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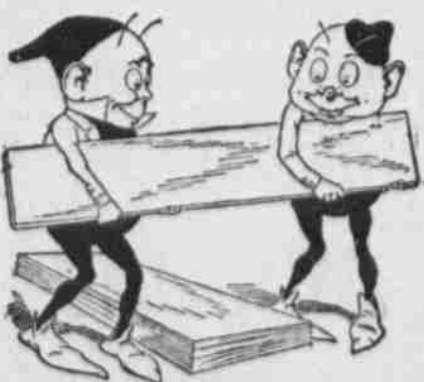
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"GEE! WASN'T THAT A BEAUTY!"

## A NORWEGIAN FOURTH.

By ARTHUR J. WEEKS

(Copyright, 1909, by American Press Association.)

"A NOBLE room, isn't it?" said Mrs. Clayton to her husband as they took their places at the long table d'hote of the Hotel du Wood in Christiania. "I should say we were the only Americans here—the only ones who realize it is the Fourth of July."

The first course was set before them, and they had just begun to eat when the music began. Suddenly Mrs. Clayton looked up from her plate and became uncomfortably aware that they were the only guests sitting. All the others had risen. Of course they could not afford to be singular, so they rose



CLAYTON STARED STRAIGHT BEFORE HIM without in the least knowing what it was all about. Mr. Clayton looked expectantly toward the doors of the salon. "Edith," said he, "I guess some royalty must be coming in."

"Oh, I hope so!" she exclaimed. But no one came in, and they remained standing until the music ceased. Meanwhile the garcon had removed the course, which they had barely touched.

"Find out what it's all about!" Mrs. Clayton implored her husband. He turned to the man beside him at the long table, a distinguished looking person who wore the decoration of the Legion of Honor.

"Excuse me, sir, but could you tell me why we all stood up just now?" The stranger eyed them with a gleam of mingled amusement and pity. "Eet was ze national air of Poland zat zey play. Did not monsieur zink eet fine?"

"Well, once will do for me," said Mr. Clayton. "I want to eat my dinner in peace."

The fish course had just been served, and they were prepared to enjoy it when—boom!—a note on the bass drum announced another selection. Once again the diners arose en masse.

"Ze air nationale of Finland, madame," quoth the Frenchman deprecatingly.

"Finland be?" "Sh—Ed!" warned his wife in a whisper.

So it went on, their dinner a series of risings and fallings. Russia came next, coincident with the entree. When the "Marsellaise" came they jumped quickly to their feet and smiled at the Frenchman, who bowed lower than usual as he sat down.

By this time Mr. Clayton was looking desperate. "If they'll only let up on one of the meat courses," he groaned, "the dessert can go to thunder. Garcon!"

Mrs. Clayton saw him slip two gold pieces into the waiter's hand as he muttered some inaudible instructions in his ear. Every one in Norway seemed to know a little English.

"I don't know, sir; I am afraid it will not do," hesitated the waiter.

"Try it, and if it works there'll be more coming."

The waiter bowed and moved off.

"Rule Britannia" corresponded to the fillet of beef, and had they been in the humor for it they might have appreciated the appropriateness. With a three minutes' intermission for salad, the "Wacht am Rhein" followed.

"Perhaps we shall be able to enjoy our dessert and coffee in peace," Clayton sighed. But Mrs. Clayton's partisanship and patriotism got the better of her.

"Do you mean to tell me, Ed, after

all this courtesy to other nations, America isn't to have some homage?" she cried indignantly.

"Wait," he replied significantly.

It was at the supreme moment when all had eaten enough of the dessert to make them wish to continue that "The Star Spangled Banner" came like a trumpet call. Mr. and Mrs. Clayton sprang to their feet. Of course every one rose.

As the musicians neared the end the guests prepared to sit down, but that satisfaction was denied them. Once more the music struck up a second stanza of the air. All eyes were turned to the Americans, for by this time every one knew their nationality.

Clayton stared straight before him unflinchingly. The Frenchman was beginning to comprehend and entered into the spirit of the thing. A look of admiration was on his face. Again and yet again. Exclamations in many tongues were coming from all sides:

"Mals c'est affreux!" "Himmel!" "Beastly, don't ye know!"

Clayton was inflexible. The subsidized waiter looked at him expectantly, but he gave no sign. The music went on. Finally he nodded, and there was an end. They had had their revenge.

"Hurrah for Uncle Sam!" said Mrs. Clayton sotto voce.

## THE FLOWERS' FOURTH OF JULY

(Copyright, 1909, by American Press Association.)

Snapdragon fired his volleys  
All through the morning hours.  
His trumpet Honeysuckle blew  
To lead the march of Flowers.

While Dogwoods all barked wildly  
And Morning Glory sang,



In blue and gold all into line  
The Johnny-jump-ups sprang.

The Bluebells pealed their gayest;  
The Lily Bells rang, too,  
The Sweet Peas flung their banners  
out,  
All red and white and blue.

The Primrose hung out lanterns  
Soon as the sun was gone,



And after dark the Fireflies sent  
Up fireworks from the lawn.

Just get up very early  
And stay up very late  
When next Fourth comes—you'll  
surely see  
The garden celebrate.

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