

With the World's Great Humorists

Selections from the Writings of the Best Known Makers of Mirth.

Addison Spriggs, Friend of the Toiling Masses

By S. E. Kiser.

Laying aside his paper, Addison Spriggs leaned back in his chair and indulged in solemn thought. Gradually he became possessed of the conviction that he had duty to perform. He had just read a "Household Hint" in which it was candidly stated that there was more sustenance in five cents' worth of peanuts than in a pound of beef.

Clapping his hat upon his head, Addison Spriggs went forth for the purpose of preaching the value of the peanut and thereby dealing a death blow to the meat trust. From a descendant of the Caesars he purchased a big of peanuts for the purpose of roasting distress and making such demonstrations as might be necessary. He had not proceeded far when he perceived a poorly dressed woman who was entering a butcher shop. Following her inside, he waited for her to give her order. A large red-faced man with bloody hands, after waiting through a long line, handed a few duff flourishes with a long knife, and then flung a hunk of beef upon the scales.

"Just 80 cents' worth," he said. "Anything else?"

"Madame," said Mr. Spriggs, holding out a double-jointed peanut, "do you realize that you're indulging in a foolish waste of your husband's hard-earned cash? Does it occur to you that in making this purchase you are presenting—and I speak advisedly when I say presenting—75 cents' worth of the glutted possessions of predatory wealth?"



"Permit Me to Call Your Attention to This Edible."

Addison Spriggs to await a more favorable opportunity for the slightest opportunity of the toiling masses. But he was there to do his duty as an emancipator, whether it happened to be a

propitious time for emancipating or not.

"Permit me," he continued, "to call your attention to this edible and I may say, delicious, nut. When I say that five cents' worth of peanuts will afford to you and your children as much nourishment as a pound of beef, but stating a fact which science has demonstrated. Will you, then, continue to encourage those who lead the innocent boy to the abominable, who wantonly stay for their own aggrandizement, who shamelessly foster an outrageous profit at our expense? Give back the pound, or I should say two pounds, of beef that this man would thrust upon you, and take to your dear ones two bags of peanuts such as I hold in my hand. You shall not permit this man to press a crown of thorns upon your brow. You have it in your power to circumvent the soulless corporation of which this person is the hired creature.

He would have said more but the hired creature laid down his knife, walking around a chopping block and, grasping Addison Spriggs in the two most convenient places, he begged him to leap from where he stood to the middle of the sidewalk. There his feet slipped, and he fell. He was so weak as to make it impossible for him to avoid falling upon his back in the unattractive gutter. Owing to the fact that he had just demonstrated, when he went down he found when he succeeded in getting upon his feet again that he lacked materials for making, for very I demonstrated, therefore he returned to his office firm in the conviction that toiling masses that insisted upon standing around and waiting to be saved did not deserve saving.

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A Look Ahead

By R. K. Mankinck.

The crown now begins to bow, or to put it in more picturesque phrase its lamp of golden beauty is decaying the wind-swept meadow, where it gleams through the casual grass, until the two suggest in combination a poached egg to the lively imagination of the poet. The short-haired dog is made happy by this sign that winter has almost made ready to wrap the drapery of the buckwheat cake and sausage about itself and give us a chance to lie down to pleasant dreams of the coming days when the coal bill must divide into next to very nothingness.

And the oblation is already greasing his arm and preparing it for business even as is the baseball pitcher, who is now in pickle in the mud bath of the hot springs.

And how do we know all this? Why, we know it because a subtle mysterious something or other which we cannot put down in cold words tells us that the circus poster will shortly decorate the wayside barn and fence, and that the froheats of spring medicine will flood the earth in the very near future. The tennis court is beginning to take on a fluer green to

An Exhibition of Nerve

By Peter Newell.

The other night I had a toothache and stayed awake to see how it felt. The ramifications of that tooth must have ached like the roots of a cherry vine for the ache involved all that portion of my anatomy lying about my shoulders. Alone about two o'clock in the morning I donned the territory adjacent to the offending molar with a coat of iodine till the gums were blistered, and the atmosphere adjacent was sultry. And then I had a toothache plus a blister. Well, the night wore away but not so the pain, and I decided to make an early call on a nearby dentist. In accordance with this determination I presented myself at Dr. Pullman's office, and was received by the young lady attendant and given a chair in the midst of several other sufferers.

