

W. W. HUMPHREYS AND SAM CASM

FROM THE CARTOONISTS AND FUNNY MEN



THE PRESIDENT TO BLAME FOR A COLD SPRING.
E. H. O. Harriman—Stays beastly cold, all over the country, durn him!
Henry High-Finance Rogers—it certainly does, and we can't expect settled weather while the President keeps up this agitation.
—Lincoln (Oeb.) News.



THE EARLY BIRD DOESN'T ALWAYS GET THE WORM.
—Toledo Blade.



THE OHIO SITUATION.
AN APRIL FOOL JOKE.
But who's the joke going to be on?
—Minneapolis Journal.

THE THIRD STRING

By W. W. JACOBS

Illustrations by Will Owen.

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Love! said the night watchman, as he watched in an abstracted fashion the efforts of a skipper to reach a brother skipper on a passing barge with a bathook. Don't talk to me about love, because I've suffered enough through it. There ought to be restoratives for love the same as for there is for drink, and they ought to wear a piece of ribbon to show it, the same as the restoratives do; but not an attractive piece of ribbon, mind you. I've seen as much mischief caused by love as by drink, and the funny thing is, one often leads to the other. Love, after it is over, often leads to drink, and drink often leads to love and to a man committing himself for life before it is over.

Saltmen give way to it most; they see so little of women that they naturally have a high opinion of 'em. Wait till they become night watchmen and, having to be at 'em all day, see the other side of 'em. If people only started life as night watchmen there wouldn't be one 'art the falling in love that there is now.

I remember one chap, as nice a fellow as you could wish to meet, too. He always carried his sweetheart's photograph about with 'im, and it was the only thing that cheered 'im up during the fourteen years he was cast away on a deserted island. He was picked up at last and taken 'ome, and there she was still single and waiting for 'im; and after spending fourteen years on a deserted island he got another ten in quod for shooting 'er because she 'ad altered so much in 'er looks. Then there was Ginger Dick, a red 'aired man



MISS TUCKER.

I've spoken about before. He went and fell in love one time when he was lodging in Wapping 'ere with old Sam Small and Peter Russet, and a nice mess 'e made of it.

He 'adn't been ashore a week afore both of 'em noticed a change for the worse in Ginger. He turned quiet and peaceful and lost 'is taste for beer. He used to play with 'is food instead of eating it, and in place of going out of an evening with Sam and Peter took to going off by 'imself.

"It's love," ses Peter Russet, shaking 'is 'ead, "and he'll be worse afore he's better."
"Who's the gal?" ses old Sam.

"Peter didn't know, but when they came 'ome that night 'e asked, Ginger, who was sitting up in bed with a far-off look in 'is eyes, cuddling 'is knees, went on staring, but didn't answer.

"Who is it making a fool of you this time, Ginger?" ses old Sam.

"You mind your business and I'll mind mine," ses Ginger, suddenly waking up and looking very fierce.

"No offence, mate," ses Sam, winking at Peter. "I only asked in case I might be able to do you a good turn."

"Well, you can do that by not letting her know you're a pal o' mine," ses Ginger, very nasty.

Old Sam didn't understand at first, and when Peter explained to 'im he wanted to hit 'im for trying to twist Ginger's words about 'is when they were going to bed that night, and to 'is surprise found that he was quite civil. When 'e said that he would do anything he could for 'im Ginger was quite affected.

"I can't eat or drink," he ses in a miserable voice; "I lay awake all last night thinking of her. She's so different to other gals; she's got— If I start on you, Sam Small, you'll know it. You go and make that choking noise to them as likes it."

"It's a bit o' eggshell I go in my throat at breakfast this morning, Ginger," ses Sam. "I

wonder whether she lays awake all night thinking of you?"

"I dare say she does," ses Peter Russet, giving 'im a little push.

"Keep your 'art up, Ginger," ses Sam; "I've known gals to 'ave the most extraordinary likings afore now."

"Don't take no notice of 'im," ses Peter, holding Ginger back. "Ow are you getting on with her?"

Ginger groaned and sat down on 'is bed and looked at the floor, and Sam went and sat on his bill it shook so that Ginger offered to step over and break 'is neck for 'im.

"I can't help the bad shaking," ses Sam; "if it ain't my fault, I didn't make it. If being in love is going to make you so disagreeable to your best friends, Ginger, you'd better go and live by yourself."

"I 'eard something about her to-day, Ginger," ses Peter Russet. "I met a chap I used to know at Bill's Wharf, and he told me that she used to

"Has he gone far away?" ses Ginger, trying to speak in an off-hand way.

"Oh, he's back now," ses Miss Tucker; "you'll see 'im fast enough, and, whatever you do, don't let 'im know you're a prizefighter."

"Why not?" ses Peter Russet.

"Because of the surprise 'ill be to 'im," ses Miss Tucker. "He don't expect the bully. Don't be afraid of 'urting 'im. Think o' pore Smith and Charlie Webb."

"I am thinkin' of 'em," ses Ginger, slowly. "It is Bill—very quick—with 'is 'ands!"

"Ratter," ses Miss Tucker; "but of course he ain't up to your mark; he's only known in these parts."

