

Wiggins Laughed Last

By RADCLIFFE MARTIN.

Bill Marshall entered the Bull on Christmas Eve, bearing two large bags, from each of which protruded the legs of a goose.

"Ah," said the landlord, smacking his lips, "there's no question that you intend to have a good time this Christmas, Mr. Marshall. Some say that goose is not wholesome, but it's as good as falls into the mistake of not being enough brandy with it."

"One of these is a goose," said Bill Marshall, "but the other—the big one—is a joke."

"Where's the joke?" asked the landlord.

"It come to me when I was buying geese. I gets old Wilks at the game shop to let me 'ave a goose's legs and a rush bag. 'Ere it is, 'all complete—' geese's legs fixed in a bag of sand, 'at all fastened in the rush bag. Some like a whopping goose. You see little Wiggins, 'oo comes in 'ere and just 'as a glass o' beer by 'imself, and never stands nothing to no-thing. We'll give 'im this goose as present from 'is pals 'ere. Then 'e shame 'e'll 'ave to stand drinks and for once."

Finally the landlord saw the joke. He dropped his fat legs and almost

fell. He stood round the bar

and that," gurgled the landlord.

"I'll let all the boys know about it," said Bill Marshall. "Aye, there'll be a lot of laughing this Christmas. 'Ere, 'ere, need a joke to liven up this

See all the occupants of the bar and the secret, and when little Wiggins came in for his usual glass at seven o'clock, he was re-acted with cheers.

Wiggins started with amazement at the enthusiastic reception.

"Friend Wiggins," said Bill Marshall, "a few of your pals 'ere, know what a steady, 'arc-working sort chap you are—setting an example all of us—thought it would be a neighbourly thing if we bought you Christmas goose. So here it is, just 'e're we wishes you good luck. We hope you'll enjoy eating it as much as we enjoys giving it."

Little Wiggins was quite overcome. "Friends," he stammered, "I can't say nothing. I don't know what my friends say when they sees your noble present. Now, what'll you 'ave to

There was a merry five minutes while the landlord took orders and Wiggins's health was drunk.

"Have another with me?" said the landlord to Mr. Wiggins.

"If you'll excuse me," said Mr. Wiggins, "my wife doesn't like to be more than one glass o' beer, and I want to be getting 'ome to tell 'er about the kindness of all my friends

"Good-night, friends."

"You take a drop o' brandy after that," said the landlord, "and you'll be all right."

"Thank you, kindly," said Mr. Wiggins, "he left with his bag."

"That 'is missis comb 'is 'air when 'e's 'ome," said Bill Marshall, "he'll stick his face in 'ere and 'e'll be all right."

Wiggins went up the road cheer-ful. Soon he was met by the Squire. The Squire was a fussy, amiable, in-different old gentleman.

"Hallo, Wiggins! Getting ready for Christmas? What have you there?"

"Giving your pardon, sir, it's a goose that a few friends at the Bull 'ave given me."

"Very good of them. The sort of thing I try to encourage in the village, Wiggins. Your wife will be pleased with that."

"That's just what I'm wondering about, sir. You see, my missis, if I excuse me mentioning it, sir, one of these delicate stummocks, a turkey she fancies, goose being rich for 'er. Still, she'll make 'er with goose."

"Let me feel the weight of it. Ah, very fine bird. Dear me, I always loved the Vicar a goose, and I've for-gotten it this year. Wiggins, I'll give you a pound-note for the bird, and the pound-note to show that like the fellow-villagers, I appreciate the work you do. Now you can go and buy a turkey and take it to your

"It's very good of you, sir, if you can't they'd never mind, and for the matter you needn't tell them. I'll say it was the best Christmas present you ever had. Here are your

geese. Be off and buy your turkey be-fore it's too late. Give me the goose. The Vicar is out of your way. I'll

looked at it longingly. Just then the door opened and out came Bill Marshall.

"Alloa, Mr. Enderby," said Bill Marshall, "ere's a joke. What do you think we just worked off on little Wiggins?"

