

## Some Breaches of Promise

By M. QUAD

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Hiram Spooner was the homeliest baby ever born in the state of Ohio. When Hiram was ten years old he was the homeliest boy in any two states in this Union. At twenty-one he had the face of a baboon.

One day, after looking at him a long time, his father said to him:

"Hiram, what in thunder is going to become of you anyhow?"

"I'm thinking it over," was the reply.

After thinking things over for awhile and having a very serious talk with a fruit tree agent Hiram announced one Monday morning that he had mapped out a career for himself, and half an hour later he drove away from the farm with a hired horse and buggy.

Within a radius of ten miles were twenty-three widows. Fifteen had been made such on one and the same day by the falling of a highway bridge. Not one of the women was poor, while some had bank accounts. All had seen Hiram Spooner several times over. Hiram had prepared a list, and he began his calls according to card system. As he drove up to a house he wriggled out of his buggy and wriggled along to the door, and when it was opened to him and he was invited in he began:

"Widow Blank, I am trying to do something to make a living. Did you know that you can grow two crops of the Oklahoma cucumber?"

"No, I never heard of it."

"I sent and got some of the seeds. Here they are. I shall charge you but little more than for the ordinary seeds, and you can have two crops in place of one."

"Well, I will buy them to help you along."

"That is kind of you. I need money, but there are times when I fairly long for a word of sympathy."

"I know you must, and for years I have wanted to tell you how very, very sorry I was and am. There is no one in the world I pity as I do you. If you have anything else to sell bring it here."

Hiram had tears in his eyes as he left the house, but before climbing into his buggy he took out his memorandum book and made some entries under the proper date.

It took over thirty days for him to get around to the last widow, but he finished his business in good shape. Half a dozen times his father had demanded:

"See here, boy, what kind of a game are you up to with the widows?"

"I'm picking out the best of the lot to propose to," was always the reply.

Soon as the last widow had bought some Oklahoma cucumber seeds to help Hiram Spooner along with his laudable ambitions and to raise a double crop of cucumber pickles the first one called on received a note from Hiram. It stated that his heart had been deeply touched by her kind words and, being sure in his own mind that it was a case of love at first sight with both of them, he had decided to accept her generous offer and hoped that it would be no sacrifice on her part. At what date should the wedding take place? Was the betrothal to be announced at once or later on? What minister did she prefer? How many and what guests should be invited?

The widow read the note over the first time with wonder. The second time she was amazed, and the third she gasped out:

"Why, what can the crazy donkey mean?"

The widow sat down and wrote a note repudiating everything, even to the Oklahoma cucumber seeds. These seeds had been fed to the chickens just before the note was written.

Hiram came back with a written statement that she had deceived him and crushed his young and crippled heart. She had led him to believe that she loved him, and in return he had given her all his affections. To be thrown down now would be a blow that he could never get over. No money could ever heal his feelings, but she must requite him to an extent as a moral lesson to her not to fool with the hearts of the male sex.

The negotiations consumed two weeks, and the widow paid over to Hiram \$300 rather than go into court. His little game was worked on every single one of the widows. From some he got as much as \$500 and from others only a single hundred.

Not until the very last did Hiram's father understand what he had been up to, and then he indignantly exclaimed:

"I order to turn you outdoors or set the law on you."

"But you won't. It has long pained me to see you working away on this stony old farm and not coming out \$25 a year ahead of the game."

"And I've had a useless son to support!" growled the father.

"But useless no longer. I hereby offer you \$1,500 for the old farm, and you can be my hired man at \$30 a month and board for the next ten years."

But even the homeliest man in the country may not hold his luck. An old maid whom Hiram had bowed to and smiled at as he drove around the country brought a breach of promise suit against him and took away from him every cent he had extorted from the widows.

"The durned bump!" exclaimed the father. "Didn't he know that every ruler ever made is bound to work both ways sometimes and throw a feller over the fence!"

## A BIT OF WAX

By WILLARD BLAKEMAN

I had gone out to India to serve as an accountant in a banking house; but, becoming homesick, I decided to return to America. A few days before I sailed the head of the firm called me into his private office and told me that a client of the house desired that I carry for him to Boston a valuable sapphire. He would pay me handsomely for its delivery in that city.

I needed the money and accepted the commission. I called for it the day I sailed, wearing a coat with a pocket in the lining, in which the sapphire was sewed by an Indian woman who was called in for the purpose, though she did not see the contents of the pocket or know that there was a pocket there.

My route was by Aden, the Suez canal, the Mediterranean and over the Atlantic to New York, quite a long journey and all in the same vessel. I made the acquaintance of an American lady, Mrs. Gillette, whose maid was a young Indian woman. The lady told me that shortly before she sailed the woman—Susan she was called, because her Indian name was hard to pronounce—bearing that she was intending to sail for America, came and begged her to take her with her as her maid, with no compensation except paying for her passage. The lady, who was subject to seasickness and wished some one to wait on her, consented. Mrs. Gillette was ill in rough weather, but well on a smooth sea. Susan took very good care of her.

