

## Vengeance Wreaked on the Landlord

Old Grad Relates Story of Intrigue Carried On Over the Telephone.

"Well, if the landlord doesn't keep your room warm, why don't you leave him?" the old grad said briskly in reply to the Sophomore's complaint. "Your're under no obligation to him. If you want my honest opinion, I should say you've a pretty rotten hole here."

The old grad selected a fresh cigar, and calmly lighted it before he continued his dissertation.

"We used to have a series of 'boarding house geometrical axioms, as we called them. I remember one, now which, having granted that 'a pie may be produced any number of times,' and that a board is equal to minus quantity, concluded that the landlord is equal to all emergencies. But I recall an instance when I beat the landlord out, and since then I have regarded them as of small importance. I suppose the ethical side of the affair was rather shady, but revenge is sweet and I derive great pleasure and consolation from the incident."

The old grad paused to collect his thoughts again, and then resumed.

"When I was a Sophomore I boarded for a time at a place on Sixteenth street. All things considered, the joint was not as bad as might have been, but there was a pretty jolly crowd there and a continual uproar was going on from early morning till late—very late—evening. My room-mate and myself realized our duty and contributed our share to the fun, but we were no more uproarious than the rest of the crew. Yet, somehow, the landlord conceived the notion that we were at the bottom of it all, and finally became so stirred up about the matter that he announced one day that our presence in his house was no longer necessary. He said people in the neighborhood were beginning to complain about the noise, and quoted one man who was spreading the report that a circus was held there every night.

"Of course it was no use to protest. He was firm. We had to go. As it afterwards turned out our condition was much bettered in our new habitation, but we were very angry about being canned.

"But revenge was at hand. The very evening after our departure two of the fellows who had been the literal pets of the landlady, and whom the landlord had been constantly holding up as examples, had an awful mix-up. It was a disgraceful affair, such as would never have happened had we still been in charge of things. I heard about it the very evening it happened, and, together, my room-mate and I hatched up a diabolical plan for avenging our wounded pride. He went down to the 'phone at once, and, disguising his voice as much as possible, called up our late landlord.

"Is this Mr. Biggs?" he asked in a very business-like tone, when the old man answered.

"Yes," Mr. Biggs replied.

"This is the office of the Morning Journal," Brown continued. "Mr. Biggs, we have been informed of a little trouble some University students got into this evening at your place. Just give us a few of the details, please."

"Perhaps you can imagine the howl that arose at the other end of the line. Old Biggs pleaded, then threatened, but finally declined to give any details of the occurrence. Brown warned him, however, that the affair would appear in print.

"The next morning Brown went down to the 'phone again, and called up the News office. He told them that a mix-up of a very serious nature had taken place on Sixteenth street the evening before, and told them that they could obtain all the details by calling up 15932, which was the old man's number.

"Then he called up the Post, and gave them the same spell. After that we paused to await developments.

"I got the rest of the story from some of my friends who still remained at the Biggs's house. About 10 o'clock some one rang up and called for Mr. Biggs. Of course, the nature of the conversation that ensued was not all known to them, but they said that Mr. Biggs seemed very excited. The interview finally ended by his using such a strong swear-word that central cut him off. Pretty soon another call came,

Mr. Biggs became more excited than ever. At last he called Mrs. Biggs and a serious consultation ensued, which finally ended by her taking the receiver to answer the call. She, too, seemed perturbed, but finally thought she had a clue to the mystery.

"You Mr. Rogers," she shouted, meaning me, of course, you hang up that 'phone, and shut your mouth. I know your voice."

"She was delighted at her discovery, but unfortunately, it was not Mr. Rogers who was talking, but the News office. The matter finally ended with a strenuous interview between the editor of the News and Mrs. Biggs. Of course nothing was printed about the scrap, but the scare we had furnished for the old man amply supplied our hunger for revenge. The moral's plain, I guess: 'Don't let the landlord impose on you.'"

## Character of Japanese

By Y. Yamashita.

Japan, as you know, is a very small island, while its population is over forty millions. It is only about the size of California. I hope that all of you know something of how rapidly Japan has changed her character which was founded entirely on eastern ideals. I hope to give you an insight into the phases of Japanese character which differ from yours.

Many travelers spread erroneous impressions over the world in describing what seems to them the humorous part of Japanese manners, customs, and habits, but they do not attempt to show her real character. If it is desirable to know something of the formation of modern Japan it is not necessary to study only those things in the life of the people and nation which are different, and therefore peculiar in comparison to your own country, but to study the real Japanese character, beyond the customs, habits and manners.

It is my desire to dwell upon the character rather than upon the material things which you already know.

The moral views of the Japanese are ethical instead of religious.

They measure their moral standard by their daily practice. They don't tell others what they ought to do or what it is imperative to do concerning right and wrong; but they show others by example, thus daily setting before them their ideal of right and wrong. They don't force their legal rights, which are fixed by the law of the land, upon others, but they first consider their duty to others. Their views are purely ethical. Their greatest regulator in life is duty, instead of right, which Americans uphold so strongly. This is the greatest distinction in character between Japanese and Americans, that the former have more duty in mind, while the Americans have more right as a guide of conduct.

Japan endeavors to learn how to obey the law of nature rather than to learn what the law of nature is. The world knows that Japan is really a flower kingdom, and this is true, indeed. A beautiful panorama of mountains, hills and rivers greets the eye. The people admire beautiful landscapes. They delight in the great power by which the beautiful and wonderful of earth is created. This is the law of nature and they try to obey that law instead of enforcing their mental knowledge to thwart it.

When one's mental intelligence is strongly developed then he begins to feel that he can create flowers, mountains, and rivers by his mental process. It is a fact that in America you don't have such beautiful flower gardens all over the land, but you have them in greenhouses, where they may be man-created at any time through the whole year in season and out, but the Japanese depend upon the law of nature instead of the power of mental creation. They are not an offender of nature's law, but a defender of it.

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