

**Sofka—  
The Popular Drink**

Sofka, the national drink of the Creek Indians of the Indian Territory, is to them what the mint julep is to the native Kentuckian. It is made of corn and water. There are three kinds—plain, sour and white. The latter two are fancy mixed drinks. The recent invasion by white people of the domain of the Creek Indians has popularized sofka until the fashion of drinking it has spread all over the southwest, and it promises to become an equal favorite with the mint julep and whisky sour.

Indians have a dish made expressly for sofka. When an Indian wants a sofka dish he goes to the woods, hews down a hickory tree and cuts therefrom a block ten inches thick. In one side of this block he hollows out a bowl shaped cavity six inches deep and makes the inside as smooth as possible. In this vessel the Indian places his corn, and with a pestle, which is sometimes made of stone, but more commonly of hard hickory, he pounds the corn until it is a coarse meal. Then he takes some kind of fan or something which will take its place, and fans the broken grains until all the husks fly away. If the broken grains are uneven in size he takes out the larger grains and beats them into a finer meal.

A potful of hot water and two quarts of meal are used in making sofka. When the corn and water have been placed over the fire, take some vessel having perforations in the sides or bottom and put in it some clean wood ashes. Then nearly fill the vessel with water. Hold this vessel over the pot containing the meal, and let the lye made by the water soaking through the ashes drip into the sofka. Then the mixture is allowed to boil for from three to five hours. It is next set aside and not drunk for days later. This is plain sofka.

The sour sofka is made in the same way, but the mixture is set aside until it has soured or fermented. This soured mixture is the popular drink among the full-blooded element. White sofka is made from white corn and tastes much better. The Indians have a fine white corn which they raise exclusively for this purpose. In making white sofka the grains are cooked whole and the flakes are eaten later after having been boiled in the water and lye. The corn is then known as big hominy.

The Indians eat with their sofka a dish known as blue dumplings, which are quite as necessary as cheese and crackers with beer. In the making of blue dumplings two cups of cornmeal are used, a half teaspoonful of baking soda and a small quantity of butter. The meal and soda are mixed thoroughly. Enough butter is used to make the meal hold together and it is rolled into little balls. These little balls are dropped into a pot of boiling water, boiled for from three to five minutes, removed with a spoon and served hot. The dish is fit for any palate.

**Her Younger  
... Sister**

"Aren't you just a little envious of that younger sister of yours?" was asked a young lady at a Lincoln party one evening recently. The catechised was a young lady whose years in society are numbered by no less than half a dozen. Her day of extreme popularity had passed, and on one finger rests a telltale solitaire. The question was put as the younger sister, who is beginning her second season, swept out of the room surrounded by half a dozen young men, vying with each other in an effort to be extremely entertaining.

"Not a bit of it," came the quick response. "I am glad to see her have such a good time. She's experiencing

the height of joyous excitement right now. She's having the best time of her life, at this moment. I enjoy myself in her enjoyment, but I don't want any of it myself.

"There was a time when I was just as delighted with all that attention as she is. For the first two years in society I liked nothing better than to have a horde of young men about me all the time. I wanted to go to everything, and use to vie with the other young ladies in an effort to gather about me a large following. But I soon tired of that sort of thing, as does every young lady.

"There comes a time in the life of every girl—with some it arrives earlier than it does with others—when she prefers a few good friends to a horde of passing acquaintances. I am more contented with my four or five real substantial friends, on whom I can rely at all times, than my sister is with her dozen or more less reliable acquaintances.

"Why should I be envious of her? She's enjoying herself just as I did

four and five years ago. I'm having more real enjoyment right now than she is, although it is of a different sort, and in four years from now she will be talking just as I am this evening."

\* \* \*

Police—What first called your attention to the fact that your house had been robbed?

She—I missed my hand-mirror.

\* \* \*

Jaggles—The necessities of life are dearer today than they ever were.

Waggles—Nonsense. Divorces are advertised for \$40, and bankruptcy proceedings for \$100.

\* \* \*

Mother—"Come, Willie, this is Miss D'Arcy, your new governess. Won't you give her a kiss?" Willie—"No, no, ma; I'd rather not. Papa kissed her yesterday, and she slapped him."

\* \* \*

She sighed dolorously. "What is it, sweetheart?" he asked, solicitously.

"Only think, dearest," she answered, a sob in her voice, "this is the last evening we can be together until tomorrow."

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