



## Whether Common or Not

By Will M. Maupin.

### Suckers.

There's a proverb old as the ages,  
We often hear expressed.  
The crystalized wisdom of sages,  
Too seldom self-confessed.  
Go study the world and what's in it  
And quickly 'twill dawn on you  
That a sucker is born ev'ry minute,  
And in some minutes, two.

No matter how thin the game is,  
It harvests golden store;  
And often the thinner the same is  
It gathers up still more.  
Just frame up a scheme, begin it,  
Cast out your hook from shore—  
For a sucker is born ev'ry minute,  
And sometimes three or four.

A schemer in politics mixes  
And revels in big grafts;  
He jollies us up and tricks us,  
And robbing us softly laughs.  
He knows just how he can win it  
If properly he will strive  
For a sucker is born ev'ry minute,  
And sometimes four or five.

A looter is sure of his share if  
He follows the soft-soap plan,  
And harvests a gain from a tariff  
"Protecting the working man."  
Just follow it up and sure win it;  
'Tis cutest of grafting tricks.  
For a sucker is born ev'ry minute,  
And sometimes five or six.

'Tis a crop that's never decreasing;  
'Tis sure as the day of fate.  
And those who fish without ceasing  
Are catching a string that's great.  
Don't you be a sucker, dear brother;  
Don't nibble before you look.  
Back up! And just let some other  
Get fastened upon the hook.

### Followed Suit.

"You may say," replied the public official when questioned concerning corruption in his department, "that you asked me about it and that I just laughed."

Whereupon the people roared.

### Senator Graball.

"What do you think of the sentiment in favor of electing senators by popular vote?" we asked of Senator Graball.

"I have often found it necessary to check this sentiment in certain quarters," was the senator's ambiguous reply.

### Ambiguous.

"I am going west," remarked the prosperous looking passenger in the Pullman, "for the purpose of looking after my fences."

But we had to leave the train before he told us whether he was grazing cattle on the public domain or merely a congressman figuring on re-election.

### Contemporaneous.

"Yes, sir," said the man given to experiments, "I am engaged in promoting two or three things that will be of incalculable benefit to the human race."

Knowing what was expected of us we asked for explanations.

"I am figuring out a way to graft lemons on sugar beets and furnishing an unlimited supply of ready-made lemonade. I am also experimenting with a view to grafting strawberries on milkweeds and growing strawberries and cream. I have hopes, too, of

being able to distill from cloves an oil that will, when mixed with liquor, prevent it from tainting the breath."

"And when," we asked, "do you expect to accomplish all this?"

"I am under bond to have these things completed when the managers of the g. o. p. allow the tariff to be revised in the interests of the consumers."

Since this conversation we have been wondering whether the man was non compis mentis, or only playing a huge practical joke upon us.

### Distrustful.

The carpetbag official had spent several hours trying to convince the benevolently assimilated that they were better off under the new order of things.

"Please notice," said the official, "that we are determined to do away with the old Spanish system of official corruption."

Whereupon the benevolently assimilated arose and asked as one man:

"Are we to have a postal department system of honesty thrust upon us?"

While waiting for the official to frame a reply the people went on about their business.

### Opportunity.

"There never was an age in which young men had better opportunities than now," declared the great trust magnate.

Naturally there were some who were incredulous.

"There is the case of Millward Q. Trustson," continued the magnate. "Ten years ago he began as messenger boy in the office of the Consolidated Steel company, and today he is president. He won the position by dint of ability, and without any help other than the favor of his uncle, who was general manager; his father, who was chairman of the board of directors; his grandfather, who was secretary; his wife's father, who was owner of a majority of the stock, and his aunt's husband, who represented the company's interests in the senate."

### A Mistaken Policy.

The shade of Nero sat disconsolately upon the banks of the Styx.

"Why so sad?" queried the shade of Alexander.

"I have been pondering over the great mistake of my life," replied Nero.

Naturally enough Alexander asked for further particulars.

"It's this way," replied Nero. "I tortured and annihilated the Christians merely to gratify my cruel instincts, and made no efforts to disguise the fact. And that was where I made my mistake. Look at my reputation in history."

"But what should you have done?" asked Alexander.

"I should have posed as a public benefactor and claimed that I was only engaged in the task of benevolent assimilation."

Realizing that nothing he could say would adequately assuage Nero's grief, Alexander walked slowly away.

### The Last Move.

The capitalists interested in a dozen schemes for robbing the people met in consultation for the purpose of devising ways and means whereby they might combine and prosecute their graft more successfully.

Just as they were about to adjourn,

having completed all regular details, one of them remarked:

"Gentlemen, we have overlooked one important matter."

Instantly the others resumed their seats and looked interested.

"Our schemes are all right as far as they go," continued the speaker, "but it strikes me that a very important matter has been neglected. We have not arranged for the establishment of a great daily newspaper 'in the interests of the people.'"

