

M. QUAD'S HUMOR.

Mr. and Mrs. Bowser told one of Their Interesting Domestic Talks.

The "Kicker's" Experiences—Carl Dunder Seeks Advice About His Wayward Boy.

The Lawn Mower Seizes Another Victim and of Course Mrs. Bowser Encouraged it.

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MR. AND MRS. BOWSER.

"Did that lawn mower come up this afternoon?" asked Mr. Bowser, as he came home an hour ahead of time the other evening.

"Was that a lawn mower?" queried Mrs. B. in reply. "What on earth possessed you to buy such a thing?"

"For two very good reasons, Mrs. Bowser. I purpose to save about fifteen dollars on lawn mowing this summer, and I want the exercise. I could get a health lift, but I thought I would combine business with pleasure. Always kill two birds with one stone when chance offers. I'll work up a muscle in a couple of weeks to astonish you. The doctor says it's exactly what I need."

"But I wish you hadn't bought it." "That's your duty to a dot! Always in opposition to everything I do! That's why we take so much comfort as a family. The only thing you wouldn't oppose is my dying!"

Mrs. Bowser had nothing more to say, and after dinner Mr. Bowser made ready for his exercise. He got into an old suit of clothes, dragged the lawn mower into the back yard and oiled it up, and was presently ready to make a start. He looked up at the back windows, and seeing nothing of Mrs. Bowser, he spat on his hands and said:

"Ha! This is what'll give a man muscle and appetite. Only cost nine dollars, and I'll get \$100 benefit out of it. I suppose I might as well make a start."



"I'LL SLAUGHTER SOMEBODY!"

"He made one. He had gone about ten feet when the machine suddenly stopped. So did Mr. Bowser. He stopped so suddenly that his feet left the ground and the handle of the mower just missed his chin on an upper cut."

"Struck a post, eh?" he muttered, as he investigated and found one rising about six inches out of the earth. "That's all right, however. I didn't expect to mow down posts as well as grass. Seems as if my muscle was working up a little already."

He dodged the post and headed for the back fence, and his countenance had just begun to beam again when there was a great clattering and the machine stopped.

"Oyster case!" he growled, as he kicked two or three out of the grass. "She's probably wanting me, and she's probably tickled half to death, but I'd mow this yard if it was full of deadly torpedoes."

He reached the fence without further mishap, leaving a trail behind him as crooked as a serpent's, but at the first dash he made on his return journey something happened. The machine stopped with a bump, and Mr. Bowser pitched forward over the handle and brought up in a heap on the ground.

"Now, I hope to never draw another breath if I don't slaughter somebody for this!" he yelled, as soon as he could get his breath.

He was going to jump up and kick somebody or something, but it occurred to him that Mrs. Bowser might be looking, and he sat up and looked around and pretended to be resting.

Nothing could be seen of Mrs. Bowser, however, and after a couple of minutes he got up and maintained his hands for a fresh start. Everything went as smooth as grease for the next twenty feet. Then the mower picked up a hundred feet of stovepipe wire and waited for results.

"That woman's hand again!" he roared, and whispered Mr. Bowser as he saw what she had done. "But I wouldn't give in now if I knew that death wasn't two rods off!"

It took him ten minutes to clear away the wire. When this had been accomplished he pulled off his coat and vest, glanced up at all the back windows, and there was a dangerous light in his eye as he gripped the handle, drew a long breath and went ahead. At the fifth step Mrs. Bowser's foot found a post hole, and followed it up until he fell forward on his stomach and plowed along the grass. His first thought was to get up and kick both the fence down and make a bonfire of the splinters, but as he slowly reached his feet a better idea occurred to him. He picked up the mower by the handle and raised it over his head and pounded the earth with it until nothing but the handle was left. Then he gathered up wheels, cogs, ratchets, fuses, pulleys, cylinder heads, and low water indicators and tossed them over the back fence and walked into the house. Mrs. Bowser sat reading and looking very innocent and humble, but he was not to be deceived. Standing before her in his sternest attitude he said:

"Mrs. Bowser, let me suggest an easier way!"

