

Plaintiff and Defendant

By OSCAR COX

Having received a note from my cousin, Belle Archer, that she wished to see me very particularly, I went to her house at once. I found her on the rear porch in a hammock reading a novel. She did not rise to receive me, nor did she lay down her novel, but pointed to a letter lying on a wicker table. I took it up and perused it. It read as follows:

Dear Madam—We beg to inform you that Mr. Edward Herbert Angell has retained our services, directing us to enter suit against you for the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for breach of promise. We should be pleased before doing so to hear from you with reference to settling the matter out of court, thus avoiding both publicity and expense. We are, very respectfully, your obedient servants, GYMCRACK, SPINNER & MUCHMORE.

I read this letter not only with surprise, but with a smile. I believe there have been cases of a man suing a woman for breach of promise, but they have been rare. Having finished reading the epistle, I looked up at Belle, but she seemed more interested in her book than what the letter involved for her. Nor was I able to engage her attention till she had finished the chapter she was reading. Then I said:

"I dare say you have deserved this."
"I dare say I have."
"You would not hesitate to flit an angel?"

"That's what I am accused of having done."
"Perhaps if you send the plaintiff a letter expressing contrition he will withdraw the suit."
"Perhaps he would, but I'm not contrite."

"I thought for a few minutes, then, changing my tone, said:
"I suppose it must be treated seriously. Do you wish me to act for you in the matter?"

"I do."
"What evidence has Mr. Angell that you have consented to marry him?"

"I don't know that he has any."
"You mean that you have been so reckless in your numerous flirtations that you have not kept track of the men you have accepted and those you have refused?"

"That's about it."
"What course shall I pursue in this case?"

"Oh, settle it as best you can. It won't beggar me to pay it all."
Considering that Miss Archer was worth several hundred thousand dollars this was true. Angell was worth a million.

"I don't suppose," I said, "the plaintiff wants money."
"No; he wants to squeeze me."
"What?"

"He wants to make me throw over my other suitors for him."
"Oh!"

"He thinks he can bluff me."
"And you don't propose to be bluffed."
"No, I don't. You just write his lawyers for me that I'll pay the amount sued for entire and don't consider it any compliment that the damages named are so small."

I wrote Messrs. Gymerack, Spinner & Muchmore that my client would pay the amount claimed. In due time a reply came from them inclosing a typewritten apology that Miss Archer was to sign acknowledging that she had acted very dishonorably toward the plaintiff, humbly begged his forgiveness and "she will keep her contract with him." Belle signed it, but put the word "not" between the words "will" and "keep."

It did not appear to me that Mr. Angell was making much progress in this game of bluff. I was curious to know what his next move would be, for I did not see any move that he could make. He adopted the Fabian policy—he did nothing. When sufficient time for a reply had elapsed and I received nothing like a continuance of the fight nor a disposition to capitulate I made up my mind that it would be a case of attrition. I was convinced that the couple were in love with each other and one of the two would give in time. Which would it be?

One day I received a note from Angell's attorneys to the effect that since their client was about to be married a return of his letters to Miss Archer would be appreciated. I took the note to Belle, and I saw by her expression when she read it that she was beaten.

"This caps the bluff's climax," I remarked to give her courage.
"That we don't know. He's just mean enough to marry somebody to spite me."

"What will you do next?"
"Please write the lawyers that I will deliver Mr. Angell's letters to him in person. But I shall expect an apology from him for putting this affair between us into the hands of lawyers."
"Humph!"

"What do you mean by that?"
"Nothing. I think your decision very sensible."
"Sensible? Of course it's sensible. What do I want with the letters of a man I don't intend to marry? And am I not entitled to an apology?"

"Certainly."
A meeting was arranged between plaintiff and defendant at my office. I was supposed to be present, but when Belle came in with a satchel full of letters I sold out a back door. I remained away an hour, and when I returned a grinning student in the office told me that after much billing and cooling the lovers had departed radiantly happy.

I wonder if Angell thought he was deceiving his attorney as Belle supposed she was deceiving me.

Early Use of Gunpowder.

