

LAUGHTER AND TEARS.

A Comedy Scene in Which Grief Played a Leading Part.

"Stage fright is not one of the emotions which get across the footlights," writes Miss Alice Crawford. "Audiences are for the most part as serenely unconscious of it as they are of other individual sentiments in the actors having no relation to the incidents of the play.

"I shall never forget an instance of this curious insensibility of the crowd. Once when I was touring one of the most charming and popular girls of the company died after only a few days' illness. She was one of those sweet, tranquil natures and had endeared herself to us all. Her death in lodgings in the small provincial town had an element of real tragedy in it.

"The news that she was dead reached the theater in the evening just as two of the actors and I were about to go on for a scene of broad comedy. We went on the stage with tears in our eyes, and I can still see the face of one of those comedians with the great tears glistening on the paint. He was dreadfully affected. Try as he would, he could not control his voice, and the tears kept choking him as he rattled off his lines.

"The audience were convulsed every time his voice broke, and it made me cry more than ever to see the grief shaking him as he grinned and chaffed through his tears. Yet that comedy scene never went so well before. The audience never guessed."—Exchange.

STORY OF A MUD HEN.

And the Man Who Tried to Shoot or Drown the Bird.

"It is a mighty hard thing to down a mud hen," said a Portland official. "Every one knows this homely bird, so clever that it can dodge the flash of a gun, making it very hard to kill if any one ever wanted to kill one.

"A friend of mine who was a great hunter, but not acquainted with the mud hen, was out hunting on the Columbia sloughs some years ago when he saw what he thought was some kind of duck floating on the water. He aimed his shotgun and fired, but the bird dived as the gun was discharged, and the shot struck the water where the bird had been a moment before. As the smoke cleared away the hunter saw the bird come to the surface, and he gave it the other barrel, with the same result.

"His obstinacy was now aroused, and he determined to kill that bird before he left the place. He shot away every round of ammunition he had, but the bird dodged every one and still floated in the same spot. In great disgust my friend sat down on the bank and lit his pipe. At the first puff of smoke the bird dived again, and this gave him his inspiration.

"To make a short story, he smoked up all his tobacco in an effort to drown the mud hen, but when darkness fell and he started for home the bird was still floating in the same old spot."—Portland Oregonian.

A Wedding Ring Superstition.

Although there was a lifelong friendship to back up their business deals, the jeweler was not surprised when his old customer who had married a second time bought the wedding ring at another shop.

"If he should take a third wife he would buy the ring at still another store," the jeweler said. "That is one of the superstitions of the trade. A man may have the marrying habit over so bad and require several wed-

ding rings in his time, yet he never buys any two of them from the same place. Jewelers do not expect it. They don't want to sell two wedding rings to the same man. Bad luck would surely light on all concerned, and there is enough trouble in the world anyhow without deliberately inviting more of it by defying a good old wedding ring superstition."—New York Times.

KNOW THE OPEN SHOP.

Why Union Men Stick to Their Own Organizations.

Advocates of the open shop often wonder why members of the labor unions so persistently stick by their own organizations instead of meeting their employers in an open shop Sunday school class, with friendly exchange of courtesies on each side. It would be so nice and so profitable all around. These philanthropists finally conclude that it is just perverseness of human nature that makes the union man fight the open shop.

If the open shop would give seven and a half hours a day, \$6 pay and Saturday afternoons off with full pay perhaps the union man would be tempted to abandon his own organization for the open shop Sunday school class. But the open shop is not built that way. Sooner or later the hours are lengthened, generally sooner. Sooner or later the wages are lowered, generally right away. Sooner or later a lot of apprentices are set to doing one thing only, and laborers, coolies, Hindus, Mexicans—anything cheap—put to doing all that is possible. Then people wonder why the union man hates the open shop. Such a strange thing, this attachment to a labor union!

Education in Virginia.

At the convention of the State Federation of Labor at Richmond, Va., a statement was made by John B. Cline-dinst, a deputy in the office of the state labor commissioner, that in the course of his travels he had discovered more white boys who were unable to read or write than he had found among the colored population. The white population pays 90 per cent of the total amount of money expended on the education of children in the state, and it is a strange anomaly, if the statement be true, that a greater percentage of white children than of the colored do not take advantage of the opportunities afforded. Accordingly resolutions were adopted recommending compulsory education and free books to the pupils in the public schools.

Lured to Their Ruin.

The great exodus from Great Britain of immigrants to the colonies and especially to Canada has caused many thousands of people to suffer. Letters are and have been pouring into England from these immigrants stating that the promises which allured them to migrate have been found to be illusory. It is a well known fact that employers of labor have been insistently advertising the alleged favorable industrial conditions in Canada. There has been a very large number of immigrants arriving during the last eighteen months, and the labor markets of Canada are glutted to the extent of intense suffering.

Homes For Workingmen.

San Francisco Housesmiths' union voted to contribute \$3,000 to the McNamara defense fund. The union adopted resolutions requesting congress to issue \$500,000,000 in currency to be used in constructing homes for bona fide workingmen at a cost of \$2,500 for each house and land, the same to be repaid to the government in installments of \$20 a month.

Fire Insurance Rates for Lincoln

TO THE PUBLIC; At a meeting of Lincoln Fire Insurance Agents a few days ago—in reply to my question as to whether I had not done the right thing by giving everybody the same rates on dwellings, the agents replied that I had merely given the rate situation an overdose of physic. My contention is now and always has been that one person is entitled to as good a rate as another provided he has the same kind of a risk; and as the rates on dwellings of the same class are all rated alike I cannot see how an agent can justify his action in charging one person 80c per 100 for three years and charge his next door neighbor 50c for the same thing. The person that comes to my office and asks me to write his insurance is entitled to as low a rate as the one who goes to every office in town to see where he can get it the cheapest. I have lost considerable business during the past three years while other agents were writing the risks below the regular price when in competition and when I advertised that I would write all risks at the lower figure I was accused of giving the rate situation an overdose. If I am wrong in this contention then I am not entitled to your business. Twenty years ago I began to solicit life insurance which I followed nearly six years representing several companies, and I never knew of a life insurance company to cut the rate on any policy from the published rates. I have for thirteen years managed a Hall Insurance Co., doing business in Nebraska and paid more than \$300,000.00 in losses on growing crops and we have never written a policy for a less rate to one person than we charged another in the same district according to our published rates, and why Fire Insurance Companies should publish schedules of rates for all classes of property in Nebraska and then charge one person full tariff and possibly his next door neighbor one-half as much is more than I can quite understand.

The laws in this State governing Mutual Fire Ins. Co.'s compels such companies to make the same assessment on all policyholders of the same class and hazard of risks and I cannot see any difference between a mutual or a stock company in this respect. It is true we have an anti-trust law in Nebraska preventing stock fire insurance companies from combining for the purpose of holding up the rates, but that has absolutely nothing to do with writing one person at one price and another person at another price on the same class of risk. If one company wishes to charge 80c per 100 for three years for dwellings in Lincoln and another company will write dwellings for 50c that is a privilege that each company should enjoy, but there should be a law preventing any company from charging one person more than they do another on the same kind of dwelling. I shall, therefore, continue to write all frame dwellings at 25c per 100 for one year, 50c for three years and 75c for five years and so long as the companies I represent will accept the business at these figures I will charge no more and no less. I have four companies in my office ranging from 40 to 75 years old, having assets from one to six millions in which I can place your dwelling house insurance at the above figures. I can also take care of large mercantile lines at as low rates as are quoted by any agency in the city. I am yours for business.

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