Since I had told no one that I carried a valuable gem and no one except myself and the man through whom it came to me knew where it was I felt very little fear of losing it. I simply wore the coat in which it was sewed by day and used it for a pillow by night, so that it was always either on my back or under my head. But one thing occurred during the voyage to cause me to suspect the possibility of any one being on my track. One day when about to enter my stateroom I noticed something white not as big as a pea on the floor directly under the lock. I have no idea what induced me to pick it up, but I did so and, crushing it between my thumb and forefinger, found it to be wax. Could any one have been taking an impression of the lock on my stateroom door? I dismissed the suggestion at once as farfetched.

We had left Gibraltar and were nearing the Azores when one morning I awoke with a head swimming sensation. I smelled a peculiar odor in the room. I put up my hand to grasp my coat, for I felt that my head was without support, and was horrified to find the coat was not there. I arose and looked about the room for it as best I could, but it was not in the room. I tried the door and found it locked. The key I had concealed under my mattress. It was where I had placed it. The remembrance of the bit of wax I had found came back to me as the only clue to this robbery. If an impression had been made for a key the key must have been made aboard the ship. It could not have been filed without the filing being heard. Doubtless it had been made in the ship's workshop. I went below and asked the man in charge of the metal working shop if he had been called to make a key. He said that he had not, but, after some thought, said that one of the stewards had been in the shop filing something. He remembered the steward, and we found him.

I reported the matter to the captain, who called the steward before him and obtained a confession that he had been tipped by a lady's maid to do some filing on a key. When called upon to identify the lady's maid he pointed out Mrs. Gillette's Indian girl, Susan.

Before Susan got wind of the matter a stewardess took her in charge and another went through her effects. My coat was found among them, but the sapphire was missing. We were obliged to tie a rope around Susan, threatening to put her overboard, before she broke down and told us where she had concealed it.

No blame whatever was attached to Mrs. Gillette. She had not the slightest conception that her maid was not only a thief, but had entered her service knowing that she was about to leave for America on the same steamer as I and believing that I carried the sapphire.

This is the explanation of how Susan acquired this information. She had been chambermaid in the hotel where the owner of the sapphire stayed and had suddenly entered the room and had seen him handling it. She had watched him and had seen him go to the bankers. There she had succeeded in making the acquaintance of the woman who had done the sewing on my coat. This was enough. A brother of hers had got from the passenger list of the steamer on which I was to sail the names of several ladies. Susan had gone to each of these ladies, proposing to go with her as maid, and had been successful with Mrs. Gillette.

Susan was kept in limbo to the end of the voyage, when I went ashore. I learned afterward that she was taken back to India, being made to do menial work on the return voyage. What became of her after reaching India I do not know.

The incident convinced me that the natives of Asia are very shrewd.

## BROWN'S FIVE DOUBLES

By M. QUAD

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At the age of thirty and still unmarried William Brown made a visit to a western state. Up to the day he left home he had never been out of the state of Vermont. His adventures began in Chicago. He was sitting in the office of a hotel when a grim faced man entered and walked up to him and began:

"You infernal scoundrel, but I feel like killing you where you sit!"

"What do you mean?" asked Mr. Brown in great astonishment.

"Why, you menly apology for a man, how dare you ask that question?" shouted the stranger. "If you think you have got safely out of that affair you are mistaken. I'll have revenge on you if I have to live a thousand years to do it!"

It was a long time before William Brown could get to the bottom of things. Then he discovered that he was supposed to be Henry Williams, who had been hanging about a certain village fifty miles away for several months and who had become engaged to the village belle, borrowed money right and left and proved himself to be a bad man in many directions. The man who was talking to Brown was the girl's father, and he had been looking Chicago over for a week before the Vermont's arrival. The first thing, of course, was a prompt denial. The next was for Brown to prove his identity.

When Brown had established his identity he went his way, consoling himself with the thought that not more than one man in the world could look near enough like him to be a twin brother, but three days later he found that it was a mistake. He was in Evansville to see a certain person and was talking business in the man's office when he was arrested on a warrant made out in the name of Richard Roe, which charged him with having passed counterfeit money on a lively stable man two months before. He lay in jail for three days, and then his case came up for examination. Brown was in a fair way to be convicted when a dentist saved him. It was remembered that the drummer had had a tooth pulled before he started on the drive. The dentist had also found two or three others which needed fillings. The minute he looked into Brown's mouth he declared that he could not be the man.