Reference is made to the first definite use of gunpowder in battle by Ernest Protheroe in his book, "The British Navy." The author says:

"Of all the world's great battles Crey possesses a unique interest. The English only used three pieces of field ordnance. They were small cannon made of trees, bored and bound with iron hoops, and the missiles were of stone scarcely larger than cricket balls. Doubtless this rude artillery made far more noise than it effected damage. It was the long bow and the broadsword that won the battle, but nevertheless gunpowder was henceforth to play an ever increasing part in the strife of nations. Explosives wrought a vast change in fighting methods on land, for many of the old time weapons were rendered quite useless in face of death dealing ball and shot. Warfare afloat, too, would be revolutionized. Hitherto the fighting ships had been largely carriers of soldiers in order to board and fight as on land, whereas the time was at hand when ships could be riddled with cannon balls without the crews coming into actual contact."

Really Accommodating.

"A cyclone is not such a bad thing, after all," remarked the portly salesman as he settled himself comfortably in his chair. "One saved \$5 for me once."

"How did it happen?" asked a lounge.

"I was in a little town about two years ago and wanted to get to another small town fifteen miles distant. There was no railroad between the two points, and I was standing in front of the livery stable arguing with the liveryman, who wanted \$5 to take me and my sample cases over when a cyclone came along and, picking me up, landed me right in the little town to which I wanted to go."

"Er—how about your sample cases?" faltered an awed listener.

"Oh," suavely replied the salesman, "the cyclone landed them just ahead of me and had my goods all spread out on display when I got there!"—New York Times.

Criminals and Clews.

Pierre Jaune, the French detective, once traced a murderer within forty-eight hours with no clew save a trouser button. Such a feat seems almost incredible, yet many criminals have been brought to justice through clever minds following up the very slightest clews.

Suspicion was first awakened in the Crippen case by the spelling of the victim's name, "Elmore," with two "l's" on a forged letter; Bennett, of Yarmouth notoriety, was traced through a laundry mark on a piece of linen, and Orrocks, who murdered a constable at Dalston in 1884, was brought to the scaffold by an initial on a chisel.

So, if you want to be a criminal you had better go out naked and unarmed. Even then some special constable might take note of you.—London Chronicle.

Bulls and Blunders.

Many years ago I heard the following notice read out in a church in England: "There will be a procession next Sunday afternoon, but if it rains in the afternoon the procession will take place in the morning."

Among mixed metaphors the most delightful I think I have ever heard was the statement of a town councillor in a Hampshire town some years ago during a discussion on projected expenditure on town improvements.

"Gentlemen," he said, "we will have nothing to do with it; it is but the thin end of a white elephant."

A distinguished leader of the Ulster party, writing to me, said, "Before the home rule bill is enforced Asquith will have to walk over many dead bodies—his own included."—London Spectator.

Every Man to His Trade.

A bank should be cleaned out by the janitor, not by the cashier.
A hen can't lay the dust any more than a watering cart can lay an egg.

No boy can spin a web like a spider, but a spider can't spin a top like a boy.

A dentist can't draw a picture any better than an artist can draw a tooth.

Any one can pick a quarrel, but it requires a certain amount of skill to pick a lock.

Some men are handy with their hands and some with their feet. Some are knockers, and some are kickers.—Judge.

Tomboy.

Verstegan gives the following origin of the word "tomboy" as applied to romping girls: "Tumbe, to dance; tum-bod, danced; hereof we yet call a wench that skipeth or leapech lyke a boy, a tomboy; our name also of tumbling cometh from hence."

Variable.

He—Do you believe that two can live as cheaply as one? She—That depends a good deal on the income and expenditure of the one selected as the basis of comparison.—Richmond Times Dispatch.

Rich Relations.

Probably the worst thing about rich relations is the way they look down on you because you are not rich enough to look down on them.—Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.

Turkey Stone.

The turquoise, formerly known as Turkey stone, derives its name from the fact that the first specimens were introduced through Turkey.

The measure of a man's sin is the difference between what he is and what he might be.—Jordan.

