With the World's Great Humorists

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

Open Letter to Female Book Agents

By Charles Battell Loomis.

My Dear Young Woman: If you are contemplating selling books from house to house in order to make enough money to buy for yourself a sealskin coat do not waste any time with "the lady of the house."

If you ask to see her this is what will happen:

"I would like to show you—"

"I was not born in Missouri, myself, and do not need to be shown."

"But I think I might interest you in—"

"I am very much interested in a dressmaker upstairs, so I'll have to ask you to excuse me."

"Certainly I'll excuse you, but if you'll just look at our great offer—"

"I have no time to read books and no money to buy them. You are simply wasting my time and your own by talking to me."

My dear young woman—light out!

If you talked till doomsday you would never sell your book to the mistress. Find out when the "the master" is at home. See him alone if you can.

He is as faithful a husband as ever took his wife to the theater, but he does like pretty faces, and yours appeals to him. He feels sorry that you have to work at so distasteful an occupation as selling books, and while he has not the remotest idea of buying anything, as he has not yet finished paying for the piano, he asks you in. It is a cold morning, and a minute or two in an overheated house won't do you any harm.

"I would like to show you a little work that we are putting out."

"I'm afraid it won't do any good. I made up my mind when I had finished paying for 'Greenrod's History of Every Single Country in the Whole World Since Creation,' in 50 volumes, that I would never again indulge in a set of books. They are in the cellar at present, unpacked, because we haven't a lot of room since my brother-in-law took the second floor."

"Well, I don't suppose you would care for this offer, then, but you see

"Won't you be seated?"

we not only deliver the entire set in 20 volumes, on receipt of a dollar, but we also give you, free of cost, the 'Life of Andrew Johnson,' bound in morocco. You can't buy this book in the stores. It is given to those who subscribe to our 'Lives of the Great in All Climes.'"

"Won't you be seated?"

"Thank you. All yesterday I did not sell a single set because I saw no one but women. Women's inhuman pity to women makes countless thousands mourn, as the poet says. I have my living to make, and it does seem hard—"

"Yes, you might let me see the books. I don't intend to buy, but I might be able to give you the name of some who would like to subscribe. . . . It's a nice looking book."

"Yes, and what's the money once it's paid? You don't think of the dollar, and what's a three-dollar check once a month to a man of your earning capacity—"

"I really can't afford to subscribe but I think my wife would like it—"

"Of course your wife would like it. I had the pleasure of meeting your wife once, and I should say that she was just the type of woman to whom the book would appeal. Of course among the frivolous it has no purchasers. It is among the women thinkers that we make our largest sales."

"I believe that perhaps under the circumstances—you say it will help you to earn an honest living."

"I live if I sell the book. If I don't—"

"Oh, I wouldn't have you die—and the winter not half over yet. You might put me down for a set.

My dear young woman! Avoid his wife as you would the plague.

Tackle the next man.

Yours for success,

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Facts About Father

By Richard S. Graves.

It is not true that everybody works but father. He is not as bad as he has been painted, as we will find if we look into his case and weigh the evidence with judicial care. Some excuse can always be found for his shortcomings. He can find them himself. He also will tell you that the jury is prejudiced, so many things having been said against him.

It is true that there are fathers who are only false alarms. At the club or in a political convention they are the whole works, but frequently they fall down when it comes to tying a job to the fence and putting a saddle

"Wearing Regalia, While Their Wives Dress in Calico."

on it. They do not cut any ice when they are away and when they are at home they fail to apply the process to the woodpile.

Every father starts out in life, to become a plutocrat, but when many of them stop living they are paupers. The only really good thing they ever acquired was an appetite. Fathers are not always what they seem. Some of them think they need sympathy when they ought to get 60 days.

Sometimes father gets next to himself before it is too late and when he does there never is any dust on the family pew. It is then that he does not envy mother as she stands on the pedestal the poets have built for her. He looks at her in pride and cheerfully furnishes the funds. If he has not fumbled the latch when opportunity knocked, he is able to do so cheerfully. At any rate he should try to make a living without a holler, or the use of a hammer.

When father gets next to himself he talks no more about the good old days when the bathtub was an unknown luxury, and manicures his finger nails frequently in the effort to keep pace with the moderns. Father used to have the idea that there could be nothing doing until he arrived on the scene and gave directions about how to proceed. He is all right when he gets rid of that belief and realizes that time has laid under the sod a long line of his predecessors who knew it all before he was born.

