



Whether Common or Not

By Will A. N. N. N.

Within the Week

The drumhead is busted, the trumpet is battered,
The wagon is crippled, the dishes are shattered.
The Christmas tree's down and the bright decoration
Is scattered and flung over all of creation.
The dolly is headless, and poor Jumping Jack,
Is nursing in silence his poor broken back.
The Mother Goose rhymes have been worn into pulp,
And naught of the candy is left now to gulp.
The candles have burned to a faint spot of grease,
And over the house there is silence and peace.
But what if the toys and the books are destroyed?
Just think of the hours the children enjoyed
The gay Christmas toys that were hung on the tree.
Just think of the week full of infantile glee.
It's enough to repay all the trouble and cost,
For the joy that we gave them can never be lost.
Twas a week of great gladness we'll never forget—
And we'll do it next Christmas—on that you can bet.

There is a Reason

"A Corn Belt Buckeye" who read The Commoner's recent editorial on the corn contest just ended in Nebraska wonders if the young folks who read The Commoner know that every ear of corn contains an even number of rows of kernels, and if they do know it, if they know why it is so. For it is so. No one has ever seen an ear of corn with an odd number of rows of kernels, and there certainly must be a reason for it. "A Corn Belt Buckeye" says he knows the reason, and he is willing to tell, but he wants the young folks to find out for themselves if possible. In their efforts to discover the reason for this they will add a great deal to their store of useful knowledge. They will do well not to waste time in trying to find an ear of corn with an odd number of rows, but begin at once to hunt for the reason why the number of rows is always even. In a week or two "A Corn Belt Buckeye's" explanation will be printed in this department.

Senatorial Courtesy

The new senator from Wisconsin had tried for several days to secure recognition but without avail. Naturally some people wondered why it was, and one of them asked Senator Graball about it. "Is it true, senator, that the gentleman from Wisconsin is being snubbed because he has expressed a desire to do something for the people?" "It is not true," replied Senator Graball in a burst of candor. "He is being snubbed because the rest of us are busy doing things to the people."

The Annual Vacation

The old cob pipe awoke early on New Year's morning, and after yawning a bit looked at the clock. "Well," muttered the old pipe, "I guess I'll not get up yet. I won't be able to go out of town on my annual

vacation, so I'll just roll over and take another snooze."

Suiting the action of the world the old pipe was soon asleep.

Four days later the old pipe was rudely aroused, and felt a lot of stuff being poked into its interior.

"Aw, here's where the work begins again," muttered the pipe. "My vacation is over. It lasted a day longer than I expected, and for that I ought to be grateful."

The next minute the pipe was giving out the regular allowance of smoke and one more good resolution had been shattered.

The Usual Way

Last Monday was a day of general swearing-off of bad habits. And that recalls the story of the old colored gentleman who was addicted to the habit of excessive drink. When asked why he didn't quit he replied: "It's dis here way, boss. Jus' as long as I kin quit when I wants ter I ain't in no danger. Jus' as soon as I fin' I kain't quit I's gwine t' swear off."

And that is just the trouble with a lot of us—we keep right on with the habit because we think we can quit when we want to, and then find out when too late that we can not stay quit.

Mr. Bildad

"My dear," said Mr. Bildad as he pushed back from the breakfast table on New Year's morning, "beginning with the new year let us resolve to do better."

"That is agreeable to me, Aminidab," chirruped Mrs. Bildad. "What shall we resolve to quit?"

"My dear, I will resolve not to pay any more attention to your constant nagging. In the future I shall regard all your innuendo and sly hints with supreme indifference, and I shall proceed upon my way with serenity and content. You may go right ahead with your nag—"

"Why, Mr. Bildad, I never nag. I am sure that I am as quiet and as long-suffering as a dutiful wife should be. If I do allow my temper to get the better of me now and then I am sure it is not my fault. You have such a nasty way of—"

"That's right, Mrs. Bildad," shouted Mr. Bildad. "That's right! Begin right now; right here at the dawn of the new year. Shed a few tears. Declare that you are going right home to your mother. Denounce me as the meanest husband in town. Go ahead, I say! Go ahead. I swan to Goshen, Maria; you can set a man wild with your everlasting nagging and hectoring, and I'm tired of it. I can't stand it any—"

"O, I'm not crying, Aminidab. Recall your resolve. Be serene, Aminidab, be serene. Treat me with supreme indifference. Be content, Aminidab, be content. Don't break your new year resolve almost before the echo of your words has died away. Be serene—"

But Mrs. Bildad's flow of language was interrupted by a loud slamming of the hall door, and the sharp tap-tap of Mr. Bildad's feet upon the pavement sounded like the long roll of a snare drum.

And Mrs. Bildad wore a smile all the rest of the morning.

Justifiable

The prisoner, instead of cowering when placed upon the witness stand by the coroner, stood boldly forth

with a defiant look in his clear brown eyes.

"What have you to say in defense of yourself?" queried the coroner.

"Only this, your honor," said the prisoner. "I am wholly responsible for the death of the deceased."

"You admit your guilt, eh?"

"I admit that I shot him."

"And why?"

"Your honor, yesterday I was married. The man now deceased was once my supposed friend. But he tied insulting placards to my trunk and to my wife's trunks. He distributed insulting notes among the passengers of the Pullman car in which we had engaged a section. He sent insulting telegrams on ahead and had them delivered to us en route. He pinned ribbons to my coat, and tied rags and flowers and twine upon our grips. Then he took the same train that we did and egged the passengers on to poke fun at us and make us miserable. At the junction he rushed up to us on the platform, giggling in idiotic glee—and I shot him."