A Strange Conversion

By F. A. MITCHEL

A tramp called for food at a handsome country residence. The lady of the house was sitting on the veranda. She was a woman to interest herself in building up those who needed building up and ordered a maid to bring a substantial meal out on to the veranda and place it on a table. Then she invited the tramp to help himself. While he ate she questioned him as to the cause of his living a life of beggary and indolence. His replies were very satisfactory and indicated that he followed the life of a tramp because he preferred it to work.

The lady, having fed him, gave him some money, and he departed. When her husband came home that evening she mentioned to him what she had done. He chided her for wasting her sympathy on one who was evidently undeserving, whereupon she declared that all persons were in a sense deserving; that the mere fact of a person's being in bad condition, even through his own fault, was a legitimate object for sympathy, and in any event it was an advantage to the giver to lend a helping hand.

A year passed. The tramp was passing over the same route as before and bethought himself of the aid and comfort he had derived at the place he was approaching. He was no more worthy of help than before, felt no gratitude; he only wished to get another meal and some more money. On reaching the house he saw evidences of a funeral taking place in it. The obsequies were for the lady who had befriended him, and since she had rendered herself much beloved on account of her charities a large number of poor people were in attendance.

The tramp joined those who were passing to have a last look at their benefactress. He noticed on the finger of the dead a diamond ring. He further noticed that when the lid of the coffin was put on the ring was not removed. When the funeral procession went to the cemetery he joined the throng and saw the body lowered into the grave. Then the mourners dispersed, and the tramp, after carefully noting the position of the lot, went away.

When night came he went to the house from which his benefactress had been carried, stole a spade and a shovel from among the garden tools and, going to the cemetery, began to remove the earth that had been thrown into the grave of his benefactress. Having uncovered the coffin, he took a screwdriver from his pocket and removed the lid. Taking the hand, he was surprised that there was in it a little warmth. The diamond ring was there, and he attempted to remove it. Failing to do so, he took out his knife to cut off the finger. Feeling something warm on his hand, he struck a match and saw that it was blood.

Leaping from the grave, he ran away as fast as his legs would carry him. Then he stopped and began to think. The most likely solution of what he had stumbled on was that it was one of those very rare cases of a trance having been mistaken for death. His benefactress was lying under a stone in a grave. What should he do? If he rescued her he would be obliged to confess that he had gone there to steal the ring on her finger.

There are natures so bereft of what is good that they can only be affected by some momentous event. The tramp was one of these. A sudden revulsion came over him. Returning to the grave, he found the body as he had left it. Removing it from its cold bed, he wrapped it in his coat and carried it to the nearest house and restoratives were applied.

For a long while the invalid hung between life and death. As soon as there was any hope for her recovery her husband was notified of what had occurred, but not till this was assured was the matter broken to any other member of the family. Then they knew of it by the lady being brought to her home.

As soon as the tramp had done all in his power to save his benefactress, from whose dead body he had intended to steal a jewel, taking advantage of the excitement attending the efforts to restore her, he disappeared. When the lady became convalescent she asked what had happened, but it was not thought advisable to tell her. Seeing that her finger had been badly cut, she inquired into the cause. A story was invented to satisfy her.

One thing puzzled her. Her husband, who had formerly been unsympathetic with her charitable work, which was not a part of organized aid to the poor, but, rather, spontaneous, had suddenly become an unreasoning giver.

The tramp again visited the house where he had received aid and comfort, but not as a tramp. The lady, as at the time of his first visit, was seated on the veranda when she saw a well dressed man coming up the walk. She did not recognize him till he made himself known and told her that it was through her he had become a changed man. But he exercised sufficient caution to discover that she did not know she had been in a grave, and he did not tell her. She asked him if there was anything she could do for him, and he replied that there was. He gave one-tenth of all he earned to criminals, and he thought that his gifts would have more effect if they passed through her hands. She accepted the trust. He made his first donation, and that was continued regularly during his life.

Father of Medicine.