Some fathers are coming to understand these things. They have a lucid interval and look into the future with prophetic eyes. There they see the world moving right along without them just the same as it did when they stood around and talked in superior tones about how it ought to be managed.

Father is all right when he gets out of the picture as a stiff-life study passes up poker and the ponies and learns to lead in prayer. He is on the right road when he realizes that he needs courage more than coddling and when he can turn his back on the past and face old age without batting an eye, father is on with both feet.

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The Jarring of Jinx

By Judd Mortimer Lewis.

Jinx had never been at a meeting of the club since he was married, but this was the night of the annual election of officers and, as he told Mrs. Jinx, a big dub was trying to be elected to the president's chair who was no way fitted for the position, and he considered it a duty that he owed his old associates to be present and lend his influence and his vote toward the election of a better man.

At the club that night there was a considerable uncorking of oratory preceding the casting of the ballot. Jinx' man was defeated, but it was only 9:35 when the election was concluded and as a sort of consolation for his disappointment he permitted himself to be inveigled into a little round of roodles before going home. So when he finally used his latch-key on the front door it was going on one o'clock and he was nervous and conscience stricken, which means the same as being ashamed of one's self, and he thought he would creep to her bedside and would kiss her unconscious cheek and promise not to do it again. As Jinx tiptoed into the room he discovered her seated upon the upholstered shoe-box with the family Bible on her knees and tears on her cheeks.

"Well, you see, Happy," began he as his eyes followed her eyes to the clock, "I just got to playing roodles after the election and did not notice the flight of time."

"It was more interesting than the thought of your people frightened little wife at home here all alone, I suppose!"

"Oh, dearest, were you frightened? I never dreamed that—"

"Yes, I am, too! And I guess you would be frightened in a house all by yourself till midnight!"

"Men don't get frightened; but it shall not happen again, dearest; I'll get some one to stay with you the next time."

"There ain't going to be no next time! I'm nervous; you read to me for awhile until I get sleepy; read Lytton's 'Haunters and Haunted.'"

"Gee! You'll never sleep if I read that. Reading that book all alone in a house at midnight will make any one believe in ghosts."

"Oh, well, if you don't care to read—"

"Sure I'll read!"

So Jinx read for an hour, and by the time Mrs. Jinx was on the verge of a scream and Jinx had locked the bed room door and they were both imagining that they heard strange and ghostly noises coming from the silent rooms about them, and finally they crept into bed and tried to sleep with out having extinguished the light. Suddenly as though they were on pins of mechanism they sat bolt up right in bed and grasped one another and gasped: "What was that?"

An unmistakable noise as of careful footsteps along the hall, a crash in the dining-room! Silence!

"By, that's no ghost! By, that's a burglar after our wedding presents! If you sneak out carefully you can catch him!"

"Do you suppose I will expose you to that danger? There's a policeman on the corner; I'll open the window and holler to him!"

"And in the meantime the burglar will get away with all the cut glass! I'm going out there!"

Followed by Jinx Mrs. Jinx opened the bedroom door and turned the button that flooded the house with light. Holding Jinx firmly by the wrist she tiptoed to the dining-room and peeped in—and saw a great tramp cat crouched on the top of the bird cage which it had knocked to the floor.

"I'm glad that I got home before that happened, dear; you would have been scared cold."

"So am I," replied Mrs. Jinx. And to her everlasting credit she refrained from adding: "Men don't get frightened."

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IRISH BLOOD IN DIAZ LAND

Many Mexicans Found with Red Hair and Real Hibernian Brogue and Names.

"The Mexicans are a dark-skinned race, but in the crowds of idlers who watch the passing train at every railroad station you will be sure to see one or more faces of truly Irish cast, surmounted by shocks of tousled brick-red hair," said a man who had just returned from a long trip through Diaz's republic. "The reason for this isn't far to seek. When the Mexican railroads were built, twenty or thirty years ago, it was an army of Irish laborers who dug the dirt, laid the ties and spiked down the steel. They mixed with the native population, naturally, and the red-headed hybrid with a pug nose and perpetual grin is the result.

