With the World's Great Humorists

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

Addison Spriggs, Preventer of Cruelty

By S. E. Kiser.

Addison Spriggs decided that he had a duty to perform, a sublime mission to fulfill. He had just been reading about the fining of a cruel driver who had been arrested for abusing his horse. On his way to his office that morning Mr. Spriggs had seen a cabman lashing a poor old horse unmercifully, and leaning back in his chair he thought:

"At this moment some heartless teamster may be goading an overburdened steed less than a stone's throw from where I sit. I will go forth upon the errand of mercy that awaits me."

As he was hurrying out he almost ran over a diminutive messenger who had a telegram for Dixon, Spriggs & Co. The boy had stopped in the hall to find out whether Dare Devil Harry had succeeded in rescuing the maiden and was so busy reading the tattered page that he had not seen Mr. Spriggs coming. It is probable that the child was 11 or 12 years old, but he did not look more than seven. At least he was not any larger than a seven-year-old boy ought to be.

"Here," cried Addison Spriggs, grasping the boy by the collar and giving him a vigorous shake, "what are you doing? Loafing on your job, eh? Le'me see that telegram. Ah, ha! I shall report you for this. Do you think telegrams are sent to be delayed in this manner? I've a mind to cuff your ears. Go in there and get your book signed."

As he finished speaking Mr. Spriggs gave the boy a violent shove toward the door of the office of Dixon, Spriggs & Co., at the same time aiming a kick at him that the youngster, being lively, was fortunate enough to escape.

On reaching the street A. Spriggs looked about in search of a horse that he might rescue from cruel treatment. Nowhere did his services as a preventer of cruelty to animals appear at that moment to be necessary. The only horses in sight were being treated as mercifully as possible, and the kind-hearted gentleman proceeded on his way to a near-by corner. As he approached it a policeman whistled the signal for north and south-bound traffic to halt. The driver of a spirited team that was hitched to a fine looking carriage appeared to have difficulty in getting his horses to stop, insomuch that he jerked the reins and sawed fiercely on the bits. In four jumps Addison Spriggs went to the rescue of the pawing, champing animals.

"What's All This About, Anyhow?"

"Here, you," he commanded grasping at the reins and narrowly escaping injury when one of the horses let fly a ready hoof; "what do you mean by treating your faithful servants in this manner? Get down off'm that seat. I'm going to have you arrested."

The driver raised his whip and warned the preventer of cruelty to stand back.

"You dare to strike me," Mr. Spriggs yelled, "and I'll have you put where you'll never have a chance to flourish another whip!"

The policeman gave the signal for those who were bound north and south to proceed, and the man on the box attempted to drive on, but Spriggs clung to the reins and proceeded to block traffic, at the same time calling on the man in charge of the team to get down. Then a distinguished looking old gentleman who wore a fur-trimmed coat and a silk hat leaned out of the carriage and demanded an explanation while a crowd of people began to surge into the street. The policeman at the crossing also became interested. Taking Addison Spriggs by the collar and depriving him of his equilibrium he ordered the driver to go ahead. When the carriage had passed the officer whirled the quivering Spriggs around a few times and said:

"Now, Misther Nutty, what's all this about, annyhow?"

Spriggs explained, the crowd hooted, and the policeman, giving him an unkind shove, said:

"Aw, gwan!"

On the way back to his office Addison Spriggs almost ran over the diminutive messenger who was again deeply interested in the adventures of Dare-Devil Harry. Giving the child a shove that caused him to bump violently against an unyielding pillar the man of mercy said:

"It beats time how few of the people in this world ever stop to realize that dumb brutes have feelings."

Love and the Pup

By Byron Williams.

"Is this domesticated carnivorous mammal absolutely to be trusted?" asked the young man lightly, as he gave the girl his hat in the hall and pretended to be apprehensive.

"Boston terrier—registered!" icily.

"Dog-gone it," burst out the young man, gravely; "don't be so dogged about it. I'm fond of dogs myself—especially bull ter—"

"He isn't a bull terrier," proudly. "He's a full-blooded Boston terrier, and I have his pedigree from—"

"Of course," persisted the young man, coolly, moving to the sofa at her left, "I didn't come down expressly to see the dog. I just dropped in to

"Who—Me?" Stammered the Girl!

your Aggregation to adore the star of my existence and bask in the effulgent rays of the queen of the galaxy!"

