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Unlucky John.

There is an old saying that "Some men are born to ill luck," but a close inquiry into the circumstances attending the "bad luck" of most cases will reveal a carelessness, a lack of method, a general shiftlessness, a sufficient cause for the effect. A good old countrywoman of an inland Maine town was recently telling the writer of her son's misfortunes.

John has nuthin' but bad luck," she said. "Everything he sets his hand to comes to a bad end. I don't see why he should be so unlucky. Now, there was his colt, worth mor'n \$50, and it fell through the floor and broke its neck."

"I suppose there was something wrong

with the floor?" I queried. "I do s'pose 'twas getting a little weak," she answered, "but John was agoin' to fix it when he got round to it."

"No, that wasn't it," she continued. 'Twas all on account of his bad luck. There was his yoke of oxen; he'd fed 'em and fussed over 'em till everybody admitted they was the best yoke in town; and if you believe it, one o' them oxen got cast one night and had to be killed." "Was the ox properly hitched?" I

"P'r'aps not," the old lady responded, with a sigh. "But 'twas John's bad luck. Then there was his hens-twenty of 'em died last summer from eatin' salt

"Where could they get salt fish?" was

my surprised question. "Well, you see, John went fishin' and brought home a lot o' fish. He salted 'em and hung 'em on the fence to cure, and the hens was possessed to pick at 'em all the time."

"The hens must have been hungry to do that," I remarked.

"I don't s'pose John did feed 'em so much as he'd ought to, but 'twas just in due to carelessness?' keeping with his bad luck, for them hens to up and die. And now his barn o'hay | "And now his barn's burned up, and he lively."-Birmingham Age-Herald.



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is all burned up, and nobody knows how it took fire.

"Does John smoke?" I inquired. he ought to. And I s'pose maybe he sometimes smoked in the barn; but lots o' men does it and don't get burned up.' "It's hard for your son," I said: "but don't you think John's bad luck is partly

hasn't got a cent o' insurance. You see, he was calc'lating to get insured one o' these days, when he come round to it, I "Well, I s'pose John does smoke more'n do declare. John's a dreadful unlucky man."-Selected.

"Do you know that there are millions of germs on a dollar bill?" "So I've heard, but if they expect to transfer themselves from the bill to me while it is "Mebbe 'tis," sighed the old lady in my possession, they'll have to step

Japanese Proverbs.

By Jessie Juliet Knox. Poke a canebrake and a snake will crawl out.

Like carrying a cup brimful.

To feed with honey; that is, to flatter. Proof is better than discussion. Use the cane before you fall down.

Like casting a stone at an egg. A roving dog runs against. man willing to work will surely find

employment). To avoid the appearance of evil three proverbs are given:

Don't wipe your shoes in a melon patch; don't adjust your cap while passing under a pear tree; don't stay long when the husband is not at home.

The world is just as a person's heart makes it. Send the child you love most on a journey.

Cast the lion's cub into the valley. Let the pet son travel abroad. Give sails to dexterity.

He conceals a sword under a laugh. To make two enemies, injure each other. Beware of a beautiful woman; she is like red pepper.

The unskilful speaker is long-winded. It takes a clever man to preach a short

Making an idol does not give it a soul. If you hate any one, let him live. Live under your own hat (let well enough alone)

Make a lid for that fool; cover him up. A tongue three inches long can kill a man six feet high.

Give victuals to your enemy.

A cur that bravely barks before its own gate.

Even a monkey sometimes falls from a tree. To rub salt on a sore (adding insult to injury)

Excess of politeness becomes impoliteness. A blind man does not fear a snake (fools rush in where angels fear to tread). Poverty cannot overtake diligence.