The coroner sat pensive and silent. The six men in the jurybox leaned forward and waited for instructions.

"You will retire and strive to reach a verdict," said the coroner.

"Your honor," said the foreman, rising from his seat, "I reckon there ain't no manner o' use f'r this jury t' retire. I opine that we air ready right now t' agree. Am I right boys?"

"I think ye air, Bill," was the unanimous response.

"Yer honor, we th' jury empaneled t' try this here case is unanimous in returnin' a verdict o' justifiable homicide."

The cheers that arose from the spectators cracked the plastering, and the vindicated husband was borne aloft upon the shoulders of the populace to where his weeping wife awaited him.

Limerick

There was a young man in Cohoes
Who spent all his wages on clothes,
And now that he's old
He is hungry and cold
And quite broken down with his woes.

Brain Leaks

Grace is a growth, not a gift.
Banquets will not feed the heart hungry.
Jealously can find no room in a heart full of love.

Speaking of gas meters—there is the Congressional Record.

A great many people believe that sin is only a wrong found out.

A good resolution broken is better than no good resolutions at all.

Today should be a stepping stone upward from yesterday to tomorrow.

Santa Claus' home is at the North Pole, but he boards around in human hearts.

The man who mounts the water wagon "experimentally" is quite sure to fall off willingly.

If politics is an unclean game it is because unclean men have been permitted to run it so long.

Quite a number of eminent gentlemen have lately inaugurated reforms without meaning to do it.

When you begin wondering what a present cost it is a sign that the giver has made a mistake.

The older a man is the more confident he becomes that he could turn a handspring if he wanted to do so.

When a boy begins fussing with a necktie his mother begins wondering if any girl can really be good enough for him.

One difference between a man and a woman is that the man doesn't care how old he is provided he thinks he does not look it.

The man who performs no more work than he is paid for is usually the man who is always complaining about being unable to secure work.

Perhaps you have noted that with

the growth of all this "funny" business at weddings comes the growth of business in the divorce courts, and it may not be a mere coincidence.

The preachers of yesterday often preached two hours at a stretch, but the preachers of today hear complaints if they preach longer than thirty minutes. But we have noticed that the preachers of yesterday managed to arouse a lot of religious zeal.

IMPRESSION MADE BY MR. BRYAN

(The following editorial appeared in "Shinjin," a Tokyo newspaper, and was translated into English by Mr. J. Ingaki, official interpreter to Governor Ohomori of Kyoto.)

We have recently been busy receiving distinguished foreign guests who have visited our country.

Mr. Taft, United States secretary of war, Miss Alice Roosevelt and members of United States senate and congress visited first. Then Dr. Bowne, professor of Boston university, was interested in our educational and religious lines. Mr. Harriman, American millionaire and proprietor of a steamship company was one of our distinguished guests. The next, Admiral Noel, commander-in-chief of the British China squadron, commanding some battleships anchored off Tokyo bay. These distinguished guests were received properly by us. At the same time they no doubt left

\$80 A MONTH SALARY And all expenses to men with pig to introduce our Guaranteed Poultry and Stock Remedies. Send for contract; we mean business and furnish best reference. G. B. BLOOM CO., 414 Springfield, Ill.

The Langworthy Spavin Cure

The cure that cures, has made thousands of dollars for owners of lame horses by making them sound. Sent postpaid to any part of the world on receipt of two dollars. Guaranteed to cure the worst cases of spavin, ringbone, splint, etc., or money refunded. Send for circular. Lewis Bros., Proprietors, Jordan, N. Y.

RESTORES EYESIGHT

"Actina" a Wonderful Discovery that Cures Afflictions of the Eye Without Cutting or Drugging

There is no need for cutting, drugging or probing the eye for most forms of disease. There is no risk or experimenting, as hundreds of people have been cured of failing eyesight, cataracts, granulated lids and other afflictions of the eye through this grand discovery, after the cases were deemed incurable.

Mrs. A. L. Howe, Tully, N. Y., writes: "Actina removed cataracts from both my eyes. I can read well without glasses. Am 65 years old." Robert Baker, Ocean Park, Cal., writes: "I should have been blind had I not used Actina."

Actina is sent on trial postpaid. If you will send your name and address to the New York & London Electric Association, Dept. 351B, 929 Walnut Street, Kansas City, Mo., you will receive free a valuable book, Prof. Wilson's "Realise on Disease, and you can rest assured that your eyesight and hearing may be restored, no matter how many failures you have experienced.

VARIOUS AGRICULTURAL AND STOCK BREEDERS MEETINGS AT LINCOLN

All Northwestern line agents in Nebraska will sell tickets to Lincoln and return at the rate of one fare plus fifty cents, except where fare and one-third makes less. Dates of sale January 13th to 18th inclusive. All tickets will be good for return leaving Lincoln on any date up to and including January 22nd, 1906.

Inasmuch as every phase of farm life is discussed by competent lecturers, it is to be hoped that everybody interested in agriculture and stock raising will not fail to be in attendance. This low rate is also available to the general public and others contemplating a visit to the capitol city during the month of January.

R. W. M'GINNIS

General Agent C. & N. W. Ry., Lincoln.