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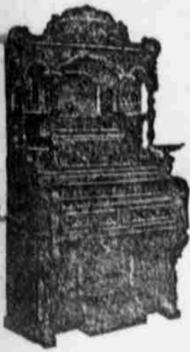
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Whether Common or Not
By WILL M. MAUPIN.

Did it Ever Occur to You?

Did you ever plan and figure how you would economize Till you saved a payment on a house and lot? Did you ever scheme and dream of how bully it would seem Just to own a little home and garden plot? Sure you have! But when you started out to save a little bit Didn't you observe the trusts were quickly wise To the fact and quickly act till your pay check they had cracked Making you pay prices hoisted to the skies?

Did you ever plan a journey to the scenes of youthful days And pay out just how to meet the small expense? Did you ever say "Today I will save some of my pay, Even though it is no more than fifty cents?" Sure you have! But ere you salted down that little "half-a-bone" Some protected "infant" scented it afar, And by simple twist of wrist had your money in its fist, Then laughed at you for the sucker that you are.

Did you ever say, "On pay day I will start a bank account, And will lay aside each week a little sum?" Did you ever get there yet without worry, fuss and fret Over food and clothing bills that always come? Sure you have! But ere your bank-book had a thumbprint on its side Or a fortnight had gone gliding o'er your head, Tighter grew the screw and you were made sad and mighty blue By a notice: "Your account is in the red."

Did you ever have it figured how next month you could start out Even with the world and wholly out of debt? Did you ever grin and spin out the story grown so thin Of how you would save a lot of money yet? Sure you have! You're not the only dreamer of such sunny dreams—Every one of us has played the part of chump— To awaken much mistaken with our nerves wrought up and shaken By the way the trusts have given us the bump.

From Sunny North Carolina

Nebraska has had a genuine winter this trip. It has been a reminder of the old times and to it is due the Architect's recent remarks concerning the frigidity of the old-fashioned "spare bedroom." And the story of that "spare bedroom" seems to have touched a responsive chord for from Catherine Lake, in sunny North Carolina, comes the following letter:

"Your description of the 'spare bedroom' is worth the price of The Commoner for a year. I am near 70 years old and I do not remember any one article that has stirred my soul with a mingling of mirth and sympathy as that one did. It is now about two weeks since I read it, and I am still laughing, and crying to

the good Lord to temper the wind to the shorn lamb, and singing:

"Here's to the land of the long-leaf pine, Where the flowers bloom and the sun doth shine; Where the weak grow strong and the strong grow great— Here's to the land of the old North State!"

"I have had lots of experience with the 'spare bedrooms' in eastern North Carolina with the mercury registering 20 degrees above zero, and when I stretch my imagination to a land where it is 20 below I just can't hold myself. If you had said you slipped in between those sheets and froze to death, and remained there until you thawed out about noon the next day, then only mercy could have availed to save me. But when your picture persists in showing itself to my mind's eye, your knees doubled up under your chin and the enamel flying from your chattering teeth like sparks from an anvil, I cry again, and with all my soul: 'Lord, temper the wind to the shorn lamb!' This is written on January 11. Wife's geraniums are in full bloom on the front porch, and the thermometer registers 52 above zero. H. D. M."

Thanks, awfully! But if we have suffered in the "spare bedroom" we have also enjoyed it. Once in a while a thoughtful hostess would take a hot flatiron and iron the sheet until it was good and warm, taking good care to perform the act just before we were shown to bed. By the time the Architect's clothes were off the gooseflesh would be sticking out all over him like bumps on a wart hog, and his teeth clicking like the "bones" of an end man in a minstrel show. But, say! It was worth it all to jump into the bed between those warm ironed sheets and just lie there and thaw out gradually; to lie there and feel the gentle warmth percolating through to the very bones of you, and glide sweetly and gently off into slumberland.

The Architect has often planned out just the people he will build monuments to when he gets the money. Among the first to whom he will build manuments of bronze and granite will be those dear, old-fashioned, whole-hearted hostesses who, in the dead of winter, thoughtfully passed a red-hot flatiron to and fro over the sheets of the "spare bedroom" before ushering the guest thereto.

Impudent

"Grigsby the tailor is awfully impudent, dontcherknow," drawled Cholly Jimpsonweed. "He is actually trying to butt into good society." "Deah me, how brawssy, deah boy," replied Walledoff Astorbilt. "Isn't it? He actually had the nerve to stop me on the street the otha' day and awsk me why I didn't call."

Explained

Simplisimuss—"Jenks seems to be a hard-working steady fellow, yet somehow or other he seems never to get along. I wonder why?"

Knowledgeus—"I don't know unless it is that he supports a political policy that promises him an increased wage of 2 cents a day and makes him pay about a half a dollar a day more for living expenses."

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