"What time is your appointment?" said she as she handed me the morning paper.

"I can't tell you," replied I. "I forgot to wind it last night and it isn't running."

"You are I can be facetious even in order distressing circumstances."

And then I continued: "This is an emergency case and comes in the class of that and to the roots of a cherry vine."

"Oh, I understand," said the "Toothache."

In the course of an hour I was alone in the operating room and took my place in the fatal chair. Dr. Pullman made a preliminary examination with a miniature crow bar heated to incandescence, as if prepared to melt me.

"It will be necessary to kill the nerve," was his verdict.

"All right," said I, "go ahead with the murder."

And then he sank a shaft in the tooth to a depth of about four feet with a drill that buzzed like a cast-iron hornet in the throes of a brain stolidly received. He had recourse to the crow-bar, or some other similar instru-



The Circus Poster Will Shortly Decorate the Wayside Barn and Fence.

The skates, the bob sled and the hot drink are hung on the willow, and the sealskin cap and sacque are seeking the camphorated nest of the sewing broker. The ancient shanghai is spreading herself over so many ogas that she looks as flattened out as a pancake, and seems to have a case of overstretching her ligaments, or of getting herself into proper shape to be fried. And she thus keeps on spreading if she would fling out, spread the spread-eagle, and in so doing become eligible to shine on all American coin. Pretty soon the young ducks and the anemones will dot the grass which comes hurtling along full of tender messages of lilacs and ribarub pie. The banging thud and thud of the carpet bearers' wand will soon ripple on the lagoon of the sea, and then the wind, and the blizzard will gurgle and gargle forth its sweetest lay from the dainty draperies of the last. The white-wash will shortly be broiled.

Duke of Argyll's Tea Tree

A correspondent tells of bombing across, during a country stroll, a clabbing shrub with green foliage and a few thorns. On taking it home and examining it he found that it was the plant commonly known as the duke of Argyll's tea tree, belonging to the same natural order (tolianaceae) as the potato and tomato. London tells that it got its aristocratic name from the fact that a tea plant, *Thea viridis*, was sent to the duke of Argyll at the same time as this plant, and the labels became accidentally transposed. The alien seems to have quickly established itself in the southern countries of England and was recorded by British botanists under the name of *Lyctum barbatum*, the Barbary tea tree. It is described in the text-books as a naturalized British plant on the southern coasts of England, but it seems to have established itself well on the Scottish coast too. Like a good many other aliens, it has flourished for a long time under a false name in this country, for it was only lately discovered that its real name is *Lyctum*

chinese, and that it is a native of China and not of Barbary, as was thought.—The Scotoman.

Bank of England Note for a Penny.

The one-penny note is not the smallest issued by the Bank of England. By mistake, a note of the value of one penny was made and issued in 1823. It was in circulation for many years, a source of annoyance to the cashiers in making up the bank accounts. At length the holder of it brought it to the bank and, after considerable argument, persuaded the authorities to give him five pounds for it.

No Doubt.

On one occasion an ignorant quack was called by mistake to attend a council of physicians in a critical case. After considerable discussion his opinion was expressed by one that the patient was convalescent. "Convalescent!" said the quack, "why, that's nothing serious. I have cured convalescence in 24 hours."—Sacred Heart Review.

AN ACT OF THEIVING.

When the cemetery authorities were ready to turn the water through the grounds, it was found that some thief had broken into the engine room and had stolen sparkers and batteries from the engine and 10 brasses from the facets on the grounds.

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Home-Made Preserves Considered by One Critic as Decided Waste of Time.

The marmalade was so bitter that it tasted like codfish. The two girls were taking breakfast together. They took turns tasting the marmalade. They set it aside.

"It was a present to me by a friend who was a wealthy old-fashioned," said the girl who was hostess. "She spends as much time as they used to do making home-made things that can be bought at the shops so much more cheaply. They taste so much better, too, those bought things. Why she will keep on spending days and days making marmalade and presenting it to her friends these up-to-date times I don't know, unless it is to try their friendship to the utmost. Here's some bread she made and sent me, too. Taste it. It's awful."

The Parsagus girl eradicates her eyebrows, declaring that she does not wish to resemble a whiskered man.

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