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THE GAME WAS LOST.

AND 412 POUNDS OF BASEBALL IDOL WAS SHATTERED.

The Ignominious Downfall of the Lightfoot Lilies' Club Mascot When In an Ill Advised Moment They Told Him to Slide.

"Well, why is it you never played baseball yourself?" asked a latter day fan of the very stout man sitting in the corner. "You say you were the mascot for the famous Lightfoot Lilies of Jones county, and yet, with the exception of the time that they put you in to force the winning run in the thirteenth by being hit in the stomach, you never seem to have played yourself. After such successful daring were you never asked to play again? I don't quite understand."

The stout man gazed at the speaker searchingly for a few minutes and then, apparently satisfied that the questions were asked in good faith, proceeded to unfold the one dark shadow in his otherwise sunny life.

"Have you never heard?" he began. "Then now you shall hear, and, though I think no blame should rest with me, you yourself shall judge of that. Listen. You have already referred to the contest in which I forced the winning run owing to the pitcher's inability to put the ball over the plate without striking my corporation. This, I believe, was due to a law of physics which states that but one body can occupy the same space at the same time or words to that effect. But, whatever the cause, I acquired a reputation for high class baseball second to none in Jones county and at once got a regular position on the team. My figure being my stock in trade, Captain Slugger Burrows of the Lightfoots spared no pains in bringing me to physical perfection before the next game with the Roarers. Under a carefully selected diet of beer, butter, lard, potatoes and cod liver oil I rapidly rose from a meager 320 pounds to the magnificent figure of 412.

"For the first eight innings of the great contest, which ultimately proved my downfall, I fully sustained my enviable reputation for artistic ball playing. Three times the bases were full, with the Roarers one run in the van. Three times I proved the Lightfoots' salvation by forcing the tieing run by means of my superior figure. Three times the home rooters vied with one another in futile attempts to pay me suitable homage. I was truly more than queen. And then that fatal ninth, with its brimful cup of gumless bitters! Four hundred and twelve pounds of shattered idol!

"In the last half of the ninth I reached first through my customary strategy. Later I succeeded in gaining third by a daring bit of base running while the Roarers' fielders were searching for 'Bull' Thompson's liner on the other side of the center field fence. Sammie Salmon and one of the Foote twins died easy deaths on infield pop flies. There we were: Ringtail Roarers, 17; Lightfoot Lilies, 16; two out, Thompson and yours truly on second and third bases respectively and the invincible 'Home Run' Hankins at the bat. All were breathless with suspense. The pitcher swung his arm back slowly, and then, swish, bang! 'Home Run' Hankins never missed his aim. I struggled bravely toward the plate, and in less time than it takes to tell it Thompson was at my back pushing violently. I doubled my efforts. A moment later Hankins himself caught up and joined in the single file struggle for home and victory. 'Twas do or die, and the people were like lunatics in their wild excitement. Spurred on by their cheers, I was soon but five feet from the plate, with Thompson and Hankins still dancing at my heels. Then suddenly a voice rose clearly above the others. 'Slide, Willie, slide!' it rang out. Oh, fatal words!"

At this point the fat ex-mascot was overcome by emotion and stopped short. It was some minutes before he could pull himself together sufficiently to go on with his sad story.

"Well," he said at last, "I slid. Diving gracefully forward, I slid a nicely calculated slide that brought my chest directly above the rubber. But the enthusiasm this occasioned among the Lilies was short lived.

"'Touch the plate, you fool; touch the plate!' 'Bull' Thompson and Hankins yelled together.

"Now, would you believe it, sir, try as I would I couldn't. My corporation had been overtrained. Lying face down, I was so high from the ground that my arms would not reach the plate.

"'Rock me!' I cried. 'Rock me!'

"'Rock you?' 'Bull' Thompson roared. 'Rock you? We'll rock you, stone you, egg you, and—touch that plate, d'ye hear?'

"'Rock me,' I pleaded, with tears in my eyes. 'You don't understand. Rock me like you would a rocking horse. Tilt me. I can't touch bottom.'

"'Twas too late. While I had been explaining my predicament to those blockheads, the Roarers' fielders found the ball, and—er—well, we lost. Afterward I told Captain Slugger Burrows how it happened and begged for just one more chance. No use. He said that any fool with my shape ought to have sense enough to slide on his back and that—but say, honest Injun, now, do you think I was in any way to blame?"—New York Sun.

No Interference.

Burglar (suddenly confronted by a policeman)—Hello, here's a cop!

Policeman—Don't let me interfere. I'm not on duty tonight. Just dropped in to see the cook.—Boston Transcript.

Wisdom without honesty is mere craft and cozenage, and therefore the reputation of honesty must be got, which cannot be but by living well. A good life is a main argument.

UNKLE ZEKIEL AN' HIS COON DOG.

A Quaint Character-Sketch of the Half-Century Ago Negro, by Rosalie Mitchell Schuyler.

