

Humorous Department.

Short of Flags.—A certain admiral tells an amusing story of an explosive old seaman under whom he served many years ago.

Benefit Performance.—For some time the benign old gentleman sat watching the novice in his vain attempts to land a fish.

A Natural Error.—"How did it come about," a friend of the family asked, "that old Goldberg's daughter refused Lord——"

Force of Habit.—"My new cook is simply awful," mourned Mrs. West.

A Secret.—"I was told something today that I promised never to repeat to a living soul," Mrs. Bings remarked impressively.

Correct.—School teacher (to little boy)—"If a farmer raises 3,700 bushels of wheat and sells it for \$2.50 per bushel, what will he get?"

His Way.—"When a friend calls your attention to a fault you at once strive to get rid of it, do you not?" questioned Professor Pate.

Convalescing.—"How is the bean soup today?" asked the regular customer of the Rapid Fire Restaurant.

The Saving Instinct.—"What gives you the impression Dolson is engaged to Dolly Spendum?"

Anything to Oblige.—"Are you sure you can prove my client is crazy?"

The Stagger Toddler.—"Parker, I'm ruined socially! Last night at the ball I drank too much and staggered into everybody."

The Latest Alibi.—The Boss: "Well, what excuse this time? Grandmother dead again, I suppose?"

Her One Opportunity.—Mrs. Myles: "Ever catch your husband flirting?"

Good Cause for "Nerves."—"You don't know how nervous I was when I proposed to you."

Another Chance.—Professor (in the middle of a joke): "Have I ever told the class this one before?"

The Jilt.—Charlotte: "Saw Joe at the movies with Mabel Saturday night. Aren't you keeping company with him now?"

But Not Rattled.—Bessie: "Did you notice that Russell came to the ball grounds in his flivver today?"



Illustrations by Irwin Myers

CHAPTER IV The Mystery of the Rifles. An hour after John Moreland had sent his ten rifle bullets whining over the head of Ben Littleford, every Moreland and every Littleford in the valley knew of the declaration of war.

When Dale went to bed, there was too much on his mind to render sleeping easy for him. Tomorrow he would have to help in the fight against the Littlefords, kinsmen of the young woman who had saved him, without doubt, from death by the murderous rifle of the mountaineer Gollath—or break his word flatly.

It was after midnight before he slept. He woke at the break of day, arose and dressed himself, and went out. Going toward the flower-filled front yard, he found himself facing a very angry John Moreland.

"What's the matter?" he asked. "Natter enough," clipped the mountaineer. "Bill Dale, I'm a-goin' to ax you a question, and I want the truth. Will I git it?"

"You'll get the truth if you get anything. Shoot the question." "All right. What do you know about my gun?"

"About as much as you know of the left hind wheel of Ben Hur's chariot. What's wrong with it?" Moreland's eyes were steady and cold. He thrust his hands into the pockets of his corduroy trousers.

"It must ha' been the Littlefords, I guess," frowned Moreland. "Fo' because who else would ha' done it? But to save the life of me I can't see how they got in and took my rifle without wak'ing me up, Bill Dale. I slept twice as light as a sick mouse."

STUDIES IN NATURAL HISTORY

By JAMES HENRY RICE, Jr.

THE MEADOW LARK.

Order—Passeres; Genus, Sturnella; Family, Icteridae; Species, Magna. The Meadow Lark, or Field Lark, as he is known, is not a Lark at all, but a Starling.

By nature, an insect eater, the Lark is at times a destructive bird. The damage done to small corn fields is often 100 per cent. But for the entire year the Lark's diet is more than 80 per cent animal matter, chiefly insects.

How to deal with the Lark is a problem. One thing and another has been tried. The remedy used in some quarters for preventing injury to corn is to tar the grains, then rub in graphite, so

that it will go through a corn planter. The secretary of agriculture last year gave permission to shoot the birds; but this often fails, for the birds are very persistent.

In a community where a great deal of corn is planted, the injury is often not noticed, for depredations are scattered over a wide area. Where fields are small and surrounded by woods Larks do most damage.

Careful About Nests. The nest, with its speckled eggs, is a model, being arched over and concealed with utmost care.

There are two things the young observer may note about the Lark. First, the bird walks and does not hop. This shows it to be a ground bird, for tree-dwellers usually hop, for the simple reason that their legs are joined fast together.

Adds to Beauty of Fields. The second point to note is that the Lark has enlargement of the gullet, or crop, (or crop), as it is called. This shows it to be an insect eater by nature; for birds whose food is grain or weed seeds, have a crop.

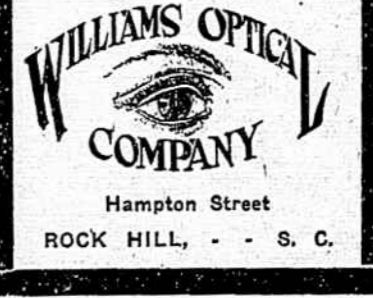
A Necessity.—Rub: "Solomon had a thousand wives and was the wisest man on earth." Dub: "He needed to be."

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