

# STORIES OF THE FAKIRS

By J. P. JOHNSTON

Author of "Twenty Years of Husling," "What Happened to Johnston," Etc.

## A CLEVER DEFAUDING NOTE

### "Horse Hay Fork" Grafter Imposes on Country Farmers—Makes Big Money—Ingeniously Devised Combination Contract and Promissory Note—Tries the Game Once Too Often.

(Copyright, 1905, by Joseph B. Bowles.)  
When I was engaged in the fire insurance business, at Clyde, O., a handsome well-dressed young man, about 23 years of age, came to the Nichols house where I was stopping.

He was establishing agencies among the farmers, for the sale of a horse hay fork, to be used in the unloading of hay by means of a horse. His method was to appoint farmers as his sub-agents, and sell them each a dozen forks outright, for which, if necessary, he would take their notes, payable six months from date.

He spent three or four days reconnoitering before visiting the farmers, but when he finally started out, he did a lively business. In order to make his territory last longer, he allotted usually one, never more than two, townships to each agent.

He traveled with the finest carriage and pair of horses which he could procure in the town, and for several days in succession reported the ap-



Many of Them Were Regretting Having Introduced Him Into Their Set of Girls.

fronted with a plain promissory note for \$180, drawing seven per cent. interest, and with a clause, acknowledging the delivery of the one dozen forks as the consideration, they could do nothing but pay the notes.

The manner in which the notes were drawn, and their clean-cut appearance, caused those who purchased them

complaints of his victims in Sandusky county, but talked as though I believed in him. I gave him the name of my relative at Freeport and assured him that he was not only perfectly responsible financially, but would be quite likely to take the agency for his forks.

He asked whether I intended remaining with my uncle for any length of time, and when told that I did not, he agreed to go over to Freeport and interview him, requesting me to speak a good word for him.

On our way back to Freeport that evening I explained matters to my uncle and asked him to help me get on the inside of the scheme, which he promised to do.

He was to let the grafter make out the contract, and after carefully reading it over, to sign it, and then, lest it put it into his pocket, a remark: "Before I give you this document, I want to have my lawyer look it over."

The next morning I went farther west in the county, promising to return in a week, when I hoped he would be in possession of what I wanted.

A week later my uncle had a very interesting story to relate.

The grafter's strong talk was that the sub-agent, appointed by him, took no responsibility whatever. He, as general agent, had invested his own money in the forks and would leave them with the agent on sale. When the farmer had sold 12 forks at \$15 each, he was to retain one-half the amount as his commission, which would be \$90, and then pay the other \$90 on his contract. Of course it would naturally follow that if he didn't sell the forks he had nothing to pay.

The contract, as my uncle had signed it, was indeed a novelty. The man who arranged it must have spent considerable time and thought in doing so. However, its poor construction and bad English would have at once attracted the attention of a close observer.

It was so ingeniously constructed, as to make it a combination promissory note and contract. When read by the unwary farmer, it had the appearance of being a safe document to sign, and one that covered in detail the ground gone over by the general agent.

But when one end of the paper was cut off there was left a promissory note for \$180, with seven per cent. interest, together with an acknowledgment that one dozen hay forks had been delivered as a consideration.

An exact copy of the form is here given. The original, although badly worded, I still have in my possession, and shall always keep as a novelty.

## DEFAUDING NOTE.

Freeport, Ohio, June 1, 19—  
Dec. 1, 19— I promise to pay to J. P. Johnston or order, one hundred and eighty dollars, payable in cash, for value received, at seven percent interest, for one dozen horse hay forks, which were delivered to me, this day, for above consideration.  
Witness My Hand, Alford Dale, Agent for J. P. Johnston.

BELOW IS THE WAY THE NOTE READ WHEN PRESENTED FOR COLLECTION.

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"Before I Sign This Document I Want to Have My Lawyer Look It Over."

pointment of one agent a day, with the sale of one dozen of the hay forks. He had plenty of money, was thoroughly up to date, very sociable, and a good "mixer."

Very shortly, all the boys in town were his friends, and soon many of them were regretting having introduced him into their set of girls, as his curly locks, and winning ways, were capturing them right and left.

How he could find so many farmers, all eager to buy a dozen forks, and give their notes with interest, was a problem hard to solve. However, he seemed to have no trouble in doing so.

