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HIRCUS, THE DANCING BILLY GOAT
 By MICKEY FINN

[Copyright, 1905, by Ernest Jarrold.]
 'T was Christmas eve, and Patrick Doolan, the foreman of the gas works, had summoned a goodly company of his friends to celebrate the holiday season and the arrival of two barrels of Irish turf from his native town. A bushel of this peat lay glowing in the fireplace. While the snow was softly piling itself upon the window casings and the wind was taking liberties with the shutters Judy Callahan stily pinned upon the lapel of Dick Walsh, the letter carrier, a sprig of Irish ivy. By inquiry from rheumatic Flaherty, who sat in the angle nook nourishing his shins, Dick learned that the symbolic meaning of Irish ivy is "I cling to thee." Judy's shriek a moment later indicated that

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Catarrh is not only dangerous in this way, but it causes tuberculosis, death and decay of bones, loss of thinking and reasoning power, kills ambition and energy, often causes loss of appetite, indigestion, dyspepsia, raw throat and reaches to general debility, idleness and insanity. It needs attention at once. Cure it by taking Botanic Blood Balm (B. B. B.). It is a quick, radical, permanent cure because it rids the system of the poison germ that causes catarrh. Blood Balm (B. B. B.) purifies the blood, does away with every symptom, giving strength to the entire system.

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"'T WAS THREE MONTHS O' STRAP AND CARROTS."

Dick had taken advantage of the information. Just then Jack Doolan, the youthful heir to the Doolan estate, put his head inside the door.
 "Father, can I bring in the nanny? The snow is fallin' on her through the roof, and she's tremblin' wid the cold."
 "Of course, my son," said Mr. Doolan heartily. "Bring her in. We don't want our milk watered."
 "That's a foine baste you have there," said Flaherty. "How much milk does she give?"
 "Two quarts a day, but she used to give three quarts a day before her husband died. She's plinin' away since that time, poor gurrl. I think 'tis the loveliness she has," said Mr. Doolan.
 "Dear, dear, look at that, now!" said Mrs. Reagan sympathetically. "I always said that among goats was similitude. And how long is the billy goat dead, Mr. Doolan?"
 "The five years the 24th day of this month," replied Doolan. "Sorra day 'twas when we lost Hircus. A more gayal nor a mere willin' goat you would not find in all Har-risen. Sure his death was a tragedy and a calamity."
 "How was that?" quavered old man Dougherty, the stonemason.
 "Well," resumed Doolan, "'twas a tragedy the way he was translated and a calamity when his death took away the only chance I ever had o' makin' a fortune."
 "'Tis queer about goats," continued Doolan. "They are born wid a certain amount of eddication. Show me the goat that wouldn't know a cabbage or a turnip when he sees it. Of course a goat knows nothin' about machinery. There was a goat that used to stop the horses drawin' a street car, but when they put a trolley car on the track you couldn't find that much o' the goat as would gnaw a griddle. But a goat can be educated wid sugar and a strap to do tricks. Now, I suppose none o' ye would believe me if I told ye that I taught Hircus to dance as fine a jig or hornpipe as ever you saw in a theater."
 A chorus of disbelief arose.
 "Yes," said Doolan, "and no Frinch lady could do a finer paze sput on her toes, as they say in the heathen language. You must remember that I was very poor, and I'd be flayin' awake nights thinkin' o' some plan by way o' makin' a fortune, and when my wife bought the two kids to start the dairy the idee came to me like a flash—I could educate the goat to dance. When I got that idee in me head I could think o' nothin' else. Cassidy, how much money do you think a dancin' goat could earn on a theater stage?"
 "Well," replied Cassidy, "I should think that \$300 a week would be none too little for so dignacious a curiosity."
 "There," resumed Doolan. "Dye hear what Cassidy says? Three hundred dollars a week for half an hour's work a day! Faith, I felt the money in me hand! But 'twas weary work teachin' the goat. An old animal trainer told me that cruelty and kindness mixed would do the job. When the goat minded me I tickled his ribs and gave him carrots, but when he got stubborn I lathered him with a strap. Mrs. O'Brien, you remember the time we had teachin' Hircus to walk across the room on his hind legs?"
 "Deed I do, Doolan!" said Mrs. O'Brien, with a reminiscent sigh.
 "'Tud excuse me, ladies and gentlemen," said Flaherty, rising and putting on his hat, "but I must leave ye, a

