

WHEN MEMORY SLIPS A COG

Quaint Capers of People Afflicted with Absent-Mindedness.

FRINGES OF COMEDY ON THE SERIOUS

Why One Man Objected to Bobtail Curs—An Amusing Fire Scene—The Man Who Rode to Boston in His Own Vestibule.

When something loosens the little screw that holds the link connecting the past and the present, the mental machinery instantly begins to run in a most irresponsible manner. Nor does nature provide any screwdriver for tightening up the troublesome break, so letters continue to lie unmailed in husbands' pockets and businesses remain unnewed on men's shirts all because people are victims of the "I-forgot" habit.

A New Yorker was entertaining an out-of-town man, and as they strolled down town the host hailed a Fifth Avenue stage. The guest drew back, declining to enter the vehicle, and the host signaled the driver to go on, looking the while in astonishment at his guest.

"You will pardon me," exclaimed the latter, rushing, "but I never ride in that kind of a conveyance, nor in a bobtail car."

This statement struck the New Yorker as absurd, for right well he knew that in his friend's town were employed the very bobtailed cars discarded by New York.

"Then how do you get around at home?"

"I walk. I have made a rule never to ride in a car which has no conductor aboard."

"Ah, then it is a matter of principle. You do not propose to do the company's work for it gratis."

"No, I do not," he answered, with a peculiar expression on his face. His whole attitude was so reserved that, after finding the cable or electric cars to his satisfaction, his host dropped the subject.

Try on a Novel Hat.

But later in the day his eyes were opened. They had dropped into the club, where the out-of-town man had seen much that interested him, and as they left he seemed somewhat preoccupied. His host selected and handed him his umbrella and waited for him to put on his hat. Very gravely he lifted a silver card receiver, and, talking the while on another topic, deliberately inverted it upon his head, totally unconscious of the extraordinary proceeding. He seemed to realize, however, that the fit was not perfect, and by a more careful adjustment finally settled it to his satisfaction and would have proceeded into the street had his attention not been called to the matter. He laid the receiver on the stand, took his hat and without faltering a word in the conversation, walked down the steps.

Later, the New Yorker met the wife of his guest, and his curiosity led him to inquire into the secret of the man's dislike for stages and bobtail cars. Her explanation was given with twinkling eyes.

"Just between ourselves, I'll tell you why. It was when those cars first made their appearance in our city. He hurried one to go to his office, presently an old woman sat down beside him and handed him her nickel, with the request that he pass it along to the box. In a few minutes there was a great rumpus and ringing of the bell, which indicated that someone was endeavoring to ride free. The passengers looked from one to the other in an effort to spot the contemptible person. Then the door opened and the driver, putting his head aside, yelled:

"Will that woman, there, please pay her fare?"

"I gave it to this man, and he stole it. I saw him put it into his own pocket."

"My husband disengaged the nickel and fled from the car. In a few days he came to me with the request that I sew up his pockets, as in a fit of absent-mindedness he had repeated the embarrassing performance. I did as requested, but nothing was accomplished. The next time he was on the cars a woman gave him a half dollar to have changed. Falling to get it into his pockets, he slipped it inside his trousers at the top. Ever since then he has walked."

An Emergency Sandwich.

During the national convention of 1880 the old exposition building in Chicago did not accommodate one-tenth of the people who were eager to get inside the walls. In order to avoid the terrible crush people took their position at 6 o'clock in the morning. When the convention opened much later than was anticipated the house was absolutely solid with humanity, and it was just as impossible to get out as it was to get in. No adjournment was taken at noon, many fainted from the heat and hunger. Some sandwich men succeeded in crawling along the rafters, and by wrapping their wares in paper would throw a parcel where a person held his hands to catch. Payment was put in the paper and returned in like manner. At last the food was not inviting, a great hunk of ham fat between two thick slices of sour bread. One lady whose escort had secured after great effort one of these sandwiches was in a quandary. She did not wish to offend the giver, who had taken so much trouble, but to eat it was utterly out of the question. She looked around for some means of disposing of the obnoxious object, and finally leaving the impression that she had committed it with a relish. The floor could not be reached so tightly; she was wedged about. Then came a happy thought. Her pocket! She wrapped the sandwich in her handkerchief and stored it away in the friendly receptacle.

It was between 6 and 7 when the convention adjourned, and as the party, who were from out of town, had a box for the theater that evening, they dined at a nearby restaurant, afterward attending the play. "Macbeth" was the attraction, with a fa-

SPRING STYLES FOR MEN

Cut and Colors of Garments Which Will Bloom with the Flowers.

GIDDY VESTS REMAIN IN HIGH FAVOR
Raiment for Youth and Age, from Long-Skirted Coats to Knitted Silk Ties and Crystal Buttons.

NEW YORK, March 7.—So far as the well dressed man is concerned spring has arrived and suitable vestments are accordingly taking the place of heavy winter garments. The first sign of change was given by the new one-piece suit that came into vogue three years ago. This suit consists of trousers, body coat and overcoat, all cut from one bolt of goods. Something conservative in inconspicuous dark gray or brown mixtures were the first to appear. Now the smarter men are wearing top coats of lighter gray, to match their distinctly spring-like gray suits. These top coats to match have an unusual fullness from the shoulders, and, among the men who are sending in to their tailors very generous spring orders, a preference seems

Possessed of a maddening desire to sneeze, she tried, faithfully, to smother the tickling sensation by all the known means at her command. She swallowed, rubbed her nose and held her breath, but finding she could no longer keep down the impending explosion, which had gathered great volume by being delayed, as a last resort, she jerked out her handkerchief, with the theme spellbound. She had made a great impression, but there is nothing certain in the affairs of this world. The lady of the sandwich was the person foreordained to carry that house.

