



## Whether Common or Not

By WILL M. MAUPIN.

### My Choice.

They are flocking to St. Louis  
Full of hope and politics;  
With their speeches they're to give us  
And their pockets full of tricks.  
They are sweating, toiling, scheming,  
And they're planning day and night;  
But I'm nodding and a-dreaming  
That the big fish bite.

They are in St. Louis tolling  
Round the cycle of the clock;  
And their brains are fairly boiling  
As they gather round and talk.  
But I'm getting rod and tackle  
Ready for a sudden flight,  
And you'll hear me loudly cackle  
When the big fish bite.

Let 'em sweat and join in cheering;  
I'll take none of it in mine.  
Sweeter sounds than that I'm hearing:  
'Tis the whirl of reel and line.  
Politics in torrid weather  
Never fills me with delight—  
As for me—well, I'd much rather  
Watch the big fish bite.

"Georgia casts her vote—" Now, ready!  
There, I've got him hooked at last:  
"Tennessee casts—" Whoa, now  
steady!  
There's he's fighting quick and fast!  
"Mississippi casts—" Now reel in!  
Don't he make a gallant fight?  
What's a vote compared to feelin'  
Such a big fish bite?

### Awful.

No greater woe a tongue can tell  
Than woman when her jell won't jell;  
Unless 'tis man whose only bite  
Was when he tried his pipe to light.

### Uncle Toby.

"It's my opinion dat de richest man  
in de worl' is de man wid de memory  
of a life well spent, an' dat de poorest  
man in de worl' is de man who ain't  
got nuthin' but money."

### Poor Man.

"What's the matter with Jones. He  
looks like he was half starved."  
"He spent so much money for break-  
fast foods that he couldn't buy any-  
thing for dinner or supper last month."

### Limerick.

A bandit in far-off Algiers  
Aroused quite a bundle of fliers,  
Till one day Uncle Sam  
Brought him to with a slam  
And knocked his hat over his iers.

### At Last.

Long years he wrote of life and love  
And all that sort of thing.  
But all the while he nearly starved  
And grew too poor to sing.  
At last he struck a little lead  
That filled his heart with hope—  
He's got a job at ten per week  
Of writing songs of soap.

### Fatal.

The surgeon bent over the bleeding  
form of the soldier and felt the faint  
and flickering pulse.  
"What is your name, my brave  
man?" asked the man of medicine and  
instruments.  
"My name is Pzxlzky-y-y-z-z-z-z—"  
A gasp, a convulsive movement and  
the wounded man was gone.  
"Alas," said the surgeon, "the strain  
was too great."

### Influential.

"You say you have been in con-  
gress thirty years, and that you are  
one of its most influential and sought-

after members?"

"That's what I said."  
"Strange I never heard of you. What  
district do you represent?"

"O, I'm not a congressman. I'm  
one of the official stenographers, and  
I'm the fellow who inserts 'laughter,'  
'loud applause,' 'loud cheering,' and  
all that sort of thing into the  
speeches."

### The Real Trouble

"I see by dis paper," remarked Hitte  
De Rhodes, lazily turning over into  
a deeper shade, "dat some scientific  
sharp has found out dat we eat too  
much."

"Dem science sharps make we  
weary," drawled Will Knott Tollsome.  
"It ain't eatin' too much dat is de  
cause o' my troubles. It's worse dan  
dat."

"Wot's de matter, Willie," queried  
Hitte De Rhodes. "Ain't yer gittin'  
enough ter eat?"

"Plenty, but it ain't too much of it  
dat is killin' me. I toll you. It's de  
awful variety we gits handed out ter  
us as we travel about de country."

### Great Scheme

"I thought Scratchlerly was adver-  
tising manager of the P., D. & Q. rail-  
road."

"He was, but he suddenly lost his  
job."

"What was the matter?"

"O, Scratchlerly conceived what he  
thought was the greatest advertising  
scheme ever planned out. He went  
to the management and suggested that  
it pay its just share of the taxes, make  
equitable freight rates and quit giv-  
ing passes to legislators, judges and  
politicians, and then advertise the  
fact that all over the country."

