



Whether Common or Not

By WILL M. MAUPIN.

Musings

Once more the melancholy days
Their dreary cycles roll;
And we must hustle out and raise
The winter's jag of coal.

The autumn wind sighs through the trees,
As southward turns the sun;
And we must pay, if we'd not freeze,
Eleven plunks per ton.

The leaves are curled and turning brown,
And soon the frost will blight;
And ev'rything is coming down
Excepting anthracite.

The summer skies have turned to gray,
A blue haze fills the air;
And thoughts of coal bills I must pay
Turns likewise gray my hair.

The coal trust smites me hip and thigh,
And laughs my grief to scorn;
It grabs off ev'ry dollar I
Can make 'twixt morn and morn.

The barons who control the coal
Indulge in ghoulish glee,
Because they have supreme control
At Washington, D. C.

The Household Magician

The vanishing coin is one of the favorite tricks of the parlor magician, and although very simple it never fails to attract attention. The trick of making the coin vanish is performed in this way:

First secure a coin. Usually this is not a difficult matter, although often attended with considerable outlay of energy. Having secured the coin walk to the polls and vote the high tariff ticket. The rapidity with which the coin will vanish from your pocket is really startling. After the coin has vanished from your pocket you can further mystify your audience by pointing out the trust pocket in which it may be found.

The obedient card is another favorite trick easily performed. Take a pack of cards and designate one as the "Knave of Trusts." Put the pack in the box open at one end, the top of the cards pointing upwards. Two things now remain to be done—one is to neglect your opportunities and the other is to call for the designated card. It will show up on top every time.

Heavy Loss

Slowcus—I lost a half million last night.
Crowcus—Speculation or poker?
Slowcus—Neither. Miss DeMunn said "no."

Modern Slang

"Old Fogey." One who believes that might does not make right, and contends for principle instead of pelf.
"Little American." One who believes in setting a great example instead of playing the great bully.
"Benevolent Assimilation." A convenient excuse for taking that which belongs of right to another.
"Destiny." A shoplifter's excuse when caught in the act.
"Economic Evolution." The usual explanation of the man who can not otherwise give a reason for his wrongdoing.
"Duty." A word by which some men ease their conscience when they wrong their fellows.

"Financiering." A word used to express the idea of selling nothing for something to people who want to get something for nothing.

"Stocks." Present tense of gold brick.

"Protection." Making a man pay for the privilege of inflicting wrong upon himself.

"Trust." An anchor to windward for the administration's campaign managers.

"Reciprocity." Synonym for fatfrying. (See Cortelyou.)

Explained

"Look here, Snaverly; I understand that you told Hammerly that I was the biggest liar you ever met."

"Hammerly misinformed you. I merely told him that your stories differed as much as the newspaper war maps of Manchuria."

Stuck

"What makes Pusherly look so blue and down in the mouth?"

"He's got a fine business proposition but can't make it go."

"What is it?"

"He's mapped out a splendid advertising campaign, but he can't get money enough to make an article to put on the market."

Satisfied

The Shrewd Politician stood upon the corner while the Labor Parade moved by.

"That looks as if the politicians were losing their hold on the labor vote," remarked the Casual Observer.

"I am always delighted to see Labor marching in grand review," said the Shrewd Politician, ignoring the remark of the Casual Observer. "When Labor puts on its holiday clothes and marches in solid ranks it shows a growing spirit of fellowship that delights me."

"But do you not fear for your political supremacy when you see Labor thus marching?" queried the Casual Observer.

Placing his finger in the buttonhole of the Casual Observer and leading him around the corner into a dark alley, the Shrewd Politician whispered:

"My dear sir; there is no danger as long as Labor confines its solid marching to Labor day. When it begins voting solidly on election day there will be trouble for us."

Suspicious

"I am quite sure Soakerly was intoxicated last evening. When I passed him on the street he was trying to talk, but his words were terribly chewed up."