When she had about 50 or 60 notes, all due on the same date, he began negotiating with the different money lenders and note shavers in town. After disposing of \$8,000 or \$10,000 worth, he suddenly left town, and no doubt located for a few weeks in some other section.

As soon as each farmer was notified that his note for \$180 and interest was at the bank for collection, a vigorous protest was raised all over the county. In every instance the dupes declared that they had simply signed a contract, acknowledging the delivery of one dozen forks and agreeing to pay the agent \$90 on December 1, provided they had succeeded in selling \$180 worth of horse hay forks before that date; otherwise, they were to pay nothing, and the contract would be null and void.

Of course they could not deny their signatures, and when they were con-

## A Complicated Machine.

Purchasers of automobiles cannot, as a rule, get their vehicles into commission too soon. Yet the Hartford Courant tells of a man who bought a steam car early last winter and in July had yet to take his first ride. Meanwhile, however, Mr. Blank, the owner of the car, had been busy. He has been fitting his automobile with extra appliances and having heaps of fun in putting them on for himself.

When the reporter inspected this be-decorated vehicle, the new attachments included six lamps of various kinds, a clock, a barometer, a thermometer, a grade indicator, an odometer, a speed indicator, a huge horn known as a "dragon," an electric bell, a steam whistle, an "eradiator" for getting rid of small boys and a few other things. The lamps include electric lights for illuminating the tonneau and the various gauges and indicators on the dash. These lamps are supplied with current by storage batteries under the seats. Switches are located in a box on the left side of the dash.

The device Mr. Blank calls his "eradiator" consists of a steam jet placed out of sight in the rear. When a small boy "hooks on" in the rear, he unconsciously informs the driver of his presence by ringing a small electric bell. Thereupon the driver presses a plunger and shoots a jet of steam in the direction of the intruder's legs, not to harm him, but to make him jump.

Another novelty is a fan belt indicator, which tells at a glance whether the fan is running, or whether the belt is broken or become slack.

Mr. Blank has spent about \$800 in putting all these attachments on his machine, and he thinks there may still be things he has missed.

Not Rich.  
"I understand that Miss Pert told you I was rich?"  
"Nothing of the kind."  
"Why, I understand she did."  
"Well, you were mistaken; she said you had more money than brains."—Houston Post.

The Pope's Train.  
Stories multiply of Pope Pius' democracy. Visitors are received with great simplicity. As soon as one enters he causes him to be seated in an armchair; by his side, chats, laughs and relates anecdotes and stories. The other day the pope, while receiving some women, remarked that they had trains to their skirts. "This is not hygienic," said he, "one gathers thus in the streets a quantity of microbes and other things. As to myself, when they compel me to add a train to my cassock it bothers me much, although there are four prelates to uphold it." "But, Holy Father," said one of the women, "we hold up our trains when going in the streets." "That must be very inconvenient," replied Pius X., and passing from word to action the pope made several tours in the room holding up his robe.

Correct.  
"Pa, what is a bank examiner?"  
"A bank examiner: Oh, he's the man who goes around and examines the bank after the cashier has looted it."—Chicago Sun.

## FARMER AND PLANTER.

### GROWING FEEDING STUFFS.

All Roughage For Feeding Live Stock Should Be Produced On the Feeder's Farm.

Economy in raising live stock demands the production of all "roughness" or roughage materials on the farm. By roughness, or roughage, of course, you understand bulky food, like hay, grass, clover, stover, etc. It is possible to purchase all roughage, and yet make a financial success of growing farm animals, but this certainly is not the surest way to succeed. Every farm should raise all its feed stuff.

In deciding what forage and grain crops to grow we should decide upon:

1. The crops best suited to our soil and climate.
2. The crops best suited to our line of business.
3. The crops that will give us most protein.
4. The crops that produce the most in best condition.
5. The crops that will keep our soil in best condition.

1. Crops Best Suited to Our Soil and Climate.—Farm crops, as every child of the farm knows, are not equally adapted to all soils and climates. Cotton can not be produced where the climate is cool and the seasons short. Timothy and blue grass are most productive on cool, limestone soils. Cowpeas demand warm, dry soils. But in spite of climate limitations, nature has been generous in the wide variety of forage she has given us.