Aesculapius was styled the father of medicine and the god of medicine with equal propriety, as it is not certain whether he was half god or mere man. His pedigree is involved in the mazes of mythology. He is represented as having practiced medicine so successfully as not only to have prevented the death of the living, but to have recalled the dead to life. Tradition says that Jupiter, for some offense, slew him with a thunderbolt, and after his death he received divine honors. One of his whims was to invest the serpent with a sort of sacred character as the symbol of veneration and also because of its supposed power of discovering healing herbs. A heroic sized statue of him in Berlin represents him as leaning on a staff around which is coiled a huge snake that rests its head in friendly fashion on his arms. Aesculapius had two daughters, whose names are preserved in modern English—Hygeia and Panacea.—Philadelphia Press.

When Connecticut Owned Chicago.

Connecticut once claimed the territory Chicago now occupies. This was at the close of the Revolutionary war, when what is now Chicago was only a ruined fort, built long before, and called Che-ca-wagon. In 1783 Massachusetts, Connecticut, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia claimed to own the territory west of them as far as the Mississippi river, although the territories of Massachusetts and Connecticut were interrupted by parts of New York and Pennsylvania. The line between Massachusetts and Connecticut came a little north of what is now Chicago. It was Maryland that reduced these huge domains. Having no western territory herself, she refused to accept the articles of confederation unless the other states would agree to cede the western territories to the confederation itself, to be made in course of time, into new states.

Rise and Fall of a Mining Town.

A curious instance of the latter day rise and fall of a mining town developed at Hosmer, in the Crow's Nest district, Canada. Coal was found and a mine opened without regard to expenditure. In all over \$1,000,000 was put into the operations. Many promising seams were cut, and so sure were the engineers of the quality and quantity of coal to be reached that a double tunnel, with a side air passage, was driven the whole length. Expensive tipples, tramways and a washer were constructed and a battery of 240 coke ovens built to take care of the washed slack coal product from the mine. However, the coal seams proved to be so broken and irregular that operations were entirely too expensive and were abandoned. As a consequence the town of Hosmer, which had a population of about 1,000, is now a deserted village.

A Multiplication Trick.

Here is a little trick in multiplication that may amuse you. Ask a friend to write down the numbers 12345679, omitting the number 8. Then tell him to select any one figure from the list, multiply it by 9 and with the answer to this sum multiply the whole list—thus, assuming that he selects either the figure 4 or 6:

Select 4x9=36.	Select 6x9=54.
12345679	12345679
36	54
7907074	4582716
8708708	6178295
4444444	6666666

You see, the answer of the sum is composed of figures similar to the one selected. Any figure used will turn the same trick.

Dogs of War.

In the British army the Airedale terrier is used extensively. His coat is of such nature that it is suited to any climate and he is a highly intelligent dog with a wonderful power of scenting and hearing. Is of a desirable size and is often used as a scout or sentry as well as an aid to the Red Cross service. The Airedale can readily distinguish the smell of his master from that of a stranger. These military dogs are taught not to bark. When they scent the enemy they give a low growl and often will stand like a pointer. They are of great service as night sentries.—Argonaut.

Cause and Effect.

"Miss Dawker," said Professor Jobling with a hesitant manner, "a psychic impulse prompts me to ask you if you will be my wife."

"Something of the same sort struck Mr. Bilkins last night, professor, and the recoil prompted me to say 'Yes.'"
—Baltimore Sun.

The Bait.

Father—I'm very much afraid that Millie will elope with that young rascal. Mother—I don't think so, dear. I reminded her last evening that girls who eloped got no wedding presents, and I feel sure that my words sank deep into her heart.

Sarcastic.

Husband—After all, civilization has its drawbacks. People in the savage state seldom get ill. Wife (sweetly)—I wonder if that's the reason you're so healthy.

Musical Note.

Host—Must you leave so soon, Mrs. Tootles? I thought you were very fond of good music. Mrs. Tootles—I am—Musical America.

Feeling Blue.

Bill—The fools are not all dead yet. Jill—Oh, brace up, old man! You're not feeling bad, are you?—Yonkers Statesman.

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W. S. BASINGER,
G. F. A.
Omaha, Nebraska

Miss Florence Brandenburg, Lexington, arrived yesterday afternoon from Cheyenne to visit Mrs. Charles Mutchie for a week while enroute home.

