

Something Wrong

The Youngs had unexpectedly dropped in on the Baileys just as dinner was about to be served. The hostess, considerably disturbed, called her little daughter Helen aside, and explained that there would not be enough oysters to go around, and added:—

"Now, you and I will just have some of the broth, and please do not make any fuss about it at the table."

Little Helen promised to remember and say nothing. But, when the oysters were served, Helen discovered a small oyster in her plate, which had accidentally been laded up with her broth. This puzzled the little girl, as she could not recall any instructions covering this contingency. After studying a few moments, she dipped the oyster up with her spoon and, holding it up as high as she could, piped out:—

"Mother, mother, shouldn't Mrs. Youngs have this oyster, too?"

The Greater Danger

There was never a more conscientious young man than Eben Soule, and when he found how much absorbed he had become with the mere idea of playing in the town band, he consulted his minister. "Do you reckon I could give up all that time to music without falling from grace?" he asked, anxiously.

The good old Methodist had a saving sense of humor. He saw that his parishioner was much distressed between his wishes and his conscience, but the minister smiled on him, nevertheless.

"It's the horn you're asked to play, I hear," he said. "Ever had much experience with it, Eben?"

"Never tried it but once, but I like the sound of it first-rate," said the young man.

"Am!" said the minister. "Well, I think you needn't be afraid of falling from grace on account of it, but I do hope you'll manage things so your family and neighbors won't have to pass through the fiery temptation of hearing you practise too often, Eben."

Simplified Oratorios

The new minister of the First Church in Banbury was consulting the organist as to the music to be sung on his first Sunday.

"And besides the hymn-tunes," said the organist, whose daily occupation was that of plumber and iceman for the village, "we always have two selections from the choir, from one of Handel's or Haydn's oratorios."

"Why, that is good news," said the minister, who was no mean musician and had a cultivated taste and ear; "but don't you find the music rather difficult for untrained singers?"

"Well, they aren't untrained, for I train 'em," said the organist, with some resentment. "And besides that, where the music's difficult I alter it for 'em. I strike out all the cadenzas and trills and things of that kind; and where tune runs too low or too high I either set it up or down an octave. Or, if I can't do that I just have 'em stop singing and I put on the vox humana stop and play the tune till it gets into their range again. It's easy enough when you know how to do it."

A Too Comprehensive Definition

"Father, may I ask you a question?"

"Yes, my son."

"What is an excavation?"

"Why, an excavation, my boy, is a place from which dirt has been taken."

"Well, I suppose my face is an excavation, then."

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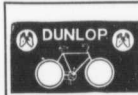
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