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Tom and Daphne's Difficulty

By JANE OSBORN

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AT DAPHNE'S suggestion Tom Yates had come for a last call that bleak midwinter afternoon, and there sat Daphne looking very small and a trifle bewildered on the divan of the formally furnished drawing room and there sat Tom at least twelve feet away looking to Daphne much more self possessed than she had ever thought of him.

Daphne walked across the room to Tom and laid the little box containing her engagement ring on the pie-crust table beside his chair. Tom rose as she came and sat down sedately when she had gone back to her place on the divan.

"Of course it will be embarrassing for me—breaking the engagement after every one has been told." Daphne bit her lips and looked at the finger that seemed so bare and forlorn now that Tom's diamond no longer sparkled there.

"I suppose it is better to feel embarrassment than life-long regret," said Tom not daring to look at Daphne.

"Please, Tom, don't make me feel any worse than I do. It really was your fault just as much as it was mine. The only reason why Aunt Marion objected to you was because she wanted to make a match for me with some young friend of her own, and father really didn't object—only he said that if you did marry me you would have to give up your own ideas of a profession—and work in with him. It has always been that way in the family, and as you would some day share the fortune made from the factories he thought it was only fair for you to help shoulder the responsibilities."

"Naturally I refused to accept that proposition," said Tom dryly. "It is just as much a tradition in my family for the sons to study law."

"And mother's objections are not real objections. It's just general principles with her—just as it is with your mother. You know your mother said she wouldn't come to the wedding."

"Naturally I am as fond of my mother as you are of yours—still, Daphne—" Tom shifted his gaze from the portrait to Daphne's face. Their eyes met and two tears went trickling down Daphne's cheeks.

"If there was only some one whose advice we could ask," said Daphne. "Some older person who has had experience. We may be doing the best thing, Tom, and we may be wrecking our chances for happiness. Tom, isn't there some one in your family who isn't prejudiced—and who could help us decide?"

Tom thought for a moment. This idea of Daphne's struck him as admirable.

"I know, Daphne," he said at last. "There's your grandmother. Perhaps she could help us."

Daphne protested for a moment or two, for Daphne had always been a little afraid of the majestic old lady. But together they went to the grandmother's rooms and after having persuaded the middle-aged companion that they would not do anything to put her charge in a bad temper they sat down beside the old lady and explained rather falteringly the entire situation.

The old eyes followed the expression on Tom's and Daphne's faces with the keenest scrutiny. She listened silently and then, leaning forward toward them, broke forth loudly:

"What right have either of you to think of your own interests?" she cried. "Don't you know that your life, all you have, you owe to your family? Can you expect ever to be happy if you fail to consider their wishes? Even if the young man did go into the factories—I'd object. Marian is going to cut you off in her will as it is, Daphne. And I intend to do the same, and don't forget, young woman, that I am still owner of the factories."

On she stormed, her old eyes growing brighter and brighter as she did so, still eagerly watching the change of expression on the young people's faces. Finally they rose and Tom gently laid his hand on Daphne's arm and with a ceremonious bow to the old woman led Daphne from the room.

In a corner of the hall downstairs they stood very close together.

"It was my fault, Daphne," said Tom. "I should never have made the suggestion." Daphne's hands were clutching Tom's arm for protection. "She had no right to speak to you as she did," she said. "Even if she is a million years old, I shall never speak to her again unless she apologizes—and as for her money I don't care a snap."

"And you know I don't care, either," said Tom. "You know that—Daphne? You know I'd marry you if you didn't have a cent."

"You would marry me still?" begged Daphne.

"I'd marry you this afternoon of we had the license. Let's go get it now so we can be married tomorrow."

And while Tom and Daphne made their plans below, Daphne's grandmother laughed aloud to herself above. She had decided that if Daphne had spunk enough to marry Tom anyway, she would change her will making this grandchild the sole beneficiary. "And if she doesn't marry him," said grandma aloud, "I'll cut her off without a farthing."

Earned His "Tip"

Tipping was not unknown 100 years ago, one may see from the following article that appeared in a Pittsburgh paper in 1828:

"Mr. Beale received from Philadelphia on Monday last an entire load of oysters, principally in the shell. The wagoner was laden exclusively with oysters. He was 11 days only on the road and he received $100 carriage. In consequence of his expedition and his attentive and careful management Mr. Beale paid the wagoner $38 more than the amount usually received for the amount of lading."—Detroit News.

Health Hint

Loss of sleep is worse than starvation so far as its damaging effects upon the body and mind are concerned. If you keep regular hours there should be no difficulty about sleeping. If there is, find the cause before it undermines you.

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Christian Symbol in Old Turkish Mosque

A beautiful mosaic of the Virgin Mary has been found in a Turkish mosque in Constantinople. For 500 years it had been hidden under whitewash.

The workmen who were replastering the interior of the mosque reported the glint of gold which they had uncovered to the religious authorities, who notified the National museum, whose experts were sent at once to complete the uncovering of the mosaic. Once disclosed in all its glory of form and color, the next step was to ask Angora what to do about this picture of the mother of Christ dead on her bier surrounded by saints and angels high on the wall of a Moslem mosque.