"You mean the dog-star, of course," frowning at him.

"Why grow dogmatic?" he flashed, with feigned superciliousness. "Why the dog-star?"

"The Alpha is the dog— Oh, fudge, Mr. Padgett, you—"

"Ah, your canine knowledge is beyond question! Now for your astronomical wisdom: The Alpha of the constellation Canis is the dog-star—but to what assemblage of brilliant luminary does the star of my existence belong?" turning his eyes deliberately upon her evasive ones.

"They play beautifully together," avoided the girl, blushing, "Pal—"

"Who?"

"Pal— the dog—"

"Oh!"

"At first Rags—"

"Rags?"

"Yes—Rags, the cat!"

"Oh—sir, the cat! I thought you must mean the Italian that used to go through the alley last summer calling: 'R-a-g-s! R-A-G-S-N-O-L-D-I-R'-N!'"

"At first Rags didn't like Pal at all and she 'Phist' at him like that—"

"Stop!" screamed the young man, scrambling in feigned terror to his feet. "Are you trying to scare me up a tree?"

"There is the hall-tree," she suggested, pointedly.

"I left my climbers at home on the piano!"

"Indeed!"

"Yes, this isn't porch-column night. I'm a burglar, all right, but I don't win my—er, jewel, that way. Oh, Andrea, step this way just a moment, please. I—"

"Not under that sprig of belated mistletoe, Mr. Padgett—but, as I was saying—at first they didn't like each other at all, but now they just get along exquisitely. Pal mauls Rags unmercifully—but the cat just loves him! Why—

"Oh, mercy: He's mauling the cat again!" cried the girl.

"Oh, bother the cat!" bending eagerly over her. "I—I want you! I—I am dog-tired of barking along the fence of dalliance. I am standing here in the myrtle-bordered pathway extending to you the book of my love. Turn a dog's-ear on the title page and—"

"Pal! Pal! Stop it, sir!" stamping her foot at the dog.

"Andrea—"

"Rags! Rags! Scat!"

"Who?" mockingly.

"You! No, I mean—Pal, stop that! Oh, horrors, Mr. Padgett, look! It isn't the cat at all. It's your new silk hat! Oh, I'm so sorry!"

The man looked at the hat. The dog had his head through the crown!

"G-r-r!" growled Pal, shaking the ruined headgear frantically.

"Nice dog!" said the man, looking sternly at the girl!

"I'm SO sorry," repeated the girl, hysterically! "I never knew him—"

"Stop!" commanded the man, firmly.

"Who—me?" stammered the girl.

"Yes,—you—right where you are," advancing a step. "Right—there!" kissing her full upon the mouth—"under the mistletoe!" taking another with wonderfully true delivery considering the unstableness of the mark.

Crimson stole into the cheeks of the girl.

"He IS a nice dog, anyhow!" hiding her face on his sleeve, "I—I don't care wha—what you say," showing evidence of tears and laughter commingled.

"Nice dog? Finest dog in the world! Greatest—here, Pal! Come here, you rascal! Take your head out of the gentleman's hat and— Oh, all right; go as far as you like. Eat the hat, Pal! Eat the—"

"G—r—k!" growled Pal, with the rim around his neck—"G—r—r!".

A Pre-Nuptial Conversation

By Carolyn Wells.

"Dearest,' said the girl who was engaged to him, "I went shopping this morning, and I bought the loveliest duck of a Paris hat you ever saw! I'm afraid you'll think I was extravagant, for I paid $50 for it; but it has quite a long plume and a half-blown rose on it, so really it's worth the money."

"Of course it is, little girl. You can't get a Paris hat for nothing, and plumes are always expensive.'

"Yes," she went on, with a slight expression of relief on her face; "and I found such a bargain at Moneymakers. Beautiful spun silk stockings at only $5 a pair!"

"Good! I hope you laid in a stock of them. That's reasonable enough for real silk."

"Yes, I did." Her face showed a trace of wonderment at his affability, but she went on. "I'm so glad you don't think me extravagant. I hate a man who criticizes a woman for spending a lot on clothes. Well, then I bought a feather boa. They're the newest things this season. It cost $60, and of course I can't wear it often, but it's lovely for the opera, you know."

"I'm sure it is. And you must be a good shopper to get it at such a fair price."

She eyed him closely.

