

* This and That *

THE STRATEGY OF A WEASEL.

A weasel is a wizard as well as a fighter, and often wins his battles by strategy, said Emmet Wolfe, of Mississippi. 'I was recently in a fishing camp that was near a large stack of lumber. It seemed that a large number of rats inhabited the cool crevices under the lumber pile, and one day a weasel put in its appearance. We had the pleasure of seeing a battle royal every day for several days, and by and by the weasel had killed every rat in the colony except one which was nearly as large as a cat.

'They fought several times a day, and the weasel always got the worst of it. One day we noticed it industriously digging a hole under the woodpile, and thought little of it. A little later we saw it challenge the rat to battle, and as soon as the fight began to warm up the weasel suddenly turned tail and sneaked to the hole like all possessed. The rat followed in hot pursuit, and both disappeared in the mouth of the weasel's hole. It was only a twinkling until the weasel reappeared, and flashed into the hole again.

'We watched a long time and neither animal appeared. Finally we moved the wood and dug out the weasel's hole. We found the rat dead—and the weasel had dug itself out another way. The weasel had trapped the rat and killed it at leisure, the hole being too small at one end for the rat to escape, which the weasel knew all the while.'

SAMMY AND HIS LESSONS.

A clergyman's daughter who was a school teacher received the following note from the mother of one of her pupils:

"Dear Sir, you writ me about whipping Sammy. I hereby give you permission to beat him up any time it is necessary to learn him lesens. He is just like his father—you have to learn him with a club. Pound noledge into him. I want him to git it, and don't pay no atension to what his father says. I'll handle him."—Ex.

THE VOICE.

Congressman Gibson, of Tennessee, has a voice which plays most inconvenient tricks on its owner at times. In the middle of a really good oratorical flight or at a similarly inopportune time it will get clogged for some moments, much to the annoyance of the pudgy little man from the moonshine mountains. The other day he was sailing along in fine shape discussing the tariff. Said he: "Why tariffs are like a pair of suspenders, sometimes tight, sometimes loose, but Uncle Sam needs them just the same to keep up his—" Right here the voice of Henry Richard

LEARNING THINGS.

We Are All in the Apprentices Class.

When a simple change of diet brings back health and happiness the story is briefly told. A lady of Springfield, Ill., says: "After being afflicted for years with nervousness and heart trouble, I received a shock four years ago that left me in such a condition that my life was despaired of. I could get no relief from doctors nor from the numberless medicines I tried because I didn't know that the coffee was daily putting me back more than the Drs. could put me ahead.

"Finally at the request of a friend I left off coffee and began the use of Postum and against my convictions I gradually improved in health until for the past 6 or 8 months I have been entirely free from nervousness and those terrible sinking, weakening spells of heart trouble.

"My troubles all came from the use of coffee which I had drunk from childhood and yet they disappeared when I quit coffee and took up the use of Postum." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

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Gibson struck a high treble note, flared and stopped short. His vocal cords failed to vibrate and produce sound. Those of the members who were not in agonies of silent laughter breathed hard, wondering whether the speaker meant to say "trousers," "pantaloon," "pants," or "overalls." Mr. Gibson finally recovered his voice and said "running expenses." The words which followed were drowned in a mighty roar and Speaker Cannon, smiling grimly, made no effort to suppress it.

STUCK TO THINGS.

It happened in a large public park, and the angry man failed to receive a bit of sympathy from the throng of people who witnessed the scene. He was walking with a pretty woman evidently his wife, and a small boy, and he had the air of a man who had brought his family out for a pleasure trip and left his temper at home. Running along the path the boy tripped and fell rending the air with shrieks disproportionate to his size. The woman ran to pick him up and soothe him, while the man sank back upon an adjacent seat, entirely oblivious of a small placard tacked upon it, and proceeded to deliver a lengthy lecture to the boy upon the evils of running away anywhere and in the park in particular.

The child's clothes were somewhat dusty from contact with the gravel pathway, and his mother vainly reached for her handkerchief to remove the traces of his mishap. Finally she asked, timidly:

'James, will you lend me your handkerchief to dust Robbie's clothes? I am afraid I have lost mine.'

'That's right, retorted the father, as he fished out the article and threw it at her; throw them away I can pay for more, Money's no object. Look at me; do I ever lose anything? Now, do I?'

'No, James, replied his wife, meekly, but— But—there's no but about it. I stick to things, and—'

'Yes dear, said the wife, meekly, as she completed her task and rose to her feet; 'I know you stick to things, and perhaps—her voice grew still meeker—perhaps that is why you sat down on that freshly painted seat.'—London 'Tit Bits'

WHERE NOT TO DROP TEARS.

The lady was complaining to her dairyman some time ago regarding the quality of his milk.

'Short o' grass' feed, mum,—short of grass feed this time of year,' said the jocular milkman. 'Bless you? then cows o' mine are just as sorry about it as I am. I often stands and watches 'em cryin'—reg'lar cryin' mum' because they feel as how their milk don't do 'em' credit. You don't believe it?'

'Oh, yes! I believe it said the lady; but I wish in future you'd see that they don't drop their tears into our can.'—Ex.

HE HAD ONE.

'Is there a literary club around here anywhere?' asked the long haired visitor.

'Yes, replied the editor, reaching under his desk, 'are you a literary man?—Philadelphia 'Ledger.'

ITS VALUE.

'Can you tell me,' said the seeker after knowledge to the showman, what the hump on that camels back is for?'

'What is it for?'

'Yes; of what value is it?'

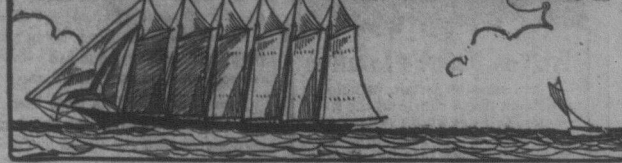
'Well, it's lot of value. The camel would be no good without it.

'Why not?'

'Why not? You don't suppose people 'ud pay sixpence to see a camel without a hump do yer?—London 'Tit Bits.'

'Your husband has been ill,' said the caller. Yes, replied the little worried looking woman he has been feeling very badly. I do my best to please him but nothing seems to satisfy him. 'Is his condition critical? It's worse than critical, she answered with a sigh, it's abusive.'—Sel.

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