"I remember one place in particular where I saw one of these carrot topped Irish-Mexicans who had such a Hibernian face that I felt sure at once he must be an exile from Erin who had gone broke in the land of the Montezumas. It was at a station called Apizaco, on the Mexican railway—the line that leads from the capital to Vera Cruz, a road that was built by an Irishman who grew rich and became a Mexican citizen. This man was selling gaudily painted and carved canes, for which this station is famous all over the country. He was dressed in the usual two-piece suit—loose blouse and trousers of white cotton, ragged and dirty. His red head was covered by a tattered straw sombrero, and his feet were bare—like all the other peons. When he came up to me with his canes I spoke to him in English. He grinned at me and replied in Spanish that he did not understand. So I went back at him in Mexican:

"'Aren't you Irish?' What is your name?' I asked.

"'Si, senor,' he replied in the formal Spanish phrases that even the Indians there use, 'my name is Innocente Jesus O'Rourke.' And he said it, with a brogue that, aside from his looks, was his sole ancestral inheritance."

The Religious Life.

A religious life is not a thing which spends itself like a bright bubble on the river's surface. It is rather like the river itself, which widens continually and is never so broad or deep as where it rolls into the ocean of Eternity.—Beecher.

Bewildering.

Ned—"So it turned out that the prisoner was really insane." Ted—"Yes. He lost his mind trying to follow the hypothetical question put to him by the prosecuting attorney."

Great Enemies of Peace.

Five great enemies of peace inhabit us, namely, avarice, ambition, envy, anger and pride, but if those enemies are banished, we should enjoy perpetual peace.—Petrach.

Patterson & Patterson, Solicitors for Complainant, Pontiac, Mich.

STATE OF MICHIGAN, IN THE CIRCUIT Court for the County of Oakland. In Chancery.

Lynn D. Halsted, complainant, vs. Unknown heirs of Chesley Blake, unknown heirs of Dennis Fitzpatrick, unknown heirs of Lewis Fitzpatrick, unknown heirs of Elijah S. Fish, unknown heirs of Fanny Fish, unknown heirs of Fanny E. Fish, unknown heirs of Fanny S. Fish, and unknown heirs of Mary Fitzpatrick, defendants. Suit pending in the Circuit Court for the County of Oakland, in Chancery, May 19, 1909. It satisfactorily appearing to the Court, by the affidavit of Lynn D. Halsted on file, that Chesley Blake, Dennis Fitzpatrick, Lewis Fitzpatrick, Elijah S. Fish, Fanny Fish, Fanny E. Fish, Fanny S. Fish and Mary Fitzpatrick are dead; that the names, residences and whereabouts of their heirs-at-law are unknown. On motion of Patterson & Patterson, solicitors for complainant, it is ordered that the unknown heirs of Chesley Blake, unknown heirs of Dennis Fitzpatrick, unknown heirs of Lewis Fitzpatrick, unknown heirs of Elijah S. Fish, unknown heirs of Fanny Fish, unknown heirs of Fanny E. Fish, unknown heirs of Fanny S. Fish and unknown heirs of Mary Fitzpatrick cause their appearance to be entered therein within six months and one day from the date of this order, and in case of their appearance that they cause their answer to complainant's bill of complaint to be filed, and a copy thereof to be served upon said complainant's solicitors within twenty days after serving on them of a copy of said bill and notice of this order, and in default thereof that said bill be taken as confessed by said defendants. It is further ordered that within twenty days from the date hereof that the complainant cause a copy of this order to be published in the Birmingham Eccentric, a newspaper published and circulating in the County of Oakland, and that such publication be continued once in each week for six successive weeks, or that they cause a copy of this order to be personally served upon said defendants at least twenty days before the time prescribed for their appearance.

Dated Pontiac, Michigan, May 19, 1909.

GEORGE W. SMITH,
Circuit Judge.

PATTERSON & PATTERSON, Solicitors for Complainant, Pontiac, Michigan. may28-july8

FOLEY'S HONEY AND TAR
for children—no opiates

Elmer R. and Charles P. Webster, Attorneys-at-Law, Pontiac.

STATE OF MICHIGAN—SUIT PENDING IN the Circuit Court for the County of Oakland. In Chancery.

