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THE BUREAU DRAWER.

SELECTIONS FROM THE WRITINGS OF THE DANBURY NEWS MAN.

What's the Use of Telling a Man About Anything, Especially When His Wife Doesn't Know Anything About It?—Mr. Holcomb's Experience.

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The man who will invent a bureau drawer which will move out and in without a hitch will not only secure a fortune, but will attain to an eminence in history not second to the greatest warriors. There is nothing, perhaps (always excepting a stovepipe), that will so exasperate a man as a bureau drawer which will not shut. It is a deceptive article. It will start off all right; then it pauses at one end while the other swings in as far as it can. It is the custom to throw the whole weight of the person against the end which sticks. If any one has succeeded in closing a drawer by so doing, he will confer a favor by sending his address to this office. We have seen men do this several times, and then run from the other side of the room and jump with both feet against the obstinate end. This doesn't appear to answer the purpose any better, but it is very satisfying. Mrs. Holcomb was trying to shut a bureau drawer Saturday morning, but it was an abortive effort. Finally she burst into tears. Then Mr. Holcomb told her to stand aside and see him do it.

"You see," observed Mr. Holcomb with quiet dignity, "that the drawer is all awry. That's what makes it stick. Now anybody but a woman would see at once that to move a drawer standing in that position would be impossible. I now bring out this other end even with the other, so; then I take hold of both knobs and with an equal pressure from each hand the drawer moves easily in. See?"

The dreadful thing moved readily forward for a distance of nearly two inches, then it stopped abruptly.

"Ah!" observed Mrs. Holcomb, beginning to look happy again.

Mr. Holcomb very properly made no response to this ungenerous expression; but he gently worked each end of the drawer to and fro, but without success.



Then he pulled the drawer all the way out, adjusted it properly and started it carefully back. It moved as if it was on oiled wheels. Mr. Holcomb smiled. Then it stopped. Mr. Holcomb looked solemn.

"Perhaps you ain't got the ends adjusted," suggested the unhappy Mrs. Holcomb.

Mr. Holcomb made no reply. Were it not for an increased flush in his face, it might have been doubted if he heard the remark at all. He pushed harder at the drawer than was apparent to her, but it didn't move. He tried to bring it back again, but it would not come.

"Are you sure you have got everything out of here you want?" he finally asked, with a desperate effort to appear composed.

"Oh! that's what you are stopping for, is it? But you needn't; I have got what I wanted; you can shut it right up." Then she smiled a very wicked smile.

He grew redder in the face, and set his teeth firmly together, and put all his strength to the obdurate drawer, while a hard look gleamed in his eye.

But it did not move. He pushed harder.

"Ooh, ooh!" he groaned.

"I'm afraid you haven't got the ends adjusted," she maliciously suggested.

A scowl settled on his face, while he strained every muscle in the pressure.

"What dumb fool put this drawer together, I'd like to know!" he snapped out. She made no reply, but she felt that she had not known such happiness since the day she stood before the altar with him, and orange blossoms in her hair.

"I'd like to know what in thunder you've been doing to this drawer, Jane Holcomb?" he jerked out.

"I ain't done anything to it," she replied.

"I know better," he asserted.

"Well, know what you please, for all I care," she sympathizingly retorted. The cords swelled up on his neck and the corners of his mouth grew white.

"I'll shut that drawer or I'll know the reason of it!" he shouted; and he jumped up and gave it a passionate kick.

"Oh, my!" she exclaimed.

He dropped on his knees again and grabbed hold of the knobs and swayed and pushed at them with all his might. But it didn't move.

"Why in Heaven's name don't you open the window? Do you want to smother me?" he passionately cried.

It was warm, dreadfully warm. The perspiration stood in great drops on his face, or ran down into his neck. The birds sang merrily out the door, and the

glad sunshine lay in golden sheets upon the earth; but he did not notice them. He would have given five dollars if he had not touched the accursed bureau; he would have given ten if he had never been born. He threw all his weight on both knobs. It moved then. It went to its place with a suddenness that threw him from his balance, and brought his burning face against the bureau with force enough to skin his nose and fill his eyes with water to a degree that was blinding.

Then he went out on the back stoop and sat there for an hour, scowling at the scenery. J. M. BAILEY.

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