



# Whether Common or Not

By WILL M. MAUPIN.

## My Pa

My pa c'n make th' finest kite  
'At any feller flied;  
Th' cross-sticks balanced up jus'  
right  
An' tail all fixed and tied.  
'At is, my pa he says he can,  
But it jus' seems somehow  
'At ev'ry time I ast him to  
He says, "I'm busy now."

My pa can take a willer stick  
An' trim it nice an' clean,  
Then make a whistle jus' as slick  
An any feller's seen.  
'At is, my pa he says he can—  
He can, too; bet a dime—  
But when I ast t' make me one  
He says, "I haven't time."

My pa c'n catch th' mostest fish  
Of any man I know.  
He's caught an' awful lot, I guess;  
At least he's told me so.  
But when I ast him f'r to go  
With me he'll allus say,  
His head a-shakin' solemn-like,  
"Too busy, son, today."

My pa c'n run a hun'erd yards  
As fast as any man;  
An' beat 'em all hop-ste)-an'-jump—  
That is, he says he c'n.  
But when he runs t' catch a car  
I'm tickled most to death,  
F'r he don't get more'n half a block  
Till he's clean out o' breath.

I bet my pa c'n do more things  
An' do 'em better than  
Most any feller in this town—  
At least he say he c'n.  
An' then he picks th' paper up  
An' by th' time it's read  
He ain't got time f'r anything,  
'Cause he must go t' bed.

## The Pessimist

On Monday he told me the wheat  
was suffering for rain, and that if  
rain didn't come inside of a week or  
ten days there would be no wheat at  
all.

"Will a rain inside of the next few  
days make a good wheat crop?" we  
asked.

"If we get a good rain inside of  
a week we'll have a bully wheat  
crop," was his reply.

The next day we had a soaking  
rain, and a couple of days thereafter  
I met him again.

"How is the wheat?" I asked.  
"Bad; awful bad," he said, shak-  
ing his head mournfully. "Just as  
things began looking fine along  
comes this rain and makes the  
ground too wet for anything to grow  
in."

## Then and Now

A few years ago when Governor  
Shallenberger of Nebraska was mak-  
ing his first—and unsuccessful—  
campaign for governor, he filled a  
date at Wayne, an intensely repub-  
lican community. It was on a Sat-  
urday afternoon, and the democratic  
committee assured him that he  
couldn't get a corporal's guard into  
the opera house.

"Get me a dray wayon and back  
it up on the principal corner," said  
the governor.

This was done, and mounting the  
dray Mr. Shallenberger began his  
speech. After talking fifteen min-  
utes there were a half dozen men  
near the dray, and twenty or thirty  
more standing on the other side of  
the street. Try as he would, the  
orator could not get a crowd.

But there was a little dog sitting  
in the shade of the dray, taking  
things easy until a big dog came

along and jumped him. Immediately  
there was in progress the finest dog  
fight imaginable, and quicker than  
it takes to tell it the dray was sur-  
rounded by a huge crowd. The  
speaker waited until the dogs had  
finished, then completed his speech  
to a huge audience.

A few years later the legislature  
made an appropriation for a normal  
school at Wayne, and it was up to  
Governor Shallenberger to either  
veto or sign the bill. He went to  
Wayne to look the field over, and  
was met at the depot by a huge con-  
course of people, headed by a brass  
band. He was escorted to the nor-  
mal school site, and afterwards to  
the opera house, which was jammed  
to the doors by people anxious to  
hear what the governor might say.

And then, with his face wreathed  
in smiles, Governor Shallenberger  
reminded the people of Wayne of the  
difference in the receptions. It  
didn't take a dog fight to attract an  
audience on this last visit.

"And," as Governor Shallenberger  
remarks when relating the story,  
"the moral lies in the application  
of it."

## Books They Have Read

"The Crisis"—Joseph G. Cannon.  
"The Climax"—Nelson W. Ald-  
rich.

"The Collosum"—William Howard  
Taft.

"The Main Chance"—John D.  
Rockefeller.

"The Lion and the Mouse"—Theo-  
dore Roosevelt.

"Resurrection"—Chauncey M. De-  
pew.

"The Blazed Trail"—Robert M.  
LaFollette.

"The Forge in the Forest"—An-  
drew Carnegie.

"Roughing It"—Secretary Bal-  
linger.

"Treasure Island"—J. Pierpont  
Morgan.

"Ships That Pass in the Night"—  
Charles M. Schwab.

