

Brother Gardner

His Discourse on Getting Married



HE routine business of the Limekiln club had been finished when Brother Gardner arose and began:

"My friends, some of de white people am mightily astonished when dey hear dat a col'd couple has bin jined in a holy bond of wedlock. It am a diskeevy to dem to l'arn dat a col'd pusson kin feel de pangs of lub. I notice dat Jupiter Mortimer Davenport Bones am yere among us tonight. Brudder Bones, will you please stand up whar all kin see you?"

Brudder Bones stood up, but very modestly, an' if he had bin a young white man it could have bin seen that he was blushin' clear back to his ears. Most of those present knew what was comin', and so did he.

"Brudder Bones," resumed the president, "I have bin tole dat you am gwine to be married soon to de ravishin' Arabella Cinderella Dorothy Sykes an' dat you has already bought two flatirons an' a washboard to begin housekeepin' on. Dat's all right, brudder, an' proves dat you am a four handed young man.

"Now, Brudder Bones, I want to have a sort o' fatherly talk wid you. You has bin a-courtin' dat gal fur six months, but what do you know 'bout her? You has found her sweet and smilin' when you has arove at her father's cabin an' when she has bid you good night ober de gate. But how has it bin when you was absent? You don't know. Neither kin you find out. No young man kin, no matter what his color may be. Dat is one of de dangers we has to encounter in plungin' into matrimony.

"What does dat gal know 'bout you, may I ask? You has managed to borrow \$14 off members of dis club to git married on. Dat will pay de preacher an' take you ober to Hoboken an' back, an' when you find your money gone what you goin' to do 'bout it? And what is she gwine to do?"

"Brudder Bones," continued the president as he solemnly shook his head, "dar am heaps o' things dat you must look at in this marriage business. You will think fur a few months after marriage dat you has won just de nicest and sweetest gal in de world. Den dat feelin' will begin to wane, an' if you don't look out you will find yo'self wonderin' why you didn't marry her mudder instead o' her. Don't be a fule, Brudder Bones, an' frow it up to her an' run 'way. She will hev just as much cause to wonder 'bout you as you hev 'bout her.

"Brudder Bones, I was married fo'ty ye'rs ago, an' dar am things I haven't found out yet, an' one of dem things is whar we can't keep right on makin' sich fules o' ourselves as we did durin' our courtin' days. I reckon Cupid thinks he has finished his job when he has brought two lubin' hearts together. He neber cums back to see wether de lub flies away or lingers round dar.

"Brudder Bones, we shall expect dis Limekiln club to be widout you fur de next free months arter your marriage. You will want to sot home squeezin' in' hands. As you am de fust one o' dis club to git married in de last y'ar we am gwine to show our appreciashun of you an' de gal by presentin' you wid \$10 in cash dat you kin extend your bridal tower as fur as Trenton or Passaic an' ride in a first class car an' fur de fust time in your life smoko a ten cent cigar an' tip de waiter at a restaurant. Dat am all, Brudder Bones, an' we will now disqualify de meetin' an' go home."

M. QUAD.

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"You found her sweet and smilin'."

A DRESS REHEARSAL

AT a ball given by one of the political district organizations in downtown New York a subleader appeared wearing a full dress complete from the high collar and the swallow tailed coat to the glistening patent leather pumps and the white kid gloves. Looking slightly self conscious, with a furtive glance now and then at his painfully large hands and feet and evidently governed by a desire to avoid straining the costume at any point, he remained modestly in the background.

A prominent politician presently stumbled into him.

"W h y, Tim," he said, "I didn't know you in the glad rags. Old, man you look great in those clothes."

"On the level?" inquired the resplendent one.

"On the level."

The object of the compliment heaved a sigh of gladness.

"Then durned if I don't buy 'em!" he said.—Saturday Evening Post.



"You look great in those clothes."

Her Suggestion

THE trolley car was crowded.

She couldn't find a seat. A man in front of her snapped, "Miss, You're standing on my feet!" Then sweetly she looked down at him, The darling little elf, And said, "Beg pardon, but why don't You stand on them yourself?"

—Christian Herald.

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