"To kill me off! If you are so bent and determined to get rid of me, why don't you poison my food or cut my throat when I'm asleep? No, explain!"

"Sergeant, I like some advice," replied

Mr. Dunder. "I like some advice about my son Shake. You know Shake?"

"Yes. What's the matter with Jake?"

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THE ARIZONA KICKER.

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The Kicker was interested to a considerable extent in a financial way, but as mayor of the town and the acknowledged head of law and order we sailed in on general principles and left ruin and desolation in our path. Only one of the crowd got away unhurt, and that was because he started early enough to get out of the Lone Tree gang. His honor didn't have hold of him over eighteen seconds, and yet the doctors say it will be three weeks before he is able to ride home. We are an up and up people in this town. Our mule always starts or we pay the forfeit. He also runs fair and for all there is in him. If he loses we make no kick. If he wins we want the long green and are bound to have it. It was a put up job to "do us, but it didn't work. Even our contemporary, as mean a critter as any I ever saw, was forced to sympathize with the Lone Tree crowd."

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M. QUAD'S SKETCHES.

The Strange Adventures of an Old Fashioned Satchel—Dunder Called the Bell.

(Copyright, 1892, by Charles B. Lewis.)

In the month of March, 1892, which you will remember was only a few weeks before the close of the war, I was visiting an uncle who lived on a farm in Mitchell county, Indiana. On the 18th I went out to a squirrel hunt. It was about 11 o'clock in the morning when I shot my first squirrel, and as he fell from the limb he brought up among a mass of outcropping rock. In searching for him I found a satchel which had been placed between two boulders so that it was securely hidden from anything except chance discovery. One might have stood within three feet of it and been none the wiser. I hauled the satchel out and found it to be one of old fashioned make, though entirely new. A bit of mildew had just begun to show on the cotton lining, and from that it had been there for a week or more. It was bulky enough to prove that its contents consisted of a suit of clothes, and I had no great curiosity concerning it. Indeed, I made further search and found the satchel before I got to a second look.

At that time the county was overrun with tramps, but they were most numerous along the Ohio river, and the majority of them were thieves and robbers as well as public nuisances. I returned to the satchel it struck me that no one would have entered that dense piece of woods to hide an outfit of clothing a mile from the highway, and I determined to inspect the contents. It was locked, but I used a stone to break it open, and the first glance I made into it was a shock to me. The satchel was full of crisp, new greenbacks in packages of \$1,000 each. Even after I took one of the packages in my hand and carefully inspected the bills I was not quite sure whether I was awake or dreaming. There were packages of ones, twos, fives and tens, and every bill was fresh from the treasury at Washington. I hauled out one after another until I had counted twenty-seven. Each had a band around it, on which was stamped the amount—\$1,000.

Experience will make a man cool in the face of danger, but one can cool in the face of a treasure. I believe I was more rattled over that find than I had met a highwayman and been held up for my all. I sat on a log with those twenty-seven packages piled up before me and shook like a man in a chill. It was only ten minutes before I had made up my mind that I would not touch a cent of it. I had met a highwayman and been held up for my all. I sat on a log with those twenty-seven packages piled up before me and shook like a man in a chill. It was only ten minutes before I had made up my mind that I would not touch a cent of it.

From the moment I caught sight of the money I determined to keep it. We are all honest until tempted. Some of us can be bought for a few hundred dollars, others for a few thousand, and some for the money in the satchel I started for home. I didn't propose to share the secret of the find with any one, even if I shared the contents later on. I therefore made my way to the barn to put the satchel in a safe place. I was fully half an hour making my way to the barn, and I was not alone. There were several tons of hay in the mow, and I finally climbed up and dug a hole in one corner and deposited my treasure. I moved at least half a ton of hay, and when I left the place I felt sure that it would take an all day search for any one to find the money.

