

## Whether Common or Not

### ODE TO A COLD STORAGE EGG

(Which Keats would write if he were here.)

Thou still unscrambled teammate of  
fried ham,  
Thou liquid broiler, whose do-  
mestic ties  
Were rudely severed while thy  
cackling dam  
Aroused the neighbors with her  
frenzied cries!  
What little boys who played about  
the nest  
Which sheltered thy remote and  
futile birth  
Have lived their hurried years out  
and grown old,  
And mingled with the dull, unheed-  
ing earth,  
While thou, within a storage car-  
ton pressed,  
Wert lying stiff as death, and  
quite as cold?

Who are these coming to the market  
place  
To ask the price the years have  
given thee?  
And when they learn it, cry with  
paling face,  
And hungry forms a-shiver, "Not  
for me!"  
What little child in Quogue or Bal-  
timore,  
Chicago, Tompkinsville or New  
Rochelle,  
Is empty of its egg this quiet  
morn?  
And, little child, thy egg-cup ever-  
more  
Shall vacant be, and not a soul to  
tell  
Why it is desolate shall e'er re-  
turn!

O silent shape, soft edible, whose  
need  
We feel, but all in vain at break-  
fast time;  
O treasure that no poet could suc-  
ceed  
In buying with proceeds of his  
rhyme!  
Remain within thy vault, cold pas-  
toral!  
When old age doth this genera-  
tion waste  
Thou shalt come forth in midst of  
other woe  
Than ours, and jeer at man to whom  
thou say'st:  
"Dollars are eggs; eggs dollars,  
that is all  
Ye know on earth, and all ye need  
to know."  
—New Orleans Item.

### An Unhappy Inference

A student assistant, engaged in reading the shelves at the public library, was accosted by a primly dressed, middle-aged woman who said that she had finished reading the last of Laura Jean Libby's writings, and that she should like something just as good.

The young assistant, unable for the moment to think of Laura Jean Libby's equal, hastily scanned the shelf on which she was working and, choosing a book, offered it to the applicant, saying, "Perhaps you would like this, 'A Kentucky Cardinal.'"

"No," was the reply, "I don't care for theological works."

"But," explained the kindly assistant, with needless enthusiasm, "this cardinal was a bird!"

"That would not recommend him to me," said the woman, as she moved away in search of a librarian who should be a better judge of character as well as of Laura Jean Libby's peers.—Harper's.

### Exceptional Circumstances

The sympathetic prison visitor went from cell to cell interviewing the inmates. To one penitent-looking individual she put the usual question: "What brought you here?"

"Borrowing money, lady?" was the reply.

"But, good gracious!" she exclaimed, "they don't put people in prison for borrowing money?"

"Not ordinarily," said the man, "but I had to knock a man down three or four times before he would lend it to me."—Exchange.

### Making It All Right

An old lady who had been introduced to a doctor who was also a professor in a university, felt somewhat puzzled as to how she would address the great man.

"Shall I call you 'doctor' or 'professor'?" she asked.

"Oh! just as you wish," was the reply; "as a matter of fact, some people call me an old idiot."

"Indeed," she said, sweetly, "but then, they are people that know you."—Tit-Bits.

### For the Future

A boy in a Chicago school refused to sew, evidently considering it beneath the dignity of a 10-year-old man.

"George Washington sewed," said

the principal, taking it for granted that a soldier must; "and do you consider yourself better than George Washington?"

"I don't know, time will tell," said he, seriously.—Popular Education.

### Not What He Wanted

Into a smart "gentlemen's outfitters" strolled a Scotchman.

"I want a necktie," he informed the saute assistant.

The latter at once produced a box of eye twisters which he introduced with the remark:

"Here are some ties that are very much worn, sir."

"Oooch, away, mon!" retorted the son of Scotia, offended. "I dinna want yin that's veera much wor-rn! I hae plenty o' them at hame!"—London Answers.