Enderby chuckled when he heard of the jest, and then said, "Don't talk about geese. I got a great 'eavy goose

I got to take to the Vicarage. There's the Vicar with no family, and he's going to 'ave a goose that would feed a regiment. This goose weighs seven-ty-seven pounds. It's thrown away on 'em."

"It is that," agreed Bill Marshall. "Look 'ere, Sam, the Vicar'll never know whether the bloomin' goose weighed seven pounds or a ton. 'Is my conscience'd never keep quiet un-

der a dollar."

"You're always on the make, En-derby."

"Well, you're a nice one to talk. Raising my bloomin' job for 'art a dollar. Say another word and I'll make it a quid."

Very grudgingly Bill Marshall pro-duced half a crown, and the geese changed hands.

"It's right I should make a bit out of it," said Mr. Enderby, "for the Vicar'll be writing 'is Christmas ser-mon, and 'is 'ousekeeper wouldn't give you tuppence if you brought 'er a bloomin' 'armyard."

On the evening of Christmas Day the landlord of the Bull was discus-sing with his friends in the bar the ex-

quite joke of the night before.

"You ought to 'ave been 'ere, Mr. Enderby, and seen Wiggins's face, 'e lay a 'undred quid 'e never puts 'is nose in 'ere again."

Just then the door opened and Mr. Wiggins entered.

"Merry Christmas, friends," he said. The landlord stared hard at him, surprised at this genial greeting. Then

he inquired: "Well, 'ow did the goose taste, Mr. Wiggins?"

"I do 'ope you'll forgive me, friends, if I've took a liberty," said Mr. Wiggins. "No man knows better than me that that goose 'as kindly meant, but my missis 'as one o' them delicate stummocks, and can't abide goose. On my way 'ome last night I met the Squire, and when 'e asked about the goose, I told 'im 'ow kindly friends at the Bull had treated me. Some-

"ow I let slip that goose didn't suit my missis. So he said, very 'andsome, 'I want a goose, Wiggins, to give to the Vicar.' He gave me a quid for the goose and another quid for myself to show 'e wasn't be'ind the rest of the village in kindness at Christmas

time. I'm sure, friends, that knowing 'ow trying a missus out of sorts can be, you'll forgive me because I want ad bought a turkey—the finest bird I ever tasted."

Enderby, the lodge-keeper, burst in to a paroxysm of laughter.

"What's the joke, Mr. Enderby?" said the landlord.

"Serves Bill Marshall right," gasped Enderby. "Squire gave me Wiggins's goose to take to the Vicar as a present. While I was on the way Bill Marshall come out, and, seeing the weight of the goose I was carrying, told me the Vicar would never know if I swapped it with his goose. He gave me half a dollar to do it. He paid 'art a dollar to get Wiggins's goose. Why 'ere's Bill 'imself. Aye, Bill, 'ow did you like your Christmas goose—your own goose?"

Bill Marshall, glaring round at the laughing faces, stamped out of the room, swearing that he would never enter the Bull again.

"Something seems to 'ave upset Mr. Marshall," said little Wiggins, rather puzzled. "It's queer, 'im being such a kindly man."

And then the Bull enjoyed the laugh of the century.

Native Unrest in Africa Reported

Cape Town Reports Zulus Preparing for Trouble.

London, Dec. 19. (C.P.)—Serious unrest among the natives of South Africa is reported by the Cape Town correspondent of the Daily Express, who says their aim is to set up a republic and establish their complete independence of the white race.

He quotes the newspapers of Cape Town to the effect that the Zulus are secretly arming. The authorities at Pretoria, it is said, learned that a fund which the natives were collecting ostensibly for church building was actually destined for use in buying arms and ammunition.

The natives of South Africa are also said to be greatly dissatisfied and to be maintaining an arrogant and overbearing attitude toward Europeans. Travelers from Rhodesia both the center of the disturbed area report that the district is under martial law.