My uncle subscribed to a Louisville daily paper and also to several weeklies. I was just recovering from a wound in the head received at Petersburg, and my eyes were weak. I had therefore done but very little reading. After dinner I got all of the back of the daily for a week or twelve days and sat down to see if I could strike anything regarding that money. As an old soldier I had spotted those packages at once. All of them were treasury notes and all had been put up for an army paymaster. In a paper dated nine days preceding I found what I was feverishly searching for. It was a quarter of a column article detailing the facts of the robbery of an army paymaster at Madison, Ind. He was on his way down the Ohio by a passenger steamer, accompanied by his trusted assistant. At Madison, while the boat was taking on cargo, he was visited by an old friend, being gone about two hours. On his return he found that his assistant had robbed the safe of \$60,000 and disappeared.

The article went on to say that every effort was being made to overhaul the robber, who was supposed to be working in favor of the capture. The chase of the subsequent issues contained news of his capture, however, and I may state here that he got safely away and probably landed somewhere in Europe. There was no question in my mind but that \$27,000 of the money had been robbed. As I reasoned it out the paymaster's assistant had a confederate, and this money was his portion of the spoils, though not an even divide between them. The confederate may have been an employee of the paymaster, or a resident of the same town, and he would have shared and made off and hidden it in the woods to wait for the excitement to blow over.

"An honest man my duty was plain. That money ought to be restored to the government at once. I am obliged to inform the reader, however, that I had decided to keep that money, and I could advance a dozen different excuses to quiet that still, small voice which is supposed to be ever ready to warn up of the error of our ways. On the third morning of my possession, my uncle mentioned the fact that a tramp had come along late in the evening, after I had gone to bed, and had been given shelter in the barn. He had said to my uncle's great surprise, got up and cleared out without asking for anything to eat. It struck me that a tramp who had the money, had found and carried off my prize and, getting away from the table as soon as I could, I hurried to the barn to make an investigation. Everything on the haymow was as I had left it, but

when I dug down in the corner it was to find my worst fears realized. The satchel and money were gone! I did not give up until I had hunted for an hour, and then I took a gun and set out over the highway in pursuit of the tramp, who had several hours the start of me.

The further adventures of the satchel covered a space of months. What induced the tramp to dig down in that corner of the haymow has always been a mystery to me. I have sometimes believed it must have been the robber's confederate and that he tracked me to the barn from the woods. He took the highway for Jasper, in a southwest direction, and by getting a lift with a teamster he made about twenty-five miles that first night. While he was dressed like a tramp the tramps of the time were so numerous that he was not likely to be noticed. Perhaps the questions he asked frightened the man into doing what he did. After leaving the teamster he entered a country school house and hid the money in the garret. It was a one story structure, with a low garret reached by a ladder in the ceiling. He was afterwards seen on the highway several miles distant and then disappeared for good. At least no further trace of him was ever had. About three weeks after the money, had been placed in the garret the chimney of the school house was struck by lightning and tumbled to the ground. A farmer who was also a bricklayer was employed to rebuild the chimney. In so doing he found the satchel and not one dollar of the money was missing. While I do not give you my name, I would not let my wife search for the treasure and the treasure, and he gave me the particulars and I give them to you.

The farmer was also an honest man. He had the respect and confidence of every one who knew him. Yet he had no sooner realized the value of his find than he determined to keep every dollar of it for himself. He was a subscriber to a weekly paper, and he had seen nothing concerning the robbery of the paymaster. He knew very well, though, that it was a robbery of some sort, and he moved carefully. He decided not to let his wife know of the find, and the money was removed after dark to the granary in his barn. He had a lot of oats in one of the bins, and he hid the satchel under them. The possession of that treasure had made him almost ill. His possession of it made him quite sick. He had a chill and fever the next day and was obliged to go to bed. He got a little more nerve next day, but acted so queer that his wife wondered if he was not losing his mind. He didn't propose using a dollar of the money for several months, but one day for the next week he went to the granary to see if it was safe.