"The Law's Delays"—Attorney  
General Wickersham.

"Marooned"—Vice President Sher-  
man.

"The Spoilers"—Eugene Hale.

## One by One

They're getting their fixings on  
every hand,

One by one, one by one.  
Aldrich and Hale and the whole  
blooming band,

One by one, one by one.  
They see the handwriting displayed  
on the wall;

They'd like to hang on but they don't  
have the gall;

So back to retirement they see they  
must crawl,

One by one, one by one.

They built up the trusts and the  
combines so great,

One by one, one by one.  
And laughed when they saw us all  
paying the freight,

One by one, one by one.  
They thought they had cinched us  
and had us hog-tied;

They thought that forever upon us  
they'd ride;

But now they know better and are  
stepping aside,

One by one, one by one.

## The Ignorant Things

The voter was clearly at a loss. He  
turned the sample ballot upside  
down and cross-wise, a puzzled look  
covering his face.

"Perhaps I can be of some assis-

tance to you," suggested the bright-  
eyed little woman who was election-  
eering for the adoption of the equal  
suffrage amendment.

"Maybe you can," admitted the  
voter. "I want to vote for Bill Smith  
and Tim Cronkhite and Jack Doo-  
little, but I can't read and I don't  
know how to mark my ballot."

"I'll mark your sample ballot for  
you, and then you can mark the  
regular ballot from that," said the  
little woman.

"I'll be much obliged if you will,"  
said the voter.

The little woman marked the  
names mentioned and then said:

"Now, of course, you want to vote  
for the adoption of the equal suf-  
frage amendment."

"What's that?" demanded the  
voter.

"That means that you want to give  
us women the right to vote."

"I ain't in favor of no such thing!"  
exclaimed the sovereign.

"And why not?" queried the little  
woman with a smile.

"'Cause I don't believe women  
know enough to vote," asserted the  
sovereign, folding up his sample bal-  
lot and marching majestically into  
the voting place.

## Too Quick

"Bilson has an honest graft that  
he is working these days."

"Say, it makes me tired to hear a  
man talk about 'honest graft.'  
There's no such thing. Bilson is  
just a common thief like any other  
grafter."

"But Bilson is a horticulturist."  
"Oh!"

## Which?

"I'm going to study medicine."  
"Medico-legal expert or country  
physician?"

## "CATCH MY PAL"

The London correspondent of the  
New York Sun relates the following  
interesting incident:

One day last July a Presbyterian  
clergyman in the city of Armagh  
persuaded twelve hard drinkers to  
sign the pledge. Before parting with  
them he said:

"Now, perhaps each of you could  
bring a pal to my house tomorrow,  
and induce him to sign."

"I think I can catch my pal," said  
one of the men, and that was the  
origin of the "Catch My Pal" move-  
ment now sweeping over the north  
of Ireland.

Scarcely a town or village in  
Ulster is without an enthusiastic  
band of members, each of whom  
wears an enameled brass button  
bearing the words, "Protestant Catch  
My Pal Union." The public houses  
in many of the provincial manufac-  
turing towns have lost fully 50 per  
cent of their trade. Of the 3,000  
inhabitants of Cookstown, County  
Tyrone, over 700 men joined the  
union in November and December,  
and the percentage is equally great  
in other towns.—Christian Advocate.

## WHY SUCH A NOISE?

That Mr. Roosevelt should decline  
to agree to conditions limiting his  
right to speak when and where he  
pleases may be readily understood.  
The idea of having it suggested to  
him that he should consent to the  
editing of his conduct! No wonder he  
was indignant. Moreover, Mr. Fair-  
banks having been mentioned in the  
notes, Mr. Roosevelt was compelled  
to line up with him. In this country  
the Catholic vote is important, but  
so is the Methodist, and it behooves  
a man who may again be in politics  
to be careful against raising relig-  
ious prejudice himself. But grant-  
ing all this, and that it was necessary  
for the ex-president to forego the  
pleasure of kissing the pope's hand,  
why was it necessary to make such  
a noise about it all?—New York  
Times.

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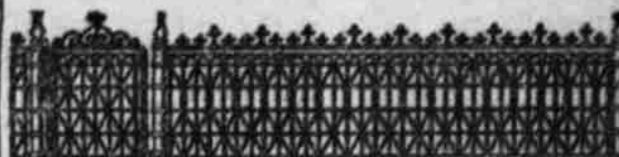
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