Our aim should be to make the best use of what we have, to improve by selection and care those species best adapted to our soil and climate, and by better methods of growing and curing to secure greatest yields at least possible cost.

2. Crops Best Suited to Our Line of Business.—A farmer necessarily becomes a specialist. He gathers those kind of live stock about him which he likes best and which he finds most profitable. He should, in carrying on his business, do the same with crops.

The successful railroad manager determines by practical experience what distances his engines and crews ought to run a day, what coal is most economical for his engines, what schedules best suit the needs of his road, what trains pay him best. These and a thousand and one other matters are settled by the special needs of his road.

Ought the man who wants to make his farm pay he less prudent and less far-sighted? Ought he not to know his farm as the railroad manager knows his road? Should not his past failures and past triumphs decide his future? If he be a dairy farmer, ought he not by practical tests to settle for himself not only what crops are most at home on his land, but also what crops in his circumstances yield him the largest returns in milk and butter? If swine raising be his business, how long ought he to guess what crop on his land yields him the greatest amount of hog food? Should a cow be fed on one kind of forage when the land that produced that forage would produce twice as much equally good forage of another kind? All these questions the prudent farmer should answer promptly and in the light of wise experiments.

3. Crops That Will Give Us Much Protein.—It is the farmer's business to grow all the grass and forage that his farm animals need. He ought never to be obliged to purchase a bale of forage. Moreover, he should grow mainly those crops that are rich in protein materials, such for example as cowpeas, alfalfa and clover. If these kinds of crops are produced on the farm, there will be little need of buying cotton seed meal, corn and bran for feeding purposes.

4. Crops That Produce the Most.—We often call a crop a crop without considering how much it yields. This is a mistake. We ought to grow, when we have choice of two, the one that is best and most productive. Corn, for instance, yields at least twice the quantity of feeding material an acre than timothy does.

5. Crops That Will Keep Our Soil in Best Condition.—A good farmer should always be thinking of improving his soil. He wants his land to support him and to maintain his children after he is dead.

Since cowpeas, clover and alfalfa add atmospheric nitrogen to the soil, and at the same time are the best feeding material, it follows that these crops should hold an important place in every system of crop rotation. By proper rotating, by proper terracing, and by proper drainage, land may be made to retain its fertility for generations.—C. W. Burkett, in Progressive Farmer.

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boys will say, "O Pshaw," or laugh at this idea, and do nothing of the kind. All right, son, you are not cut out for a chicken fancier, or market poulterer, and had best get after something else. But to those who take an interest in the hens on the place, and want them to lay when eggs are the most valuable, to all such we say, try it, and see.—H. B. Geer, in Southern Agriculturist.

### STORING ROOT CROPS.

A Good Method For Storing Potatoes and Other Roots in Earth-Covered Pits.

The practice of storing winter potatoes, the best, or rather in earth-covered heaps, is quite prevalent, and the method is as follows: A dry, sheltered spot is selected, a layer of straw put upon the ground, and a conical heap of potatoes laid upon the straw. Any desired number of bushels may be placed in the heap, but in case of a large number, the heap should be ridge-shaped instead of round. The potatoes are covered with six or eight inches of straw, on which is placed a layer of earth five or six inches in depth. A second layer of straw is then used, on which is placed a second layer of earth, which is made smooth and firm. If a large quantity are to be stored in this manner, it is well to allow some of the straw to project at the top, whether the heap be round or long, in order to afford ventilation. In extremely cold weather the heap is covered with litter of coarse stable manure, as potatoes are likely to be injured by freezing and thawing. Sometimes an excavation is made a foot or more in depth, so the potatoes are in part under ground. Unless care and good judgment are exercised, there is likely to be damage resulting from excessive cold, on the one hand, or unreasonably warm weather on the other.—Progressive Farmer.

Work For Leisure Time.  
During the leisure days in the winter is the period when the farmer can greatly improve his lands by burning lime rock to be applied to his fields. Where the soils are of heavy clay formation and are adhesive, an application of 20 bushels of unslacked lime per acre will be very beneficial in the way of loosening them. Even the putty-like soils, such as are found in the prairie parts of Alabama, will be greatly improved by the use of the above quantity of lime. The lands should be turned as deep as possible, and the lime applied on top to disintegrate during the winter. We have known 20 bushels of lime to increase the yield of oats ten bushels per acre.

