

HE DINES WELL ON HIS "NERVE"

**Pretentious Stranger Eats
Talks and Goes, Having
Consumed All in Sight.**

Chicago, Nov. 13.—A tall, gaunt, hungry-looking individual stepped briskly into a Dearborn street restaurant last evening and hailed the head waiter. With a clasp of his hands, head waiter No. 1 passed him along to head waiter No. 2. Head waiter No. 2 held up his right index finger, turned on his heel and hurried in the direction of a table.

The lean individual drew himself to his full height, expanded his chest, raised his chin impressively and, following the head waiter, deftly pulled out a chair and the tall man sank into it, carefully laid a ruffled silk hat on the floor, withdrew a small comb from his vest pocket and ran it quickly through the two wings of his drooping mustache.

"Pardon me," said he to the despatcher at his left, touching his elbow lightly, "may I borrow your evening paper?"

"I was just about to read it myself," snapped the despatcher, "but go on and look at it."

"Thank you!" The man opposite the despatcher winked at the young salesman installed at the right of the hungry-looking individual, and the good-humored agent for a breezy at the far end of the table remarked that the weather was a little chilly. The four men eyed the newcomer. They saw a mustache that started at the usual place, and ended at the point where a striped necktie disappeared under a greasy coat collar on either side of a narrow expanse of blue throat. They saw a pair of eyeglasses held by a silver cord, a long, narrow face, and a receding, highly-polished forehead, crowned with a few carefully-brushed hairs from which was wafted the odor of bay rum.

"I see Hearst is contesting the election in New York," commented the tall man, cheerily, peering over the borrowed paper at the despatcher. "Let me see," he went on, "who was elected mayor of New York?"

"McChellan," snapped the despatcher. "Oh, is that so?" continued the newcomer. "George is an old friend of mine. I'm a 'McChellan' myself. George's father and my father, side by side along the Potomac. I should have known who was elected, but you'll have to excuse my apparent stupidity, as I have been so overwhelmed with work that I haven't had a moment to read the papers."

"I'm here as the representative of J. Pierpont Morgan. I'm here to buy the whole traction system and arrange for the extension of the franchises already controlled by the city."

"Will you give me your order, please?" interrupted the waiter.

"Mr. Morgan's representative looked up at the waiter.

"I'm expecting a friend to dine with me—a personal representative of Mayor Dunne," he explained. "You may arrange places for two, but I'll defer ordering until my friend arrives—how long would it take the chef to prepare two orders of soup?"

"From twenty to thirty minutes. Shall I put in the order now?"

"No, I'll wait until my friend comes. He may prefer duck or a porterhouse."

Mr. Morgan's representative again turned to the despatcher.

"This man, Mr. O'Neill, is having a pretty hard time of it, isn't he?" he asked. "I was sent for because of promise once, and the girl got a verdict of \$20,000. But I managed to keep the thing quiet. I detect nothing, but I came near making up the \$20,000 in a bet I put on Cleveland against Blaine at the time McKean elected him by regaining the vote in Long Island city. I'd have gotten the other fellow got cold feet and backed out."

The waiter deposited a plate heaped with bread and corn muffins and masticating rolls and a small representative of Mr. Morgan. He laid a second plate at the place reserved for the mayor's representative. Two plates of butter and two glasses of water also were set at the two places. Mr. Morgan's representative tucked his napkin in the top of his collar and began on the bread.

"I'm pretty hungry; guess I might as well begin," he vouchsafed. "By the way," he continued, "I had a queer experience in London this summer, which goes to prove that foreign officials are just corrupt as American political bosses. I'm Marshall Field's attorney, and when he wanted to marry Mrs. Carter the authorities refused to issue a license until he had come off, and said the marriage couldn't be a legal residence. But I came to London to prove to the lord mayor of London before he'd allow the marriage to proceed. I can't tell you the amount for that feature of the transaction must be kept confidential."

By this time the plates that had been heaped with rolls and bread had been emptied. Mr. Morgan's representative leaned back in his chair, smacked his lips, and then folded his napkin and carefully laid it on the table before him.

"I guess my friend isn't coming," he commented, "and I can't waste any valuable time waiting for him any longer. I bid you good-evening, gentlemen."

Mr. Morgan's representative helped himself to a toothpick and strolled out of the restaurant. As he pushed the door open he dropped the despatcher's evening paper into the pocket of his overcoat.

"What became of that customer?" inquired the waiter, returning from the kitchen with a piece of mince pie for the good-humored guest.

"He's gone," growled the despatcher, "and the infernal took my paper with him."

"And got his supper for nothing—ate up two plates of bread and rolls, two butters, and drank two glasses of water," complained the waiter.

The problem of the ascent of sap in trees, an English botanist tells us, is yet unsolved. It appears that in the highest trees the total pressure would be nearly 100 atmospheres, and as we cannot suppose that leaves can exert so intense osmotic suction, the only theory at all probable is that the living cells exert some sort of pumping action in the wood.

For Coughs and Colds

There is a remedy over sixty years old—Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. Of course you have heard of it, probably have used it. Once in the family, it stays; the one household remedy for coughs and colds. Ask your own doctor about it. We have no secrets! We publish the formulas of all our medicines.

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