"Yes; and I found a beautiful muff of Russian sable which I bought for $100. Of course I can't carry that with a feather boa, so I had to get a sable stole also. But that was only $125. Of course, these things are much more expensive than I can really afford, but the shops are so bewitching that I lose my sense of prudence and buy the pretty things before I realize that they're out of all proportion to my station in life, or yours."

"Oh, well, darling, I suppose you need them, and at any rate you'll look charming in them."

"Mr. Smallwage," said the girl, rising, and looking coldly at him, "take

"Beautiful Spun Silk Stockings at Only Five Dollars a Pair."

back your ring. Our engagement is broken. I cannot marry a hopeless lunatic!"

Overcoats for Laborers.

Fifteen aged farm laborers at Henham, Essex, England, were recently the recipients of a new overcoat each. Many years ago an Essex agriculturist named Henry Smith left a farm at Tolleshunt the rent of which was to be applied each year in providing overcoats for aged and respectable farm laborers in several parishes which he named.

Miniature Watches Coming Back

Miniature watches are again in great favor in Europe, says a writer in the Paris Matin. Watch rings for gloved and ungloved hands are worn, watches on chain purses, in brooches and umbrella handles may be seen any day where women assemble. It is not advisable, however, for a person to wear more than one of these at the same time, if the experience of a young woman at a fashionable gathering recently may be taken as the rule and not the exception. She wore a watch suspended from her belt, a smaller one on her purse, a still smaller one on the third finger of her gloved hand, and one was the head of a hatpin. They were all masterpieces of the jeweler's art in appearance, but no two indicated the same time and all were far from correct.

High Buildings Healthy.

Europeans are beginning to realize the hygienic value of high buildings, with elevators which lift people into the dust-free, sunlit, higher regions.

Minerals as Food

Minerals as food is the theme of a modern medicine man's preachments. Dr. Henry Reed Hopkins believes that air and water are entitled to be called foods, and that they are incomparably the most important. Without air man dies shortly; without water he cannot survive long. But with air and water in abundance he can live for days, or even weeks, without any of those substances ordinarily accounted foods. Next to air and water Dr. Hopkins places not the compounds of carbon, hydrogen and nitrogen, but the mineral salts regarded by some people as impurities rather than as proper constituents of the animal organism.

In addition to the four great elements oxygen, carbon, hydrogen and nitrogen, there are found in living tissues calcium, potassium, sodium, magnesium and iron. These elements are found in combinations as phosphates, carbonates and chlorides. Each is essential and indispensable to animal life. One advantage of the mineral nutrients is that they neither ferment nor putrefy.

Seaweed Converted Into Food.

In South Wales seaweed after being washed is boiled down and made up—generally with oatmeal—into cakes and eaten with bacon. It is called laver bread and is considered a great delicacy.

HOPE in the EUCALYPTUS

GOVERNMENT TO TRY PLANTING TREE IN SOUTHERN TEXAS

CUTTING EUCALYPTUS FOR CORDWOOD

MADEAU GROVE OF EUCALYPTUS PLANTED FROM SEEDLINGS

Plans are being made to have a special study undertaken by a representative of the United States forest service in the near future to determine the feasibility of the culture of the Eucalyptus tree in the lower Rio Grande valley and along the gulf coast of Texas.

The importance of Eucalyptus culture from a commercial standpoint in California has within the past few months aroused general interest throughout the country concerning these rapid growing trees and the district office of the forest service at Albuquerque receives almost daily inquiries as to the feasibility of planting Eucalypts in the southwest, particularly in the state of Texas.

Eucalypts are native to the coast region of Australia and Tasmania, where at least 150 distinct species are recognized. They were introduced into California about 1850 and first planted near San Francisco for ornamental purposes. The extremely rapid growth of certain species, their value for fuel, lumber and special products have resulted in the undertaking of extensive investigations concerning the habits of these trees and their commercial uses and possibilities. Fully 100 species have been introduced into the United States.

Among the most important species at present planted in this country are blue gum, sugar gum, gray gum, red gum and manna gum.

Blue gum is one of the largest and most rapid growing trees in the world. In California under favorable conditions trees have attained a height of 175 feet and a diameter of five feet in 25 years, while in exceptional instances individual trees have reached a height of 125 feet and a diameter of three feet in nine years. Sprouts from the stumps of Eucalyptus trees frequently reach three inches in diameter and 35 feet in height in eight months.

