



Whether Common or Not

By Will M. Maupin.

The Meanest Man.

I've heard of men so awful mean
They'd skin a flea for hide and
tallow;
And lick a soup bowl slick and clean.
No matter if 'twere deep or shallow.
I've heard of men so mean of heart
They'd squeeze down hard on ev'ry
dollar
Until the goddess fell apart
And was compelled to loudly "hol-
ler."

I've heard of men so mean and "near"
The thought of wear gave them keen
twinges.

And so they climbed the fence for fear
The swinging gate would wear out
hinges.

And once I knew a man so mean
His heart was wont to quickly flut-
ter

If children at his board were seen
To use molasses on bread and butter.

But of all men described as mean
There's one who's worse than all
the others;

His heart so small, his soul so lean,
That all good thoughts he quickly
smothers.

He is so mean, and always was,
That, as excuse for never giving,
He says there is no Santa Claus—
And he's the meanest fellow living.

Do Tell.

A man in Popocatapetl
Complained he was not feeling well.
Said he, "I'm sure
I can't endure
A long, protracted, hard sick spell."

Pessimism.

The Optimist—"Well, what do you
expect to find in your Christmas
stocking?"
The Pessimist—"The same old
bunions."

In Boston.

The Visitor—"And what do you
want Santa Claus to bring you?"
Fitz Courcy De Grace Beaconhill
(etat 5)—"After due deliberation and
considerable study of mythology I
have arrived at the conclusion that
Santa Claus is merely a figment of the
imagination, therefore I deem it high-
ly improper to longer pose as one who
pretends to believe in this mythologi-
cal personage merely for the ulterior
purpose of acquiring from confiding
progenitors those trifling things which
please only for the time and have no
direct bearing upon one's future bet-
terment."

What Santa Claus Should Give.

- To Mr. Rockefeller—A conscience.
- To Mr. Morgan—Ability to feel sym-
pathy.
- To Mr. Schwab—The ability to for-
get.
- To Mr. Baer—An enlightened under-
standing.
- To Mr. Hanna—Better choice in the
selection of friends.
- To Colombia—Justice.
- To Competition—A resurrection.
- To the Government—Honest ser-
vants.
- To the Citizen—An awakened sense
of duty.
- To the Trusts—Knock-out drops.
- To the World—Arbitration.
- To All People Everywhere—Self-
government.
- To the Corruptionists—Stripes.
- To the Press—Freedom.
- To Men—A true conception of char-
ity.

Those Wily Haidens.

Sue—"I've had the loveliest after-
noon!"
Prue—"What have you been doing?"
Sue—"Jack has been teaching me
how to skate."
Prue—"But I thought Charley
taught you how last winter."
Sue—"O, he did, but Jack doesn't
know it."

Second Thought.

"The world refuses to do me jus-
tice," complained the trust magnate
who perceived that the people looked
upon him as one without conscience.
"Why complain about that?" quer-
ied a friend. "Think what would be
your unhappy lot if the world did mete
out justice to you."
After thinking it over the trust
magnate felt better.

Too Previous.

"Alas, there are no more worlds to
conquer."
So saying Alexander plunged into
the river Styx.
Some time later Alex looked back
and saw where he had made a mistake.
"I should have waited a few cen-
turies and secured control of the oil
market."

Words and Deeds.

"The world is mine!" exclaimed
Monte Cristo.
But unfortunately they were only
words.
The man who had the deeds merely
hoisted the price of oil another notch
and declared a dividend.

Brain Leaks.

Some straws show which way the
week's wages go.

You cannot get God-ward as long
as you look dollar-ward.

The man who cherishes a grievance
seldom has anything else.

The earnest seeker after truth does
not drop into the rear pew.

Charity with a brass band accom-
paniment has a string attached to it.

The happiest homes are those where
"company manners" are never laid
aside.

The man who waits until New
Year's to "swear off" on a bad habit
seldom does.

The world will not be what it should
be as long as success is measured by
the accumulation of dollars.

There is a vital difference between
telling God what you want and ask-
ing Him for what you need.

The average man would give a great
deal for the ability to enjoy just one
hour of implicit belief in Santa Claus.

The man who wastes his strength
weeping over small troubles has ab-
solutely no show when confronted by
a great trouble.

One-half of the world does not know
how the other half lives, and the in-
dications are that most of the one-
half does not care.

Every now and then we see a man

who has experienced very little dif-
ficulty in training his conscience into
approving anything he wants to do
for profit.

BOOK REVIEWS.

During the last year two important
books dealing with the trust problem
have appeared. One appears in Ap-
pleton's "Business Series," by Dr. E.
S. Meade of the Wharton School of
Economics and Finance of the Univer-
sity of Pennsylvania; the other by Dr.
F. E. Horack of the University of
Iowa, appears in the Equity Series
published by Dr. C. F. Taylor, Phila-
delphia.

The first is entitled "Trust Fi-
nance," and is a study of the meth-
ods, organization and management of
industrial combinations. The second,
entitled "The Organization and Con-
trol of Industrial Corporations," is a
comparative study of legislation,
showing the provisions of law in the
several states under which industrial
corporations may be organized, and
the provisions for their subsequent
control.

