

Light Freights

By W. W. JACOBS

Private Clothes

At half-past nine the crew of the Mermaid were buried in slumber, at 9:32 three of the members were awake with heads protruding out of their bunks, trying to peer through the gloom, while the fourth dreamt that a tea-tray was falling down a never-ending staircase. On the floor of the forecastle something was cursing prettily and rubbing itself.

Bill struck a tansicker match, and carefully nursing the tiny sulphurous flame with his hand, saw dimly some high-colored object on the floor. He got out of his bunk and lit the lamp, and an angry and very drunken member of her majesty's foot forces became visible.

"What are you doing here?" inquired Ted, sharply, "this ain't the guard-room."

"Who knocked me over?" demanded the soldier, sternly; "take your coat off like a man."

He rose to his feet and swayed unsteadily to and fro.

"If you keep your IT 'eads still," he said, gravely, to Bill, "I'll punch 'em."

"He's drunk, Bill," said another voice, "don't 'urt 'im. He's a chap who said 'e was coming aboard to see me—I met 'im in the Green Man this evening. You was coming to see me, mate, wasn't you?"

The soldier looked up stupidly, and gripping hold of the injured Bill by the shirt, staggered to his feet again, and advancing towards the last speaker let fly suddenly in his face.

"Sort man I am," he said, autobiographically. "Feel my arm."

The indignant Bill took him by both, and throwing himself upon him suddenly fell with him to the floor. The intruder's head met the boards with a loud crash, and then there was silence.

At breakfast, by which time they were in a dirty tumbling sea, with the Nore lightship, a brown, forlorn-looking object on their beam, the soldier, who had been breathing sternly, raised his heavy head from the boat, and with glassy eyes and tightly compressed lips gazed wonderingly about him.

"What cheer, mate?" said the delighted Bill. "Ow goes it?"

"Where am I?" inquired Private Harry Bliss, in a weak voice.

"Brig Merman," said Bill, "bound for Bystemouth."

"Well, I'm damned," said Private Bliss; "it's a blooming miracle. Open your grub," said Private Bliss, bitterly, as he turned to depart.

"Get out and walk," said the skipper, contemptuously, over his shoulder, as he walked off.

"Here," said Mr. Bliss, unbuckling his belt, "hold my tunic one of you. I'll learn 'im."

Before the paralyzed crew could prevent him he had flung his coat into Bill's arms, and followed the master of the Mermaid aft. As a light-weight he was rather fancied at the gymnasium, and in the all-too-brief exhibition which followed he displayed fine form and a knowledge of anatomy which even the skipper's tailor was powerless to frustrate.

"This," said the skipper, bitterly, as he turned to the mate, "is what you an' me have to pay to keep up. I wouldn't let you go now, my lad, not for a fl' pun' note. Deserter, that's what you are!"

"I've 'eard," said the cook, who was a tender-hearted man, "as 'ow it's a good thing to go for a day or so without food sometimes."

"Who said so?" inquired Private Bliss, hotly.

"Different people," replied the cook. "You can tell 'em from me they're blamed fools," said Mr. Bliss.

There was an uncomfortable silence; Mr. Bliss lit his pipe, but it did not seem to draw well.

"Did you like that pot 'o six-half I stood you last night?" he inquired somewhat pointedly of Bob.

Bob hesitated and looked at his plate.

"No, it was a bit flat," he said at length.

"Well, I won't stop you 'olaps at 'em."

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For Little Folks

WHEN the school holidays are provided, the next question on hand is: "What shall the little folks have for best?"

The models shown in the sketch offer good suggestions for frocks that are simple, yet follow artistic lines. The little boy's suit is one of the new winter models for dressy wear. It is a Russian blouse suit of fine twilled white pique, with a wide band of English embroidery on the collar.

The first sketch on the left is of pink challie for a girl of five or seven years. The dainty little hand embroidery is done in the same shade of embroidery silk. The yoke is of tucked pink mull with a row of hand-embroidered dots on the collar.

The next dress is for a girl of from 15 to 18 years. It is of cream color cashmere with platings on the waist, the girde and band on the skirt of old rose mesalline. There is a little round collar of real baby Irish lace. The guimpe is of cream color net.

There is nothing so quaint for a wee tot as a Mother Hubbard dress. The one in the sketch is made entirely by hand, of French nainsook. If possible, the little insertions should be of real Valenciennes lace, but if this cannot be had, then only the best grade of machine-made lace should be used. A little pink ribbon is run through the beading at the waist.

The last model is for a ten-year-old girl. It is a very dainty little gown of light blue Tyrian silk. The fitted neckpiece and shoulder capes are braided with the same tone silk soutache. At each side of the girde in front is a sash end, finished with a blue silk tassel. The guimpe is of fine white mull, with hand run tucks and trimmings of Valenciennes lace.

NOVELTIES FOR DAINTY LUNCH.

Welcome Refreshment at the End of Card Games.

In these days of a table or two of bridge as a form of entertainment, hostesses are interested in inexpensive novelties for refreshments.

