

How Costigan Deserted.

"All the cowardly desertions of which I ever heard of in my life," said Muller, "were done by men who were not in a laughing mood today," she had the impudence to say, and she went on to ask him a dozen questions about his acquaintance with Costigan—how long it had lasted, and whether they ever met before Mr. Costigan came to New York.

"No," he said; "we only met by chance about three years ago. We thought we had ideas in common." There was a strong emphasis on the word "thought," which Muller meant to be very impressive.

He made a poor pretense of eating, but the same cowardly regard for conventionalities which had forced him to apologize for upsetting her sandwiches drove him on to offer to walk with her in the direction of her office. And that was how it came to pass that the head office boy saw them and made unusual haste to get back to the office to tell that he had seen her. "Yep. She's a peach. I tell you. They come all the way from Tabster's together."

Nor was the head office boy the only person who saw Muller in that short transit. When he entered the office, his desk mate was there to receive him.

"Muller, I want to beg your pardon for saying you were dopy this morning. I see it, was something more respectable, by a long shot."

"I don't know what you mean," said Muller, in a tone that seemed to bode war.

But the hostilities were prevented by the arrival of a caller for Mr. Muller. Muller went out from the inner office in a mood to make a most unfavorable impression on any chance visitor. It was Costigan.

"Oh, I saw you," said Costigan. "Now what have you got to say?"

"You saw us, did you? Well, what I have to say is that this young person got up so close behind me that I couldn't move without spilling a pint of coffee over her."

"Yes; but it was all your fault, you know, Muller. You said so yourself. Never mind, old man. You're forgiven. When I passed you, you two looked so affectionate that it seemed a pity to interrupt." Just then the first assistant office boy came out with his ears pricked and caught a few words, which were duly reported a minute later. "I was coming, anyhow, to ask you a favor."

"A favor," replied Muller, fearing the worst.

"Yes. I told you you didn't know what you were talking about. Why didn't you wait and let me tell you last night? Do you know what made me join you in your hostility to the sex? Come over here and listen. My wife—yes, I thought you would start—my wife and I quarrelled four years ago. We were divorced and I was afterward told she had married another man, who—who isn't worth talking about. Now, don't you understand? Why, she has been here in New York, typing, for months and months. I found her by a mere accident—just like your running into her. She never married anybody else, and never would. She's going to marry me again, and you are going to be my best man."

Muller went back into the inner office smiling so sweetly that he was saluted with a general grin, but he held his peace. When he went to "the old man" to see about getting away early, he was met with: "Certainly, Mr. Muller. But why this suddenness? Why couldn't you have let it out sooner?"

It was very embarrassing to him to have to explain that he was going to be groomsman, not groom—this time.

Irish Troubles.

London, Feb. 22.—The Irish party attaches great significance to the evictions of tenants of forty farms on Lord de Freynes' estate in Roscommon county, Ireland, for refusal to pay rent, and intends to make a fierce parliamentary struggle over the matter.

John Redmond, chairman of the Irish Parliamentary party, said: "Not only are forty tenants turned out, but many hundreds are being proceeded against. The country thereabouts is alive with police, who patrol the roads day and night, force themselves into people's houses and in every way create a reign of terror. Fifteen representative public men of the district have been imprisoned merely for taking part in meetings of a political nature and many others are being prosecuted. Everything has been peaceable so far but the proceedings of the govern-

ment are so extraordinary that we cannot help feeling anxious lest violence occur.

"The cause of all the trouble is the government's refusal to face the unanimous demand of the Irish people that it pass legislation giving compulsory power to buy out landlords and thus restore the land to the Irish people. Lord Dillon's estate, which is next to Lord de Freynes', was bought out by the government, and the tenants who bought land are paying 50 per cent. less than formerly. The de Freynes tenants naturally wish to do likewise, but Lord de Freynes refused to sell at any terms. The government, instead of endeavoring to effect a settlement, poured in an army of police."

John Dillon, former chairman of the Irish party, said: "I agree with every word uttered by Mr. Redmond. The trouble, although for the moment confined to Roscommon, involves a principle of vital interest to Ireland. If the de Freyne tenants succeed it will be impossible for the government to resist any longer our claims for the settlement of the Irish land. The whole future of the Irish National movement is seriously affected by the struggle proceeding on the de Freyne and neighboring estates."

King Can Do No Wrong.

Berlin, Feb. 22.—During the course of today's discussion the Lower House of the Prussian Diet of the non-confirmation by the Emperor of the election of Herr Kauffmann as second Burgomaster of Berlin, the Minister of the Interior, Baron von Hammerstein, practically admitted his personal disapproval of the Emperor's action.

Herr Richter, the Radical leader, had kept the house in roars of laughter by a caustic attack on the Minister of the Interior, whose speech of yesterday he declared to be full of contradictions, and demonstrating that he did not know his own mind, much less that of the Emperor. Ministerial responsibility, Herr Richter said, was a Prussian tradition, but Baron Hammerstein was desirous of escaping therefrom. If the Ministers had nothing to do but countersign royal decrees, they did not differ from ordinary clerks.

Referring to a remark by the Minister yesterday, Herr Richter said he

thanked God that the Radicals had not reached the point of matching their strength against that of the King. He also thanked God that the country had so valiant a Minister of the Interior. But recent incidents between the municipality and the Crown had made bad blood and had only improved the prospects of social democracy.

In a lame rejoinder the Minister of the Interior refused to be drawn into the discussion, but he committed himself to the somewhat unexpected statement that he was "prepared, in accordance with Prussian tradition, to take the odium of a royal decision which was not agreeable to himself," and that he would "leave the press to draw its own conclusions" of his conduct.

Why Women Suicide.

Medical men are deeply interested in a list of statistics just compiled dealing with suicides and suicidal tendencies. The figures show that suicide has steadily increased 200 per cent. during the past fifty years and may be considered as a formidable hereditary disease.

Another peculiar fact brought out is that there is a certain season of the year when the suicidal tendency asserts itself more strongly than at any other time. The suicide season is undoubtedly May, June, July and August. Suicide is least prevalent in winter, and in December, January and February it reaches its minimum.

Locality, also, has a great deal to do with suicides. A mountainous country where there is plenty of fresh air, trees and grass is as free from suicide as a low-lying district, hemmed in between tall hills is fertile of it.

In support of the theory that suicide is a hereditary disease a case is stated where a man killed himself, as his father and grandfather had before him. In all, fourteen relatives had predeceased him by the same means.

The increase of attempted suicides has been very rapid in recent years. During the decade from 1876 to 1886 the attempts rose from 818 to 1,116—an increase of 36 per cent. Between 1886 and 1896 the percentage increased 56 per cent. During the last twenty-five years the increase was 152 per cent.

A striking feature is the increase of suicides of women. Today 25 per

cent. of the total suicides in England and 30 per cent. of those in Scotland are furnished by women. The proportion is much lower in France, where it is 21 per cent., and still lower in Austria and Switzerland, where women account for 17.9 and 14 per cent. respectively.

This is generally attributed to alcoholic excess. At any rate, out of every 100 cases of drunkenness brought before magistrates in those countries, no fewer than thirty are those of women.—Ex.

"You hunt too much," said Louis XV. to the archbishop of Narbonne. "How can you prohibit your curates from hunting if you pass your life in setting them such an example?"

"Sire," said Dillon, "for my curates the chase is a fault; for myself it is the fault of my ancestors."

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