

THE GOLD LEAF.
THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 1906.

Humor and Philosophy
By DUNCAN M. SMITH

PERT PARAGRAPHS.

Affection is your own personal reflection upon your own ability.

The wheels of your purse are apt to moving "near" views to suit the means of filling it.

What a woman lacks in the strength of arm she makes up in the nimbleness of her tongue.

When you overhear people saying, "It is just human nature," you may make sure that they have been discussing somebody's disagreeable characteristics.

Too many people have the sort of bravery that carries directly as the square of the distance between them and difficulty.



You have to get up early in the morning if you get ahead of the weather.

It isn't hard to estimate how much a man doesn't think of his friends when they come around looking for an able bondsman.

People who show inordinate pride in their ancestry usually find it necessary to look backward in order to find something to take pride in.

Could Afford It.
With him the wearing of old clothes was something of a hobby.

Like friends, so well they fitted. They would not let the social swim, I fear, have been permitted. All over them they were the stamp of clothes affected by the tramp.

For garments that the beggars wear would hardly hold a candle. To them, and, really, you would swear they were a public scandal.

Was he so poor he could not buy some neat and natty raiment. And could not, though he might try. Afloat to make the payment?
Oh, yes; he was a millionaire. And so he didn't have to care!

Ones to be Affected.
Before changing the date for the inauguration of president, as has been proposed, it might be well to consult the interested parties or at least to hear what their mothers have to say on the subject.

There are in this country two or three million boys between the ages of four and nine who are headed straight for the presidency. Nothing can stop them. A fortune teller has assured their mothers that effect, although these discerning ladies knew all about it without being told.

Perhaps it would be no more than simple justice to take a referendum on these future presidents on the subject, although to give them the proper data so they could vote intelligently it would be necessary to send them the dates on which the census would not be in town in the year of their inauguration.

Too Risky.
"They never take a census in Turkey."
"Probably they have nobody who has nerve enough to ask the Sultan if he is a married man!"

Why She Expected Him.
"Why did you start so when the bell rang?"
"I thought it might be Jack."
"Why, you said you refused him last night when he proposed?"
"I did, but I thought he might be coming to apologize."

He Would Be It.
"I wouldn't marry you if you were the last man in the world," said she spitefully in reply to his brusque proposal.
"No, I think myself best you wouldn't in that case," returned he reflectively.

A man may be both a knave and a fool, but if he does you a good turn you don't believe him to be either—while he is doing it.

The real trouble is not the scarcity of money, but the inadequacy of the means of getting it.

One peculiarity about umbrellas is that they are always getting in your way in pleasant weather and are entirely out of commission on rainy days.

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Her New Year's Eve Surprise

She sat with the letter in her hand. It was addressed in her grand-father's handwriting. What could it contain except an affectionate message proposing a reconciliation? She had known the letter would come, though Tom had laughed it off as having such notions.

"Why not look at it in a common sense way?" Tom used to say. "You know that he always detested me, and I don't know that I blame him. I married you against his express orders, and he cast you off!"

Nevertheless she had been convinced that he would relent—some day. On New Year's eve her expected and Tom's unexpected had happened.

She went on sitting with the letter in her hand. It was two years—two years and a month—since he had renounced



her, and, though she had written to him often, she had never received a line until now. What could have induced him to change? She could not remember that she had said anything peculiarly calculated to turn his heart in her last letter and wished she had kept a copy of it that she might consult it now.

Could he, her grandfather, have seen Katy in the square, and been struck by her girlish beauty and childish innocence? She pitied Katy, young in her penitence, and being wheeled by nurse along New York High street, suddenly embraced by the tall, old man with the eye-glasses and the head-fence—Katy's father had sprung to his eye and in ten years to go in novel and he had asked nurse whose child that was that moved him so strangely. Was he not nurse's old boy?

She had been toiling for hours, but she did not sleep, and she came to her after all perhaps it was not Katy who had moved him. Possibly he had always desired her, and she had always refused him. Then—how about one of Tom's ardent suitors? He had read one of them and had been struck by a 22-year-old and profound insight into literature and life that it betrayed. "Good heavens!" he might have said. "I have been mistaken in this young man after all. This is not, as I supposed, a soft, pulchry, stuff, but a general! Unfortunately—as she reflected almost immediately—nothing would ever have induced the old man to look into any of the magazines for which Tom wrote. He seldom read anything but the municipal column in his daily paper and occasionally the law reports."

The only possible explanation left was that he had come to desire a reconciliation by mutual processes. He had felt his years increasing and looked forward to a lonely old age, contented enough in the first transports of his anger, but as the months went by the prospect of living forever solitary became more painful—became at last intolerable. He had felt that he must look once more upon his nearest and dearest, as she was undoubtedly entitled to consider herself and Katy, if not Tom—and it was to mention this fact that he had written. Probably he would not have confessed it as straightforwardly as that. He would be sure to approach the subject in a roundabout way, not coming in to all appearances in a matter of fact or even cold way, but yielding all the same. The letter would contain a suggestion that she and perhaps Katy (but Tom at first should call on him) should even be living in the same house, in some remote corner, looking in upon him tomorrow. Why, of course, tomorrow. Tomorrow was New Year's day.

She still sat with the letter in her hand, building castles. He would learn to love Katy, as he had loved her, but she would not. He would in consequence of this ever learn to love Tom. Would he ask them all to live with him in Russell square? Would Tom accept if he did? It would be safer on the whole to try, for the moment that Tom was a beggar—it would be so much more romantic if they would have a week-end cottage in Surrey and a parlor maid and perhaps—

"What are you thinking about?" said Tom, who entered at that moment. She gazed at him with excitement.

"Oh, Tom," she said, "it's a letter—"

With him the wearing of old clothes was something of a hobby. Although he would, you might suppose, prefer once new and zobby, but still he clung to ancient rags that should have been in carpet rags.

Like friends, so well they fitted. They would not let the social swim, I fear, have been permitted. All over them they were the stamp of clothes affected by the tramp.

For garments that the beggars wear would hardly hold a candle. To them, and, really, you would swear they were a public scandal.

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