

MISINTERPRETATION.

(Customer in Chinese store looking at a toy owl.)
(In Four Scenes.)



I.

HOP SING (the proprietor, smiling)—"What you call him in Inglis, eh?"

CUSTOMER—"Owl, John."

HOP SING—"Yeh. Howljon."

CUSTOMER—"No! an owl!"

HOP SING—"Oh, yeh, nowl!"

AT THE CHURCH SOCIAL.

JACK—"She seemed offended because I spoke to her without being introduced."

TOM—"Then she must be younger than she looks."



II.

CUSTOMER—"No, not nowl. Owl—you fool!"

HOP SING—"Allee light, yeh—owlyoufool—yeh."

THE LIMITATIONS OF COMPROMISE.

HE was a member of one of the junior political associations, and after a week's preparation, during which he hadn't been able to think of anything else, he had got off his maiden speech in the interests of Dr. Ogerson before an audience numbering at least fifty people in a suburban hall. It had elicited hearty applause, and, flushed with his oratorical triumph, the budding politician received the congratulations of the veteran campaigner who officiated as chairman, at the close of the evening.

"You did very well, Mr. Sprouter—very well indeed, for a beginner."

"Thank you," said the aspirant for campaign honors. "I had hardly any preparation, you know, but I didn't make any bad breaks, I hope. It's hard to make a real rousing speech without offending somebody. So many different interests to be conciliated."



III.

NEXT CUSTOMER (Six Notch Bill, from the Sierras)—"What's this hen, Waxyface, eh"

HOP SING (glibly)—"Him? Oh, yeh, owlyoufool!"

"That's the secret of political success. It isn't in what you say so much as what you don't say. You never want to give the enemy a chance to make capital and quote your words against you, and I think you showed pretty good judgment in that matter."

"Ah," said the neophyte, "I'm glad you think so. You know I tried to make a point with the workingmen without offending the capitalists, and to catch the temperance vote without alienating the whiskey men, and to capture the Catholic vote and not offend the Protestants. And you think I succeeded?"

"Yes, I think you managed that fairly well. But there's just one point where you failed, just like the rest of them."

"And what is that?"

"To get solid with the Tories and keep your hold on