

BARKER.

I think I may safely say that Barker has been the bane of my existence. We were at school together, and he made me break the rules so often that I was never free from punishment, or ever able to come within measurable distance of the height of my ambition—the good-conduct prize. When I remonstrated with him, he said it did not matter, only muffs ever got conduct prizes; but it did matter. My aunt had promised to give me a sovereign the first time I brought home a prize, and, thanks to Barker, she has not seen me since. Water in the house found ourselves in the same office in the city. Barker attacked himself to me on the strength of our old school-fellowship, and again made my life miserable. He is a bumptious, self-assertive, healthy, athletic sort of man, is Barker, while I am modest and nervous. He forced himself upon me, and then did the most reckless things imaginable without a thought of what the consequences might be. He would, even without a ticket, enter a train in motion sooner than miss it, and, what was worse, if I was with him he would drag me in after him. If I ventured to hint that we were breaking the by-laws and might be summoned, he laughed and said it would be all right. According to Barker, the only thing he did that he should not have done would be all right—and I must say he was lucky.

to a police court, even as a witness, always costs money or business time, which is the same thing. Luckily, just then the curtain went up, and for a short time the objectionable one became absorbed in the play. It soon became clear, however, that he had not been educated up to the irreproachable standard of the law, and he began to fidget, in spite of the indignant looks of the devotees on either side of him. "Say, governor," he said, at last, turning round to "what's it all about?" "You will find me explained on the back of your programme," said some pithy but rude remarks to the effect that he'd be dashed if a drama which had to be explained on the programme would go down on his side. Barker then opened a running fire of vulgar but forcible criticism of what was said and done on the stage. As he turned to me, he spoke, I thought, the people around would begin to imagine that I sympathized with him, so I lent him my opera-glasses to keep him quiet. "Oh, crickets!" he exclaimed, in what, on his side of the water, no doubt passes for a confidential whisper. "Look at the old geezer in that box. Disgraceful! I call it, and at his age, too. Just take a squint, governor."

Sophy might have known that I should do nothing of the kind, even though to humor him I made a pretence, and, therefore, she need not have snatched the glasses away from me and hidden them under her cloak. The first act of "Gentle Gladys" is devoted solely to detailing the pedigrees of all the characters for the last ten generations, so that you may understand why they are compelled to act as they do later on. It is a short one, and before the objectionable character had time to distinguish himself again, the curtain went down and he went off, probably for beer. All through the act the few remarks which Sophy had condensed to address to me had had an acid flavor about them, and I did not relish, and, as she showed no signs of returning to sweet reasonableness, when the interval began, for once in my life I was glad to see Barker. "Hello, Swaddle," he said, coming from behind me, and appropriating the temporarily-vacant place in front of me. "Wherever I meet Barker he asks me what I am doing there, in a tone which implies that I have no right to be anywhere without water."

Stockholm has the highest death rate from drink of any city in the world, ninety in 10,000. Every unmarried man is considered a boy in Corcoran, though he should live to be one hundred. It is estimated that one out of every 180 inhabitants of the United Kingdom owns or rides a bicycle. One thousand francs was recently paid for the wooden horse with which Napoleon played as a child. Sixteen women never appeared in public without the hood, which covered the hair and a large part of the face. The doors which form the entrance to the houses in Lapland are never more than four and one-half feet high. A Western geologist says that Kansas can raise wheat for another thousand years before exhausting the necessary properties of the soil. An opal, weighing 600 carats, in the possession of Edward H. Fleming of Opaiville, Ida., is claimed to be the largest of its species in the world. The carbon of the food mixed with the oxygen of the air furnishes fuel for the body, which evolves heat in exactly the same way that a fire or candle does. A new thing in the surgical world is a certain brass button recently designed by a surgeon for the purpose of joining together two ends of an intestine that has been cut. The heaven of the Eskimos is a land of warm sunshine with glowing fires of burning with pots of boiling whale's blubber, and easel couches of fur scattered here and there. The average weight of twenty thousand Boston men was 142 pounds; women 125 pounds. At Cincinnati the average of the same number of men was 154 pounds; of women, 131. A roll of the Confederacy, the die from which its only silver coins were struck, was recently sold in Philadelphia for \$51. It is said that only four coins were ever made on it. Soil in Egypt is tilled by exactly the same kind of plow as that used there 5,000 years ago. The furrows made are extremely shallow, and the clods are further broken up by a heavy wooden roller. Out of 374,741 alien steamer passengers landed at New York in 1922, only 4,118 gave their destination as the Southern States. So far this year the proportion of Southwestern immigrants is no greater. Impartial writers are quoted with saying that the gold contained in the medals, vessels, chains and other objects preserved in the Vatican would make other gold coins throughout the whole of the present European circulation. Vinegar will not split rocks, so Hannibal could not thus have made his way through the Alps. A new will is dissolved in water, so that the story of a diamond ring melted in vinegar must have been a fiction. During the thirteenth century the Chinese discovered gunpowder, from the inner bark of the mulberry tree, cutting it into round pieces and stamping it. To counterfeit or refuse to accept it as legal tender was a crime under the law. The value of famous lands in this country is greatest in New York. In 1888 it averaged: New Jersey, \$25; Massachusetts, \$20; Ohio, \$16; New York, \$14; Vermont, \$10; Maryland, \$8; Wisconsin, \$5, and in some Western States less than \$5 per acre. France, Belgium, Greece, Italy and Switzerland constitute the "Latin Union." Their coins are alike in weight and fineness, and they are made for a man to set foot on the island. They have destroyed all the coats, which were formerly bred there, and are now eating the shrubbery. Ninety per cent of the energy in coal is now lost in converting it into power. It goes off in heat through chimneys and is recovered in any room where there is a furnace and boiler. A means of saving this waste will vastly cheapen the cost of everything manufactured by electric or steam power. Among the crown jewels of England in the Tower of London is kept the "coronation spoon." It dates from the time of Edward the Confessor, 1066. It is of pure gold richly set with gems and is used to receive the consecrated oil used at the coronation. It is sometimes called the "anointing spoon." The Pas of Thermopylae was defended not by three hundred but by less than a thousand Greeks, or, according to some writers, twelve thousand. The three hundred were the Spartan contingents, who showed no more bravery on that occasion than their companions in arms from other Greek states. Louis XVI did not behave with overbearing dignity at his execution. On the contrary, he screamed for help, struggled with the executioners and begged for mercy. Nor did the attendant priest say: "Come, no joking! Fowls have no teeth." The expression was used by him by a Paris evening paper.

For Children's Suits, which formerly sold from \$29 to \$100 5 to 8 dollars. For Boys' Cheviots Suits, of which none are worth less than \$8 and some as high as \$13, \$36 to \$100 anywhere \$2.75. For the BEST CHEVIOT, BOYS' PANTS, worth \$6 to \$100. No. 10 West Washington Street for the Best Bargains in Clothing, Now.

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OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

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Humor of the Day.

Good Cause for Bad Temper.

Life.

Life's Calendar.

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