

### Couldn't Help It!

A newly-married man was entreated by his wife to accompany her on a shopping expedition, and reluctantly consented, but on condition that he was allowed to remain outside the shops. At one moment the wife remained so long that the husband lost his patience.

"What do you mean, keeping me standing out here like a fool?" he demanded, when at last he was rejoined by his amiable partner.

"I can't help the way you stand, dear!" was the wife's sweet response.

### Cured Them

Dwight L. Moody once called on a ministerial brother in an eastern town, desiring to spend the next day, Sunday, with him. The minister was agreeable, but said he was ashamed to ask Moody to preach. Why? asked Mr. Moody. "Well," was the reply, "our people have got into such a habit of going out before the close of the meeting that it would be an imposition on a stranger." "I will stop and preach," said Moody. When Sunday arrived, Mr. Moody opened the meeting, and then encouragingly said: "My hearers, I am going to speak to two sorts to-day, the sinners first, then the saints." After earnestly addressing the supposed sinners, he said they could now take their hats and go. But the whole congregation waited and heard him to the end.

### Gabriel's Trump was Blown

The car was packed with a holiday crowd, and in the impact of bundle against bundle tempers were broken. Tired people are not pleasant people unless they are exceptional people. These people were just people!

Every jolt of the car seemed like a personal indignity, and when the conductor "bucked the centre" to get the fare on the front platform, he trod on people's toes and ruffled their dispositions. Almost everyone was mad with someone else, and all were angry at the railroad company. There were frowny signs and scowling faces, impatient words and mutterings.

But the worst was not yet. At the next corner a very big and a very wide negro woman accompanied by a little black boy entered, and on being told there was plenty of room up forward, pressed to the front and planted her back against the door, and stationed the small boy between her knees, while across her face flowed signs of abundant contentment in rare contrast with the irritation of the other passengers.

Her arms were full of bundles, too, over which she could scarcely see the picnicking below. He wore a coat much too big for him, a cheerful smile, and carried a brilliantly-colored tin horn.

Again and again he pressed the horn to his lips, dallying with temptation, but resisting manfully. But to the keen observer it soon became apparent that unless the journey soon came to an end, like many a one older and wiser, he must go down before the tempter. The time came. A faint, timid note but served to attract scowling faces his way, and awaken feelings of unalloyed rapture in his small heart. And then he fell! A long, long breath, and then high above the sounds of a noisy city arose the militant note of the tin horn.

The look of content upon the face of the big, wide woman was driven away by astonishment and severity. She leaned her head forward over the bundles, and in a providential silence which happened along just then, seemed to shout: "Heah you, Gabriel, yo' blow your trumpet once mo' and I lam yo' good when yo' get home!"

Then there was Christmas good cheer from one end of the car to the other.

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