



By WILL M. MURPHY.

The Fate of Many Reforms

For reform in transportation he insisted loud and long,
And declared that giving rebates was outrageous.
He declared he'd put an ending to the rebate giving wrong—
In a word his actions were somewhat rampageous.
But the echoes of his speeches scarcely died upon the air
When Paul Morton, chief of sinners, was selected
For a job as chief advisor in the way of acting square—
One reform knocked galley west as was expected.

Then the next reform he tackled was the charge for hauling freight,
And he raised his voice to make the declaration
That in fixing rates no judges ever could participate—
A plan that suited very well the nation.
But when Aldrich called upon him, taking Foraker along,
He at last took up the court review rejected;
And the second reformation which he stood up for so strong
Also was knocked galley west, as was expected.

"Honesty in public service we demand," he shouted clear,
And the people heard his saying and applauded.
"Graft must cease in public office—I will stop it, never fear;
Let me know and I'll protect the ones defrauded."
Up rose Bowen with the figures showing Loomis with a graft,
And the figures were left there to be inspected.
It was Bowen who was fired out, not the man of cunning craft—
And the third reform just died, as was expected.

Now the last reform he's tackled causes not the least surprise,
For he always pleases with his exhibitions.
But we think the reformation has him far outclassed for size,
For he can't change orthographical conditions.
For of one thing we are certain—ere he gets a decent start
On the road to reformation he's selected,
He will compromise with something, or will have a change of heart—
Honest, now, is not that end to be expected?

Called Down

The new stenographer submitted to Mr. Bingerly the letters she had written from his dictation.
"I fear these letters will have to be re-written," said Mr. Bingerly in a mild voice.
"Why so?" queried Miss Pert.
"I notice that your orthography is not quite what it should be. You have misspelled a large number of words."
"Mr. Bingerly, you will receive my resignation as soon as I can write it."
"But, my dear Miss Pert, I am not complaining. I am merely pointing out a few errors; and I certainly think I have the right—"
"I do not care to work for a man who is so far behind the times, Mr. Bingerly. You will notice that I have transcribed my notes in accordance

with the latest edict from the seat of government."

Laying down a list of 300 words properly misspelled and bearing the Washington trade mark, Miss Pert swept proudly from the room.

As Usual

The orator faced the great multitude of perspiring and vociferous voters, and lifting his voice exclaimed: "Let me but write the songs of a nation and I care not who makes its laws."

At this juncture a man in the audience demanded that the orator lead in singing "Star Spangled Banner." The orator consented, and this is the way he sang it:

"O, say can you ump, by the um-tum-tum-tiddy,
What so um-tum-te-di, at the twilight's to-tiddum?
Whose broad stripes ump-tum-de through the ump-tum-de-do
O'er the to-ral-1-roo, ump-de-dum-dum-de-diddy.
And the rocket's red glare, bombs lum-tum de-do
Gave proof la-li-roo, la-de-dah dah de dah-da.
O say does that star spangled banner lum-to-o-o-o
O'er the land of the free, and the ho-o-o-me of the brave?"

Busy

The great trust magnate was acting queerly and his friends began to worry about him.

With a regularity of clockwork he thrust his hand into his pocket, withdrew it with a dollar therein, and dropped the dollar into a box. This he kept up with monotonous regularity.

The committee of friends tried in vain to ascertain the meaning of it. Finally they ventured to ask the trust magnate.

"Whist!" he hissed. "I'm contributing my dollar to the republican congressional campaign fund."

A Musing

Life is full of sunshine
And all the world's aglow;
The joy of life is all mine
As down its ways I go.
I hear my children singing
Their welcome songs to me,
Each day a new joy bringing
To fill my heart with glee.

Eastward the shadows turning
Give life an added zest;
My eyes new joys discerning
Out in the golden west.
Love laughs at years advancing
And in her smiles I see
The glinting sunbeams dancing
When I am forty-three.

Old Time his way is winging
With swift and noiseless pace,
But with my children singing
I smile into his face.
No time for idle sighing—
The world is bright to me.
Beyond new joys are lying
Because, I'm forty-three.

Justified

"You are accused of making a violent and unprovoked assault upon this man, Rastus. What have you to say in your own defense?"

"Yo' honah, I'se willin' ter admit de assault, but I'se gwine ter object ter de use ob de word unprovoked. I

hatter good reason for swattin' de gemmen."

"Tell your story, Rastus."
"We'uns wuz er talkin' 'bout water-millions, yer honah, an' dis yere white man butted in an' begin ter tellin' how ter improve de taste ob de water-millions by er dopin' it wid dis yere t'ing an' dat dere t'ing, an' I jus' hatter up an' hit 'em. I leaves it ter yer honah if a nigger ain't gotter right ter hit a white man dat tries ter tell a nigger dat de water-millions in hits native state can be improved upon."

Without even having recourse to the book of statutes in such cases made and provided the judge rendered a decision to the effect that the assault was provoked and therefore justifiable.

Impossible

"Have you written that topical song, Bluster?"

"No, and I am afraid I can never write it."

"What's the matter?"
"I can not forget the grammar I learned while attending school."

Always

"Mr. Rockefeller is advocating the simple life."

"The people of this country have done worse than that."

"What do you mean?"
"People who would submit to being robbed as the Rockefeller interests have robbed them seem to me to be leading the foolish life."

Brain Leaks

Troubles grow rapidly when given lots of attention.

It is easier to avoid temptation than it is to overcome it.

The man who is afraid of failure should never begin.

Stories unfit for ladies to hear are unfit for gentlemen to tell.

Nature loves a joke—that is why some men are what they are.

The bread of idleness is very apt to produce mental indigestion.

The man who takes no interest in politics seldom has any civic principles.

The highest ambition of some men is to be appointed marshal of a parade.

It is hard to argue with a man who invents his own statistics. It is also foolish.

Some revival meetings would result better if started with a resurrection.

There is one good thing about this "postal card" fad. It enables one to keep the promise to "write every day or two."

The world owes you a living, but collection of the debt entails an awful lot of hustling.

We know stenographers who beat President Roosevelt to this matter of "spelling reform."

A great many of life's tragedies would be comedies if we looked at them from another viewpoint.

We never hear a man boasting about being self-made but what we wish that he had put on some finishing touches.

You may not be able to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear, but you can make something that will answer all the purposes of a purse.

The trouble with a great many reformers is that they spend so much time preaching reform that they have no time left in which to practice.

Somehow or other a professional ball game does not enthuse us nearly as much as the old games in the old days when the "Slayton Sluggers" came over and tried to wipe up the ground with the "Keokuk Kickers," and the score was so big it took a barn door to keep tally on.

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