NOTICE TO BUILD SIDEWALK

To William H. Simmons, owner of Lot 7, Block 11, Bellevue Addition, North Platte, Nebraska.

The owners of property on the north side of 9th street, between Jefferson and Augusta Ave. are hereby notified that the Mayor and Council of North Platte, Lincoln County, Nebraska, passed and approved an ordinance on the 18th day of June, 1913, ordering a sidewalk adjoining their said premises, to be constructed as to line and grade, and of permanent material, as provided in the general ordinances of said city, regulating the construction of sidewalks in said city.

Unless said walk is constructed by you along the north side of said Lot 7, Block 11, owned by you in accordance with said ordinance, on or before the 16th day of September, 1915, the same will be constructed by said city and the costs assessed upon the said lot owned by you adjoining which the same shall be constructed.

C. F. TEMPLE,
City Clerk.

To Tobias Komla, owner of lot 8, Block 11, Bellevue Addition, North Platte, Nebraska.

The owners of property on the north side of 9th street, between Jefferson and Augusta Ave. are hereby notified that the Mayor and Council of North Platte, Lincoln County, Nebraska, passed and approved an ordinance on the 18th day of June, 1913, ordering a sidewalk adjoining their said premises, to be constructed as to line and grade, and of permanent material, as provided in the general ordinances of said city, regulating the construction of sidewalks in said city.

Unless said walk is constructed by you along the south side of said Lot 7, Block 11, owned by you in accordance with said ordinance, on or before the 16th day of September, 1915, the same will be constructed by said city and the costs assessed upon the said lot owned by you adjoining which the same shall be constructed.

C. F. TEMPLE,
City Clerk.

To Lucius Smith, owner of Lot 9, Block 11, Bellevue Addition, North Platte, Nebraska.

The owners of property on the north side of 9th street, between Jefferson and Augusta Ave. are hereby notified that the Mayor and Council of the city of North Platte, Lincoln County, Nebraska, passed and approved an ordinance on the 18th day of June, 1913, ordering a sidewalk adjoining their said premises, to be constructed as to line and grade, and of permanent material, as provided in the general ordinances of said city, regulating the construction of sidewalks in said city.

Unless said walk is constructed by you along the east side of said E½ of Lot 1, Block 12, owned by you, in accordance with said ordinance on or before the 16th day of September, 1915, the same will be constructed by said city and the costs assessed upon the said lot owned by you adjoining which the same shall be constructed.

C. F. TEMPLE,
City Clerk.

To O. D. Bunting, owner of Lot 8, Block 57, North Platte, Nebraska.

The owners of property on the West side of Walnut street, between 9th and 10th streets, are hereby notified that the Mayor and Council of the City of North Platte, Lincoln County, Nebraska, passed and approved an ordinance on the 18th day of June, 1913, ordering a sidewalk adjoining their said premises, to be constructed as to line and grade, and of permanent material, as provided in the general ordinances of said city, regulating the construction of sidewalks in said city.

Unless said walk is constructed by you along the East side of lot 8, block 57, owned by you, in accordance with said ordinance, on or before the 16th day of September, 1915, the same will be constructed by said city and the costs assessed upon the said lots owned by you adjoining which the same shall be constructed.

C. F. TEMPLE,
City Clerk.

To M. C. Harrington, owner of Lot 1, Block 75, North Platte, Nebraska.

The owners of property on the south side of 9th street, between Augusta Ave and Oak street, are notified that the Mayor and Council of the City of North Platte, Lincoln County, Nebraska, passed and approved an ordinance on the 18th day of June, 1913, ordering a sidewalk adjoining their said premises, to be constructed as to line and grade, and of permanent material, as provided in the general ordinances of said city, regulating the construction of sidewalks in said city.

Unless said walk is constructed by you along the north side of said Lot 1, Block 75, owned by you, in accordance with said ordinance, on or before the 16th day of September, 1915, the same will be constructed by the city and the costs assessed upon the said lot owned by you adjoining which the same shall be constructed.

C. F. TEMPLE,
City Clerk.