### True Pleasure

"Major Rasher, I saw a man today who would like the pleasure of kicking you," said a friend.

"Kicking me!" exploded the major. "Kicking me! Give me his name at once!"

"I hardly like to tell you," said the other.

"I insist upon knowing," said the major.

"Ah, well, I'll tell you," said the other. "It's a soldier who's in the hospital with both legs off."—Tit-Bits.

### Astute

"I found such a wonderful bargain," said Mrs. Flatter.

"What was it?" asked her husband, a resident of Back Bay.

"You know I went down town to buy a hat. Well, just as I got in the store, they put a sign, 'All hats at half price.'"

"So you only had to spend half of the money you intended."

"Oh, no, I bought two hats instead of one."—Chicago Herald.

### A Dependable Guide

Friend—"What is the first thing you do when a man presents himself to you for consultation?"

Doctor—"I ask him if he has a car."

Friend—"What do you learn from that?"

Doctor—"If he has one, I know he is wealthy—and if he hasn't, I know he is healthy."—Buffalo Courier.

### Modern Thrift

"Are you saving up anything for a rainy day?" asked the thrifty citizen.

"Yes," replied Mr. Chuggins. "In a little while I expect to have enough to buy a brand-new top for my automobile."—Chicago Herald.

### Originality

Kind Friend (to composer who has just played his newly written revue masterpiece)—"Yes, I've always liked that little thing. Now play one of your own, won't you?"—London Opinion.

### Costly Error

"Hey, what did you go and sell them apples for?"

"Ain't they fer sale?"

"No. Them was samples we take out to our automobile customers."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

### Hollow Hopes

"Never despair. Somewhere beyond the clouds the sun is shining."

"Yes, and somewhere below the

sea there's solid bottom. But that doesn't help a man when he falls overboard."—Baltimore American.

### The Right Note

"I haven't been home for two days. Got into a poker game."

"Your wife will fix you."

"I hope this note will pacify her."

"I haven't much confidence in notes."

"I have in this one. It is a twenty-dollar note."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

### He Learned

"So you were invited to participate in a profit-sharing scheme?"

"Yes."

"How did you come out?"

"I discovered that the purpose of the scheme was not sharing but shearing."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

### Too Much for Him

"Have you any butter beans?"

"Yes." "I want some better butter beans than the butter beans I got last."

"Those butter beans—"

"Were bitter beans," she concluded.

And the grocer had a giddy spell.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

### Pointed Paragraphs

Figures may not lie, but estimates are often misleading.

Very often the price of liberty is \$10 or ten days.

The world seldom speaks well of a man who is dead broke.

And some women haters are floor-walkers in department stores.

Man—a man salts away money in the brine of other people's tears.—Chicago News.

### PRESIDENT AROUSED BY DENUNCIATION OF GUARD

An Associated Press dispatch follows: Washington, Jan. 25.—President Wilson, speaking today to a delegation from the Maryland League for National Defense, which attacked the national guard and advocated universal military training, rebuked them for their "unrestrained language" and said they would have a better chance for his support if they were more reasonable in their attitude. The memorial read to the President spoke of the national guard system as a "disgrace" and a "failure." It urged universal compulsory military training and service and mentioned the mobilization of the national guard along the Mexican border as an example of "the failure of the system."

President Wilson told the delegation that their attitude closed the opportunity for discussion of the question and was not helpful.

The President, discussing compulsory military service, declared that unquestionably physical training was needed and would accomplish a great deal, "but it can be had without compulsory military service."

He added that he was desirous of doing the wise thing and that the entire subject was receiving his most earnest consideration. He vigorously defended the efforts being made in congress to build up a proper military service.

"I do not need to prove to you or anybody my deep interest in this subject," said the President. "I will frankly say to you I would have been more impressed by this memorial if it had been expressed in more restrained language. From some of the unqualified statements in this paper, I must frankly dissent."

The memorial which aroused the

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