After one crop on limed lands, peas, clover, velvet beans or alfalfa, clover should be sown. These crops will add to the vegetable substance in the soil, and the lime will hasten the nitrification—changing the color of the soil and capacitating it for holding water. The lime will in two years sink into the subsoil, and there continue to sweeten the undecomposed matter, and prepare for the roots of coming crops. Don't lay aside this advice, and forget the value of this suggestion.—Southern Agriculturist.

Cotton and Sugar Mule.  
The price of young mules in Tennessee is way up. The cotton growers of the south can not farm without the mule. Facts about prices prove that mules are selling about ten dollars each above horses. The ability of the mule to endure great heat has brought it into more general use in the southern states; also, the farmers of this country find the mule stands the work in the hot season in wheat fields much better than the horse.

The mule matures more quickly than the horse, and can be placed on the market from one to two years sooner than the average horse. This means a larger profit to the producer and quicker returns for the investment.—Southern Agriculturist.

About Texas Fever.  
Prof. W. H. Dairymple, of the agricultural experiment station of Louisiana State university, has recently written Bulletin No. 84, a general summary of our knowledge of Texas fever among cattle. He clearly establishes the fact that the Bopphus annulatus is the only tick that can transmit the fever from one animal to another. He contends that inoculation or vaccination in bringing on a mild type of fever immunizes animals from the fever in its violent form. He further says: "The engorged tick is a source of blood for inoculating purposes." Any farmer desiring to have a copy of this bulletin can secure it by writing to Prof. W. H. Dairymple, Baton Rouge, La.

HERE AND THERE.  
—In rearing calves we should begin to train them from their infancy for the important position they are to fill later as money-makers for us.  
—Aim to keep hogs for profit; that is what everybody keeps them for. Some are doing it, and some are not. The only way to successfully raise hogs, or to succeed in any other occupation, is to study and observe the work.

—To get proper size and development, a variety of feed is necessary. Colts will winter after a fashion if allowed to run to a straw stack and given a little hay and oats occasionally, but this kind of wintering never pays.  
—It is a recent thing that the true vases, Japan clover has become known, therefore while the plants were spreading all over the south, growing by the roadside and in the old, abandoned fields, no one thought them worthy of saving the seed.

—If properly kept and judiciously applied to land, the manure produced by a flock of fowls is said to be worth nearly one-half the value of the food consumed, and yet little account is taken of the droppings when an estimate is made of the profits from the flock.

—We believe that there are few farmers who really realize that an orchard properly thinned will yield as many bushels of fruit as one left unthinned. Where fruit is thinned, that left to mature is several times larger than if all the fruit is allowed to remain on the tree. There is the difference in price also.

## GOVERNOR OF OREGON

Makes Use of His Family Pe-ru-na In His Family For Colds.



CAPITOL BUILDING, SALEM, OREGON.

A Letter from the Ex-Governor of Oregon.  
The ex-Governor of Oregon is an ardent admirer of Peruna. He keeps it continually in the house. In a letter to Dr. Hartman, he says:

STATE OF OREGON, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.  
The Peruna Medicine Co., Columbus, O.  
Dear Sirs—I have had occasion to use your Peruna medicine in my family for colds, and it proved to be an excellent remedy. I have not had occasion to use it for other ailments, but will be glad to do so if you will send me a supply. Yours very truly, W. M. Love.

It will be noticed that the Governor says he has not had occasion to use Peruna for other ailments. The reason for this is, most other ailments begin with a cold.

Ask Your Druggist for Free Peruna Almanac for 1906.

PRICE, 25 Cts.  
TO CURE THE GRIP IN ONE DAY  
ANTI-GRIPINE  
IS GUARANTEED TO CURE GRIP, BAD COUG, HEADACHE AND NEURALGIA  
I won't sell Anti-Gripine unless you'll guarantee it won't cure your MONEY BACK IF IT DOESN'T CURE.  
F. W. Dimeser, M. D., Manufacturer, Springfield, Mo.

Marianne—"Well, I shall make one man's life happy, anyway." Marianne—"Oh, I see! You are not going to get married."  
Patience—"What reason had she for marrying him?" Patience—"Why, he had money." Patience—"That is not a reason; that is an excuse."

