bills but the senate refused to pass them. We swept the country in the following election. History repeats itself.

"I should say the policy of the house democrats in this tariff revision will be to cut out the monopolies and injustices from the tariff law as quickly as we can. The tariff should be revised to give a maximum amount of revenue with the least burdensome tax possible. Duties must be levied for revenue purposes, of course, and the tariff for revenue man does not quarrel with the incidental protection that may give up to a certain point. It is when the standpatter raises the duties so high that the revenue decreases that we get 'high protection' and suffer from a prohibitive tariff and heavy taxes on food and the common necessities of life. The democratic effort, I should say, would be to return to normal tariff conditions."

Champ Clark laughed at the suggestion that he is not over cordial to the suggestion of stripping the speaker of the power to appoint committees.

"The speaker of the new house," he said, "will have all the influence to which he is entitled in looking after his own business. I didn't have committee assignments to help me keep the minority side in order during the last session." (Cannon deprived Clary of this privilege, which Williams and Richardson had enjoyed.) "I really think that a speaker or a minority leader is in a lucky position without these appointments to make. He is saved a lot of enemies, at least."

"A democratic caucus will be held in January to select members of the ways and means committee. If the republicans want to select their members they can. That caucus will probably determine the other details or organization, about which there are various mild differences of opinion.

"Most of the trouble over the house rules and the speaker's power grew out of their abuse and the usurpation of authority by a few. The two radical changes made, the enlarging of the rules committee, its election by the house and barring the speaker from it, and the rule to prevent the smothering of bills in committee, have insured us against further abuses of the same sort against, I believe, if not, other precautions will be taken. In many events

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there will be no confusion in the new democratic house over the organization or rules."

You can't escape Champ Clark without carrying away with you some press agent stuff advertising Missouri, his district or Pike county. Recently a Washington paper printed an innocent paragraph giving a man named Brinkley credit for the longest beard in the world. Clark promptly hurled this challenge at the paper:

"I have two valued friends living in the same township of Pike county, Mo.," he wrote, "whose beards put Mr. Brinkley and the prophet Aaron to shame. Mr. Valentine Taylor of Spencerburg, Mo., has whiskers eleven feet six inches in length, and Judge Elijah Gates of Curryville has a beard nine feet and six inches long. Missouri is feet and six inches long. Missouri, in beards as in other things, leads the world."

Clark let me escape with an apple, beautiful to see and bigger than the biggest grapefruit. "The delicious," they call it in Missouri, and Clark told how some old boy brought that fruit in his saddlebag from Kentucky to Missouri in 1835, founding the Stark Nursery, which is turning them out yet. 'Then Clark called me back and offered apatent corncob pipe, with a tale of how the largest corncob pipe factory in the world, in his district, of course, doubles the value of the corn crop to the Missouri farmer.

Train Shed Burned At Chattanooga
By Associated Press.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Jan. 10.—The train shed of the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis depot was destroyed by fire and with it a whole train of passenger coaches and two Pullman sleepers, in a spectacular blaze which started at 3:30 o'clock this morning.

The blaze was first observed coming from the mail car of train Number 6, which was made up ready to leave for Nashville at 5 o'clock. With almost incredible swiftness the blaze leaped from car to car and before a locomotive could be brought to pull them out the coaches ignited the entire roof of the shed. Before the fire department could reach the scene the train was practically destroyed and the shed was a seething mass of flames.

Two sleepers were under the shed, one of which came in on the Atlanta train and one on the Nashville train, were also totally destroyed. There were several persons in these two cars and they made a hurried exit from the sleepers in time to prevent anything more serious than a few slight burns, which were the portion of some of the slower ones.

At one time there was grave fear that the union depot and the freight station next to it also would burn, and the firemen devoted their time to saving these, playing streams of water on the two buildings and keeping them wet.

"The General," the prize historic engine of the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railroad was saved from the flames.

The fire in the union station destroyed about one-half of the shed, two Pullmans, mail and baggage cars. Three day coaches were entirely or partially burned. The total loss is estimated at about \$65,000.

The fire broke out in the mail car and is supposed to have been due to the explosion of the gas tank.

In their efforts to escape some of the passengers lost much baggage, and several were injured, but none dangerously. All of those injured received burns about the hands, face and back.

F. E. Beggs, residence unknown, was most seriously injured. He was carried to a hospital. He escaped from the car without any clothes and was severely burned. He lost \$100 and valuable jewelry.

Others injured were: Nat Cohen, New York; C. R. French, Chicago; Herman Eshborn, New York; H. Pollok, Cleveland, Ohio; W. C. Houseman, Chicago; B. C. Bork, Jacksonville, Fla.; D. C. Bogkins, Knoxville.

All of the mail in the mail car was saved.

The old "general," an engine of the Western and Atlantic railroad, which has stood under the shed of the Union depot for years as a relic of war times, escaped damage from the fire by efficient work of firemen. This is the old engine stolen at Big Shanty, near Marietta, Ga., by Andrews raiders during the Civil war, and made a run through Georgia.

She—"Do those ballet girls get well paid?" He—"No, and they have to kick for what they do get."

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When he has no confidence in himself nor his fellow men.
When he values success more than character and self-respect.
When he does not try to make his work a little better each day.
When he becomes so absorbed in his work that he cannot say that life is greater than work.
When he lets a day go by without making some one happier and more comfortable.
When he tries to rule others by bullying instead of by example.
When he values wealth above health, self-respect, and the good opinion of others.
When he is so burdened by his business that he finds no time for rest and recreation.
When he loves his own plans and interests more than humanity.
When his friends like him for what he has more than for what he is.
When he knows that he is in the wrong, but is afraid to admit it.
When he envies others because they have more ability, talent, or wealth than he has.
When he does not care what happens to his neighbor or to his friend so long as he is prosperous.
When he is so busy doing that he has no time for smiles and cheering words.

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—CARRENO

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