What to serve depends largely on the customs of the city and the time of the party. During the hot weather the morning has been the favorite hour. Play lasts from ten o'clock until 12:30, when a cold lunch is served on the card tables or in the shaded dining room.

This might consist of halves of cantaloupe, with a few blackberries in each piece; jellied gumbo in cups; boned chicken or Virginia ham, carrots and peas in aspic, tiny French rolls, iced coffee, whole tomatoes stuffed with chopped green peppers, and olives covered with mayonnaise; peach or blackberry sherbet with vanilla.

Such a menu can easily be prepared the day before at the cost of but a few dollars.

If a lunch seems too much trouble, iced coffee, tiny bacon or cheese sandwiches, cake and candy are passed a little before noon, so the guests may get home to lunch.

With these light refreshments daintiness should make up for variety. Invest in a set of card cake cutters, which consist of four pieces to represent the aces of spades, clubs, hearts and diamonds. These can be used to shape both the sandwiches and cakes.

Bake a rich cup cake in thick layers in an oblong pan to save waste in cutting. Ice the clubs and spades in a fudge icing and the other two shapes in a boiled white icing colored red with currant sirup or a few drops of cochineal.

Serve the iced coffee in tall, thin glasses half filled with cracked ice and with whipped cream on the top. Russian tea or ginger ale may be substituted for the coffee.

Instead of the sandwiches, crackers, buttered, covered with Parmesan cheese and red pepper and toasted in the oven may be used.

The candies can be made at home, either fudge or white grapes, seeded and covered with a cream fondant.

LARGE HATS STILL WORN.

Tendency Now Is to Have the Trimming Rather Flat.

Despite predictions to the contrary, the large hat—the very large hat—is still fashionable, but the tendency this season is to have the trimming rather flat, except in the case of the dressy plumed hats designed for afternoon and evening wear. Some of the smartest hats shown by the importers are quite severe in trimming, but the lines of these hats are so good that they are generally most becoming. One particularly smart shape which would be excellent for street wear with a tailor gown, is shown this season. The brim of this hat is very large, rolled slightly at the left and down a little at the right side of the back. The crown is low, but very large, and is wider at the base than at the top, which is rounded in mound shape. Corded silk with rather a large rib, in any desired color, is used for the top of the hat, the underbrim being faced with black moire silk. The shape was shown trimmed in two ways, one style which was especially smart for young girls having only a twist of wide black moire ribbon around the crown, with a large bow at the left side of the back, the pointed ends of which were allowed to fall a little over the edge of the brim. The other style of trimming was a little more elaborate, as it consisted of a large gaurah feather in quill shape with a stiff rib in the center, fastened at the left side of the front with a small flat bow of black satin ribbon.

IN VOGUE.

The ribbon craze still increases. Satin has the greatest vogue in its history. Pearl and crystal beads have returned to favor. Half the new silks for general wear are taffetas. New velvets show a tendency to ward fruit shades. Nearly all winter coats show a short waisted effect. Washable fabrics are first choice for children's wear. Crepe de chine is one of the principal fabrics of the year. The fur felt hat is coming again to its own for winter wear. Silk will be much worn, not only for linings but in dresses. Picturesque effects prevail among evening and even daytime toffets.

GOOD TONICS FOR THE HAIR.

Mixtures That Have Proved Successful in Many Cases.

An interesting story is told of a girl of 15, who suddenly and unaccountably lost all her hair. In despair her mother sent for the doctor, who told her to have the child's head shaved and to wash it three times a week with a mixture formed of one-half ounce of coquimbura and a pint of good Jamaica rum. The family tried it, and to their surprise the remedy was successful, for not only did the hair return, but it grew out a beautiful golden shade.

The juice of a lemon applied to the scalp is said to be a remedy for the falling of dark hair, and another strange hair tonic is made of three common onions steeped in a quart of rum for 24 hours.

A man whose eyes had been treated by injections of pilocarpine had a new growth of hair at the age of 60. Rum and castor oil, in equal parts, are known to be one of the best hair growers in existence.

POCAHONTAS FEATHER BRAID.

The new trimming made up of different colored wings that look like an Indian's head dress, has been named the Pocahontas. It is a yard long and is stretched straight across the hat. These sell from 75 cents to six dollars, and come in all colors.

SCOUTACHE BRAID.

Scoutache braid enters into the composition of the new hats as a decoration. Many of the latest models show a tam crown braided in rows, completed by a brim of satin, and are to be had in black and colors.

An odd use of the braid was on a satin hat trimmed with wings of the guinea hen and the duck combined. These were arranged in the front, going in opposite directions, and were held down with large disks (dollar size) made from the braid and connected with knotted loops of the braid.

SILK BANDS OUT.

One of the kinds of trimming that seems to be entirely out of style is silk bands. The wide folds are used, but not the stitched pieces that have been employed to cover seams and to carry out designs on voile and cloth frocks. Braid is used instead. All widths of it are put on skirt and coat.

