

WHETHER COMMON OR NOT.

THE FETCHING FABLE OF THE BENEVOLENT GENTLEMAN WHO EXPERIENCED A SUDDEN CHANGE OF HEART.

Quite by accident a Benevolent Gent happened to pass by just as a large Gazabo was about to conclude the finishing touches of Trouncing an Undersized Youth.

"Gently, gently!" murmured the Benevolent Gent. "Do not, I pray, become Brutal in your work."

"Aw, go chase yerself," was the insolent reply of the Large Gazabo.

"But why do you land so Heavily upon the youth's jugular?" queried the Benevolent Gent.

"Because he yearns to set up in Business for himself, and I need him to perform a few Stunts for me," replied the Large Gazabo.

"Then," remarked the Benevolent Gent, "this is where I perform a service to Humanity."

So saying, the Benevolent Gent fainted with his left and Landed heavily upon the Large Gazabo's solar plexus.

"Why do you thus Assault and Batter me?" queried the Large Gazabo, looking up from a Recumbent position.

"I am moved by a Generous Impulse," replied the Benevolent Gent, "and I would free the Undersized Youth from his galling chains of Servitude."

So saying the Benevolent Gent proceeded to perform various feats of Physical Prowess upon the person of the Large Gazabo.

"I will gladly allow the Youth to go free," gasped the Large Gazabo after a short time.

But when the Undersized Youth would have set up in Business for himself the Benevolent Gent said:

"Not so. You will be better off by taking a place in my kitchen and doing odd jobs for me."

"But you mixed with the Large Gazabo because you were moved by a Generous Impulse," wailed the Youth.

"Quite true," replied the Benevolent Gent, "but during the last few moments it has occurred to me that my Generosity is entitled to about 5 Per Cent Interest."

Moral: Considerable Philanthropy is attached to the 5 Per Cent Cable.

THE FABLE CONCERNING THE PARSON WHO PLACED CONSIDERABLE RELIANCE IN DUMDUM BULLETS.

Once upon a Time a Parson who claimed that he was Trying to spread the Gospel of the Man of Peace began acting very much like a Man who Thought he knew More than the One whom he professed to serve.

The Parson looked Abroad and saw People of his own land engaged in Shooting Holes into other People.

"Ah," remarked the Parson, "I see that we are engaged in a Great Work. Let us Pray that the Great Work may go on."

"But," queried a man whose head contained an Idea that the Gospel of the Nazarene was a Gospel of Peace, "why do you Rejoice because Men are Being Shot?"

"The Shooting is in the Interests of Civilization," said the Parson.

"How can That be?" queried that man whose Head had the Idea therein.

"Verily," replied the Parson, rolling his Eyes upwards, "we do thereby show our Superiority, and after showing our Superiority, we can easily make them Believe that we are Superior because we are the Only True Followers."

"Did the One whom you Follow shoot his religion into Others?" queried the Man with the Idea.

"Certainly not," said the Parson, clasping his hands and doing the Eye

Rolling Act some more.

"Why not?"

"Ah, my Brother, fire-arms were not then Invented."

Moral: A Soft Answer is often the Easy way Out.

THE LITTLE FABLE OF THE INFANT INDUSTRY THAT PLAYED IT LOW DOWN ON THOSE WHO HELPED IT.

A Man and his Wife started out once upon a Time to establish for themselves a home in a new Country. Just as they had Found the Spot and erected a Cabin they discovered a weak Infant Industry lying by the roadside and Crying for Help.

"Help me or I Perish," lisped the Infant.

The Man and Wife being of Tender Hearts took the Infant Industry into their Home and Divided with It their substance. The Infant thrived Mightily and was a Source of Great Joy to the Good Man and his Wife.

Time went on and the Man and his Wife began to Perceive that the Infant Industry was Waxing Strong and Swiping all the Pastry. This Hurt their Feelings, for they had been Generous to the Infant, and had a right to hope that the Infant would do the Right Thing.

But it was Not So.

The Infant began to Gobble all the Grub and holler for More. When it was not forthcoming it Became impudent and asked:

"What it is, Bill?"

One day the Man and his Wife consulted and agreed that the Infant should Hustle for Itself. When the Subject was Broached the Infant exclaimed:

"Ha! Ha!"

And it ha-haed in a way that Hurt the Feelings of the Man and his Wife. They thereupon strove to Fire the Infant out of the House, but behold, it had grown Too Big to Shove through the Door.

Moral: Don't be a Clam.

THE FABLE WHEREIN IS RELATED THE FALL-DOWN OF THE MAN WHO THOUGHT HE HAD A MISSION.

Once upon a Time there was a Man who got a Hunch that he had a Mission. He felt Impelled to Travel in a far Land and Teach its People how to be Good. He therefore secured a Pass and went Abroad, carrying a number of Reforms in his Carpet Bag.

In good time he arrived in a Land whose People were Endeavoring to start up in Business for Themselves.

"Ah!" exclaimed the Man with a Mission, "I see I am just in Time. I have here in my Grip some Good Things."

"But we want to Experiment," said the People.

"Tut, tut," said the Man with a Mission. "I come from a Land where the People know all about the Governing business. I will now proceed to Start you off Right."

"But has your own Country no Need of your Services?" asked the People.

"No, we are so Thoroughly Good that we can Spare the Time to Show you How."

"But are your cities free from Corruption?"

"Well; we have a few corrupt city Governments."

"And are not Corrupt Men holding High Place in your Government?"

"Yes, but we will get rid of Them in Good Time."

"And do you not Occasionally Burn your Fellow Citizens at the Stake?"

"Yes, but—"

"And is it not a Fact that the Party which Backs you owes its Success to Boodle?"

"Well, I confess—"

"And are not Millions of your Fellow Citizens groaning under grievous Burdens?"