Brown's third adventure was more funny than serious. A day or two after leaving Evansville, as he was riding in a passenger coach, a woman boarded the train at a station and came along down the aisle and greeting him with:

"Well, well, Mr. Jackson, but who would have thought of seeing you here! How's Nancy and the children? When is she coming up to see us all?"

"I beg your pardon," said the traveler, "but haven't you made a mistake?"

"A mistake in what?"

"Madam, my name is not Jackson, but Brown, and I never saw you before!"

"What! What!" she cried as she turned on him. "Well, did I ever! You sit here and tell me that I don't know Tom Jackson as well as I do my own father! Have you gone crazy? Are you running away from Nancy?"

"It is as I told you, madam. I may look like Tom Jackson, but I never saw nor heard of him or you before."

Brown's last adventure was the most serious one of all. He had spent a day and a night at Lafayette when he was arrested on a charge of attempted robbery and felonious assault. It was claimed that he was one of a trio who had assaulted a merchant in his store in a village six or eight miles distant. The three men had entered the store in the evening when the merchant happened to be alone and had knocked him down as the first step toward getting the cash. He had proved a tough nut, however, and had driven the gang off in a battered condition. William Brown exactly fitted the description of one of the trio. Of course he vigorously denied the charge and raised a strong doubt, but when he was placed in line with twelve other men the merchant walked straight up to him and said:

"You are the man who entered the store first and asked me to change a twenty dollar bill for you."

"You are making a serious mistake," replied Brown. "I can prove that I was in Terre Haute the night you were assaulted."

He secured a lawyer and sent for witnesses at Terre Haute.

When the trial came on Brown had ten witnesses from Terre Haute and was lucky enough to find two men who had at a certain hour been his companions all the way to Lafayette. Such was the weight of evidence in his favor that he was acquitted by the jury.

A month later Brown reached home. The right man was caught, and when the merchant was called upon to identify him he did so as promptly as on the other occasion and added:

"What's your name this time, Brown or Black? Your lawyer was a sharp one to drum up all those witnesses, but I think we'll land you this time."

He was not talking to Brown, but to Brown's double, the fifth one turning up inside of a month, but he wouldn't admit his mistake even when Brown wrote to him from Vermont. To this day he believes that the man he first picked out and who was acquitted was the man who got ten years in prison when rearrested.



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Notice of Special Election.  
Notice is hereby given that on the 30th day of June, 1914, a special election will be held in the City of North Platte, Lincoln County, Nebraska, at which the following proposition will be

submitted to the voters of said city:

"Shall the Mayor and Council of the city of North Platte, in the county of Lincoln, in the State of Nebraska, issue Twelve thousand 00-100 (\$12,000.00) Dollars, City of North Platte Bridge Bonds, in denominations of One thousand 00-100 (\$1,000.00) Dollars each, bearing interest at the rate of five per cent per annum, payable semi-annually, interest and principal payable at the office of the State Treasurer of the State of Nebraska."

Said bonds to bear date of July 1, 1914, and the interest on said bonds to be payable the 1st day of January, 1915, and on the 1st day of July, 1915, and on the 1st day of January and on every year thereafter, until all of the interest on said bonds shall have been paid.

Said bonds to be numbered consecutively from one to twelve inclusive and the interest thereon to be evidenced by coupons thereto attached.

Bond number one to become due and payable on the 1st day of July, 1925.

Bond number two to become due and payable on the 1st day of July, 1926.

Bond number three to become due and payable on the 1st day of July, 1927.

Bond number four to become due and payable on the 1st day of July, 1928.

Bond number five to become due and payable on the 1st day of July, 1929.

Bond number six to become due and payable on the 1st day of July, 1930.

Bond number seven to become due and payable on the 1st day of July, 1931.

Bond number eight to become due and payable on the 1st day of July, 1932.

Bond number nine and ten to become due and payable on the 1st day of July, 1933.

Bond numbers eleven and twelve to become due and payable on the 1st day of July, 1934.

Shall the Mayor and Council of the City of North Platte, in the County of Lincoln, State of Nebraska, levy a tax in the year 1914 and in each and every year thereafter, sufficient to pay the interest on said bonds, and sufficient to pay five per cent of the principal thereof as provided by law; and in the year 1924 and each and every year thereafter sufficient to pay the principal of said bonds as they become due, until sufficient tax has been levied to pay all of the principal of said bonds; and such tax both for interest and principal, to be levied upon all of the taxable property in said

City of North Platte.

