



Whether Common or Not

By Will H. Murphy

Easy

I bought my wife a meerschaum pipe
And kept it hid away;
Until I could hand it to her
Upon last Christmas day.

For me she bought a collarette—
A sealskin beauty, too.
She hung it on the Christmas tree
And said: "Dear, it's for you."

That evening, when 'twas time to
dine,
We both sat down to sup,
She with the pipe, I with the fur—
And traded, even up.

Safe

"I fear for our fleet. They tell
me it is awfully cold at Cape Horn."
"O, cheer up! Admiral Evans'
language will warm things up when
he gets there."

Not Interested

The fact that nineteen eight can be
By four divided don't, somehow,
Appeal so very much to me,
Because, you see, I'm married now.

Self Defense

Gazing thoughtfully at the hand-somely decorated box of Perfecto de Mud's that his loving wife had given him for Christmas, Mr. Nick O'Tyne mused:

"It's either these or swear off."

Having thought the matter over carefully he stuck a couple in his pocket and said:

"However, if I carry these around with me it may help some."

His Defense

"You are charged with having adulterated your milk with water," said the police judge. "What defense have you to offer?"

"Your honor, I am rather to be praised than blamed. Far be it from me to add to the burdens of the people. I was but adding to the circulating medium."

Having just been paid off in cashier's checks the police judge could only write "discharged" on the docket and call the next case.

In 3907

The excavators for the new 300-story building dug up at a depth of some thousand or so feet a small disc of some metal strange to all of them. Despite the corroding of time they could see that it was the work of human hands, so they took it to Professor Kerosenus Oilibus Roger-feller, the well known deliver into mystic lore and head of the Amalgamated Educational Trust.

"Pray tell us what it is," said the excavators.

Pulling his spectacles down over his nose until the glasses focused with his keen eyes, Professor Roger-feller gazed long and earnestly at the disc. Then he opened his mouth and spake learnedly:

"This," said he, "is a relic of a medeival age, known to us as the shortage. It is a primitive form of money, used by a semi-civilized people who were so ignorant and superstitious as to believe in a higher and unseen power than those self-selected to rule over them. This inscription, written in characters long forgotten save by archeologists, testifies to the prevalence of this superstition at that time, and bears out our claim that it was made and used in a primi-

tive exchange of goods about two thousand years ago, and just before it was thoroughly demonstrated that the superstition was harmful. This is a very valuable relic, proving to us, as it does, the wonderful development of the race since we learned to put our trust wholly in our own strong and wise men."

After allowing the valuable information to soak in, the excavators resumed their labors.

Theatrical

She said farewell,
But bear in mind,
It was the prima
Donna kind.

—Birmingham Age-Herald.

She wept with grief
And tore her hair,
But kindly note,
A crowd was there.

—St. Louis Times.

Though he was false
She loved him still,
But that was in
The vaudeville.

—Columbus (Ohio) Sun.

She said: "Although
I starving am
I spoil youah gold,"
—In melodram.

—New York Mail.

"You I defy
To do me hurt,"
She said. "Twas in
The "ten, twent, thirt."

Proof Positive

The man was hauled, struggling and protesting, before the insanity commissioners.

"But I am as sane as you are," exclaimed the man.

"Of course, of course," said one of the commissioners, soothingly. "Now what is the charge?"

"Why, a man owed him \$2,000 and offered to pay it in the new gold coins, but he refused to accept them, saying that owing to the high relief of the design the coins wouldn't 'stack.'"

"Wouldn't accept them, eh? It is a clear case. The papers will be made out immediately and handed to the sheriff."

Satisfactory

Slowly, carefully and laboriously the banker explained to the depositor why real money could not be paid out on the check, and why the cashier's check or clearing house certificate was just as good as the currency.

"And now, sir," said the banker with a smile, "I hope you understand the matter clearly."

"I think so," said the customer. "It means that if I am so hungry that I'm almost starved, all I've got to do is to drop into a restaurant and read the bill-of-fare."

Intrinsic

"The people are wrongfully trying to prevent us from conferring a great blessing upon the public," said the manager of the paper trust.

Being of a curious disposition we could not refrain from asking for full information.

"Why, if we are not interfered with we will yet make the intrinsic value of clearing house certificates

equal to the express value printed upon their face."

Recalling to mind the logic of those who defended the nation's honor so carefully a few years ago, we realized that we could offer no sound objection.

The Optimist

What's the use o' weepin'?
Better days are comin' soon.
Don't be cryin', but be tryin'
F'r t' lilt a merry tune.

What's th' use o' moanin'

If th' day is dark an' drear?
Clouds don't matter—they will scatter

If you sing a song o' cheer.

What's the use o' grumblin'

If your plans go all awry?
Keep on smilin' all th' while an'
You will git there by an' by.

What's th' use o' kickin'

At your tough, untimely fate?
On tomorrow shove your sorrow
An' keep hustlin' while you wait.

What's th' use o' cryin'

'Cause all days ain't days o' June?
Prick the bubble you call trouble
An' strike up a merry tune.

Brain Leaks

Some politics makes familiar cellmates.

He who sows smiles reaps happiness.

Cheeropathy is the best school of medicine.

Moral dyspepsia is often diagnosed as religion.

The multitude pauses when the heart speaks.

I Will is always helping I Wish out of a hole.

The drinker who tries to "taper off" generally topers on.

A Christmas gift given as an obligation carries nothing with it.

People who take life easy usually make it hard for somebody else.

People who are always looking for evil miss seeing a lot of good.

Worry makes itself known, but good fortune has to be introduced.

When a man really becomes acquainted with himself he feels humble.

A balky furnace is responsible for sins that will take more than charity to cover.

After all, the chief difference between most people is in the length of the clothesline.

A lot of people who think they are wearing crowns now will know their crosses after while.

It always makes us mad to hear anybody boasting of how early they arise in the morning.

It would be difficult to find nine tailors willing to accept the responsibility for some men.

Reputation has carried men to success when their characters would have condemned them.

Last year's failures will count for naught if made the stepping stones to this year's successes.

We always have our doubts about the people who make good resolutions and then loudly boast of them.

What a difference it would make if we kept the December 25 spirit in our hearts every day in the year!

The man who tries his level best and fails is entitled to more credit than the man who succeeds without effort.

There is only the difference of one letter between luck and pluck, but that one letter makes all the difference in the world.

The trouble with some people on New Year's day is that they make so many good resolutions that they soon lose track of them.

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