

New Stories By O. HENRY

A STARTLING DEMONSTRATION.

What a terrible state of affairs it would be if we could read each other's minds! It is safe to say that if such were the case most of us would be afraid to think above a whisper.

As an illustration, a case might be cited that occurred in Houston. Some months ago a very charming young lady came to this city giving exhibitions in mind-reading, and proved herself to be marvelously good in that respect. She easily read the thoughts of the audience, finding many articles hidden by simply holding the hand of the person secreting them, and read sentences written on little slips of paper by some at a considerable distance from her.

A young man in Houston fell in love with her, and married her after a short courtship. They went to housekeeping and for a time were as happy as mortals can be.

One evening they were sitting on the porch of their residence holding each other's hands, and wrapt in the close communion of mutual love, when she suddenly rose and knocked him down the steps with a large flower-pot.

He arose astonished, with a big bump on his head, and asked her, if

it were not too much trouble, to explain. "You can't fool me," she said with flashing eyes. "You were thinking of a red-headed girl named Maud with a gold plug in her front tooth and a light pink waist and a black silk skirt on Rusk avenue, standing under a cedar bush chewing gum at twenty minutes to eight, with your arm around her waist and calling her 'sweetness,' while she fooled with your watch chain and said: 'Oh, George, give me a chance to breathe,' and her mother was calling her to supper. Don't you dare to deny it. Now, when you can get your mind on something better than that you can come in the house and not be fore."

Then the door slammed and George and the broken flower-pot were alone.

THE CYNIC.

Junior Partner—Here's an honest firm, Sharp & Simpson sent us a check for \$50 in addition to their monthly account, to cover difference in price of a higher grade of goods shipped them last time by mistake.

Senior Partner—Do they give us another order?

Junior Partner—Yes, the longest they have ever made.

Senior Partner—Ship 'em C. O. D.

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THE ETERNAL QUESTION by Felice Davis

THE PERFECT MAN

Harriet—No, I don't want to marry the best man alive!

Arthur—I'll join the church!

Harriet—No.

Arthur—And become a Sunday school teacher.

Harriet—No.

Arthur—And in a little while I think I can become a deacon.

Harriet—And then I'll organize Bible classes.

Harriet—No.

Arthur—And I'll make every sacrifice possible.

Harriet—No.

Arthur—To bring others to follow the right path.

Harriet—No.

Arthur—I'll take up missionary work.

Harriet—No.

Arthur—And try to become a missionary in the field of Africa.

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