

I went away for a month once to a place where all the fellows lived in fine houses that they called 'summer cottages,' and blamed if every one of them prigs didn't cut me dead. Say wasn't I glad to be back here. For myself, I think this 'Shorty' is all right."

Billy, however, had his way, and it was at last decided that Shorty must prove his worth before he could become a member of the famous band of outlaws. Already Billy looked upon Shorty as a rival, and he took every opportunity to annoy the newcomer. Things progressed in this way until one day Shorty discovered Billy throwing stones at one of his pet pigeons.

"What are you doing there!" cried the angry Shorty.

Billy's reply was prompt. "None of your business!"

"You'll see whether it's any of my business or not!" retorted Shorty. Before Billy had time to collect his wits the other had vaulted the garden wall and thrown himself upon the captain of the "Bloody Robbers." The other "Robbers" had come up by that time. A ring was formed about the contestants, who were favored with as fierce a battle as Homeville had ever seen.

Of course, no one would admit that Billy was getting the worst of it, but if the sheriff hadn't appeared and put all to route it might readily have happened that the hitherto invincible Billy would have been defeated. As it was, honors were about even.

Shorty won his membership in the "Bloody Robbers." Billy himself was the strongest advocate of the newcomer. But after such a fight no one could have kept him out. Shorty proved a most valuable addition, too, as those of you who read the further history of this terrible band will soon find out.

#### The Way of Mankind.

A Wolf who had the misfortune to break his leg was no longer able to hunt for his food and was soon reduced to the verge of starvation. One day as he was uttering his lamentations a Hare came along and inquired the cause of his troubles.

"I am literally starving to death," was the reply. "I haven't had a morsel to eat for four days."

"Indeed, but is that so?" said the Hare. "I'll go at once to the Hyena and tell him about it."

When the Hyena was consulted about it he stroked his chin reflectively and finally said:

"Are you certain that he is a Wolf of good morals?"

"No, but he is suffering."

"Yes, I know, but I guess I'd better see the Lion before doing anything."

When the case had been laid before the Lion he winked in a wise way and remarked:

"The ought to be a committee appointed to ascertain how and why the Wolf broke his leg. I'll see the Stork and mention the matter."

The Stork was informed that a Wolf lay dying of starvation and she replied:

"Well, well, but that's too bad. I'll see the Ox this very afternoon and ask him whether we ought to send in tracts or chicken broth."

The Ox was duly informed, and the next day but one he walked over to see if the Wolf had broken any more legs. Arriving at the lair, he found the animal dead, and the Owl had already been there and written on the rocks:

MORAL—Philanthropy is a thin tonic for an empty stomach.

#### Musical Mystery Game.

An interesting little musical game may be played by having as many slips of paper as there are guests, and writing on each slip a story after the following example, omitting the words with a musical significance and substituting dashes in their stead. The guests are requested to read the story and to supply the missing words, having had it explained to them that the wanted words must be musical terms.

The words to be omitted appear in parenthesis:

Story—John Smith was the (miner) son of (Major) Smith, who belonged to the (staff) of the *Times*, a newspaper of (note). The (rest) of the Smith family were pleasant people, loving a good (time). They were (natural) in manner, and the (theme) of their conversation was always agreeable. John's father, the (Major) would often (pitch) into a hot discussion of politics, for his reasoning was (sharp). John's younger sister could sing a (solo) admirably, her voice being full of (melody) and never (flat). But she required a good piano for her use, one that was in splendid (tune).

To the boy and girl who fill the spaces with the correct words—or come nearest to doing so—a simple prize may be given. A sheet of music would be quite appropriate. Ten minutes should be allowed the players in which to supply the story with the missing words.

#### Riddles.

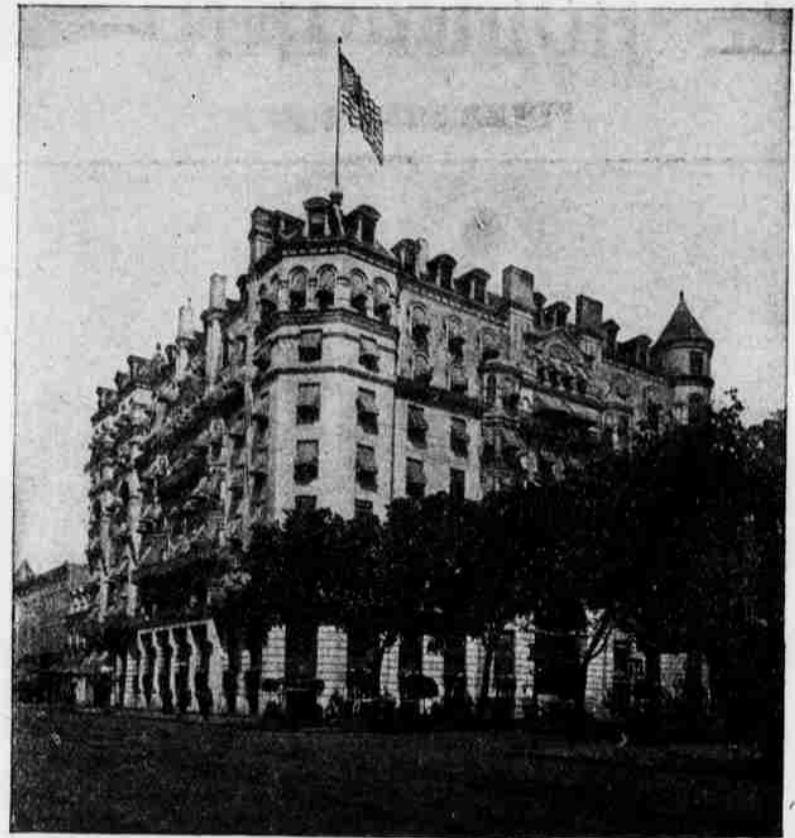
Why are cannons and cigar-holders alike?  
Both have mouth-pieces.

When are stolen jewels like pleasures?  
When searched for.



#### WHERE GOOD STORKS GO.

"I've brought my bill,"  
Said the stork to the lion.  
"I'll pay it at will,"  
Was the gruff reply.  
"You don't say so,"  
Was the gay bird's retort,  
And "where good storks go"  
The stork is now.



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