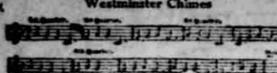


Westminster Chimes



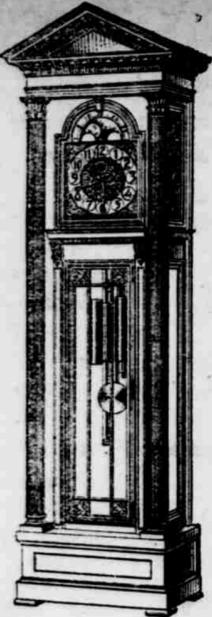
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Salt on the Bird's Tail
Story of a Mardi Gras Masquerade
By SAMUEL E. BRANT
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"Who is the biggest fool you ever met?"

"Man or woman?"

"Woman."

"The girl I'm engaged to."

"Well, I like that. What kind of wife do you expect her to make?"

"How should I know her qualifications for a wife? Marriage is a lottery. Other men may marry for qualifications, but we youngsters don't pretend to forecast what a girl's going to be. And I don't believe the old ones hit it any better than we."

"What makes you set your fiancee down as a fool?"

"I'll tell you, but I must begin back a little way. She's Madge Whitridge, only it should be Madge Wildfire instead. Not that she is so wild as she was. She's been quieted down a bit by a certain little happening that came near resulting disastrously. She nearly caused my death."

"You don't mean it! Not intentionally, I suppose."

"Well, whether there was a spark of intention in it I don't know. You never can tell what a woman is going to do or why she does it. We can't be sure she knows herself. If Madge had caused my death any prosecuting attorney might have made a very good case against her of doing it with malice aforethought. And to tell the truth I'm not sure but she did."

"And you're going to marry her?"

"You bet—that is, if she doesn't shake me for another fellow, though I don't think she would do that now. She might have done it before this thing I'm going to tell you about happened; but, as I said, it sobered her, and she's quiet game. That's the time I chose for putting salt on the bird's tail."

"There's more appropriateness in this simile than you may imagine, as you'll see in a moment. But for the incident. We 'floor gliders,' as one called our dancing club of young people—there was not one over twenty, and some of the girls weren't over fifteen—concluded we'd celebrate the Mardi Gras with a masquerade ball. I'd been getting sweet on Madge—Wildfire I may as well call her—and about the time the costumes were being arranged I was sitting up to her like a sick kitten to a warm brick. In fact, we arranged to have corresponding costumes for the ball."

"This was after Rostand's play of 'Chantecler' came out, and everybody was talking about it. You know that the leading lady chicken in the play is the hen pheasant, the leading gentleman being the rooster chantecler. We concluded to get ourselves up as these two birds. I was a mouth arranging my outfit—I did it all myself, you know—but when I got it done it was a corker. I made the body of a rooster, which I strapped under my arms, with an elegant head and comb in front and a fine display of cock's tail behind, the tail being made of tissue paper of different colors. You couldn't have told it from the real thing."

"I went to see Madge the afternoon before the ball. It so happened that we got to quarreling, and I went off in a huff. This was unfortunate, to say the least. We had spent a lot of time getting up our bird rigs and expected to make a lot of fun billing and cooling during the ball, and the worst of it was, now that we were in just the opposite condition from what we expected, we hadn't time to get other rigs."

"What was the cause of the quarrel?"

"We tried on our costumes in advance, and when she walked I told her she waddled like a duck. That made her mad, and she fired back, and we soon were in for it hot and heavy."

"When the ball came off, instead of walking about together, I strutting, she cuddling up beside me, we were as far apart as possible and when we met glared at each other. After awhile I saw her sitting in a window with Ned Tucker. This made me all fired jealous as well as mad, and to show my spleen what did I do but go up near where they were sitting and whisk around with the intention of turning my back on Madge. I didn't calculate how near my tail feathers were to them, but it seems they brushed their faces. This made Madge madder than ever. Ned had just struck a match to light a cigarette. Madge jerked it out of his hand and held it under the tip of my tail."

"In a second the whole of it was in flames. I tried to get the rooster part of me off, but it was tied on so well that I couldn't do it. The flames ran from the tail to the wings and from the wings to the rest of the body. The whole roomful of people rushed toward me, scared out of their seven senses, every one crying, 'Put him out! Whether they meant to put out the flames or put me out to prevent my setting them all afire I don't know. I was howling with the burns and with fear when a Roman senator took off his togs and wrapped it about me."

"I was taken to a carriage and home. I wasn't burned at all, but just to punish the confounded girl that applied the match I gave out that I might die. She was knocked clean out, and when I let up on her she wilted. She had put a match to my tail; I put salt on hers and caught her."

"You mean she caught you. There are lots of men who think they do the catching when they are caught themselves."

Motor Too Quiet-Arrested.

The 1911 season has unquestionably accomplished much in the way of quiet running motors. An unusual and rather amusing incident of this was recently given in Los Angeles. J. B. Morrow, who owns an Inter-State, left the car alongside the sidewalk, thinking he had shut off the motor. A short circuit, however, kept the engine running, but so quietly that Morrow did not detect it. A number of the Los Angeles police force coming up the sidewalk also thought the motor dead, and in order to grab a moments repose leaned up against the car's hood. He then detected a slight vibration, made investigation and found the motor running most industriously. He arrested Morrow for leaving the engine running for over a half hour on the street.—From the San Francisco Bulletin.

Bourbon Garage and Supply Co.

Thirty Years Together.

Thirty years of association—Think of it. How the merit of a good thing stands out in that time—or the worthlessness of a bad thing. So there is no guesswork in this evidence of Thos. Ariss, of Concord, Mich., who writes: "I have used Dr. King's Few Discovery for thirty years, and it is the best cough and cold cure I ever used." Once it finds entrance in a home you can't pry it out. Many families have used it forty years. It is the most infallible throat and lung medicine on earth. Unequaled for lagrippe, asthma, hayfever, croup, quinsy or sore lungs. Price 50 cents and \$1.00. Trial bottle free. Guaranteed by Oberdorfer.

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In looking back over our lives at the moments that have been worth while, how many of them did money buy?—Success Magazine.

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