



## Whether Common or Not

By WILL M. MURPHY.

### Spring

When the rivulets and rivers are a singing to the sea,  
When the robins and the bluebirds are a singing in the tree,  
When the balmy winds from southland are a blowing full and free,  
And the buds upon the trees are softly swelling,  
Then I wink at Mother Nature and she nods at me and smiles,  
And I look towards the woodlands with their sweet, alluring wiles,  
And the dreams of springtime glories all the weary day beguiles,  
While I listened to the tale the birds are telling.

When the sun is brightly climbing to the top of heaven's blue,  
When the hyacinth and crocus shyly push their buds to view,  
When the grass, frost-browned by winter, slowly takes a brighter hue,  
And the languor of the day is o'er me stealing,  
Then I wink at Mother Nature and her smile is sweet and gay,  
And I haste to wander idly o'er the hills and far away,  
While the glories never-ending of the springtime 'round me play,  
And the songbirds' notes new melodies revealing.

When the days are full of music and the nights are pleasant dreams,  
When the sunlight plays and dances on the crystal flowing streams,  
When the sun's warm rays are playing in a myriad golden gleams,  
And old winter lifts his chill and icy fingers,  
Then I look with eyes of longing on the reed and rod and line,  
And for days upon the river I begin to sigh and pine,  
And I know the golden glories of the wood and field are mine,  
While the echo of the bird songs sweetly lingers.

### A Little Fable

For thirty years the people gleefully and thoughtlessly elected as their lawmakers the genial gentlemen who were put forward by the trusts and corporations. As a result of this the lawmaking body was filled with representatives of the beef trust, the coal trust, the oil trust, the wool trust, the bank trust, the steel trust, the wood pulp trust, the lumber trust, the shipping trust, the railroad trust and numerous other trusts.

Gradually the burdens were laid upon the shoulders of the people, and finally the people rebelled and demanded a square deal.

Louder grew the demands, until finally the representatives of the trusts said:

"Ah, but we will deliver you from the control of these iniquitous trusts and combines. Behold, here is a bill to regulate the worst one of the lot—the railroad trust."

Then the people rejoiced and exclaimed: "The day of our deliverance is at hand."

Then they sat down and foolishly waited for the representatives of the trusts to act against the interests of the aforesaid trusts. One day the representative of the coal trust would speak, and the next day a representative of the steel trust would speak. There were enough of them to occupy many days, and at last the people forgot all about it.

Then the trusts put the screws on a little tighter to make up for lost time.

The people are slow to rebel and

awfully quick to forget. The trusts never forget.

Moral: A party absolutely controlled by trusts is not likely to give relief to an overburdened people.

### Waiting

"I thought you had a scheme for making a lot of money."

"I have, and it's a cinch. I'm just waiting."

"What are you waiting for?"

"O, I'm just waiting until I can find a community with enough suckers to pay me a bonus for going into a profitable business."

### Wants a Subsidy

"I'm gittin' tired o' haulin' my grain t' market f'r nuthin'," observed Farmer Halcedo.

"Don't you git nuthin' f'r haulin' it?" queried the village grocer.

"Well, I ain't never got no subsidy f'r haulin' it in, an' I reckon I'm just about as much entitled to a subsidy f'r haulin' my grain t' git th' money on it as them ship ownin' fellers are f'r engagin' in a business that pays big dividends."

### Our Leisure Classes

"Have you any leisure class in your country?" asked the English tourist.

"Well, that's according to what you call leisure," replied the citizen.

"We've got a lot of people who sit still and do nothing but complain while the corporations they created are robbing them blind. If that's what you mean, then we've got 'em."

### Shrewd

Duke DeBlewblud—"Sir, I would confer my titles upon your lovely daughter."

Old Shrewdun—"I guess not. I ain't doin' business like that no more since I bought that acre tract on the bottom o' Lake Michigan twenty years ago."

### Needed

"Do you think we need a spelling reform?"

"Not half as much as we need a more pronounced reform."

### The Difference

The sad depositor leaned to one side and looked down the long line ahead of him. It seemed a mile between him and the door of the bank upon which appeared the one word, "Closed."

"I've been thinking while standing here," he remarked, "of the difference between a savings bank and a faro bank. When a savings bank busts the fellows on the inside usually have all the money. When a faro bank busts the fellows on the outside have all the money."

### A Slight Mistake

"The days of the boss are over!" exclaimed the carmined individual on the street corner. "The days of the boss are over. We have issued our own emancipation proclamation, and from this time forth we as free men and as citizens of this glorious republic will—"

"John Smithers!" The carmined individual grew a shade paler and stammered.

"I said that we have written our own emancipation proclamation, and that from now henceforth and for—"

"John Smithers!"

The voice was followed by an angu-

lar female who pushed her way into the throng and faced the orator.

"John Smithers, I'm getting tired of this sort of thing. While you are orating on the corner I'm at home washing to earn the grub you eat, and splitting the wood that heats the water, too. Now I'll write a little emancipation proclamation of my own. You hike right out o' here for home, and when you git there you split me about 'leven cords o' wood, an' not a bite t' eat do you git till the wood's split, either."

And thus was blighted another fond delusion.

### Its Ultimate Fate

Mary had a little ramb,  
Its color you must guess.  
She sold it to the butcher man  
To buy her wedding dress.

### Different

"What did your wife say when you failed to keep your engagement to take her to the theatre?"

"She was speechless with anger."  
"Lucky man! My wife wasn't that angry."

### Sporting Item

The visitor noted a large hickory switch reposing snugly behind the bookcase.

"What is that, Tommy?" he inquired.

"O, that is our local bawl club," replied Tommy.

### L'Envoi

Six months ago he loudly swore  
He never would resign.

Said he, "I've nothing to restore;  
I earned it; it is mine."

But now he's lost his cosy job  
And groans upon the rack,  
And with full many a shaking sob  
He puts the money back.

You see, it should be borne in mind  
That grafter and public are both resigned.

### Brain Leaks

Self-respect begets self-confidence.  
Salvation is free, but it costs money to keep it.

Wretchedness is very often caused by having all you want.

We rather pity the man who never builds an occasional castle in Spain.

Every dog has his day, but we hope the "yellow dog" in politics has had his.

There is nothing quite so superfluous as the father of the bride on the wedding day.

The man who boasts of being the "boss" of his family is usually a physical bully and a moral coward.

The most valuable lesson in life is hard to designate, but learning to do without is entitled to consideration.

A good way to dull your wits is to hunt up people who will always agree with you, and associate only with them.

Some of the greatest sorrows in life have been the result of getting just what we sought after so diligently.

One of the greatest pleasures you can give a convalescent is to sit and sympathize with him while he tells you how sick he was.

The worst bore in the world is the man who interrupts your story about the bright sayings of your children to tell about the bright sayings of his children.

The hardest task a country woman has after moving to the city is to overcome the feeling of lonesomeness that comes when she finds she can not talk over the back fence with her near neighbors.

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