Angora, seat of revolutionary Turkey, replied that the mosaic was to remain where it was and was to be preserved with the utmost care.

Thus for the first time in history Moslems worship beneath the shadow of images, the representative of which has for centuries been absolutely prohibited by the Moslem religion.

Watch That "Stepped Out" Pleased Leslie

Little Leslie Luckiboy had been given a beautiful watch—which, by the way, was his first—as a Christmas present.

Funnily enough, he did not seem very excited about it, and managed to restrain his enthusiasm in a very marked manner. However, he went out to a party, and returned in tremendous spirits, exclaiming:

"I've got a ripping watch!"

"I'm so glad you like it," said his mother, duly pleased at his joy which up to now he had concealed.

"Yes," he continued, "it's half an hour ahead of Lew's watch, and it's a whole hour ahead of the church clock. It beats them all!"—London Answers.

No Use for Them

"No," said the sunburned farmer, "you won't do any business here, me lad. I've finished with labor-savin' machines. I don't hold with 'em."

The young traveler could not help but smile.

"Look here," continued the farmer, pointing to a typewriter, "take a look at that. That's a writin' machine my wife spent all her savin's on 'cos I ain't very handy wi' me pen."

"What's the matter with it?"

"Matter!" exclaimed the farmer, "Why, nobody can write their blinkin' name with it unless they can play a church organ!"—London Answers.

Variation of "Quoits"

The game of horseshoes is based on quoits, which is a pastime resembling the ancient discus-throwing of Greece. Few traces of a game resembling quoits can be found on the continent of Europe and its origin may be sought for on the borderlands of Scotland and England. There are references to it in the Midlands, dating from the beginning of the Fifteenth century. Ascham, in his Toxophilus (1545), refers to the game as being played chiefly by the working classes, who often used horseshoes for want of quoits, a custom still prevailing in country districts.

Determining Mental Age

Mental age is most accurately based upon the individual Terman-Binet test of intelligence. A child is said to have a mental age of ten years, for example, when he passes the tests on the Terman-Binet scale which, it has been found, are passed by a majority of normal ten-year-old children. Terman defines mental age as follows: "By a given mental age we mean that degree of general mental ability as is possessed by the average child of corresponding chronological age."

A Wee Bit Tune

A millionaire who wrote a rather illegible hand took a "place" in the north of Scotland. One night before retiring he sent the head keeper detailed written instructions for the morrow.

Next morning he was awakened very early by the persistent skirling of bagpipes beneath his window. Summoning his man-servant, he asked: "What's that racket?"

"Oh," said the man, "that's Donald, the keeper, playing that wee bit tune ye sent him last night."

Wit of Conversation

The wit of conversation consists more in finding it in others, than in showing a great deal yourself. He who goes out of your company, pleased with his own facetiousness and ingenuity, will the sooner come into it again. Most men had rather please than admire you, and seek less to be instructed and diverted than approved and applauded, and it is certainly the most delicate sort of pleasure, to please another.—Franklin.

Returned With Thanks

A man sent a small boy to deliver a note to a young women who lived a few streets away. He gave the boy a nickel so that he would hurry.

After a short time the messenger came back, and, returning the money, said:

"Miss Jones says she will be glad to see you tonight, but she didn't want the nickel!"

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Odd Judgments Made Under Ancient Laws

That persons have been and are still punished for crimes under the law is, of course, a truism, but it has lately been shown that it was by no means uncommon for organized society to punish inanimate objects for crime. Among the Kookas of India, for instance, it is decreed that if a man suffer death by falling from a tree, the relatives shall punish the spirit of the tree by cutting the tree to pieces and scattering the chips to the wind.

A king of Cochin-China is said to have become dissatisfied with the way a ship was sailing and to have ordered it publicly whipped. Within recent times in China 15 wooden female idols were tried for the murder of an army officer, found guilty and publicly beheaded.

According to ancient Anglo-Saxon law a sword, cudgel or other weapon with which a man was murdered was thought to be in disgrace, and under the law could not be used again until the crime was expiated. No cutler was allowed to sharpen the sword without a certificate to the effect that it had been freed of taint. In Norway, in recent times, such farm implements as sickles, which had been used as weapons to kill a man, were condemned to hang in the barn unused. In an old set of municipal laws of Schleswig-Holstein is a statute providing that when a man was killed while working on a building, the timber which caused his death paid the penalty by surrendering itself to the family of the victim. If the owner refused to give up the timber he was fined 9 marks.

In the town of Uglich, Russia, Prince Dimitri, a son of Ivan the Terrible, was assassinated in 1591. The signal of insurrection was rung by the town bell, and as this was a grave political offense, the bell was banished to Tonolsk, Siberia, by the Russian government. There the bell languished in disgrace for many years. At length it was reconstructed and hung up in a church, but it remained in exile. Finally, in 1892, after serving a sentence of 300 years, it was fully pardoned and restored to its native village. In some of the Scottish islands the fishermen still cling to the old custom of beaching a boat from which a fisherman has been drowned. The boat is dragged up on the beach, the fishermen assemble about and curse it; then they leave it to rot upon the beach.