Street skirts are but a trifle longer than the summer dresses have been. Taupe is the ruling shade in hats.

NOTES FROM MEADOWBROOK FARM

By William Pitt

Don't let freezing weather find you unprepared.

Sow some rye. It makes fine chicken pasture all winter.

Weather-beaten, unpainted buildings are no credit to the farm.

Sell off the surplus chickens, and thus save on feed and trouble.

Improve your soil by putting humus into it by every possible means.

The unthrifty chick offers the favorable soil in which to grow the roup germ.

The farmer who is eager to get other folks' thinks is apt to be a thinker himself.

An office for the farmer? Why not? Good place to keep his books, accounts, seed catalogues, etc.

Virgin soil should have a certain amount of cultivation with crops before being set out to fruit trees.

The best feed for making muscle is oats, the best for fat building is corn, the best for milk production is silage.

The only louse the poultryman can afford to have around is the dead louse. See that that is the only kind you keep.

Make friends with the new ideas. Don't let them run away with you but harness them and make them work for you.

Did you attend the fair? If not, have you a reason that will justify you with your conscience and square you with your neighbors?

Always sort fruit intended for market. First-class fruit mixed in with that of inferior quality always sells for less than it would had it been kept by itself.

Get in line with a few trap nests and test out the best of the pullets. Then use their eggs for hatching next spring and thus begin the improvement of your flock.

Put new planks in the approaches to the barn before the horse gets his foot through the cracks made by the decaying of the edges of the board and causes himself serious injury.

Plow the ground this fall that is infested with wireworms, cutworms, etc., and then let the chickens at 'em. An occasional harrowing will keep the worms where the chickens can get them.

No two horses require the same amount of feed to keep them in good condition, any more than do two persons. Intelligent feeding must be based upon knowledge of the individual traits of the animals fed.

Have you tried getting a stand of alfalfa? Prof. Ten Eyck declares his belief that alfalfa is going to do more for the western farmer during the next 50 years than any other crop which he may be able to grow.

The farmer who does not read a good farm paper and take the bulletins of his state experiment station, cannot hope to raise the standard of his farming any more than the man who takes hold of his own boot straps can hope to raise himself from the floor.

You have heard of the muslin curtain front for poultry houses. Why not try such a covering over at least one of the windows of your poultry house this winter? Verdict of those who have tried them is that the hens are healthier and lay better where houses are so equipped.

Never let the cream become overheated or overripe if you wish to pack the butter made from it. Remember that the best butter can only be made from cream that is in the best condition, and that the keeping quality of butter depends upon the condition of the cream from which it was made.

If you use hay caps and have been bothered with inconvenient weights for the corners try cement weights next season. They can be easily made by molding a ball of soft cement weighing about eight ounces into which inch and a half wire staples are set. Cords can then be used to tie the cement balls to the hay cap corners.

Where Saturday night ends every bit of farm work save that which is absolutely necessary—such as stock feeding and milking—and Sunday is enjoyed as a day of rest and attendance upon the house of worship, the farmer begins the week's work Monday morning with a clear brain to plan, a vigorous body to make light work of every task, and a hopeful, cheery heart that fills all the hours of the day with sunshine.

Where cheese is made on the farm, a new tin washbottle will serve as a cheese vat, and a clean, splint basket will do for a drainer. The mold can be made from a discarded peck measure. If rennet tablets can be secured rennet can usually be purchased of a butcher, since it comes from the lining of the fourth stomach of a calf. Tablets are the most convenient, and can be secured from most drug stores, or all dairy supply houses. One tablet will make 200 pounds of cheese.

Alfalfa is the dairyman's friend, surely, if the figures of D. H. Otis are correct. He figures that a ton of alfalfa contains 220 pounds of digestible protein, which at six cents a pound would be worth \$13.20, and, if we got four tons to the acre, we could have a value of \$52.80. Of course, for a dairyman to realize this much from an acre of alfalfa, he must feed judiciously and in proper combination with other feeds; but if he realizes only one-half of this amount, he is getting excellent returns from his land. Wheat bran, long the standard feed for dairy cows, contains only 12.2 pounds of digestible protein in every 100 pounds.

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Conducts Examination

The council of the Royal College of Surgeons has given permission to Dr. Elliot Smith and Dr. Wood Jones of the Cairo Medical School, to carry out, in the museum of the college, an examination of a collection of material found during excavations in the Nile valley. The material is representative of peoples inhabiting Nubia in ancient times, and is expected to throw light on their pathology and the results of their surgery. The Egyptian government has expressed its willingness to present the collection of specimens to the museum of the Royal College of Surgeons.

Have Short Week.
The week is five days long in Thibet.

Did you ever watch an Englishman at a bar? As soon as he gets his drink he sits down at a table and begins to sip it. It takes him half an hour to finish a drink which would be a mere swallow for a Yankee. Some psychologist ought to take hold of this and try to find out whether some of our disagreements with England were not due to the fundamental difference between a nation of sippers and a nation of gulpers.—Morning Telegraph.

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