"What did the management say?"

"They didn't say a word. When the  
ambulance came the driver found  
Scratchlerly lying at the foot of the  
stairs."

### Keep Whistling.

My friend, when you are a-feeling  
blue

And the whole world seems a vale  
of tears;

When the current wrong is a-setting  
strong,

And the cloud of trouble o'erhead  
appears—

It ain't no use to just turn loose  
A-kicking against the ways of fate.

Just whistle a tune and pretty soon  
Your troubles are bound to pull  
their freight.

Whistle a bit and hum a tune—  
Better times are a-coming soon.

When the clouds look black and the  
weary track

Is nigh knee-deep in trouble's mud;  
Don't lose your grip and drop your  
lip—

Show the iron that's in your blood,  
Just step ahead with a firm, stout  
tread,

And get a smile spread o'er your  
face.

Whistle and sing till the echoes ring,  
And you'll be sure to win the race.

Whistle a bit and wear a smile—  
Things get better after while.

### Brain Leaks.

Smiles grease the wheels of progress.  
A song in the heart is worth two in  
the choir.

Hurry & Worry are always trying to  
borrow from Slow & Steady.

The true soldier is always ready to  
help put a stop to the fighting.

Somewhere between our giving out

and giving up God begins giving in.  
You'll never run up the hill of  
progress by running down your  
neighbors.

Men who are willing to let you in  
on the ground floor usually have a trap  
door ready to let you into the base-  
ment.

We have rather a poor opinion of  
the man who is so afraid of doing  
something wrong that he never under-  
takes to do right.

"Bill the Bunk" says that if men  
have a right to sell their labor to  
whom they please he is ready to em-  
ploy a few men in the work of crack-  
ing safes.

We never try to eat strawberry  
shortcake at a restaurant without  
thinking we have grounds for charg-  
ing the restauranter with obtaining  
money under false pretenses.

Only when we give up all do we  
begin getting things from God.

Think once before you act, twice  
before you speak, and spend the day  
in thought before you commit it to  
paper.

When hope wanes strength goes.

We would like to read a good novel  
wherein the heroine was not tall and  
willowy with "sun kissed hair," and  
the hero was not forever "gnawing his  
tawny mustache."

Whenever we see by the convention  
reports in a newspaper that "the dem-  
onstration lasted twenty minutes" we  
know that the reporter was working  
his imagination. These twenty-min-  
ute demonstrations are usually short  
about eight minutes on each end.

### Curious Condensations

Wine 150 years old exists in Switz-  
erland.

Chemists say arsenic is present in  
eggs.

Incombustible celluloid is a French  
invention.

Crossing the knees is a common  
cause of sciatica.

Turpentine has been found to be an  
antidote for carbolic acid.

Camphor is now being made near  
New York by chemical means.

An Ambidextral Culture society has  
been organized in England.

The bamboo is said to grow some-  
times at the rate of three feet a day.

The compound chemical lecithin  
tends to promote the growth of giants.

Doctor Kirkland reckons that in 90  
days a toad will destroy 9,720 injuri-  
ous insects.

An electric current of 5,000 volts is  
fatal. Increase the voltage to 500,000  
and it will be quite harmless.

Mortality from cancer is very high  
in beer-drinking districts of Germany,  
such as Bavaria and Salzburg.

Except the sun and the moon, only  
Venus, Jupiter and some of the bright-  
est fixed stars give a sensible shadow.

A New York department store em-  
ploys a "social secretary," whose duty  
is to look after the welfare of sales-  
women and cash girls.

One variety of bamboo is cultivated  
as a vegetable and the young shoots  
eaten like asparagus, or they may be  
salted, pickled or preserved.

That there is sufficient radium in  
pitchblende to make it possible for a  
photograph to be taken by it directly  
is announced by Professor A. R. Crook  
of Northwestern university.

