



Whether Common or Not

By WILL A. MAUPIN.

Buckwheat Cakes and Honey

(With proper acknowledgements to Mr. J. M. Dryden of Watson, Mo.)
 You may talk about your coffee and some rolls at breakfast time,
 You may sing the praise of country eggs and ham.
 You may talk in glowing measure of the health foods fit and prime,
 Or chant of chops you carve from pig and lamb.
 But I tune my voice for singing of a finer bill of fare—
 None better could the mind of man ere wish—
 O, for breakfast ev'ry morning let me witness standing there
 Smoking buckwheats and some honey by the dish.
 Give me glowing, redhot buckwheats and some honey in the comb—
 Lots of both, and then upon 'em turn me loose—
 And with knife and fork I'll rattle out the old tune, "Home, Sweet Home,"
 Till my appetite puts out a flag of truce.
 Buckwheats hot from off the griddle, lots of honey—O, yum-yum!
 Talk about our bills of fare from soup to fish!
 I'll pass up the French chefs quickly if you'll only give me some
 Sizzling buckwheats and some honey by the dish.
 I'll admit there's lots of pleasure 'round the splendid banquet board,
 With rich viands brought from ev'ry land and clime;
 I'll confess I've smiled with pleasure when rich vintages were poured,
 And the quip and jest flew fast to pass the time.
 But despite the glare and glitter, and despite the viands rare,
 While I sat there I possessed a secret wish—
 Just a wish that they would give quite a plenty and to spare
 Of good buckwheats and some honey by the dish.

Corrected

Orator—"In the bright lexicon of youth there is no such word as 'fall.'" Printer (in the rear seat).—"Huh! That publishing house needs a proof-reader."

Postscript

"Man wants but little here below"—
 You've heard that oft before;
 Now to that little line I'll add
 But just one small line more:
 "Man wants but little here below,"
 Then why his vain regrets?
 He wants but little, and 'tis true
 It's little that he gets.

Disappointed

He walked into our office with a stately tread, and with the grace of a Chesterfield handed us his card.
 "What can we do for you?" we asked.
 "Sir, you can help me herald to the world the greatest invention ever offered to man."
 "And that is?" we queried, stopping to give him opportunity to explain.
 "I have invented a non-losable collar button. By an attachment so small

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as to be almost imperceptible a bell is set ringing the moment the button is dropped, and the bell continues to ring until the button is returned to its proper position in the neckband or cuff, as the case may be. In this manner it is rendered unnecessary that the owner search in three thousand places where the button might have fallen, while all the time it is hidden away in a place where the owner could not have placed it by the most diligent effort. This invention of mine is destined to revolutionize business and bring about a reform in the matter of profanity, and I am sure that you as a man of public spirit, and—

And then two uniformed men rushed in, grabbed the visitor and manacled his wrists.
 "Beg pardon, sir," said one of them, "He is usually harmless, but if he gets started he's liable to get violent. He got away from us this mornin' an' we just got him located."

Even

The committee of Plain People, sent to Washington to investigate Senator Graball, was ushered into the presence of the Great Man.

Thrusting his right hand into the bosom of his left breast the Great Man bowed and asked:

"And now, gentlemen, what can I do for my well beloved constituents?"

"Senator Graball," said the spokesman in an awed tone of voice, "it is charged in our state that you owe everything to the great corporations. We have come to see what basis there is for the charge, and to ask you about it."

"Gentlemen!" thundered the Great Man. "There is no basis for the cruel charge. I owe the corporations nothing—absolutely nothing. I ask you to go right ahead with your investigation."

So saying the committee of Plain People was majestically bowed from the room. As the last of the committee disappeared the Great Man smiled grimly, dropped into an easy chair and muttered:

"No, I owe the corporations nothing. I have paid them in full."

Having no access to the corporations' books the committee of Plain People was compelled to return and report accordingly.

Where to Build It

"I see that the canal commission is undecided which plan of construction to follow, whether to take the thirty foot elevation, the sixty foot elevation or the ninety foot elevation"

"Say, this canal has been in the air long enough. What's the matter with building it, and building it on the level?"

Before and After

The manager of the transportation company called his employes together and made them a little speech.

"My dear friends," said the manager, "if this bill before congress becomes a law we will, in self defense, be compelled to reduce the wages of our employes. It is to your interests to help us defeat the iniquitous measure. It strikes at your bread and butter, and I would not have your dinnerpalls abbreviated."

Much more along the same line did the manager say, and the men counseled together. Throwing their influence against the bill they were enabled

to see it overwhelmingly defeated. Six days later notice of a 20 per cent reduction in wages was posted. The men called on the manager en masse and protested.

"You told us that if that bill became a law our wages would be reduced. We defeated the bill, and lo, our wages are reduced just the same. How is it?"

"My unsophisticated friends," said the manager, "we went to great expense to show how that bill would reduce your wages if it became a law, and we are now merely recouping ourselves for that expense."

Realizing that they were up against a "master of finance" the employes returned to work, muttering however, and wondering what would come next.

Our Subtle Language

"My only desire in seeking this office," said the candidate, "is to do you good."

After being triumphantly elected he did do the people, good.

However, the people may have been to blame for not understanding the subtleties of our language.

Brain Leaks

Not all misers hoard money.

Gossips thrive only when listeners are handy.

A starving man finds it difficult to interest himself in tracts.

God looks behind the sum given to see the heart of the giver.

Some would-be reformers exhaust themselves in the prospectus.

The man who reaps joy today is the man who sowed smiles yesterday.

The best way to measure a man is to put him alongside a big issue.

A brave man is always willing to admit that he is afraid to do wrong.

A lot of men expect to wear crowns because their wives bore heavy crosses.

When a congregation goes to sleep it is a sign that it is time to wake up the preacher.

It's a selfish man who insists on sharing the benefits without helping to bear the expense.

We know men who never do good with their right hands for fear their left hands will find it out.

Whenever a man offers as an excuse for wrongdoing that he is a victim of environment it is generally safe to guess that he chose the environment.

The greatest successes some men achieve are their failures. And some men fail most lamentably when they succeed in accomplishing their objects.

As a general proposition it is not difficult to ascertain the party who is in the wrong in a labor dispute. Just spot the one who is not willing to meet the other half way.

When we hear a man making fun of what the average woman carries in her pocketbook we feel like offering him something to make a showing of what he has in his sixteen or twenty pockets.

Edgar Howard, one of the best democratic editors in the west, defends the dress suit on the ground that it is the most democratic garment a man can wear. He says that when men wear dress suits you can not tell the chief guest from the head waiter.

A Lincoln mother who has two little daughters recently began scolding because they kept the house in a constant litter with their toys. One of the little ones looked up and asked: "Mamma, which would you rather have, your two little girls or a clean house?"

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