Race-Car Driver Shatters Record

France, Dec. 17. (A.P.)—The French automobile driver, Capt. ride, driving a 300-horsepower machine, to-day broke his own record for five kilometres (3.1 miles) by covering the distance in one minute 27 2-10 secs. He was officially timed. His previous record was one minute, 29 2-5 secs.

English Leather Goods

A fine assortment of Bill-Folds, Purses, Pocket Books, Letter Cases, Ticket Cases, etc. These make excellent Xmas Gifts. See them to-day.

GARRETT BYRNE, Bookseller & Stationer.

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SHOPPING GUIDE

BAIRD'S YEAR-END SALE

Featuring Special Values, available right up to the final shopping hours of 1924.

Mah Jong

We offer several complete sets for clearance. For the long evenings indoors this is a most fascinating game for the whole family; all nicely boxed. Special .. \$1.98 & \$3.48

Regard it as an opportunity to save on necessities of the moment.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

This being our final Sale for 1924 we would be indeed recreant to our feelings, if we did not take advantage of the occasion to express our sincere gratitude for the kindly co-operation of the Shopping Public during the passing year.

PLEASE, THEN, ACCEPT OUR SINCEREST GRATITUDE.

We appreciate to the fullest the good-will extended towards this Store, at all times, and as we glance backwards, peer as it were through the vista of the past years, there looms up largely many, many happy recollections of the warm associations formed, the numerous new friendships enkindled and it is indeed a matter of no small pride with us to be able to say we still retain those friendships and associations and will continue to retain them by every effort of ours in the furtherance of a good Store with a good stock and a good Service to serve you and serve you well.

WE THANK YOU!

Children's Wool Sets

Knitted Wool Sets—Cap, Cuffs and Overstockings, in Crimson, Navy and White, real winter out-door outfit. Special .. \$1.49

Wool Jersey Bloomers

Ladies' fine Jersey Wool Bloomers, in shades of Navy, Sage, Grey, Putty and Brown; elastic waist and knee, of extra quality. Sale Price .. \$2.93

Ladies' Aprons

A line of Ladies' fine White Lawn Aprons, with body trimmed with Swiss Embroidery and fine tucks. Up to \$1.70. Special .. \$1.25

Art Serges

50 Inch Art Serges, in shades of Wine, Green and Dark Blue; serviceable, cosy hangings for draught screens and curtains. The yard .. \$1.10

BAIL FRINGE—Heavy Dark Green Bail Fringe for trimming Art Serge Curtains or any heavy hangings. Special .. 20c.

GLOVE VALUES

MISSIE'S GLOVES—Warm English Wool Gloves, with great long gauntlet wrists, heavily ribbed, assorted shades and stripings. Our Special .. 65c.

WEE TOTS' GLOVES—Cute little all Wool Gloves with gauntlet wrist, warm, set glove you can buy. Special .. 60c.

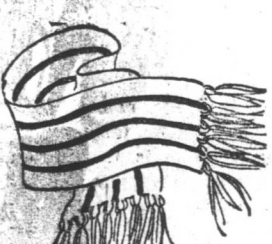
MISSIE'S GLOVES—Gloves with gauntlet wrist. These come in light shades with striped gauntlet, warm gloves. Special .. 75c.

SAXONY FLANNEL—Finest quality Baby Flannel, just to hand. We selected this line for its good value. Special .. 97c.

LADIES' SLEIGH RUGS—All Wool Rugs, 24 x 36 inch size. Self fringed; a nice cosy wrap for outdoors. Shades of Fawn, Brown and Rose. To Clear .. \$1.45

SILK HANGINGS—Lustrous Silk Hangings in nice warm tones, almost any required shade to match room surroundings. Former prices disregarded. Closing Out Sale Price .. \$1.18

Stylish Scarves on Sale



LADIES' SCARVES—Excellent Silk and Wool Scarves with fringed ends, pretty shade blendings run through this assortment. Up to \$3.50 regularly. Special .. \$2.59

