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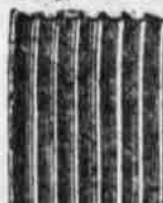
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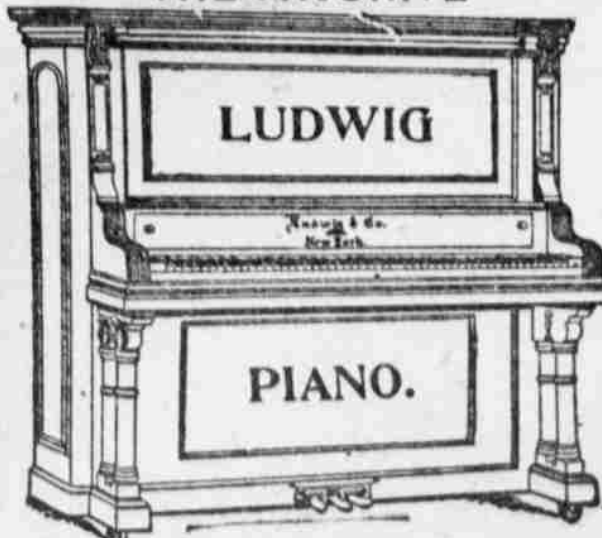
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SOME FABLES IN RHYME

A Mistaken Octopus.

BEING THE HISTORY OF A TRUST THAT MADE THE ERROR OF TRYING TO DEFEY THE LAW IN A STATE WHERE PUBLIC OFFICIALS DO THEIR DUTY.

An Octopus branched out one day and by mistake it took its way to old Missouri, where the laws are made to be enforced, because the people down in Old Mizzoo make servants do as they should do, and take no manner of excuse for an official action loose.

This Octopus on plunder bent to old Missouri gally went, and with a wink of its off eye proceeded state laws to defy, imbued with the false-bottomed thought that as in other states it wrought 'twould be an easy thing to do to break the laws of Old Mizzoo.

And when the Octopus was hauled before the court and its case called, it only smiled in ghoulish glee and thought ere long it would be free. But to its very great chagrin it soon discovered it was in the worst mix-up it e'er did view—a fight with law in Old Mizzoo.

In round the first it sparred for wind, and sidestepped, ducked and feebly grinned. The second round then closed the bout—the Octopus went down and out. Its pudgy form was bruised and sore; its nasal organ bathed in gore, and both its eyes were black and blue from sturdy blows by Old Mizzoo.

"What kind of state is this I've struck, coniam the bloody, bloomin' luck?" the Octopus in anger said; "I'm beaten till I'm nearly dead. In other states I've had my way; I've—" but then it heard the just judge say: "The laws against such things as you will be enforced in Old Mizzoo."

MORAL:

The Octopus that wants its way Should careful be to always stay Outside of states that e'er are true T' democracy, like Old Mizzoo.

The Gullible Statesman.

WHEREIN IS RELATED THE AWFUL ERROR OF THE INEXPERIENCED LAWMAKER WHO REALLY THOUGHT HIS PARTY MEANT WHAT IT SO OFTEN SHOUTED.

A statesman whose experience in public life was not immense, got a false notion in his head his party meant just what it said; that when it said grave wrongs 'twould right it meant it would take up the fight, and make its ev'ry promise good, just as a man that's honest would.

So, with this notion in his brain, he went to work with might and main; and having heard his chief declare he shackle cunning on the square, with honest heart and right good will he forthwith drew an honest bill that would put all trusts on the bum and knock 'em all to kingdom come.

He spent one summer at the work and toiled as did the fabled Turk. He made the shackles strong and true and tested them until he knew each hinge and link and screw and lock would stand the hardest kind of knock. Then, filled with joy at what he'd done he hastened back to Washington.

"O, Chief!" he cried, "my work's complete. I've forged the shackles strong but neat. They'll stand, I warrant ev'ry test—you take them now and do the rest." So saying he then

stepped aside and viewed his handiwork with pride while waiting for his chief to praise what he had done through summer days.

Then up the chieftain spake and said: "Geewhiz, the wheels buzz in your head! I said it, but were you less dense you'd know 'twas in Pickwickian sense. Go way back and sit down until this thing goes through the hands of Phil. He'll fix it up so trusts won't kick, but fool the people neat and slick."

MORAL:

'Tis strange the statesman did not see Through this scheme of the g. o. p. His bill's sad fate was quickly sealed. He knows more now. Eh, Littlefield?

The "Con" Combine.

A LITTLE FABLE CONCERNING THE MERGER OF TWO CONFIDENCE GAMES THAT RESULT IN GETTING ALL THE SWAG ON BOTH SIDES OF THE STREET.

Once on a time two "con" men met by chance and thereupon they set comparing notes on con games bold by which they gathered in the gold. Said one, "My scheme is wondrous thin, but, glory be, it gets the tin. I've worked the people to the pitch of thinking taxes make 'em rich."

"I call it tariff, and they pay good money to me every day. I keep all competition out and love for working-men I shout, then make the goods that they must buy and boost the prices good and high. A sucker born each minute? Boo! Why, bless your soul, there's nearer two."

"Your scheme is great," the other said, "but I've got one that kills 'em dead. Now listen and I'll tip my hand—I run the money of the land. The people let me boss finance and, bet your life, I grab the chance. I have convinced the voting ranks that money should be made by banks."

"And as I boss the banks, you see, I skin 'em both ways easilee. A double interest I claim in working out my smooth con game." And thus the two grew chummy quite and laughed aloud in their delight to think that they so rich could wax by bank control and tariff tax.

And ere the twain had dined and wine they had tied up and schemes combined, and now they work their merger neat upon both sides of Sucker Street. When one can't get the victim's chink he tips his pal the proper wink, and then the pal, quick as a flash, sandbags the man and grabs his cash.

MORAL:

Of course, if you love to be robbed And squeezed and pinched and neatly jobbed, That is your right—and you will be By con men of the g. o. p.

Brain Leaks.

Some men would have faith if they were not afraid of the works. A carpet was never made too good for childish feet to walk upon.

It is impossible for hate to find harbor in a heart full of happiness. A man never pulled himself out of the slough of despond with the aid of a corkscrew.

It takes something more than forty days of fasting to atone for forty weeks of folly.

All of us know some children who would be vastly better had they been trained as carefully as their fathers' horses.

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