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dancin' goat is too much for my voracity. I couldn't swallow it."
 When the door had closed Doolan went on: "Every night after supper the table was shoved back agin the wall and the lesson began. And, would you believe it, it takes three months to teach the goat to stand on his hind legs for five minutes! After that 'twas easier. There was a little gurrl named Ellen next door that took a great interest in the education of the goat. She was about the size of the goat when she stood up, and 'twas pure joy to see Hircus waitin' around the kitchen to the music of my fiddle. With the goat's head on her shoulder and her arms around his neck they would whirl slowly around in the dawliln' circles of the mazy, as the poet says—
 "How perfectly lovely!" exclaimed Judy Callahan.
 "After the lesson was over each night I used to give the goat all kinds of tasty things, like potato peelin', cabbage stumps and such like, as a reward, and 'twas the habit o' keepin' the goat hungry all day that led to the loss o' my fortune. 'Twas three months o' strap and carrots before the goat could do a dancin' heel and toe, work as hard as I might, and two weary months before he would nod his head and make a bow the same as if he was before an awjence."
 "Hark to that now," said Dougherty to Judy Callahan in a whisper. "A goat makin' a bow!"
 "As I said before," Doolan went on, "when the goat had learned to bow at a wink we made his billy suit. The thing that cost the most was the skirt, made of red silk and shaped like a parasol. It looked like a hollyhock turned upside down. Then we put a little green cap wid a red tassel on the goat's head and a pair o' white slippers on his feet. And when we showed him his picture in the glass he grinned like a woman puttin' on her Sunday bonnet. The tears fill me eyes when I think that only for that joker Reagan I might be ridin' in me own divvil wagon wid rubber wheels."
 "The first public appearance of the goat as a billy dancer took place in a barn in the Bronx. We fixed up a stage wid planks and boxes, and 25 cents was charged at the door. The news got around, and long before the time to begin the show the barn was crowded to the doors. Half the roof was gone off the barn, but that hurt nothin', for the night was clear. I was so afraid that the goat wouldn't do his work that I gave him nothin' to eat for twelve hours before he came on the stage, and the poor beast was fair famished. When I walked out on the stage, hand in hand wid the goat, I thought the awjence would go crazy. They yelled wid sheer delight when the goat made his bow, and every man in the barn was on his feet, and a hundred o' them had cabbage leaves and carrots in their pockets to give to the goat, like the ladies have bokays to give to the play actors. As the goat whirled around doin' a waltz he would stop now and then to pick a bit o' cabbage or turnip that some one threw on the stage. But 'twas what that rogue Reagan

threw that the goat liked the best. They looked like little pieces o' bread covered wid sugar. The goat picked up so many o' the little chunks that the crowd yelled to put Reagan out because he was stoppin' the show, and I had hard work to get the goat dancin' ag'in. After that the goat seemed to get lighter and lighter upon his feet until he hardly touched the stage. There were times when he whirled around in the air widout touchin' the floor, and the crowd gaspin' wid astonishment at this wonderful beast. And while he whirled he seemed to be gettin' bigger and bigger till he was as round as a balloon the boys play wid. He would go up in the air, whirlin' like a pinwheel, for ten feet, and then light on the stage soft as a thistle-down, and fly up ag'in till he spun up farther and farther, lookin' like a red umbrellin' on a big punkin, and he was gone through the hole in the roof, translated intirely."
 "And where did he go?" said the awe-struck Mrs. Cassidy in a whisper.
 "Some o' the little boys sittin' on the fence outside said he went up in the direction o' O'Brien, and others said 'twas toward Arcturus and Niptume he went."
 "And what was it that Reagan gave the goat?" said the materialistic Welsh, anxious for an explanation of the seeming miracle.
 "'Twas yeast cakes that the rogue had covered wid sugar, and the goat ate fifteen o' them."



"HE WHIRLED AROUND WIDOUT TOUCHIN' THE FLOOR."

Rev. H. E. O'Grady Talks.

Editor Anniston Evening Star: Father H. E. O'Grady, the well known missionary priest who is at present the guest of Father Doyle, at the rectory, was seen last evening by a reporter of the Evening Star in reference to the wonderful

Long Life Liver and Kidney Cure

of which he discovered the formula of Father O'Grady gave him a history of the remedy and all the good that had been done by it.
 "And as the reporter was about to leave Father O'Grady said I wish you would tell the mothers in Anniston and for miles around Anniston to keep a bottle of this great remedy in their homes and to give it to their children when in need of a gentle Laxative and Liver Medicine. There is nothing like it to build up a run down system."
 "Rev. H. E. O'Grady is too well known to need an introduction here, being a Missionary Priest of national reputation and a brother of Ex-Senator O'Grady, of New York.

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