David's sling was not more true in its aim than was the handkerchief in landing that accursed sandwich squarely in the face of "Lady Macbeth." After executing this blow it rolled to the floor, placidly turning from between the slabs of bread the chunk of ham, whose fat glistened in the light of the footlights. While the house thundered with applause the box party beat a hasty retreat.

A Novel in the Pulpit.

A clergyman was badly afflicted with absent-mindedness, despite the fact that his

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"Now Mary—here we are safe and sound."

wife watched him like a hawk. One prank of his disordered brain finally proved his fidelity with his congregation, which had hitherto been free from suffering. He had frequently to be told to remove his hat after reaching the door, and one Sunday morning he awoke over which had been very much worn in London. It verged on the shabby and ridiculous, so the American men let it rather severely alone, but they promise to kindly to a man cost sheet that remains to be suitably christened. This coat has longish skirts and fullness with the corners rounded off in front. There is nothing "sudden" about this coat, as was the offense offered by the perky "swallow backs." Its curves are gentle, its aspect that of a modish compromise between the true cutaway and the stately, "skirfy" frock, and it is in form for calling, spring weddings, etc. It is always off the same piece as the trousers, with which it is worn, and a man can appear in it at a morning function and go on to his office later and get down to work without feeling or looking overdressed for the "dollar mongers" part, an uncomfortable sense that pursues the American financier when he wears a frock coat "down town."

Waistcoats and Shirts.

The man who feels any interest in his wardrobe is rather finicky about his waistcoats. Well dressed members of society easily possess a score of them, yet they are now adding to the store. The demand is for waistcoats and waistcoats with the colored cotton field of the spring-like vest is variegated with spots. Plaids are no longer useful or beautiful as vesting goods but brown, buff, grey, and with the younger element, robin's egg blue, are all colors in good social standing. Four smoked pearl buttons on each side of the double-breasted waistcoat's front is the proper number, and to hold the lapels quite flat and firm these, too, are fastened down with button and buttonhole. The former matches in color and material those that appear on the front of the vest.

The smart spring material is mercerized cheviot, and stripes this season are all running longitudinally. It would be different what color in shirts takes the lead. The strong pink is avoided as a rule and black and white effects are synonymous with morning. Aside from these two contrasts the average man leads himself to almost any color that is not too conspicuously embossed on the starched stretches of this cotton garment. Those of the sterner sex, who enjoy the unusual, patronize the fashionable new color; robin's egg blue and the stripe in their shirts reflects the color of their socks.

Necktie Vignettes.

The English knitted silk tie has come over and found a warm welcome. Green and rich purples hold the lead and the knitted ones are worn in all the approved shapes, from the tiny butterfly to the broad Ascot. These ties are hand knitted, of the same silk used in making expensive silk dress hose, and, like the hose, their colors are fast and can stand the laundry. Naturally they are not inexpensive, but they are well worth the price asked for them and they promise to enjoy something more than a mere vague. Less costly and almost as durable are ties knitted of cotton, in which there is just a twist of silk to give the gloss and strength required.

Old watch guards, showing tiny jewels in their centers, are among the fashionable necktie ornaments for the new season. Most of these come from Europe, where it is not certain that an old watch is not robusted every time a scarfpin is attached.

The Italian goldsmith is particularly skilled in the duplication of antiques, and such copies of old guards as are made as would puzzle an expert to detect the fraud. As these gold rings are exquisitely cut and often set with small fine rubies it stands to reason that their value is not overestimated by the price asked for them, both here and abroad.

The Crystal Coat.

A very interesting luxury in masculine dress is the extensive use of fine crystals, pearls, cuff links, watch chains, pins, and waistcoat buttons. These are now made of crystals that are well polished, decorated and set in London. The crystals are set in frames of gold or silver, one side of each is rounded out to a deep pure oval with its reverse cut flat, and then carved with a stag's head, a fish, an anchor, a couch horn or something symbolical of sport. The

to be expressed for a gray cloth in which a strong greenish cast is visible.

Conservative American men, and this term signifies all but a very small clique of daring club-living youths, shied at the extreme cutaway coat that John Hare brought over and which has been very much worn in London. It verged on the shabby and ridiculous, so the American men let it rather severely alone, but they promise to kindly to a man cost sheet that remains to be suitably christened. This coat has longish skirts and fullness with the corners rounded off in front. There is nothing "sudden" about this coat, as was the offense offered by the perky "swallow backs." Its curves are gentle, its aspect that of a modish compromise between the true cutaway and the stately, "skirfy" frock, and it is in form for calling, spring weddings, etc. It is always off the same piece as the trousers, with which it is worn, and a man can appear in it at a morning function and go on to his office later and get down to work without feeling or looking overdressed for the "dollar mongers" part, an uncomfortable sense that pursues the American financier when he wears a frock coat "down town."

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