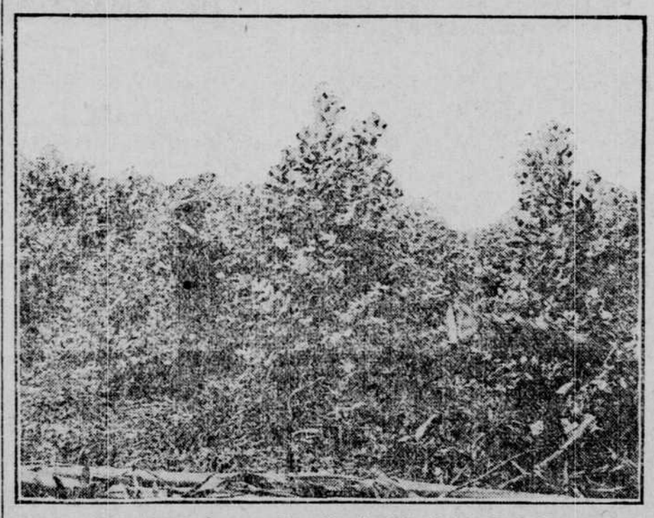
The wood of blue gum is principally valuable for fuel and lumber, although it finds numerous other uses. Eucalyptus oil, a drug of considerable commercial importance, is distilled from the leaves.

Sugar gum is also a very rapid grower, but like blue gum, will not tolerate much frost. Red gum and gray gum while possibly a little slower in growth than these, are more drought and frost resistant. They are being planted extensively owing to the durability of their timber in contact with the soil and its many commercial uses. Both red gum and gray gum are valuable for piles, ties, posts and poles, while the wood of red gum is said to be considered an excellent substitute for mahogany. Manna gum is also fairly frost resistant and is a rapid grower. The wood, however, is principally valuable for fuel.

The Eucalypts are adapted to a subtropical climate, and the limits within which they may be planted for commercial purposes in this country may be broadly defined as that bounded by the frost lines. They are, therefore, adapted for planting in the warmer portions of California and in parts of southern Arizona and Texas. It is not likely that they can be grown with any degree of success in New Mexico. Few of the Eucalypts can survive a temperature lower than 20 degrees Fahrenheit, and none of them a temperature less than 12 degrees Fahrenheit. Blue gum and sugar gum may be planted where the temperature does not fall below 26 and 28 degrees Fahrenheit, respectively, while red gum has been known to stand a drop to 12 degrees Fahrenheit.

There is considerable area, however, in southern Texas where it is likely that the more hardy of the Eucalypts can be successfully planted. A case has been reported where blue gum has been successfully grown to a height of 35 feet in Cameron county, Texas, near the gulf, but it is probable that red gum and gray gum will give the best success in this region under average conditions.

A Clump of Towering Blue Gums.



Eucalyptus Sprouts, Two Months Old, Height Eight Feet.

Why Louis Didn't Come.

The attention of the principal of one of the New York schools was called to the fact that a certain pupil in one of the lower grades was keeping back the entire class by his frequent absences and more than frequent tardiness. The teacher had tried in vain to solve the problem before appealing to the principal. The latter sent for the mother of the child and talked with her earnestly about the matter. For a time matters went better, and then little Louis failed to appear one morning. Two days passed and no word was received from his parents. On the third the principal received this astonishing communication:

"Deer Teecher, exscuce Louie been abcent and tardy, he is ded.

"Mrs. B."

Cloth Gowns

The gown at the left is of sevres blue cloth. The skirt is trimmed, to simulate a tunic, with a band of soutache embroidery.

The corsage is trimmed with bands, straps and motifs of this soutache embroidery, and is cut out over a chemisette of white mousseline de soie.

The long, tight sleeves are finished with turnover cuffs trimmed with soutache.

The other costume is of wood-brown cloth. The skirt has a narrow panel of the material at the left side, where it is embroidered with soutache and ornamented with straps of the same and buttons.

The corsage, with bolero-like front, is trimmed with the soutache, with passementerie, and ornamented with buttons and little loops of soutache.

The chemisette is of mousseline de soie and lace.

MOIRE COATS MUCH WORN.

Daintily Adorned and Fastened with Jeweled and Enameled Buttons.

Smart Parisian women are wearing attractive moire silk coats over one-piece frocks of cloth.