"You do Soakerly an injustice. He was perfectly sober. When you passed he was trying to describe the route taken by Kuropatkin's army."

Brain Leaks

Half tried is twice condemned. There are more hypocrits outside of the church than inside.

The man who has nothing but money is worse than a pauper.

The day started with a frown is quite apt to end with a failure.

The man with a message never has any difficulty in securing a hearing.

The best way to forget old age is to have a joyous childhood to remember.

It takes a really good and brave man to listen to the truth without flinching.

There is considerable difference be-

tween making religion attractive and making religion profitable.

Man can not lift himself by his bootstraps, but many a man has pulled himself down with a corkscrew.

Some men have to undergo a terrible jolt before they realize the difference between partisanship and patriotism.

The happiest day of a youth's life is the day he first notices that he wets his mustache when drinking out of a saucer.

Fortune knocks once at every man's door, but many of us are "chewing the rag" so hard we fail to hear the knock.

The fellow who is always claiming that the world owes him a living is usually too lazy to make any effort at collecting the debt.

Some men swear because they think it is smart; others because their vocabulary is very limited, and all who do swear do so because they are foolish.

Recently we have tried to read two or three alleged diaries of "bad boys." We confess that we never met any boys quite as bad as the efforts of the authors.

When a woman is baking and burns her hand, she feels well repaid for her suffering if her husband says, "O, dear; that's too bad!" when she shows him the blister.

The Candidate

And now the wily candidate
Does roam about the land,
And grasp the weary voter by
His sturdy, strong right hand.
But when the votes are in the box
And totals all are taken,
'Tis not the sturdy voter's hand
But the voter that is shaken.

Statistical

That "figures don't lie" is a story as old
As the hills or valleys between.
But the genuine fact is, by diligent practice
They will lie like a patent machine.
For when liars figure, between you and I
The figures themselves will quite readily lie—
A fact which no honest man will dare deny,
For the proof is too readily seen.

There's Carroll D. Wright who is always dead wrong
Because he don't try to be right.
He sputters and fidgets while juggling digits
To keep the plain truth hid from sight.
He tells you that living is cheap as can be;
Much cheaper and better than in '93—
But your grocer's bills tell you that Wright is n. g.,
And living expenses a fright.

He figures an average with nutmeg and meat,
And averages spices and shoes.
And would have you believe that you always receive
More goods for the dollar you use.
He'd balance a nutmeg against your meat bill;
The item of rent in Wright's view is but nil,
And 'tis thus that he juggles the figures with skill
To serve the trusts as an excuse.

Yes, figures will lie just as quick as a wink
When the figurer means to deceive.
And the man who believes 'em or jumps to receive 'em
Will later have reason to grieve.
Pass up Mr. Wright and the figures he makes;
They're chock full of errors and wonderful "breaks,"
From nutmegs to spices they're full of mistakes,
Which even Wright does not believe.

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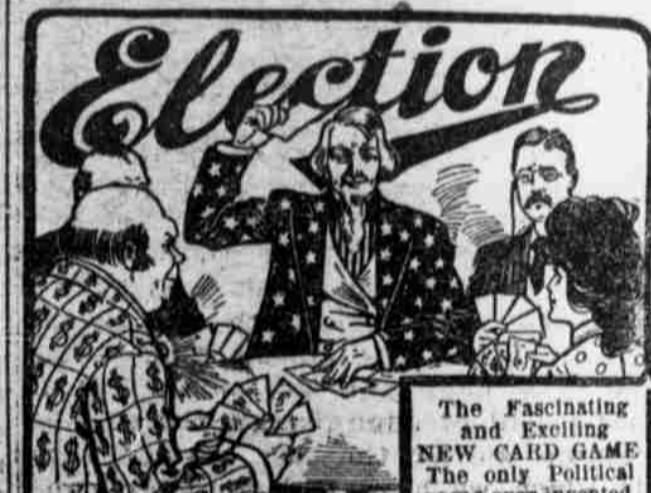
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