

UNDERWRITER TOOK THE BAIT

Quaker's Shrewd, If Somewhat Unscrupulous Trick, Had the Success He Anticipated.

Some months ago the Companion told a little tale of odd privatering days, in which a quick-thinking employee who discovered a long overdue privateer coming into port with a prize, by some very hard riding overtook the owner of the ship on his way to the underwriter's and saved him from the needless payment of a heavy premium.

Two Quakers, a merchant and an underwriter meeting at an inn, began all business over their meal. The merchant presently proposed to his friend to insure his vessel, lost or not lost, which ought soon to arrive in fact, it was already slightly overdue. The premium would necessarily be high, but the times were perilous and the Yankee privateers had recently taken many prizes upon the route the vessel must cover. The underwriter hesitated. The policy was made out, but his hand was not made up. Finally he put the paper into his pocket, saying:

"I will sleep on the matter, friend Joseph, and tomorrow I will return it to thee, signed or unsigned." They parted and went to their homes. Before dawn an urgent messenger clattered at the merchant's door. He was a bringer of bad tidings. The vessel was lost. It was, unless it was insured, a heavy misfortune. If only that policy had been signed the day before! He had little belief that his hesitating friend would have decided to take the risk; he was a cautious and a keen person, with a reputation for sharp practice. But Joseph saw in that fact his opportunity. Summoning a messenger, to whom he said no word of his loss, he dispatched him with a message, instructing him carefully exactly what words to use. He was to say:

"Friend Joshua, neighbor Joseph desires me to inform thee that, if thee hast not underwritten, thee needst not do it."

The message was delivered promptly and precisely. Friend Joshua, who had not signed, and had decided against doing so, understood it to mean that the ship had arrived safely, and the owner did not wish to pay the premium, now useless, unless the signed document required him in honor and law to do so. That is what the canny Joseph expected him to think; and he proceeded to act as Joseph had guessed he might act. He pretended not to find the policy where he looked for it in his office, slipped it stealthily among a handful of other papers, which he carried carelessly with him into the next room, where he went ostensibly to seek further, and there stealthily signed it. Presently he brought it back and delivered it to the messenger with the message:

"Tell thy master I had signed." It was not a pretty bit of business—friend Joseph's trick was a little too clever—but certainly no one can sympathize with friend Joshua. It was a case of the bitter bit—Yonah's Companion.

Where No Taxes Are Paid.

Happy and free from the worries of war taxation are the people of Lundy island, that little speck off Devon in the English channel, the "king" of which, Rev. Hudson Hetven, died a short time ago. The reverend gentleman administered the affairs of the island from 1887 to 1904, as his father, who bought the island in 1834 for about \$9,000, did before him. The inhabitants of Lundy number about forty and lead an uneventful life. They pay no taxes, are attached to no parish or union and have no poor. The island has a romantic and lawless history and was once considered an excellent harbor and refuge for murderers. Bardsley Island, situated in the Irish sea, off the county of Carnarvon, is another spot where the tax collector is unknown. There are about sixty people on the island, who elect their own king. The inhabitants are mostly engaged in farming and fishing. The island got its name from the tradition that it was the last retreat of the Welsh bards. In ancient times it had a reputation for sanctity and to be buried on its soil was an honor much to be desired. It is believed that more than 50,000 "souls" gained this privilege.

Activities of Women.

Great Britain has established schools where women are taught munition work.

Scrub women in the office buildings of the United States number over 26,000.

Miss Marie Peary, daughter of the discoverer of the north pole, is now taking up aviation.

Nearly 5,000 women are employed in the munition factories in this country.

Girls who patronize the Cleveland dance halls are compelled to show birth certificates.

Women are better than men when working on the difficult work of blading turbine engines.

Among the 172 persons who will be granted diplomas to practice law in St. Louis are three women.

Flight of Imagination.

"Do you mean to tell me you are going to vote for prohibition?"

"Yep," replied Uncle Bill Bottletop.

"An' I hope they'll win. Then if they want to stay in power, maybe they'll play politics an' hook up with the ricker interests same as the other parties have done in the past."

