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HE HAD NEWS FOR HER.

The Talk Went on While the House Was Burning.

"I tell you it ain't safe for a man to leave home nowadays," grumbled the man-on-the-corner to another man, according to the Detroit Free Press. "Since my wife got mixed up with so many clubs—art clubs, musical clubs, kindergarten coteries, and the like, she has so much to attend to and so much to talk about to other women that she actually forgets that she has any domestic responsibilities. My wife told me last night that she was sitting in our library early in the morning, deeply immersed in club conversation with an intimate friend, and they heard the doorbell ring. She knew that the cook was out on an errand, but she was so absorbed in her club talk that she decided not to answer the bell herself. Again it rang with some emphasis, so then she went to the shutters and looked out, only to see at the door the back of a roughly-dressed man. She concluded that he was only a peddler or a beggar, and went back to her profoundly intellectual friend. A third time the doorbell rang, and this time with energetic and sustained violence. "Goodness, hear that man," my wife said to the other club lady; "Nora is out, and I'll have to go and see what he wants, or he will break the bell." So to the door she hastened, feeling very indignant with the peddler who was so persistently disturbing her peace. She opened the door prepared to discharge a volley of rebuke on the man's offending head, but forgot all about it when he said, excitedly: "Well, missus, yaid better be answerin' this bell—I came in to tell yer that the back part of yer house is on fire."

GOOD IDEA TO BORROW.

It Is That of Having an Official Drafter of Bills.

One of the minor features of the English legislative system might with propriety and profit be reproduced in the state and national legislatures of America, says the Kansas City Journal. Every measure, before it is brought before the house of commons, is submitted to the examination of the official drafter of bills. This official is a man well versed in the history of law and lawmaking, a constitutional lawyer of high rank. He examines the bill, points out anything in it that is in conflict with the constitution, elucidates obscurities and indicates omissions and redundancies. More than that, he will, on request, draft any measure which a member may desire to bring before the house.

The result of this is a wonderful economy of the time of the parliament and of the courts. Unconstitutional bills are often killed by the hand of the bill drafter, and all measures submitted to the legislative body are clear in import and full, yet concise, in form. We need something of this kind here. Excellent measures are not seldom the offspring of the brains of men who are not trained constitutional lawyers, and they fail of enactment, or of enforcement if enacted, on account of technical blemishes which might easily be removed. The records of our legislators and courts are full of the obituaries of such laws. The appointment of a capable drafter of bills to aid legislators in the preparation of prospective laws would enable each measure to stand or fall squarely on its merits, irrespective of considerations merely technical.

SHE WAS TRUSTFUL.

Never Thought of the Man's Honesty Until She Had Her Hat.

A middle-aged woman came through the gate at one of the railway stations the other afternoon with a crowd of passengers from a train which had just arrived, says the Washington Post. She wore a gray gown and she carried a small bag; a fur cape hung over her arm, but her head was bare. She did not remember the fact until she had passed the wicket. Suddenly she clasped her hand to her head. "Good gracious!" she exclaimed. "Here, hold these!" and flinging the bag and cape into the hands of an astonished young man, who happened to be standing near, she plunged through the crowd and ran back to the train. Presently she emerged, her hat on her head, a smile of perfect content on her face, a smile which failed the moment she set foot on the platform again. She fairly galloped through the gate, and looked wildly about for her fur cape and her traveling bag. The astonished-looking young man was still holding them. The middle-aged woman possessed herself of her belongings. Then she gave a sigh of relief. "My land," she said, with feeling, "suppose you hadn't been honest!" and the crowd swallowed her up.

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