INFANTS' WOOL SETS—Knitted Wool Sets—Coat, Cap and Booties, in White, trimmed Pink and Sky, roll collar with ribbon bow; very dainty. Reg. \$3.00. Special .. \$2.59

LADIES' UNDERWEAR—Cream Jersey Shirts and Underpants, long sleeved and high necked vests, ankle length pants, open; silk bindings and feather stitchings. \$2.50 values. Special .. \$1.69

HAND BAGS—Ladies' Beaded Hand Bags, a nice assortment of them; they're fashionable. Reg. \$2.50. Special .. \$1.98

COAT SWEATERS—Ladies' Knitted Wool Coat Sweaters, cross-over Jacquette style in Navy and Fawn; long sleeves, pearl buttons. Clearing .. \$6.15

Fancy Blouses

Clearing a line of Ladies' Fancy Flannel Blouses, with convertible collar and long sleeves; assorted sizes. Special .. \$1.85

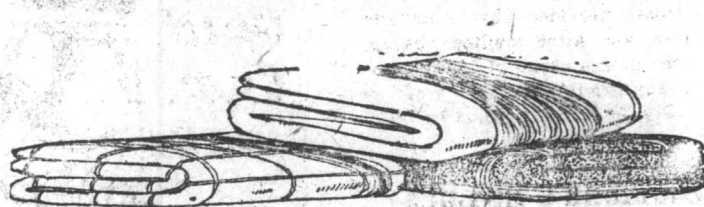
"MARY GARDEN" PERFUMES—Known everywhere for its rare excellence, neatly bottled and boxed. Reg. \$2.50. Special .. \$1.89

FEEDERS—White and White and Pink, finest Terry Cloth Feeders. 32c. fringed, wanted things. Special .. 32c.

HANDKERCHIEFS—Ladies' Fine Kerchiefs, embroidered and hemstitched; values to 30c. each. Clearing .. 20c.

MOIRE UNDERSKIRTS—In Black and shades of Grey, Brown, Navy, Sage and Purple, shot effects, wide and narrow pleated flounce, elastic waist. Up to \$3.50. Clearing .. \$2.98

Warm wool BLANKETS



English Wool Blankets, 64 x 82 size, full seven pounds weight; these are just to hand. Year-End Special, the pair .. \$8.29

COTTON BLANKETS—50 x 72 size; these make a nice comfortable under sheet, striped borders. Special, the pair .. \$2.60

WADED QUILTS—Mostly Pink with reverse side showing pretty patterns; nice weight quilts for the cold nights. Special .. \$5.35

Special Lines from the Men's Dept.



STIFF FELTS—The always respectable Black Stiff Felt Hat holds the place of honour to-day. See our latest London style. Special, straight .. \$5.00

SOFT FELTS—The newest in nobby Soft Felts; shades of light and medium Grey, as well as dark Brown and Fawn; silk lined. Special .. \$5.50

WHITE GLOVES—Superior quality White Wool Gloves; nice to wear "calling" on New Year's Day; they're dressey and quite fashionable. Special .. \$1.35

SOCKS—If you have forgotten Him, choose a pair or two of these warm Wool Socks; assorted shades. Clearing .. \$1.18

WALKING STICKS—We have some excellent Sticks, with plain silver knob tops and others with curved ends. Ranging from .. 2.50, 3.00, 3.50, 4.50, 6.00

MEN'S NECKWEAR—Some very rich Silk Neckwear, set apart for clearance this Year-End Sale. Special .. \$1.10

Footwear

MEN'S SLIPPERS—A Snapp! Men's warm high grade heavy felt, top House Slippers, with soft padded soles. Year-End Sale Price .. \$1.18

LADIES' SKATING BOOTS—Choice of Black and Dark Tan, reinforced sides and instep strap. Distinctly a Skating Boot. Special .. \$5.38

MEN'S ROMEO'S—Strong Black Leather Romeos, for house wear, and ideal for wearing in gaiters. Closing Out Sale .. \$2.68

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