POLICE GUARD INTERNED GERMAN SHIPS



Guard of police guarding the German ocean-going liners Prinz, the Friedrich and Koenig Wilhelm I at New York. The police are proving a big aid to the neutrality squad in guarding the interned liners.

THE MATCHMAKER

By SUSAN E. CLAGETT.

The moon was at its full and the old-fashioned garden at Ellerslie was very beautiful this late September night.

The Shelleys were entertaining the young people of the neighborhood. It was not a dance, merely a supper party and after that the wonderful garden and the tree shadows and the scent of late roses and sentiment.

And it was sentiment indeed. Some of it was very earnest. A good deal of it was play, but so well played that more frequently than not it ended in a game of cross purposes that threatened serious consequences.

It was in such a play that Warren Addison and Nell Iglehart were the principal actors. The other boy and girl were only accessories. They did not know it.

Warren had come from Baltimore to meet her here. She was late in arriving. When she did appear it was with a man he did not know. The man and her lateness—in Warren's mind an intentional thing—made him turn to the first pretty girl in that garden of southern prettiness.

If they had known a little more of life the two foolish things would not have had an unhappy moment, but she was seventeen and Warren not quite twenty-one. She cried herself to sleep that night and Warren took the early train for Baltimore. Neither had spoken ten words to the other.

Uncle Charles was a matchmaker. He would have resented this if anyone had had the assurance to declare it, for his matchmaking extended no further than his favorite niece and "that boy," as he called Warren Addison. He had done everything in his power to further a marriage that was violently opposed by the girl's father; had even promised to help them when they were ready to set up housekeeping.

This home looked farther away than ever after that evening at Ellerslie. Warren had not been in the country since then and Uncle Charles could not understand this. He questioned Nell, but could get nothing from her save a shrug and a toss of her head. If Warren didn't care to come and was tired of writing, she wasn't going to worry herself about it, she declared.

He had not suspected the trouble had gone so far as that. He must do something to circumvent a ruthless fate. But what?

He talked the matter over with Aunt Mary. She was interested, but advised not to meddle. That was exactly what he had made up his mind to do, however, and the best way to do it, he decided, was to have a house party of his own.

Very much pleased with himself, he went to church the next morning and after service called two or three of the young men to him. Telling them of his intention, he was soon the center of a fluttering group of femininity—all delighted with the prospect of a week of gaiety.

And Uncle Charles did not make them wait for their pleasure. The next evening found the gay crowd in his home.

Nell and Warren were to all appearances the gayest of the company, but those who knew them well felt there was something wrong between them, possibly revealed by the extreme politeness of the one to the other.

When two days had passed, and then a week, and Uncle Charles saw

no prospect of a settlement of their quarrel, he decided upon his final scheme, a ride to Annapolis—twenty-seven miles away—dinner there and a return home by moonlight. He thought Nell a horsewoman. She was not.

She was a coward about horses, but stronger than her cowardice was her pride, and she started with the others, her heart in her throat and clutching at the pommel whenever she thought the action would pass unnoticed. Her escort was on a newly-broken colt that claimed all his attention and whose antics, at last, made every horse in the party restive. There was no surprise felt when he bolted and started a stampede down the narrow country road.

Nell was the only one incapable of managing her horse. She tried, but fright overcame her and the reins dropped. As they fell from her hand the horse shied and she lay—a crumpled little heap by the roadside.

A year later, the scene was again laid in the garden at Ellerslie. Under one of the trees sat a boy and a girl. They had been very quiet and the thought of that other night was in the minds of both. Presently Warren spoke:

"Nell, Nell, to think how near we came to missing this."

"She leaned a little toward him and her voice was low as she answered:

"I do not think we would have missed it, dear. I could have stood it no longer. I hoped you would speak. If not, love was more to me than pride and I would have told you on that ride to Annapolis."

He laughed a little. "And I? Well, I was waiting my opportunity when your horse shied. After that nothing mattered."

He gave a quick glance backward. No one was in sight and he leaned over and touched her lips.

Which goes to show that Uncle Charles had keener insight into the ways of lovers than had been credited to him.

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Our Increasing Population.

Census bureau experts estimate that the population of the United States on January 1 was 101,208,315, and that by July 1 next it will be 102,017,002. On July 1 last year they figured the population at 100,399,318.

