

An Amusing Incident.

The most amusing, and at the same time, the most mortifying experience I ever had happened about ten years ago. I was then living in a little country town in North Carolina.

My age was hastening on to spinsterhood with rapid strides. I had been annoyed by the unwelcome attentions of a widower of the same town and after repeatedly refusing his advances, I at last reluctantly consented to allow him to accompany me to church on a certain Sunday evening.

It was early in the spring, too early for straw hats, but my escort had provided himself with one of snowy whiteness, with a good generous brim, and he must needs wear it in honor of the occasion.

We arrived rather early and there were only a few people present as yet, for which I felt grateful. After we were seated I noticed a look of amusement on the faces of the audience and wondered what it could mean, as they kept looking our way.

I glanced up at Mr. Broadbrim (which name will answer him as well as any other) and what was my horror to discover that he had forgotten to remove his hat.

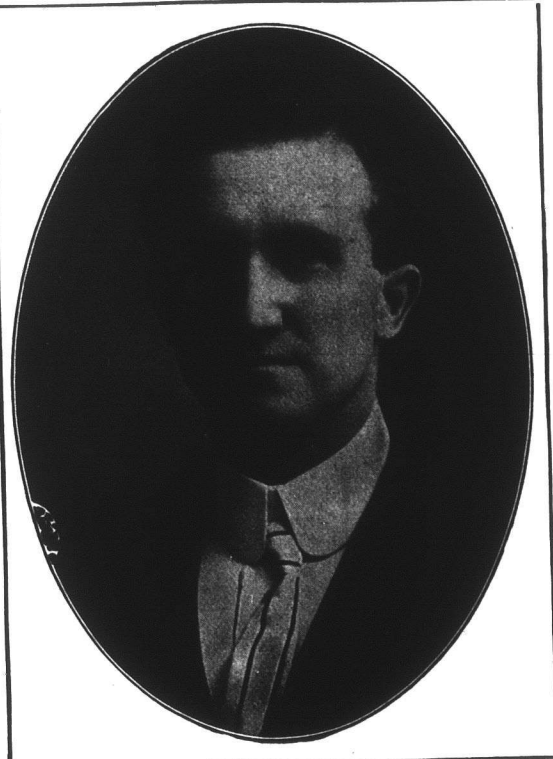
Well, I sat there and fidgeted, growing hot and cold by turns, and hoping he would collect his wits, if he had any, enough to remove his enormous headgear. At last I could bear it no longer and, looking up, I said, "You forgot to remove your hat, did you not?" He started, as though I had pricked him with a pin, his hand shot upwards, and an eighty-mile an hour wind could not have removed the hat with more alacrity. The audience smiled broadly, and I have never liked a straw hat since.—Edna Tubbs, Poquonock Bridge, Conn.

A Bear's Gratitude.

That beasts are sensible of kindness and remember it is proved by many interesting incidents. A woodsman who was fond of pets, found a young cub bear in the woods, half frozen and nearly starved, its mother having probably been killed by hunters. He took the little orphan with him and it soon became as playful as a kitten. Every night he had a romp with it on the floor of his cabin, and upon his return from his day's work in the woods, the cub would greet him with uncontrollable delight that an affectionate dog displays when his master comes home. But as the bear grew older its wild nature began to assert itself, in spite of its fondness for its benefactor, until finally one day it disappeared in the woods and did not return. The man hunted long and carefully for his pet, searching every nook and ravine for miles about his cabin, but without success. Two or three years afterward he was going through the wood to his work, unarmed, and without even his axe, which he had left the night before at the place where he was chopping. As he was passing through a heavy growth of young evergreens, an enormous female bear rose up before him. Behind her were two cubs and the mother was furious at having been disturbed, and mad with fear for the safety of her young. The chopper was utterly without means of defence, and even before he had time to realize the extremity of his position, the bear was upon him. But just as she reached him a complete change came over her. Instead of attacking him, she began lickily against him. She was his long-lost pet, and had not forgotten him. When he had recovered from his fright sufficiently to go on toward his work, the bear went too, and for more than a mile she followed him. Then, feeling, apparently, that she had done all that courtesy and her sense of gratitude required, she left him and went back to her cubs.

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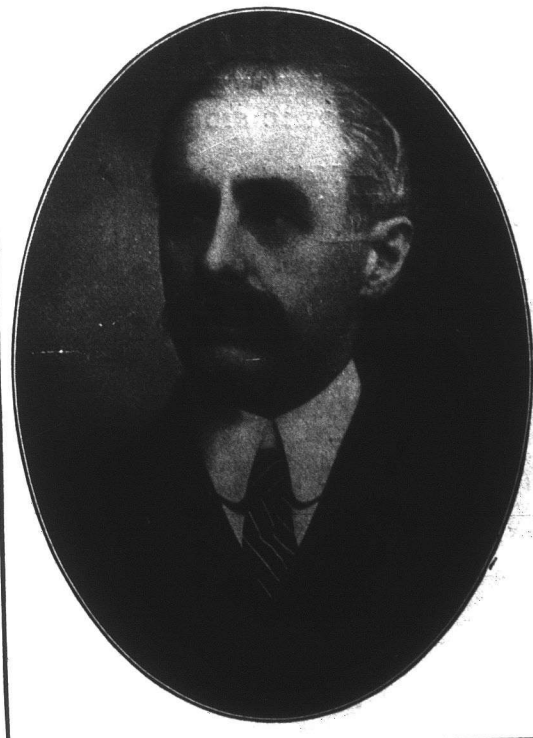
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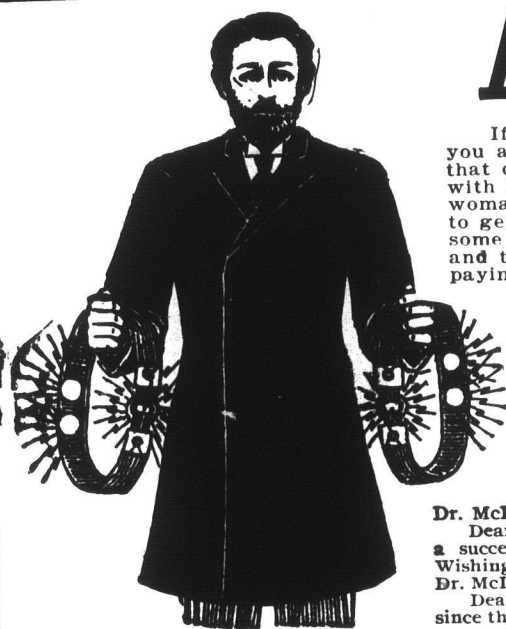
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