She went off to serve a customer, and Ginger Dick tried to catch Peter's eye, but couldn't, and when Miss Tucker came back he said 'e must be going.

"Sunday afternoon at a quarter past three sharp, outside 'ere," she ses. "Never mind about putting on your best clothes, because Bill is sure to be hanging about. I'll take care o' that."

She reached over the bar and shook 'ands with 'im all the way 'ome.

He didn't know whether to turn up on Sunday or not, and if it ain't 'adn't been for Sam and Peter Russet he'd 'a' most likely stayed at home. Not that 'e was a coward, being always ready for a scrap and actually speaking down well of it, but he made a few inquiries about Bill Lumm and 'e saw that 'e had about as much chance with 'im as a kitten would 'ave with a bulldog.

Sam and Peter were delighted, and they talked about it as if it was a pantomime, and old Sam 'ad said that when he was a young man he'd 'a' fought six Bill Lumms afore he'd 'a' given a gal up. He brushed Ginger's clothes for 'im with 'is bare hands Sunday afternoon, and, when Ginger started, 'im and Peter followed some distance behind to see 'is fair play.

The only person outside the Jolly Pilots when Ginger got there was a man; a strong built chap with a thick neck, very large 'ands, and a nose which 'ad seen 'is best days some time afore. He looked 'ad at Ginger as 'e came up, and then stuck 'is 'ands in 'is trouser pockets and looked at the pavement. Ginger walked a little way past

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"Who's the young lady?" ses Peter Russet.

"I don't know," ses Peter; "but this chap told me that she won't walk out with anybody agin unless it's another prizefighter. Her pride won't let her, I s'pose."

"That's all right," ses Ginger. "Sam: 'all you've got to do is to go and be a prizefighter. If I 'ave any more o' your nonsense!" ses Ginger, starting up.

"That's right," ses Sam; "jump down anybody's throat when they're trying to do you a kindness. That's you all over, Ginger, that is. Wot's to prevent you telling 'er that you're a prizefighter from Australia or somewhere? She won't know no better."

He got up off the bed and put 'is 'ands up as Ginger walked across the room to 'im, but Ginger only wanted to shake 'ands and arter he 'ad done that 'e patted 'im on the back and smiled at 'im.

"I'll try it," ses Sam, "but any day now unless it's another prizefighter. Her pride won't let her, I s'pose."

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"For the sake of your good name," ses Peter. "I should never speak to you agin, Ginger," ses old Sam, pursing up 'is lips.

"Nor me neither," ses Peter Russet. "To think of our Ginger being called a coward," ses old Sam, with a shudder, "and afore a gal, too."

"The loveliest gal in Wapping," ses Peter. "Look 'ere," ses Ginger, "you can shut up, both of you. I'm not going, and that's the long and short of it. I don't mind an ordinary man, but I draw the line at prizefighters."

Old Sam sat down on the edge of 'is bed and looked the picture of despair. "You must go, Ginger," he ses, "for my sake."

"Your sake?" ses Ginger, starting.

"I've got money on 'er," ses Sam. "So's Peter. If you don't turn up all both'll be off."

"Good job for you, too," ses Ginger. "If I did turn up you'd lose it, to a dead certainty."

Old Sam coughed and looked at Peter, and Peter 'e coughed and looked at Sam.

"You don't understand, Ginger," said Sam, in a soft voice; "it ain't often a chap gets the chance o' making a bit o' money these 'ard times."

"So we've put all our money on Bill Lumm," ses Peter. "It's the safest and easiest way o' making money I ever 'eard of. You see, we know you're not a prizefighter and the others don't."

Peter Ginger looked at 'em, and then 'e called 'em all the names he could lay 'is tongue on, but, with the idea o' the money they was going to make, they didn't mind a bit. They let 'im 'ave 'is say, and that night they brought some two or three salloons wot 'ad bet agin Ginger to share their room, and, though they 'ad bet agin 'im, they was so fond of 'im that 'e was certain that they wasn't going to leave 'im till the fight was over.

Ginger 'ave 'im then, and at 12 o'clock next day they started off to find the place, Mr. Welton, the landlord of the Jolly Pilots, a short, fat man of fifty, wot 'ad spoke to Ginger once or twice, went with 'em, and all the way to the station he kept saying wot a jolly spot it was for that sort o' thing. He didn't say a word about the other side o' 'em, and larks up in the air singing away as if they'd never leave off.

They took the train to Haverhill, and, being a slack time of the day, the porters was surprised to see wot a lot o' people was travelling by it. So Ginger, there was the landlord's two or three public-houses in Wapping, all smoking big cigars; two dock policemen in plain clothes, wot 'ad got the afternoon off—one with a rapier toothache, and the other with a baby wot wasn't expected to last the day out. They was as full o' 'im as kittens, and Sam and Peter, wot was with 'im, was surprised to see wot a lot o' people was travelling by it. So Ginger, there was the landlord's two or three public-houses in Wapping, all smoking big cigars; two dock policemen in plain clothes, wot 'ad got the afternoon off—one with a rapier toothache, and the other with a baby wot wasn't expected to last the day out. They was as full o' 'im as kittens, and Sam and Peter, wot was with 'im, was surprised to see wot a lot o' people was travelling by it. 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