On the basis of the rate of increase between the 1900 and the 1910 censuses the bureau estimates that there is an increase of 808,997 in the population of the United States every six months, or an annual increase of 1,617,994. The census estimate is that the population of the country is increasing at the rate of 4,433 a day—184 every hour and 3 1-15 persons every minute.

Western states have led in growth. Washington heading the list, with Oklahoma, Nevada, North Dakota and New Mexico following in the order named.—New York Independent.

Miners to Have Warm Meals.

A large coal mining company has arranged to provide warm, substantial meals to the men working from 200 to 400 feet underground. An electric range has been installed in one of the lowest chambers of the mine. In this are prepared hot lunches which are served in an underground restaurant at prices barely covering the cost of the food. It has been found that this not only adds to the comfort of the men who had hitherto been compelled to eat cold food, but it also adds to their productive capacity. A marked increase in the amount of coal taken out was noted the first month after the electric range was installed.

War Hits Nice Hard.

Bankruptcy is staring Nice in the face, says a Paris newspaper. Nice is the land of sunshine and smiles, but the world has other things to think about just now than to bask in the sun. Generously, the town has thrown open its doors to the sick and wounded, whose gratitude is great, but whose purse is slender. Fun and frolic, giddy gaiety and splashing spendthrifts are essential if the wheels of Nice are to run smoothly; and since the war started Nice knows none of these. The Casino is closed. The city reaped a rich harvest from the spin of the roulette wheel and the turning of the baccarat cards. All this is stopped, and Nice is now beginning to feel the pinch seriously.

Effective Silencing Device.

The sound deflector installed by the bureau of lighthouses at the Buffalo light station, to lessen the distracting noise spreading from the fog siren back over the city, is a saucer-shaped plate of steel, 14 feet in diameter. This shield is given a vibration reducing lining of asbestos board on the face toward the lake. A space of four inches between the steel and asbestos is filled with mineral wool, corrosion of the steel by the sulphur impurity of the wool having been guarded against by suitable treatment. This silencing device has cut off much of the undesired sound.

Sword Swallower in the Navy.

As a proof to friends of his unhyphenated devotion to the land of his adoption, Signor Gregoric Careutti, a sword swallower and cannonball juggler, has offered his services to the United States marine corps in the event of this country being plunged into a foreign war.

"Now, if we could only get Bosco, who eats 'em alive, to volunteer," said Recruiting Sergeant Putnam, "I'd feel that the United States marine corps was pretty well prepared for any eventuality."—Philadelphia North American.

May Be a Weather Sign.

Thomas Warner cannot explain it so he took them downtown and placed them in the show window of a Columbus store. He owns a white rabbit. Three little rabbits came to her house to call her "Mother" and to seek her parental care. Two of them are as white as the proverbial driven snow. The other one is as black as the ace of spades in a new deck.—Indianapolis News.

To Good Purpose.

That Madame Sarah Bernhardt should have become a French subject has puzzled a great many people. The seeming mystery is explained, however, by the fact that when "the Divine Sarah" married a Greek in the early eighties she took her husband's nationality.

The famous tragedienne tells an amusing little story of two kind-hearted old ladies who set out one day to buy a couple of seats for a "Bernhardt matinee." On their way to the theater they changed their minds, determined to deny themselves pleasure and to give the money for the seats to two poor relations instead.

They did so. A short time afterward, meeting the poor relations, they ventured to express a hope that the money had been found of good service.

"Indeed it was," they were told. "We bought seats for the Bernhardt matinee and enjoyed ourselves immensely!"

Paris, Too!

Yeast—I see the normal daily consumption of milk in Paris and its suburbs exceeds 1,000,000 quarts.

Crimsonbeak—Why, I didn't think milk was a good "chaser," did you?

Citizens of Columbia got together a few days ago and raised \$50,000 by subscription for the purchase of 1,200 or 1,500 acres of land near Columbia to be presented to the Federal government for use as an army cantonment. The Columbia people have great hopes that one of the cantonments will be located at Columbia.

The work of raising the steamer man steamer Liebenfels in harbor, has reached such a development that pumping to lighten the sunken freight for tugs and government tender to the eastern shore of river, where operations will be concluded.