"De diffrence 'tween de possum an' de coon is, dat de coon is heap de smartes, de possum aint got much sence, no how; he am a innersent kind ov anermal, enny dog most, kin ketch him, but it takes a fust class dog to match wid de coon, I tells ye, an' my dog Nero were do wun fur Mister Coon, sartain sure. Dat air dog could out fite de bigges coon he eber seed. He's dead an' gone, Nero is, an' I jes feels de loss ov him mighty hard, specially in de fall, wen de leaves is a drappin', an' de air is gittin' chilly, an' de nuts a ripenin—an' all kinds ov warmints is a hankerin' roun' in de woods, and roun' de mashes. Dats de time I misses Nero, fur me an' him hab had sich good times a coonin' and a possumin' togethyer.

"Nobody, sah, but me an' him, kase I don't kare bout no yether niggers a coonin' wid me; dey is boun' to hev a quarl bout de game befo' we gits thru, an' Nero ware'nt no dog to stan a querrelin'. Nero ware a *game* dog, but at de same time he were a peaceful animil likewise, wen he ware not on de tracks of enny yether animal.

"Me an' him went aroun' our work together. Sometimes it ware a drappin' corn, den agin it ware a huskin' corn, but allus de same, he ware right by me, pears like I most kin hear him a barkin' at de groun' mice yit, it ware so nathral to hear him roun'.

"Wun night me an' him was a comin' home roun' by de crick. It ware moonlight, an' war as clare as day. Nero ware in de bes ov sperits, jes a trottin' along, not thinkin' ov nothin' at all; de moon ware smilin' kind ov cam, an' ebery ting ware quiet an' still, wen all at wunce dat dog got as mad as fire, all a bristlin' up an' growlin', an' I looked, an' rite dar in de open place a twixt de trees, I seed Mister Coon a prancin' along in de moon shine, jest as happy an onconsarn, wid a little jog trot, dat dem warmints hab wen dey is in a good umer. Wal, sah, dat dog seed him fust, den de coon, he heerd de dog, an' all at wunce dem two anermils, from bein' so peaceful an' not thinkin' no harm, an' likewise strangers to wun another, wal dem two jes flew at wun anethyer like mad, an' sich a fitin', an' a scratchin', I neber seed in all my days.

I jes sot down on a old stump an jes waited till dey fit it out, but de longer I sat dare de longer dey fit. 'Peared like dey never could git dun a bitin' an' an a scrachin'. fust Nero had de coon down, an' den de coon ware a wallopin' Nero; an' I jes laffed to myself, kase I know'd *I be a eatin' dat coon to-morrow* fur supper, an' de dog a pickin' de bones.

"But de coon fit de harder fur my oncharitable thoughts ov him. Bimeby I heard Nero kind ov takin' short brefs, an' I ware feard he ware gwine to giv out, so I jes cut a hickory limb an' went to his relief. I giv de coon a cuppie ov whacks across his head, an' me an Nero tuk him home, an' dat ended dat fite.

"I went down in de branch wunce wid Nero to hunt some coons in dere holes. We foun' wun purty good hole in a ole tree, an' I know'd by de tracks dat a coon ware inside, so I made de dog set still, while I got some bresh an' made a smoke in de front ov he hole. De dog neber moved, fur he know'd wen de time cum he an' de coon would hev it. But he had to wait fur me to burn de coon out, an' Nero know'd how to wait. He ware a wery wise anermil.

"Wal, sah, I made a big smoke outside de hole. I piled de bresh up close an set it on fire; I heard de coon a creepin' up an' down de old holler tree, and de dog he ware all ontent to gab him soon as he put his nose out side. Wal, we waited an' watched, wen all at wunce dat coon he creeped down to de hole, an' he put out his paw, he did, bress de Lord ef he didn't jes pull de sticks inside an' parted dem, an' let do air in, an' de smoke it blew tother way, an' wen I seed de smartness of dat beast, pear'd like I felt kind ov pityful fur him, kase ov his sense, I sez to Nero, lets leve him alone, sense he hab de sense to pull away de brush, an' part de smoke, so it coul'n't choke him. Coons is smart, dey is, wery, an' me an' Nero let dat tree alone, an' dat coon, an' neber troubled him no more, but we ketched a possum fur our supper dat night.

Manny is de nights me and dat dog has been a trampin de branch and de woods wen zether folks is lien bed asleep. I aint never see'd nary anethyer dog like him. He lived tell he died of old age, an' me an' my ole ooman buried him in our yard, an' ef I could raze de money I would put a moniment over him wid a scripthun ov his fites, an' his speriences in de woods, fur he wus a sojer, he wus, and hav fitted menny a battle in his lifetine, even ef he was only a dog."

ROSALIE MITCHELL SCHUYLER.

Mrs. McGorry—"Phwot d'yez t'ink the baby's done phwoile yez hov been gone?"

McGorry—"Oi dunno; phwot?"

Mrs. McGorry—"Shure, he got howld av thot new porous-plasther yez bought last noight, an' ate ahl the holes out av ut."—*Judge.*

THE MAN WHO DID.

All doctors in my town failed to relieve me of rheumatism. I have used about half a bottle of Nelaton and feel so much improved, that while I may not need it, I enclose P. O. order for $1 for one more bottle of the remedy that has been such a God-send to me. I cheerfully recommend Nelaton to anyone suffering with rheumatism.

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