



# Whether Common or Not

By WILL M. MAUPIN.

### The Mistletoe

She stood beneath the mistletoe,  
Innocent as could be;  
She looked about her everywhere  
At everyone but me.  
And I—well, I just took a chance  
Amidst the revelers there,  
And pressing forward to her side  
I kissed her, fair and square.

Then later, in a shaded nook,  
From interference free,  
She said she knew I'd take the bait  
And didn't look at me.  
And so, young man, I'd this advice:  
"Just watch your chance and go  
For her who never looks at you,  
Under the mistletoe."

### The Architect's Letter Box

Chicago, Ills., December 12.—To the Architect: I always read your department in The Commoner with much interest, and the way you describe the old-time days is exactly in keeping with my experience. But I have one now that "skins" anything I ever saw before—my wife's new hat. She bought a soapbox for six cents and knocked one side of it out and covered the remainder with a yard of velveteen. She then took the wing of the boy's windmill and tied some bows on it with a yard of ribbon which cost seven cents. Then she got the tin top off of a pop bottle and with a brass tack fastened to one side of the box—the side she carries in front. I presume her idea in knocking out one side of the box was to make room for "rats." Of course the boy got "sore" about the windmill, but it did him no good. It added much, apparently, to the looks of the hat. At any rate, my wife's women friends all declare that it is a perfectly lovely hat, and many of them have turned green with envy. The hat cost sixty-two cents. I thought this information might be of benefit to some of the readers of your department. M. D. H.

I don't know whether this correspondent is joking or not. When in the office I am inclined to think he is, but when I am on the street and see some of the hats I am inclined to believe he is serious. But whatever his inclination, we offer his suggestion for what it is worth.

### Precaution

"Mary, my dear; have you got my receipt for that accident insurance policy?"

"Yes, John."  
"And are you sure that the insurance on the house is in full force and effect?"

"Yes, dear."  
"And did the fire department tell you that the fire plug on the corner was not frozen up?"

"They told me it was all right."  
"Got the sweet oil, the lard and flour, and the other things all ready?"

"Everything ready, dear."  
"Well, bring on that cotton batting suit and I'll get ready to play Santa Claus again."

### Tariff Talks

They still have a tax on foodstuffs, but, thank goodness, good cheer is still on the free list.

Everything you ever heard of before is taxed, but a lot of things you never knew existed are on the free list. Perhaps we ought to be thankful anyhow.

Are you aware of the fact that

you do not have to pay a tariff duty on specie you import? Well, you do not, so chirk up! You can bring in free of duty all the specie you can carry.

The "ultimate consumer" will soon be ultimately consumed—eaten blood raw by the trusts.

But we can still wish you a Merry Christmas without being taxed.

And we do.

### Eureka!

"Hi, dere, Jimmy! Here's luck!"  
"What's de matter, kiddo? Found a pocketbook?"  
"Naw; but I's found a gratin' in de sidewalk right over a basement where dey are bakin' mince pies f'r Christmas!"

### Unpleasant Conversation

"I tell you, 'money talks.'"  
"Indeed it does, and a lot of it is telling some very bad things about the men who have gotten hold of it."

### Nothing New

"I understand that Santa Claus is going to come in an aeroplane this year."

"Nothing new about that. He has had my presents 'in the air' for a great many years."

### Uncounted

"I suppose your campaign for re-election cost you a handsome pile of money?"

"Sir, I am glad to say that I was not so sordid as to keep an account of my campaign expenses," replied Senator Cornloss.

"Then you do not know what it cost?"

"I do not."

Afterwards the senator eased his conscience by telling himself that he had no way of telling how much ink the recording angel used in keeping track of all the senatorial promises made during the campaign.

### Different

"My wife is just like a phonograph."

"Well, I wish mine was."

"What for?"

"A phonograph runs down once in a while, and even at that you can shut it off."

### Wise Willie

"Well, Willie, I suppose you are still firm in the faith that there is a Santa Claus?"

"Sure thing! You don't suppose I'm goin' to lose out on a good thing by gettin' too wise, do you?"

### Brain Leaks

Warm the bridlebits.  
A Merry Christmas to Everybody!  
It costs nothing to give a smile.  
Don't forget the Red Cross stamp.  
Real Christmas cheer is not found in bottles.

Love in a gift is better than intrinsic value.  
Don't open the package until Christmas day.

Sermons that hurt are the sermons that help.  
Sympathetic tears will not warm any cold hovels.

There is a difference between sending gifts and giving gifts.  
Before marriage he estimates her weight by try measurements; after marriage it is a clear case of esti-

mating avoidupois. Isn't it the truth?

A little Christmas candle will light up a big expanse of territory.

A man may follow his conscience straight to the gates of perdition.

This is the season of the year when the lad with fat legs is glad of it.

You can't always tell the feelings of the donor by looking at the price tag.

Wish I could have as much fun with my work as my baby does with his dog.

We love Christmas, but we do wish it did not come so near the first of the month.

The happiest time in a young man's life is when he rings his Christmas belle.

The man who says he has nothing to arbitrate practically admits that he is in the wrong.

A little more heart and a little less money in the gifts you give will make them seem all the better.

Christmas cigars are often bought by the label; but they are not estimated that way by the recipient.

A lot of money is spent in ameliorating social conditions that ought to be spent in curing social conditions.

A bushel of coal or a sack of flour will exercise more Christian influence this kind of weather than any amount of tracts.

People will listen while you commiserate with their woes, but they grow impatient when you try to relate your own.

The young man who is always talking about his "salary" is usually in debt to his friend who is content to work for wages.

It will be cheerfully admitted that Mr. Rockefeller is not afflicted with the "hook worm" disease as that affliction is understood.

We never think of the street car that is on the crossing when we get there, but if we have to wait a minute or two we think things.

This is the season of the year when we always carry a sandbag to use on the head of the man who tries to abolish Santa Claus.

Every now and then we wish we were big enough to take the fine, warm overcoat from the back of the driver and throw it over the back of his horse.

We would recommend boiling in oil, or something equally lingering, as the fit and proper punishment for the man who seeks to abolish childish faith in Santa Claus.

You may not be able to provide more than one Christmas tree, but you can plant enough Christmas tree seed to brighten a whole neighborhood in the years to come.

The man who listens to troubles has many friends; the man who is always telling his troubles has no need of mathematical ability in order to enumerate his friends.

It has been many a year since we hung up a Christmas stocking, but we've never ceased to wonder how the children around the equator, where they don't wear stockings, manage things at this time of the year.

We mourn the disappearance of the good old grandmothers who put in the months of September, October and November—with a big part of December—knitting all-wool Christmas socks and mittens.

The British museum, which is now 150 years old, was originated by Sir Hans Sloan, who bequeathed his collections to the government for \$100,000, about two-fifths of their cost.—Ex.

According to the London Statist, the world's production of gold for 1908 was the largest in history. It is placed at \$109,000,000 against \$400,000,000 in 1907 and \$390,000,000 in 1906.

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