"Of course, but we—"

"Well, sir, we are Much Obligated to you, but we prefer Risking this Thing on our Own Hook."

At this the Man with the Mission waxed Wroth and Called to his aid a vast army to assist him in Shooting his Mission into the People. But the People resisted, knowing that the Mission was Frayed around the Edges and somewhat moth-eaten.

Moral: Some Missions are sadly in need of a coat of Whitewash.

THE TOUCHING FABLE OF THE DIFFERENCE IT MADE WHOSE OX IT WAS BEING GORED.

Once upon a Time a Knowledgeous Man went abroad to Rubber at a few things Transpiring. Being an Official of the Government his Journey was Watched with Great Eagerness.

"Behold, he will Drop us a few Lines Occasionally and put us Next," said the People.

But he did not. He came Home, sweet Home, and Closed up like a Ciam for the Space of Some Weeks.

Finally he made his Little Yawp, and as it was a case of Stand Up for the Administration, behold the Organs declared that his long Silence was due to the Fact that he was a Great Man.

Once upon a Time, being the same Time as Aforementioned, a Man went Abroad to Represent his People. Several Things came off which he Opined the People should be made Wise to. Thereupon he put out for Home, sweet Home. He also held his Yawp, saying only that he Would Speak when the proper Time limit expired.

After the Space of Some Weeks he handed out a Bunch of Talk, and it was Hot Shot for the administration. And, behold, the Organs declared that the Man was a Cheap Stiff who played the Silent Dodge for the Sole Purpose of Getting Free Notice in the newspapers Top of Column next to Pure Reading Matter.

Moral: Even the Administration Organs must Hold their Jobs.

WHEREIN IS RELATED THE KNOWLEDGE IMPARTED BY THE FALLING OUT BETWEEN PROTECTED INFANTS.

It came to pass that Men with Dough besought the People, saying:

"Give us What we ask and we will Make you all Rich."

"What asketh Thou?" queried the People.

"Protection, which Meaneth, let us Charge you all the Traffic will bear by Shutting off Competition."

Being Unsophisticated, the People gave their Consent, saying, "See, these are Infant Industries, which must be Protected against the Wolves in Pauper Clothing from Europe."

A large number of years went by and the Infants grew Whiskers and Biceps that were Immense. Still the People wot not that it was so, and the Infants Ruled the Roost.

But it came to pass that a pair of Infants fell out Concerning a Division of the Stuff, and it was Revealed that the Infants were Doing the Public to the Tune of Five Hundred Per Cent Profit on the Money Invested.

Moral: Plenty of Suckers will go right on Coddling the Infants.

—Will M. Maupin.

An Impudent Appeal.

The Manila chamber of commerce, composed of as unscrupulous and greedy a lot of carpet-bag exploiters and grafters as ever followed a flag to pillage in the wake of an army, asks the president by resolution to put a stop to trials of army officers by court-martials for abusing the natives.

The trials are held under the orders of the president, who has declared that

officers guilty of cruelty shall be punished, and this impudent gang of camp followers has the effrontery to protest against his action because it "threatens the business interests in the islands, which urgently demand the protection of the army." This business of punishing army officers for violating the rules of civilized warfare, if persisted in, says the Manila chamber of commerce, "will result in the abandonment of the American cause in the islands."

If the American cause can be maintained only by torture and the slaughter of unarmed natives, the quicker it is abandoned the better. The president's reply to the Manila chamber of commerce, if he deigns to make any, should be mighty interesting reading. —Philadelphia North American (rep.).

Is This an "Attack?"

At the risk of being charged with making an attack upon the honor of the whole army, attention is called to the fact that Lieutenant Hagedorn, of the 28th infantry, who was arrested last March on a charge of embezzlement, has been dismissed from the army and sentenced to two years' imprisonment in Manila. This is the same officer who tortured some Filipino prisoners by keeping them on a salt fish diet without water for forty-eight hours. For that indiscretion Lieutenant Hagedorn was subjected to the indignity of a reprimand.—Philadelphia North American (rep.).

Extraordinary Growth of the Rural Free Delivery.

(Philadelphia Press.)

Figures showing the growth of rural free delivery during Postmaster General Charles Emory Smith's incumbency of less than four years:

Routes in operation when he took charge	133
Routes established or provided for when he retired....	7,000
Rural carriers to be in service July 1 next.....	9,300
Appropriation for 1898.....	\$50,000
Appropriation for the current year	\$4,000,000
Amount to be disbursed during the ensuing fiscal year.	\$8,000,000

PRESSED HARD

Coffee's Weight on Old Age

When prominent men realize the injurious effects of coffee and the change in health that Postum can bring, they are glad to lend their testimony for the benefit of others.

Mr. C. C. Wright, superintendent of public schools in North Carolina, says: "My mother, since her early childhood, was an inveterate coffee-drinker and had been troubled with her heart for a number of years and complained of that 'weak all over' feeling and sick stomach."

Some time ago, I was making an official visit to a distant part of the country and took dinner with one of the merchants of the place. I noticed a somewhat peculiar flavor of the coffee, and asked him concerning it. He replied that it was Postum Food Coffee. I was so pleased with it, that after the meal was over, I bought a package to carry home with me, and had wife prepare some for the next meal; the whole family were so well pleased with it, that we discontinued coffee and used Postum entirely.

I had really been at times very anxious concerning my mother's condition, but we noticed that after using Postum for a short time, she felt so much better than she did prior to its use, and had little trouble with her heart and no sick stomach; that the headaches were not so frequent, and her general condition much improved. This continued until she was as well and hearty as the rest of us.

I know Postum has benefited myself and the other members of the family, but not in so marked a degree as in the case of my mother, as she was a victim of long standing."