He had in his employ a hired man named Oscar Davis. He was a rough and uneducated fellow about twenty-four years old. Davis must have had his curiosity aroused, and played the spy on the farmer in one of his numerous visits to the barn. On the eighth night of the farmer's possession of the treasure Davis left his bed at midnight, went to the barn and pried the lock off the granary door, and he soon had his hands on the satchel. I cannot say whether he was an honest man or not. If so, he was not as good as the farmer and I had done. He knew that his employer was a poor man, and it was easy for him to conclude that the treasure was a find. He picked up the satchel and walked off. In the morning when the farmer discovered his loss and followed him he kept the trail through the town of Jasper and for five miles beyond. Then Davis seemed to have dropped suddenly out of sight.

As I told you before, the hired man was considered a stupid fellow, but he had a vein of cunning in him, and he was carrying that large sum of money around the country. The farmer would be sure to follow him, and he would have to open the satchel at the order of any peace officer who might look upon him as a suspicious character. Five miles from Jasper he turned to the right, traveled three miles and then turned to the north, thus doubling on his trail. That was how the pursuing farmer lost him. Davis wanted a hiding place for the satchel, and he found it where it had been hidden twice before. In a barn. It was a warm place, and it was a safe place. He had even a tramp would not have sought shelter. Having put away the money he applied for work on the farm and secured it. There he remained for two months, and the money was never removed from the place he hid it in. Davis now accused the farmer of being a thief, and he was making his way out of the country. He had formed his plans to go west. He bought a trunk in which to carry the money and his clothes, and the farmer for whom he had worked started to drive him to a small station on the railroad running from Mitchell to Vincennes.

Now occurred another change in the proprietorship of the money. They reached the station with only two or three minutes to spare. The trunk was checked all right, but in the hurry was not put aboard. This was at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. The next train did not pass until about midnight. That evening while the depot agent was busy two tramps who had been hanging about stole the trunk and had been gone for two hours before he missed it. The fellows had no idea that it contained anything more valuable than a suit of clothes, as they followed the railroad east, and about two miles from the station turned off into the woods to break open the trunk and possess themselves of its contents. In the darkness they could find nothing with which to break the lock, and as it was a warm night they agreed to sleep on the spot and get at the contents in the morning. In the night one of the pair, who gave the name of Short, got up, lifted the trunk on his shoulder, and took the railroad track and hastened away, determined to possess the whole booty.

When morning came he was within a couple of miles of Salem and within four miles of my uncle's farm. He turned aside into a thicket and hid the trunk, and was about to enter a farmhouse to ask for food when a remarkable who was hunting for a tramp who had stolen something at Salem the night before arrested him. I was at Salem when he was brought in. I had seen the thief the day before, and could declare that Short was not the one. He was speedily set at liberty, and finding that he was penniless I

when I dug down in the corner it was to find my worst fears realized. The satchel and money were gone! I did not give up until I had hunted for an hour, and then I took a gun and set out over the highway in pursuit of the tramp, who had several hours the start of me.

The further adventures of the satchel covered a space of months. What induced the tramp to dig down in that corner of the haymow has always been a mystery to me. I have sometimes believed it must have been the robber's confederate and that he tracked me to the barn from the woods. He took the highway for Jasper, in a southwest direction, and by getting a lift with a teamster he made about twenty-five miles that first night. While he was dressed like a tramp the tramps of the time were so numerous that he was not likely to be noticed. Perhaps the questions he asked frightened the man into doing what he did. After leaving the teamster he entered a country school house and hid the money in the garret. It was a one story structure, with a low garret reached by a ladder in the ceiling. He was afterwards seen on the highway several miles distant and then disappeared for good. At least no further trace of him was ever had. About three weeks after the money, had been placed in the garret the chimney of the school house was struck by lightning and tumbled to the ground. A farmer who was also a bricklayer was employed to rebuild the chimney. In so doing he found the satchel and not one dollar of the money was missing. While I do not give you my name, I would not let my wife search for the treasure and the treasure, and he gave me the particulars and I give them to you.

The farmer was also an honest man. He had the respect and confidence of every one who knew him. Yet he had no sooner realized the