Dr. Horack finds an absolute lack of
uniformity in the legal provisions re-
lative to organization and control in
the several states, and quite natur-
ally Dr. Meade finds the same lack of
uniformity in the application of busi-
ness methods, and in the operations
of the great corporations. Perhaps
the most interesting feature of these
two works is that both writers,
though approaching the trust problem
from entirely different standpoints,
have arrived at practically the same
conclusion as to the reform necessary
to insure stability in industrial or-
ganizations, viz: that the essential
feature in any reform of our corpor-
ation law, to be effective, must be the
national control of the organization
and management of our large corpor-
ations, the evils of which are confined
to no one state in particular. It is
only by such control that the publicity
of corporate affairs, necessary to in-
sure and promote public confidence
can be secured. The present loose
and reckless system of chartering
companies employed in many of the
states has been productive of corpor-
ations, the methods of which have been
as loose and reckless as the laws un-
der which they were organized, or
more so. Such a condition of affairs
as this must necessarily be transitory;
the demands of a sound business sys-
tem must soon supplant the present
method of chartering by individual
states by a national control.

The two works here mentioned are
welcome additions to the already pro-
fuse literature of the trust problem.
Both have been worked out by men
who have spent years of careful study
on their subjects, and their conclu-
sions are not to be lightly passed by
as mere academic speculation. The
price of Dr. Horack's monograph is
nominal, only 25 cents, as it was pub-
lished not for profit, but for educa-
tional purposes. It is paper bound,
207 pages, and may be obtained from
Equity Series, 1520 Chestnut street,
Philadelphia.

Books Received.

"Potpourri: Spice and Rose Leaves,"
by Miranda P. Swenson. A little
booklet of verse by a Nebraska author.
The verses deal with themes of heart
interest, and the tributes to homely
life and family ties are especially
good. The booklet is handsomely
printed.

Pamphlet entitled Where Are We
At? How Did We Get Here? And the
Way Out, an outline of the rise and
progress of American moral and en-
lightened civilization, founded on the
natural distinctions of race, and the
methods employed by foreign influ-
ence to destroy it, and compel a re-
turn to European arbitrary rule by
the artificial distinctions of privileged

classes, by Anti-Tory, 35 Fulton st.,
New York. Price, 20 cents.

Who Rules America?—truths about
trusts—pamphlet, by Francis A.
Adams. Price, 10 cents. Ninth edi-
tion, published by Thatcher & Co.,
150 Nassau st., New York.

Talks to Students on the Art of
Study, by Frank Cramer; published
by The Hoffman-Edwards Co., San
Francisco, Cal.

Will Make Deserts Green.

Millions of acres of semi-desert
lands of the western plains of the
United States as well as other millions
of the African veldts, the Siberian
steppes, the Argentina pampas and
the great unexplored plains of West
Australia will be converted into the
best hay and pasture lands in the
world if the new grass scientifically
developed by Prof. W. H. Olin, grass
expert of the Iowa Agricultural Col-
lege at Ames, Ia., will do what he
claims for it.

A modification of what is known as
the "side oats grama" is the grass for
which these claims are advanced. Af-
ter being developed in connection with
Professor Olin's studies and experi-
ments with the grasses from all the
great grassy plains of the world the
new grass has been tried on some of
the half-arid plains of this country
and thus far has done all that was ex-
pected for it.

Next spring these experiments are
to be conducted on a larger scale and
throughout a wider area. The Iowa
commission in charge of the state's
agricultural exhibit at the St. Louis
exposition is convinced that these ex-
periments will be the basis of one of
the most valuable and interesting ex-
hibits at the great fair. They will in-
terest every country in the world
which has industries based on grass,
hay and live stock. Those who have
impartially examined into the experi-
ments and their results thus far be-
lieve Professor Olin's claims are not
too strong.—Chicago Chronicle.

Three for One.

At an expense of one dollar you can make
three people happy. How? The answer is easy:
Send Maupin a dollar for his book, "Whether
Common or Not," and give it to a friend. Mau-
pin will be happy when he gets the dollar; the
friend will be happy at receiving the book, and
you will be happy in the knowledge that you
have made Maupin and your other friend happy.

Maupin's Book

Is made up of sketches and verses that have
appeared in The Commoner and other publica-
tions. If you are in doubt about the worth of
the book, ask Maupin. He'll admit that it is a
good one. It has 277 pages, is handsomely bound
in cloth and has gold cover design. It will make
a handsome and acceptable Christmas present.
Order it now and it will reach you in time for
Christmas.

Mr. Bryan says:

"I take pleasure in commending Mr. Maupin's
work to those who enjoy innocent fun, delicate
humor and philosophy seasoned with sentiment.
He is especially happy in his verses when—as he
often does—he deals with the tender attach-
ments of the family and the homely virtues of
every-day life."

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Will be sent postpaid on receipt of the price,
\$1. Maupin will send it on approval—if you like
it, send him the dollar; if you do not, send the
book back. Address the author,
WILL M. MAUPIN, Lincoln, Neb.
2022 South Seventeenth Street.