



### "AN ILL WIND," ETC.

THIN PARTY—"Had a stroke of luck, mate?"

STOUT PARTY—"Well, I *have* had some good jobs at financial institutions fixing up iron shutters when the crisis arrived."—*Sydney Bulletin*.

### MRS. JIMPSECUTE ON HYPNOTISM.

"YES, Mrs. Dewsbury," said Mrs. Jimpsecute, "I was there, not that I wanted to go, or had the least curiosity to see any such downright ridiculous tomfoolery, but Henry's niece is staying with us and she was just wild to go as she'd never seen anything of the kind before, and I kind of had to go with her, more especially as Henry had bought the three tickets and it wouldn't do to waste them, but I assure you I was heartily sorry and ashamed of myself before I'd been there long, and I don't believe a bit in it, for it doesn't seem reasonable, does it, that a man can make another do what he pleases, and act like a fool to amuse a lot of gaping strangers just by working his

hands and shouting at him? In deed, I'd just like to see anybody hypnotize me. I'd throw a pail of water over anyone that would try such a thing. Don't tell me that a full-grown, strong, able-bodied man can't open his eyes or walk just because another flaps his arms about and speaks as if he was talking to a dog, and him standing there and pretending to look like a stuck pig—the great idiot. It's nonsense, and the people that go there to see it and laugh at such antics are greater fools yet, Mrs. Dewsbury, for in my opinion, and I think I'm as sharp as most people, it's just another of these schemes to make money, and nowadays people'll do any mortal thing for that, and don't seem to have principle or character or honesty left as they had in the old times.

"And to try and make anybody believe that the poor lunatic was so insensible that he didn't feel anything when they jabbed pins and needles into him, quite gets over me. It's all humbug and nonsense, and I don't believe he ever did anything of the kind, and if I'd had the chance I'd have run a darning needle into him in a way that would have made him jump, I can tell you, if the other idiot had flapped his hands and shouted all night, and indeed I think it's a shame that the law don't interfere and send such people either to jail or the asylum, I don't know which would be the best place for them, for if it's all a fraud they ought to be punished and if the poor deluded idiot hasn't any more sense than to let the other fellow make a show and laughing stock of him, he ought to be taken care of by his friends or somebody for he can't be in his right mind, going on with such monkey-shines as if there wasn't enough natural born lunatics and idiots in the world, poor creatures that can't help themselves, without people allowing

hypnotists to take away the little senses they've got. I was just waiting, Mrs. Dewsbury, for that fraud of a professor or whatever he calls himself, to ask me to let him try and hypnotize me and I tell you I'd have given him a piece of my mind that he wouldn't forget in a hurry, and told him what an impostor he was. But he knew better than ask me such a thing for he saw that I saw through the whole thing at once, as anybody of any sense would, and he knew he couldn't delude me with his passes and his fine scientific talk that's nothing on earth but a lot of big words out of the dictionary strung together that don't mean anything at all—and as I told Henry, if ever there was a waste of