



Whether Common or Not

By Will N. M. M. M.

"We Are the State."

"We'll see you're protected, whatever the bill,"
Say Aldrich and Spooner and Knox.
"Any plan to your hurt we will speedily kill,
Or put in a court review box.
We'll shout for the people and pose as their friends,
But stand by the railroads till we gain their ends;
Each one of ever his influence lends
To saving our clients from shocks.

"We have in our midst a man who's immense
At feats acrobatic and great.
He can sit through the day time astride of a fence
And talk of the 'duties of state.'
At dancing on eggs without cracking the shells
None better than he in the whole country dwells;
He'll quibble and palter and argue by spells,
But Allison's surer than fate.

"We think we are able to gather and pull
Above the dear, dear people's eyes
Huge handfuls of blinding and obscuring wool.
And then swipe the whole blooming prize.
For William B. Allison's got a good plan
That has heretofore worked and fooled many a man;
We'll have him arise as only he can
And offer a shrewd 'compromise.'

"You bet we'll protect you, whatever betide."
Say Aldrich and Spooner and Knox.
"If people dissent and our plans override
We'll hasten to tinker their clocks.
At posing as friends of the people we're great,
But we will keep pushing to shove through our slate
And like Louis of old, we'll declare we're the slate—
Aldrich,
Spooner,
Knox."

Honest

The congressman who had voted constantly with the trusts and corporations found upon his arrival at home that his fences were in bad repair.
"Why is this thus?" he inquired.
"You have not been true to your promises," replied the outraged voters in chorus.
"That I deny," exclaimed the congressman. "Point out to me, if you can, one single instance wherein I have not been true to my pledges."
"You promised that when you went down to Washington you would be true to the people who sent you there," said the chorus.
"That is true" admitted the congressman. "And I am here to prove by the records that I have fulfilled that pledge."
"But did you not vote as the trusts and corporations dictated?" asked the chorus.
"That, gentlemen, I will not dispute. But again I insist that I have voted uniformly in the interests of those who sent me to Washington."
Seeing the futility of argument the people dispersed, but after thinking it over for a week or two it suddenly dawned upon them that the congressman was quite correct in his claim.
He had uniformly voted for the people who sent him to Washington. The

complainants had merely furnished the necessary votes.

The Leading Question

The grave and reverend senators may talk of tariff rates;
The house may now with owlish mien sit and deliberate.
Committees to investigate insurance scandals vile
May delve into the heap of muck and rake it deep the while.
Financial kings may turn their tricks,
And men of sordid mind and heart play dirty politics.
But not a question would be ask of men like these. We roar
At those who saw the base ball game:
"Hi, neighbor; what's the score?"

Seasonable Malady

"Hello, Binks! Folks all well?"
"All but Mrs. Binks."
"What ails her?"
"Spring fever. When I left home this morning she had a cloth tied around her head and was frantically yanking up carpets, pulling down curtains, shoving furniture around and sloshing hot water and lye all over the floors."

Regrets

I remember, I remember
The wondrous stores of ice
We had way last December.
And without any price.
Alas, alack! I wonder
A dozen times a day
How I'll get out from under
The price 'twill cost in May.

Queered

"What's the matter with Rhymerly?"
"He's been assigned to write a poem on the earthquake and fire, and he's trying to find a rhyme for 'San Francisco.'"

Construction

"Whangerly is always talking about being a 'self-made man.' Is he?"
"I guess so. But I believe he was riveted together with a pneumatic hammer."

Is This Familiar?

Louisville, Ky., is called the "Falls City" because of the rapids in the Ohio river near there. During the high water season many coal barges are wrecked at the falls, and as a consequence thousands of tons of coal have sunk to the bottom of the river. Several years ago a shrewd man discovered that this coal was as good as ever when brought to the surface and dried, so he set to work. He rescued huge piles of the coal from the river, piled it on the banks, let it dry and then sold it at good prices. He made money by the transaction.
One day a man walked along the river bank, and noticing the "coal dealer" asked him what he was doing.
"I'm dredging up coal from the bottom of the river and selling it," was the reply.
"Does it pay?"
"Yes. I am making good money at it."
"Do you want to hire a man to help you?"
"Well, I might hire a man or two. Want a job?"
"Yes. What will you pay?"
The dredger studied a minute and then said:
"I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll give

you half of all the coal you bring up."
The man studied a minute and then said:

"That ain't enough. Make it three-fifths and I'll go to work."

"All right," said the dredger.
And the man, perfectly contented with his bargain, went to work dredging up the coal that was as much his as the other man's, giving the other man two-fifths of the product.

"What a fool!" you ejaculate.
Certainly. But, before you become too emphatic in your denunciations of the man's foolishness just indulge in a little introspection—self-study.

You voted for a high protective tariff, didn't you? And it makes you pay the "protected interests" 40 per cent more than they sell the same goods for to European laborers against whom they ask you to protect yourself.

Whose coal are you dredging up from the bottom of the river?

Your wages have advanced 18 per cent during the last two years, and the employers ask you to remember that fact, but they fail to call your attention to the fact that they make you pay 30 per cent more for the necessities of life.

Whose coal are you dredging up from the bottom of the river?

The more you think about it the more you should be convinced that the man on the river bank is not the only foolish worker in the country.

Brain Leaks

A half truth is a whole lie.
Regeneration works from within.
A corporation is known by the men it keeps.

A man is rich when he has what he really needs.

Giving a shirtless man a collar is not philanthropy.

The poorest man we know owns nothing but money.

Only a fool seeks temptation in order to prove his strength.

A lot of men who think they are independent are only contrary.

The hardest way to earn a living is to hunt for an easy job.

The best way to "get even" with your enemies is to help your friends.

Bad bread is a stumbling block to a great many men who want to be Christians.

The men who see the little things and do them, are the men who accomplish great results.

We have often wondered during the hot weather if the summer girls are as cool as they look.

Too many men spend so much time getting ready that they run out of time before they begin.

If you put nothing into life you will always meet with disappointment in trying to get something out of it.

Opportunity knocks at every man's door, but a lot of men are so busy doing a little "knocking" themselves that they fail to hear Opportunity.

The man who is determined to do something for his fellows must make up his mind not to be discouraged by being called "selfish," a "grafter," or a "schemer."

We have often wondered why the baby, just washed and newly dressed in its finest clothes, would rather play with a lump of coal than a nice white pebble.

NOT WORTH DIVIDING

Hungry Higgins—Didn't th' woman over to that house give youe nothin'?

Weary Walker—Nuthin' but a cake.

Hungry Higgins—Well, hurry up an' gimme a piece.

Weary Walker—Youse can have it all an' welcome. It's a cake uv soap.

—Columbus Dispatch.

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