Watch Your Time

We Furnish The Watch You Watch the Time

History states that Napoleon lost the Battle of Waterloo because his Marshal came up behind time.

Doubtless his watch was slow!

All of the world's great events have been achieved by men who were

ON TIME

You can not be sure of being on time with a false time piece. Get a good one. See us for a guaranteed watch.

We have them, and they are the highest product of the watchmaker's art.

One minute late may mean great loss to you. Come to us and get a watch that you can trust.

G. L. BLACKWELL

Jeweler and Optician Camden, S. C.

Special Notice

Extracts from Contracts for Telephone Service:

For the benefit of those who do not understand the terms of a contract under which we furnish telephone service I wish to state as follows:

FIRST. We do not accept contracts for a period of less than three months, only when specified by the subscriber at the time the contract is executed.

SECOND. Contracts for less than twelve months will be figured 33 1-3 per cent. of the unexpired term, not to exceed two months rental, payable in advance on the execution of the contract.

THIRD. Subscribers discontinuing their telephones before the expiration of the initial term of contract, will be billed with 33 1-3 per cent. of the unexpired term of the contract, not to exceed two months rental of the contract that effect at the time of the discontinuance, as unexpired term.

FOURTH. We will move your telephone without charge only after the expiration of the initial term of your contract.

FIFTH. There positively will be no variations made from the terms of contracts that are now in effect or hereafter executed, unless by mutual consent of the parties.

Do not forget that by paying your bills between the 1st and 15th of the current month, you will save us a lot of trouble and expense.

Southern Bell Telephone & Telegraph Company

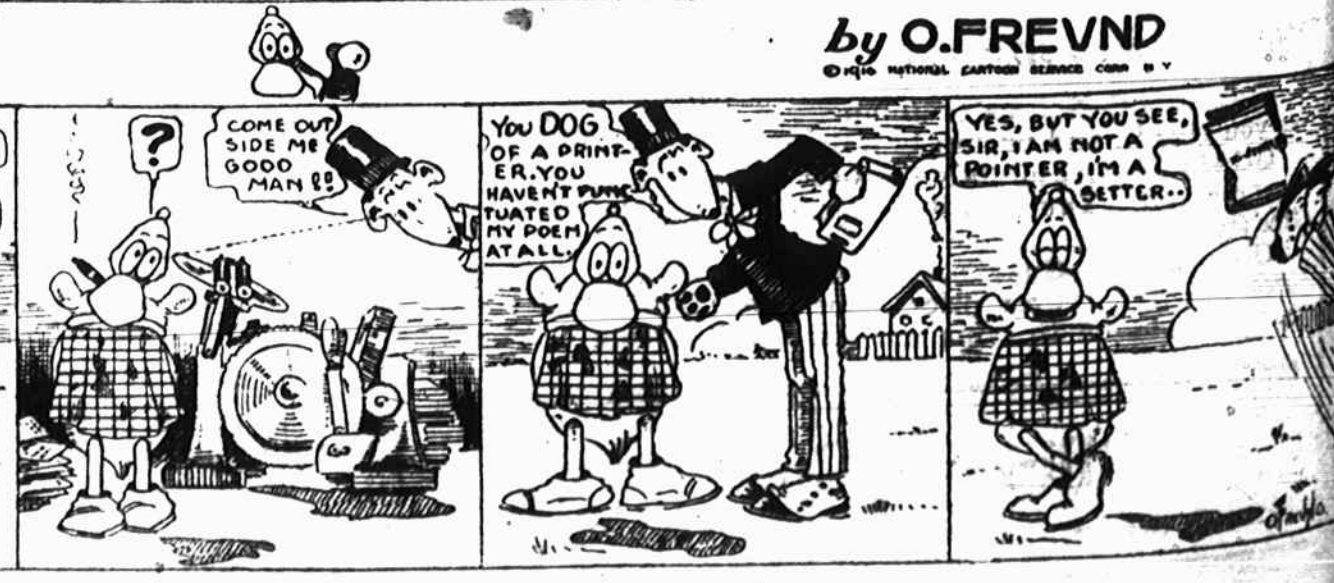
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by O.FREVND