Rufus Schermerhorn, complainant, vs. The Unknown Heirs of Joseph Bancroft and Joseph Bencroft, defendants. Upon due proof by affidavit that Joseph Bancroft and Joseph Bencroft are dead, and that the names, residence and whereabouts of their heirs are unknown, on motion of Elmer R. and Charles P. Webster, solicitors for complainant, it is ordered that said defendants enter their appearance and answer the bill of complaint in said cause within six months and one day from date of this order, and in default thereof that said bill be taken as confessed against said defendants; and further, that within twenty days from the date hereof this order be published in the Birmingham Eccentric, a newspaper printed and published in said county, and that said publication be continued once each week for six successive weeks, or that a copy of this order be served on said unknown defendants at least twenty days before the time above prescribed for their appearance.—Dated June 14, 1909.

GEORGE W. SMITH, Circuit Judge.

ELMER R. & CHARLES P. WEBSTER, Solicitors for Complainant. Business address: Pontiac, Michigan. jun25-aug6

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COMMISSIONERS' NOTICE.

In the matter of the estate of John Hulbert, deceased. The undersigned having been appointed by the Honorable Kleber P. Rockwell, Judge of Probate in and for the County of Oakland, State of Michigan, Commissioners to receive, examine and adjust all claims against said estate, and four months from the 2d day of June, A. D. 1909, having been allowed by said Judge of Probate to all persons holding claims against said estate, in which to present them to us for examination and adjustment, notice is hereby given that we will meet on the 2d day of August, 1909, and on the 2d day of October, 1909, at 10 o'clock a. m. of each day, at the First State Savings Bank, in the Village of Birmingham, in said county, for the purpose of receiving and adjusting said claims.

EUGENE BROOKS,
THOMAS H. COBB,
Commissioners.
jun11-july9

John J. Gafill, Attorney, Detroit, Mich.

MORTGAGE SALE.

Mortgage sale under the power of sale contained in mortgage, Albert P. Jacobs and Grace W. Jacobs, his wife, of the Village of Birmingham, Oakland county, Michigan, mortgagors, and Whitehead & Mitchell, a co-partnership, of the Village of Birmingham, Oakland county, Michigan, mortgagees. The mortgage bears date March 2, 1907, and was recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Oakland county, Michigan, on the 6th day of March, 1907, in Liber 173 of Mortgages, on pages 438 and 439. The mortgagee hereby declare that the principal and interest is now due, and the amount due at date hereof is the sum of four thousand six hundred and seventy-one and 56-100 dollars ($4,671 56). The mortgaged premises are situated in the Village of Birmingham, County of Oakland, State of Michigan, and are described as follows: Lots numbered forty-three (43), forty-five (45), sixty-one (61), sixty-two (62), sixty-three (63), sixty-four (64) and sixty-six (66), of Morrill's Plat of the said Village of Birmingham, Michigan, according to the plat thereof as recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds in and for the county aforesaid. Also the following described lands: (1) Lot numbered forty-seven (47), according to the Willitts Plat, so called, containing 2.44 acres of land; (2) a piece of lot numbered fifty-nine (59), according to said Willitts Plat, lying west of lot fifty-seven (57), and running so far west as to contain two (2) acres of land; (3) a parcel of land commencing twenty-two (22) chains and eighty (80) links west of the quarter post between sections twenty-five (25) and twenty-six (26), in town two (2) north, range ten (10) east, Oakland county, Michigan, thence north three degrees (3°) west three (3) chains and sixteen and one-fifth (16 1-5) links, thence south three (3°) east three (3) chains and sixteen and one-fifth (16 1-5) links, thence south one degree (1°) west three (3) chains and sixteen and one-fifth (16 1-5) links to the place of beginning, containing one (1) square acre of land; (4) a piece of land bounded north by lands formerly owned by E. Harmon, east by lands formerly by Edwin Baldwin, south by Maple Avenue, and west by lands formerly owned by E. Harmon. All of said lands latterly described being the former residence and the grounds appurtenant thereto belonging and occupied by Horace A. Randall, now deceased. This land, with the appurtenances, will be sold at the Saginaw-Street entrance to the Oakland County Court House at Pontiac, Oakland county, Michigan (that being the place where the Circuit Court for the County of Oakland is held) on Saturday, the 7th day of August, 1909, at 10 o'clock a. m. of said day, to satisfy the amount due on said mortgage, costs and expense of sale, and the attorney fee provided for in said mortgage and by law.

Dated May 10, 1909.

WHITEHEAD & MITCHELL,
Mortgagees.

JOHN J. GAFILL, JR., Attorney for Mortgagees, 810 Wayne County Bank Building, Detroit, Michigan. may14-aug6

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