Said bonds to be used for the purpose of constructing a wagon bridge across the North Platte River, commencing at a point on the South and West bank of the North Platte River, Two hundred (200ft) feet North of the center line of a continuation of 4th Street in the City of North Platte, Lincoln County, Nebraska; and running thence at a right angle across said North Platte River, Twenty-nine hundred (2900ft) feet to a point on the North and East bank of said North Platte River Eight hundred (800ft) feet North of the South line of section thirty-six (36) in Township fourteen (14) North, of range thirty (30) West of the 6th. p. m. said bridge to be approximately twenty-nine hundred (2900ft) feet in length, and of sufficient width for two teams to pass each other at any point on said bridge, and to be constructed of concrete and steel, and to comply with the plans and specifications prepared and furnished by The State Engineer of the State of Nebraska, said bonds representing approximately twelve-fiftieths (12-50) of the entire costs of the construction of said bridge as hereinbefore set forth, the entire costs of which is to be approximately fifty thousand 00-100 (\$50,000.00) Dollars, one half (1-2) of such entire cost is to be borne by the State of Nebraska Aid, as provided for in Article 5, Chapter 28 sections 123 to 131 inclusive, of the Revised Statutes of Nebraska, for the year 1913; and thirteen-fiftieths (13-50) of the entire cost is to be borne by Platte Precinct, Lincoln County Nebraska.

Should the State of Nebraska fail to grant said Aid and should Platte Precinct, in Lincoln County, Nebraska fail to issue bonds in the sum of Thirteen thousand 00-100 (\$13,000.00) Dollars, in aid of the construction of said bridge, then the bonds of said City of North Platte herein submitted, shall not be issued.

Said bridge to be constructed upon a line two hundred (200 ft.) feet north of the center line of a continuation of 4th street in said City of North Platte Lincoln county, Nebraska, and connect with the public highway on the north and east bank of said North Platte river, intended to be the Lincoln Memorial Highway.

The ballots to be used at said election shall have printed thereon:

FOR: issuing twelve thousand (\$12,000.00) dollars in "The City of North Platte Bridge Bonds," in denominations of one thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars each, bearing interest at the rate of five per cent, interest and principal payable at the office of the State Treasurer of the State of Nebraska. Said bonds to bear date of July 1, 1914, and the interest on said bonds to be payable on the 1st day of January, 1915, and on the 1st day of July, 1915, and on the 1st day of January and on every year thereafter, until all of the interest on said bonds shall have been paid and to levy a tax in the year 1914, and in each and every year thereafter sufficient to pay the interest on said bonds and sufficient to pay five per cent of the principal thereof as provided by law; and in the year 1924 and each and every year thereafter sufficient to pay the principal of said bonds as they become due, until sufficient tax has been levied to pay all of the principal of said bonds; such tax both for interest and principal to be levied upon all of the taxable property of said City of North Platte.

AGAINST: issuing twelve thousand (\$12,000.00) dollars in "The City of North Platte Bridge Bonds," in denominations of one thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars each, bearing interest at the rate of five per cent, interest and principal payable at the office of the State Treasurer of the State of Nebraska. Said bonds to bear date of July 1, 1914, and the interest on said bonds to be payable on the 1st day of January, 1915, and on the 1st day of July, 1915, and on the 1st day of January and on every year thereafter, until all of the interest on said bonds shall have been paid; and to levy a tax in the year 1914, and in each and every year thereafter sufficient to pay the interest on said bonds and sufficient to pay five per cent of the principal thereof as provided by law; and in the year 1924 and each and every year thereafter sufficient to pay the principal of said bonds as they become due, until sufficient tax has been levied to pay all of the principal of said bonds; such tax both for interest and principal to be levied upon all of the taxable property of said City of North Platte.

Those voting in favor of said proposition shall mark their ballot with an "X" after the paragraph beginning with the word "FOR" and those voting against said proposition shall mark their ballot with an "X" after the paragraph beginning with the word "AGAINST."

Notice of said election shall be given by the publication of a notice in the North Platte Telegraph and in the North Platte Tribune, the former being a weekly newspaper and the later a semi-weekly newspaper, both published in the City of North Platte, Lincoln county, Nebraska, and of general circulation in said county of Lincoln, each of said newspapers having been designated as official papers in said city, said publication shall be published for at least four weeks prior to said election, and the City Clerk is hereby instructed to cause a publication of such notice to be made.

Said election will be open at 9 o'clock in the morning and will continue to be open until 7 o'clock in the afternoon of said day of election and the polling places of said election will be at the entrance to the old Lloyd opera house on the corner of Pine and Sixth street in the First ward of said City; and at the County Commissioners' room in the County Court House in the Second ward of said City; and at the old Hose House situate on Vine street between Front and Sixth streets in the Third ward of said City; and at the Hose House in the Fourth ward of said City; said election will be conducted in manner and form as provided by the ordinance of said City and the Statutes of the State of Nebraska.

By order of the City Council of the City of North Platte, Lincoln County, Nebraska.

Dated this 23rd day of May, 1914.  
C. F. TEMPLE,  
City Clerk.