A chunk of coal releases, during  
combustion, enough energy to lift it-  
self about 2,000 miles, or say from New  
York to Panama, vertically upward  
against constant sea-level gravitation.

The toad is an exceedingly greedy  
animal. It feeds continuously through-  
out the night, and in 24 hours con-  
sumes a quantity of insects equal to  
about four times its stomach capacity.

The great flood at Topeka, Kas., last  
year has been found to be a blessing  
in disguise. Ever since the district  
has not been bothered by the vermin  
that before infested it—mice, rats,  
moles, gophers and rabbits.

The Krupp establishment takes the

lead in providing comfortable houses  
and cottages for the laboring classes.  
In 1901 the value of the dwellings used  
exclusively by workmen was \$3,875,-  
000, a total of 4,274 houses.

An electrical device by which music  
can be "felt" instead of heard is the  
result of a recent invention. The mu-  
sical vibrations are transformed into  
electrical ones in something the same  
way that they are in a telephone wire.

Professor Ernest Rutherford, in-  
stead of accepting the scientific tradi-  
tion that the earth is a molten mass,  
which has been cooling off for mil-  
lions of years, suggests that radium  
is the source of heat and is not only in  
the atmosphere, but in all matter.

In one toad's stomach have been  
found 77 thousand-leg-worms, in an-  
other's 37 tent-caterpillars, in an-  
other's 65 gipsy-moth caterpillars and  
yet in another's 55 army worms. Thirty  
large caterpillars have been fed to  
a toad in less than three hours.—Pitts-  
burg Dispatch.

### God's Message To Men.

God said: I am tired of kings;  
I suffer them no more;  
Up to my ear the morning brings  
The outrage of the poor.

Think ye I have made this ball  
A field of havoc and war,  
Where tyrants great and tyrants small  
Might harry the weak and poor?

My angel—his name is Freedom—  
Choose him to be your king.  
He shall cut pathways east and west  
And fend you with his wing.

I will never have a noble;  
No lineage counted great,  
Fishers and choppers and plowmen  
Shall constitute a state.

And ye shall succor man,  
'Tis nobleness to seive;  
Help them who cannot help again;  
Beware from right to swerve.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson.

### Kit Carson's Rifle.

It is perhaps not known to all the  
world that the rifle of Kit Carson, the  
great western hunter, scout and ex-  
plorer, is carefully preserved and may  
be seen by those who know its where-  
abouts. At the time of Kit Carson's  
death he left this rifle to Montezuma  
Lodge, F. & A. M., of Santa Fe, New  
Mexico, in whose charge it has re-  
mained ever since, an object of great  
interest and very highly prized by all  
members of that society. Montezuma  
Lodge is one of the oldest organiza-  
tions of that nature west of the Mis-  
souri river. It was organized so long  
ago as 1849, at which time the an-  
cient town of Santa Fe was just begin-  
ning to take in part the color of the  
western bound Anglo-Saxon civiliza-  
tion. Fremont's first trip to the  
Rocky mountains was made in 1842.  
There were few white men in all that  
part of the west at the time of the  
founding of Montezuma Lodge, but Kit  
Carson was one of these early mem-  
bers. To his brothers of the society  
he left what may have been one of his  
most cherished possessions.—Field and  
Stream.

### Rosebud Excursion Rates.

Chicago & Northwestern Railroad  
agents will sell special excursion tick-  
ets daily from July 1 to July 23 at  
one and one-third fare for round trip  
to Bonesteel, Fairfax and Yanston,  
account opening for settlement of un-  
settled lands in Rosebud Indian  
Agency, South Dakota. Passengers  
may return on any date up to August  
31, 1904. Rate, Lincoln to Bonesteel  
and return, on sale daily July 1 to  
23, \$9.30; Lincoln to Fairfax, S. D.,  
and return, \$9.10. Return limit Aug-  
ust 31. A two-cent stamp will bring  
you full information regarding the  
registration. R. W. McGinnis, Gen-  
eral Agent, Lincoln, Neb. City office,  
1024 O st.