A French lawyer has told how a glacier was excommunicated on account of the damage it had done to life and property in the valley. In English law there was for many years

Use a Fork Now

Gone is the generous lake of juice in which vegetables used to be served. Gone are the funny little fleets of "side dishes" that used to find harbor near our dinner plates. Gone, therefore, is the necessity for the question, "When we eat vegetables, shall we use a fork or a spoon?" For nowadays vegetables are usually served with no juice, and are served on the dinner plate, either in combination (as a vegetable luncheon or dinner) or with the meat. And then, of course, we use the fork, or the knife and fork, if we have adopted the European way of eating. We should always use forks, too, for asparagus—not fingers, for it really is too "drippy."—Mrs. Alexander King in Delineator.

Breaking It Gently

There came a hurried knock at the door and a voice made itself heard through the letter box.

"Open up, Mrs. O'Malley—open up!"

Mrs. O'Malley opened the door quickly. On the steps stood her neighbor, crying softly.

"Oi've come to tell ye yer 'usband has met with an accident, Mrs. O'Malley," she wailed sadly.

"Ah, to be sure, an' phwat is ut now?" cried the other, anxiously.

"Och, the poor man was overcome by the heat, darlin'."

"The heat?"

"Yis, yis," returned the bearer of the news earnestly. "Your man fell into the furnace o' the foundry."—London Answers.

Links With the Past

Several interesting relics of the famous Boar's Head tavern are to be found in the Church of St. Magnus the Martyr, Lower Threadneedle street, London.

They date back to 1831 and include an antique drinking goblet known as the "Falstaff cup," and the big tobacco box that so excited the admiration of Washington Irving, as recorded in his "Sketch Book." The latter has its cover decorated with a picture of the old inn and a company carousing, two of the chairs being inscribed with the names of Prince Hal and Falstaff. An inscription records that the box was used at the vestry meetings at the Boar's Head.

Tell It to the Marines

Over the entrances to certain encampments of the American marines is a sign which reads—"If you don't listen, you'll get killed." But this warning did not originate with the marines, says the American Magazine, which explains: "It is really the life code of all wild things in nature. With them, to obey is to live, and to disobey is to die. Almost daily, wild creatures are called upon to make life-and-death choices, and they usually choose with celerity and dispatch. Reason and natural laws go hand in hand, and to violate a law of nature is always to defy reason."

Information Exchanged

At a military dance one officer said to another as they adjourned for refreshments:

"I don't know how it is, but my girl's lipstick always tastes different from any other woman's," and he carefully wiped his lips.

"Yes, doesn't it," remarked the other absent-mindedly.—London Tit-Bits.

Historic English Ports

The Cinque ports were originally five seaport towns on the coast of Kent and Sussex, England, called in early times "the five most important havens in the kingdom." They were enfranchised by Edward the Confessor. William the Conquerer subsequently granted them the privilege of an almost independent state, under command of a warden, with a court at Dover castle. The five ports were Sandwich, Dover, Hythe, Romney and Hastings. Winchelsea and Rye were added later. Up to the reign of Henry VII their chief function was the supply of the country's naval contingent. Dating from the revolution of 1688 their privileges were gradually abolished, the lord warden's jurisdiction ceasing in 1835.

No Snakes in Green Isle

The Biological survey says that there are no snakes native to Ireland and never have been, so far as there are authentic records. This is due to its geographic position, isolated as it is from the region in which these vertebrates originated and which they now occupy. A few attempts have been made to introduce harmless species, but as yet its records show none established on the island. This may be due to a lack of proper environment, climate, disease or other abnormal condition. The slow-worm or lag-worm, a legless lizard which superficially looks very much like a snake, is native to Ireland, and may account for some of the snake records of that country.

Horse Racing Old Sport

Horse racing has been called the "sport of kings" because it has been one of their amusements since the earliest dawn of civilization. Thothmes I of the Eighteenth Egyptian dynasty left a papyrus letter telling of his conquest of Mesopotamia and priding himself upon the acquisition of the racing horse (the Arab) and being the first to introduce him in Africa. Somewhat later the records tell of King Solomon buying horses from Egypt and paying as much as $3,000 for some of them. Among the Greeks horse racing was introduced into the Olympic games in the thirty-third Olympiad (648 B. C.).

Oldest Christian Symbol

The fish is considered the oldest symbol of Christianity. When the pagans became Christians they were afraid of being persecuted and put to death by those who still believed in pagan gods; so they invented a secret sign, giving it the form of a fish. When they wanted to make their new belief known to each other and wanted to find out whether the man with whom they associated was pagan or Christian, they drew the sign of the fish in the sand, and if the person responded in the same way, they felt secure to speak of their new faith.

Ideal Sense of Humor

Cultivate a sense of humor—not the harmful humor that only takes delight in the confusion or humiliation of others—but that humor which enables a man to laugh at himself and hold himself in proper proportion, a man who sees the bright side and communicates the brightness to others.—E. W. Beatty.

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