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Timely Topics

My Summer Job.

When a student is looking for work for the summer, and has no particular thing he can do, he resorts to the drudgery of a book-agency or a view-agency, or some other kind of an agency. Anyway, he takes upon himself the trials of a public nuisance—which the public declares him to be, oftentimes by letting loose the bulldog, or by slamming the door in his face with a vigor that would startle the nerviest man.

It was my good fortune to try this most enticing piece of work two summers ago in Iowa. Having learned the prospectus of my book by heart, and having concentrated my enthusiasm and oiled up my persuasive powers, I left Lincoln for my territory, with the hearty expectation of not only doing the people some good with my article, but also reaping a handsome commission at every household I had the pleasure of entertaining.

The first house I approached with the quick business-like step of a traveling agent, and, seeing that my "sack" was carefully concealed under my coat, I knocked at the door and then waited silently for its opening, while my heart began to throb heavily and thoughts rushed in quick succession across my brain as to who would be my first victim. The landlady, a woman of German descent, came to the door and said "Good morning," with a look of wonderment in her face as to what I was there for. I said "Good morning," at the same time tipping my hat very courteously and making a movement as if I wished to enter the house. She stood stalk still in the door, and did not invite me in. Then I proceeded to tell her my business, pulled the "pros" from the sack under my coat, and was just ready to begin my "learn" story when she said, with violent indignation, pointing her finger directly towards me, "We don't buy of agents of any kind. They are hypocrites and only cheat people; and if you don't leave the yard right away I'll get my bull-dog after you. Now, sir, you go!"

I went. Her size, and her fiery Dutch, made me feel like creeping for the nearest hiding place, for I didn't know whether I was afoot or a-horse-back for a few minutes. I crouched, stepped back, and, seeing the dog chained to his house, I thought the best thing I could do would be to "hike" out. My feeling was one of humiliation, like that of a cur driven to his kennel.

This was one of the experiences which I shall never forget. Of course, such an extreme case rarely occurs, but it illustrates in a measure the attitude of people toward agents. I don't expect to try it again this summer, thank you.

A couple of students were standing in front of the Uni hall discussing Lent. From the trend of their conversation it was evident that the knowledge of each in regard to the subject was exceedingly limited. But both held to the conversation pretty well, as neither cared to admit his ignorance. Finally one of them, impelled by a strikingly suspicious remark on the part of his companion, and by the fact that he was about at the end of his string, exclaimed, "I'll bet you a dollar that you don't know what Lent is."

"I'll take it," was the reply. "Lent, as the International Encyclopedia holds, is the commemoration of the time when the Egyptians lent the Israelites their jewels when they were departing from Egypt."

The other, looking sold and crest-fallen, nodded his head impressively and said, "The money's yours. But I didn't think you knew."

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SENIORS are requested to leave their orders for programs at once with the sub-committee on programs, consisting of R. T. Hill, Geo. F. Miles and Eliza Meier.

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- PIANOS—Matthews Piano Co.
- POOL AND BILLIARDS—Powell & Son.
- PRINTING—New Century, Ivy Press, Review Press.
- RAILROADS—Burlington, Union Pacific, Northwestern, Missouri Pacific.
- RESTAURANTS—Merchants' Cafe, Don Cameron, Palace Dining Hall, Restaurant Unique, Francis Bros., Hendry.
- SHINES—Lincoln Shining Parlor.
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