"So that great inventor is dead and his wonderful secret is lost—" "Not at all. He told it to his wife just before he died." "Yes, that's what I mean."

"Why do you call your Featherbone 'Cholly'?" "His name is Noah." "Yes, but that's no appropriate. Noah had sense enough to get in out of the rain."

Visitor—"Have you nothing better to do than sit on the fence and watch the train go by?" "Native—"Wal, stranger, it's better'n to sit on the train and watch the fence go by."

"How's times drumming life insurance?" "Tough. But my brother writes me that he has an even harder job."

"How can that be?" "He's trying to sell suede gloves in Norway."

The irritable employer turned to his typewriter with a sudden snarl. "Why don't you write it just as I say it?" he demanded. "Because my typewriter hasn't the catarrh," she quietly responded.

"I'm surprised that you should be so interested in watching those silly dudes." "Force of habit, I guess. I'm president of a real estate improvement company." "Well?" "Well, they're a vacant lot."

WOMEN ARE NOT PHOTOGRAPHED IN CHINA.  
Monkeys have a peculiar dread of snakes.  
The artificial manufacture of ice dates back to 1783.  
The average cost of clothes in India is a dime a year.  
The sense of smell is weaker in the female than the male.  
Lemons are used for soap in many lemon-growing countries.

GOOD BLOOD FOR BAD  
Rheumatism and Other Blood Diseases are Cured by Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.  
"In the lead mines I was at work on my knees with my elbows pressed against rock walls, in dampness and extremes of cold," said Mr. J. G. Menkel, of 2975 Jackson avenue, Dubuque, Iowa, in describing his experience as a reporter, "and it is not surprising that I contracted rheumatism. For three years I had attacks affecting the joints of my ankles, knees and elbows. My ankles and knees became so swollen I could scarcely walk on uneven ground and a little pressure from a stone under my feet would cause me so much pain that I would nearly sink down. I was often obliged to lie in bed for several days at a time. My friends who were similarly troubled were getting no relief from doctors and I did not feel encouraged to throw money away for nothing. By chance I read the story of Robert Yates, of the Klauer Manufacturing Co., of Dubuque, who had very bad cases of rheumatism. I decided to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People, the remedy he had used. In three or four weeks after beginning to use the pills, I was much better and in three months I was well. The swelling of the joints and the tenderness disappeared. I could work steadily and for eight years I have had no return of the trouble. My whole family believe in Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Both my sons use them. We consider them a household remedy that we are sure about."

What Dr. Williams' Pink Pills did for Mr. Menkel they are doing for hundreds of others. Every dose sends galloping through the veins, pure, strong, rich, red blood that strikes straight at the cause of all ill health. The new blood restores regularity, and gives all the organs for their special tasks. Get the genuine Dr. Williams' Pink Pills at your druggist's or direct from the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Schenectady, N. Y.

ATLAS ENGINES AND BOILERS  
Have for years been the standard for all steam plants. Best of material and workmanship. Our big expert enables us to sell our small engines. As Atlas, the best in the world, costs no more than the other kind.

Write today for our special offer.  
ATLAS ENGINE WORKS  
Selling specialists in all sizes. INDIANAPOLIS  
Cylinder Engines, High Speed Engines, Water Turbines, Four Valve Engines, Compound Engines, Tubular Boilers, Automatic Water Feeders, Feed Water Heaters, etc.  
Atlas Engines in service 3,000,000 H. P.  
Atlas Boilers in service 4,000,000 H. P.

WEBSTER'S INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY  
THE BEST CHRISTMAS GIFT  
Useful, Reliable, Attractive, Lasting Up to Date and Authoritative. In other words, it will so often be a reminder of the gift.

2500 pages, 5000 illustrations. Recently revised. It is now in its 10th year. It is the most complete, up-to-date, and practical dictionary ever published. It is the best of its kind. It is the best of its kind. It is the best of its kind.

Write for the "Dictionary of the Year."  
G. & C. KERRICK CO., Springfield, Mass.

PAXTINE TOILET ANTISEPTIC  
FOR WOMEN  
Dressed with this powder to their feet, good as a douche, it is the best of its kind. It is the best of its kind. It is the best of its kind.

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