Realizing that they had overlooked an important matter the capitalists again went into executive session.

### Brain Leaks

A consecrated Christian never takes a vacation from duty.

"Good of the party" seldom means the good of the people.

Is it wrong to envy the man who enjoys the love of the little folk?

One form of patience is reading a continued story in a monthly magazine.

Our idea of a really brave man is one who will go without a collar on a hot day.

The man who is always boasting of his ancestry is storing up trouble for his posterity.

"I am taking a course in fizzical training," said the soda fountain apprentice to his chum.

Did you ever see good molars in the mouth of a man who chews tobacco to "preserve his teeth?"

The cheapest investment is making a child happy, and no other investment yields greater returns.

Some people wait so long for somebody to give them a start that they grow fast in their tracks.

The worth of a library consists in the use you make of it, not in the number of books it contains.

About the best cure for insomnia that can be found is the "fiction number" of the average magazine.

Conceit is shown when another shows that he thinks himself just as smart as you know yourself to be.

The average congregation looks very much like a body of people who sit through the service because they have to.

When a wise man stumbles he stops, picks up his stumbling stone and uses it in the stairway by which he climbs upwards.

If we were going to employ a young man we would not look for one who has a beautiful curl to a cute little mustache.

There is nothing quite so nice as a dinner with one of those old-fashioned housekeepers who "just loves to see her company eat."

When we see a man who thinks he is too good to take an interest in politics we wonder whether he is ignorant or pharisaical.

There are many people who give away things they want to get rid of and then feel proud because they have exercised "charity."

The man who would invest \$10,000 in a business and then keep his store open less than five hours a week would be considered a fit subject for the lunatic asylum. How many churches have that much, and more, invested and keep open longer than that?

### Grubbing the Votes.

Is there no new political adventure our strenuous president might undertake to insure him a unanimous election in 1904?

For a time he indulged in a spectacular exhibition of "trust busting"

without harming a single trust. This was to make himself solid with the common people.

Next he tried to build up a "lily white" republican party in the south, with the co-operation of Senator McLaurin of South Carolina. This he fondly imagined would cause the white voters of the south to flock to his standard and carry the "solid south" for him. In two or three states the scheme progressed so far that republican conventions refused to recognize colored delegates.

This stirred up the colored people of the north, who practically hold the balance of power in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Pennsylvania and New York. The loss of these states would mean ruin for Roosevelt even if he should succeed in capturing some of the southern states with his "lily white" bait.

So the strenuous president tried to "square" himself with the colored voters of the north by inviting Booker T. Washington to take dinner with him at the White house. This infuriated the "lily whifers," and to appease them the colored people were insulted by the explanation that Booker T. Washington did not dine with the president, but that "luncheon" was served to him at a separate table in the White house annex, instead of the great colored philosopher dining at the table in the White house dining room.

Then came the Indianola, Miss., postoffice melee and the Crum collectorship for Charleston to offset the insult to the negroes, so as to "square" himself again with the sons of Ham, only to stir race hatred to its very depths.

After this came the trans-continental tour as a general all-around vote catcher. At one place the president talked to Swedes to catch the Scandinavian vote. At another he talked to a colony of Russians to catch the Russian vote. He rode races with the cowboys to make sure of the cowboy vote. He talked to Indians to win the Indian vote. He said, "Speak softly, but carry a big stick" to capture the "conservative" vote. He had declared that Reed Smoot should not be elected United States senator, so as to make himself solid with the anti-Mormon vote. When he got to Utah he hobnobbed with Smoot to line up the Mormon vote. A telegram from Walla Walla demanded the Ohio vote. Just now he is playing for the Jew vote by meddling in Russia's internal affairs, and a dispatch from Rome to an eastern paper only a few days ago stated that the president was using his political influence to have Archbishop Ireland raised to the rank of cardinal in the hope that it would win for him the Catholic vote.

And while all these machinations are in progress he is patching up a truce with J. Pierpont Morgan so as to cinch the Wall street vote.

Was there ever in the history of America such an inglorious exhibition of political jugglery? Was there ever in the White house such a lightning-change prestidigitator and trimmer? The trusts go on in their career of plunder and not one is "busted" unless it happens to founder in its own flood of water, and probing of official rottenness is become a farce since in exchange for the Ohio indorsement Hanna's notice, "Hands off!" is heeded to protect the rascals not yet exposed whom Hanna has placed in the public service.

No thought whatever of the interests of the people, of the general welfare; no thought of anything except how to get votes in 1904.

Such a vote-grubber deserves only to be buried under an avalanche of votes as a rebuke for his chicanery and double-dealing. May all this grubbing for votes in 1904 result in a harvest of defeat that will prove a wholesome precedent for all presidents hereafter.—Columbus (O.) Press.