

mud, an' a gold chain an' ticker an' a dimond brooch she'd borrowed out o' the safe where 'er dad kept the pledges, to give 'em the benefit o' the sunshine an' fresh air, she said.

Twenty-four yobs and their donahs we was o' that party, every bloke payin' for 'isself an' 'is gal. Four married couples lumped in along o' the rest, an' all us men 'ad straw 'ats wiv a special green an' yellow ribbin so's to know each other by in case they got lost. The dollar apiece inclooded grub. We was to 'ave dinner at a place on Kew Green an' meat tea at another place when we come out o' the Gardens. I call it good enough if you don't.

Eight sizes larger than life was 'ow we felt when the motor 'bus we'd 'ired for the day come snortin' an' clatterin' into the yard be'ind the Stratford Theayter, where we was awaitin' as 'appy as orphans expectin' a Christmas tree. The driver, 'oo wouldn't stand bein' called a "shuffer" not at no price, 'ad a gilt band on 'is cap, an' the conductor was a 'andsome fair young man in a gray suit o' second-'anders with a fancy waister an' a clean collar an' a Reckitt's blue scragrag an' a brown bowler like a toff, an' though 'e said at the start as wot 'e was a married man, the gals rokkered it was only done to keep 'em from quarrellin' over 'is large eyes an' lovely complexion an' 'is curly 'air. Perish me pink if I ever see'd anything like 'im outside a waxworks, at the start, but 'e was only fit for the Chamber of 'Orrors by the time we got 'ome. 'Is fatal beauty was wot upset the apple-cart and spiled the funeral.

I lay there was a squeeze an' a 'arf to git the best places on the Vanguard what we'd 'ired. A Pavilion Theayter crush on Boxin' night was well outside it. "'Old me close, I'm fainting," says Leah, and I didn't want tellin' pre'aps! Likely!

We started with a row like twenty railway trucks full of old iron thrown over on the line, an' it was plain to see as what that "Vanguard" 'ad bin up in orspital for repairs an' come out too soon. She sent out back-smoke what fair choked the kids tryin' to 'ang on be'ind, an'