

Hope Springs Eternal, Etc.

An old maid at least seventy years of age was helped into a chair in the office of a New York police justice. She was very much excited.

"Do I understand you to say that you think your pocket was picked by a young man who sat alongside of you in a Third Avenue car?"

"Yes, I'm sure of it. He squeezed me up in the corner so that I could scarcely breathe, and he kept smiling at me, and smiling at me, as if he knew me."

"Why did you permit him to do that. Why did you not complain to the conductor?" asked the justice.

"I—I"—  
"Out with it."  
"I thought perhaps he was—he was."

"Was what?"  
"Going to propose to me."—Texas Siftings.

Where the Old Maids Come In.

"Do you know, sir," inquired an American tourist, of his companion, while doing England, "can you inform me the reason for this fresh, beautiful appearance of the English people? Their complexion is far superior to ours, or our countrymen over the hering pond."

"Well, I know what Prof. Huxley says."

"And what reason does he advance?"

"Well, Huxley says it is all owing to the old maids."

"Owing to old maids! You surprise me."

"Fact, Huxley figures it out in this way: Now, you know the English are very fond of roast beef."

"But what has that to do with old maids?"

"Go slow. This genuine English beef is the best and most nutritious beef in the world, and it imparts a beautiful complexion."

"Well, about the old maids?"

"Yes, you see the excellence of this English beef is due exclusively to red clover. Do you see the point?"

"All but the old maids. They are still hovering in the shadows."

"Why, don't you see? This red clover is enriched, sweetened and fructified by bumble bees."

"But where do the old maids come in?" said the inquisitive American, wiping his brow wearily.

"Why it is as plain as the nose on your face. The enemy of the bumble bee is the field mouse."

"But what have roast beef, red clover, bumble bees and field mice got to do with old maids?"

"Why, you must be very obtuse. Don't you perceive that the bumble bees would soon become exterminated by the field mice if it were not for—"

"Old maids?"

"No, if it were not for cats, and the old maids of Old England keep the country thoroughly stocked up with cats, and so we can directly trace the effect of the rosy English complexion to the benign cause of English old maids; at least, that's what Huxley says about it, and that's just where the old maids come in. Science makes clear many mysterious things, and don't you forget it."

Have you seen the new model No. 2 Smith Premier typewriter? If not call in at 135 South Eleventh street and examine it. C. W. Eckerman agent.

He Knew His Business.

"You are the man!" he said, as he leaned forward in the street car and pointed his finger to the complacent and self-satisfied looking passenger opposite—"you are the man who predicted last October that we would have a mild winter!"

"Yes, I did," replied the man.

"But we had a terrible winter instead!"

"Yes."

"And you are no prophet!"

"No."

"Then why, sir—why did you make such a prediction?"

"As a matter of business. I am in the coal trade, and it was my duty to keep people from running off to Florida to escape a hard winter!"

"But, sir, but—"

"Oh! we shall have a long, hot summer, and if you want fly-screens please call around! I am going into that line for the season!"—Detroit Herald.

Mrs. Binkle (alarmed in the early morning by the furious barking of the dog in the backyard)—Ruffian! brigand! be off, or I'll call the police!

Mr. Binkle (who has been to a masquerade and got full)—Don't be afraid, Mrs. Binkle. It's me. Played Turk at 'er (hic) Mas'erade, an' thought I'd take 'er Turk'sh bath!

His Depressing Thought.

He had been silent in thought for some time. At length he heaved a sigh, which moved his friend to inquire what the trouble was.

"This world ain't run right," he answered.

"Why, you ought to be happy. You've been away enjoying yourself. I understand."

"Yes. I've been away, but I don't see much enjoyment—not in a world where the fish are so shy about bitin' an' the mosquitoes so eternally willin'."—Washington Star.

Sifters

The busiest poet will have his idyl moments.

A short method of measuring timber is by saw-logarithms.

Though a man may not like business, he should be business-like.

It is no wonder college men become fast. They indulge in a rush so often.

Fish, as a rule, drink water, but a shark doesn't object to a nip occasionally.

It is a sad fate for the self-made man to be tied for life to the tailor-made girl.

The angler first lies in wait for his catch and then lies in weight of his catch.

The time is here when the family man who does not know how to beat carpet will have an opportunity to learn.

The babble of an infant may be the language of the angels, but without an interpreter it sounds like the stilted sob of a mush kettle.

The loner naturally gets the credit of being an amiable person. He has time to listen to everybody's story and is never in a hurry.

A hotel-keeper in Florida offers a reward of \$5 for the best treatise on "How to Make Outdoor Life Attractive to the Mosquito."

"These are hard times," sighed the young collector of bills; "every place I went today I was requested to call again, but one, and that was when I dropped in to see my girl."

A well-known lawyer declared one day at a dinner that the biggest thing he had ever done was to cross-examine a man until he did not know whether he was married or not.

If people could only "bear one another's burdens," as the scripture commands, the world would be happier. Other people's burdens are always so much lighter than our own.

"The farmer," says an exchange, "is the most independent man on earth." Just so. See how he works all summer and steps into a bank in the fall and pays the interest on the mortgage.—Texas Siftings.

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