They are made after the directoire style, cut away from the waist line in front to a long point in the back. They have richly embroidered waistcoats and revers and are fastened with jeweled and enameled buttons. The sleeves are scanty and are finished with a roll-back cuff. Some of the coats are trimmed with long lines of buttons, which are of the material.

One excellently good-looking model is of ash gray moire silk worn with a gown of chiffon broadcloth in the same exquisite shade.

It is short in front and slopes away nearly to the hem of skirt in the back The wide collar, long, narrow revers and waistcoat are of apricot panne velvet, embroidered with silver bullion. There are turn-back flare cuffs, caught with big moire buttons, and long lines of smaller buttons trim the back of the coat.

The hat worn with this costume is of apricot satin, rolled away from the face on the left side, trimmed with a band of silver tissue and a loose black aigrette caught with a wide, barbaric silver buckle.

A POPULAR TOQUE

This striking little model is of white fox. The only trimming is the two black Mephisto quills, fastened at the left of front with a huge cabachon.

Home-Made Oatmeal Wash.

A skin whitening preparation that can be easily made at home is in the proportion of two tablespoonfuls of oatmeal, a half tablespoonful of powdered borax and a half pint of rose water.

Let the mixture stand three days, strain, and add a half ounce of alcohol. The addition of the alcohol prevents the souring which is the drawback to so many oatmeal preparations.

If preferred, instead of using all oatmeal, it can be mixed with half its bulk of almond meal. Either of these washes makes the skin feel soft and smooth.

Buttons That Last.

Use white lace buttons on thin dresses and blouses. The eyes cannot break, there are no shanks to pull out and, above everything else, they cannot be wrung off in the clothes wringer. The last trouble is something that perplexes the average housewife, who must always replace buttons after the return of the week's washing. These buttons are not new on the market by any means, but they are not as universally used as they should be.

FOR THE SEPARATE WAIST.

Style Must Either Be Extremely Lingerie or Severely Tailored.

To show the unsettled state of the fashions just now, one authority announces that this is to be a season of the lingerie waist par excellence, while another equal in authority says, "with the crepes and thin cottons, exquisite mulls and dainty foulards that are shown in charming combination of plain colors lingerie gowns are to be rather out of the running."

However, one thing seems to be assured. There is to be no half-way business. The waist must be very "lingerie," or it must be severely tailored.

For the former, French valenciennes, hand-made Irish and Cluny laces, and fine hand embroidery are used in as great profusion as one's time and purse will allow.

Morning waists of the tailored variety are mostly of white shirting linen or striped madras, fastened down the front with pearl buttons.

Often the white ones have Cluny lace set in down the front on each side of the middle plait, and in the turnover collar and cuffs.

The colored ones are usually untrimmed, except for lengthwise tucks of various widths.

Mother Will Appreciate Gift.

As baby's little cambric night slip, flannel dressing gown and night petticoat were removed, his mother hung the tiny garments on a pretty little rack which hung from the back of the chair on which stood the dressing basket. When his lordship's morning toilet had been made, it was the work of an instant to lift the little rack from the chair to a place beside an open window where the crib belongings were also airing. The handy little rack was made of half a window-shade roller, wound with ribbon and provided with a ribbon hanger, to which was sewed a big hook for attaching to the chair back. Smaller hooks were screwed into the roller at even distances and on these the tiny night garments were hung.

Good for Boys.

Tan stockings and shoes are much more stylish for spring wear than plain black, and are specially suggested for boys, who do not wear white after seven or eight years.

In socks the stripes in contrasting colors are more popular, although a great variety in design and in coloring has been worked into the new models. The plain socks are not much on view, although later they must inevitably appear.

Cushion Covers.

Burlap and craftsman's canvas are much used for cushion covers, and really beautiful effects may be brought out with very little effort. A design, conventional or otherwise, cut from cretone and applied with an embroidery stitch, will make a brave showing at the expense of little time or trouble. Another cock feathers drown diagonally across the pillow and worked with mercerized thread in natural colorings. Craftsmen canvas is one dollar a yard up, 50 inches wide. Burlap is inexpensive.

Polish for Kid Boots.

Beat the white of an egg with an equal quantity of water and a little sugar candy. If properly made the mixture will be transparent, not at all sticky, and it will stand pretty nearly any climate. It is good for all fine leather.

Grease Stains on Silk.

Rub the silk with French calk or magnesia and then hold it to the fire. Thus the grease will be absorbed by the powder, which may then be brushed off.