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Bowser Goes to War

But He Comes Back Within Two Hours.

By M. QUAD
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Bowser went over to the drug store after dinner the other night and was gone for an hour. When he returned he said to Mrs. Bowser:

"There were three or four men in the drug store, and we got talking about the war. I tell you the days for the fighting hero have come back."

"I have been thinking so for a year past," quietly replied Mrs. Bowser.

"What a chance it has given men to make a great name for themselves for bravery!"

"Yes."

"And the histories will be full of their names for scores of years to come."

"Even the women have carried the flag in some of the battles," said Mrs. Bowser.

"I have read so," was the reply, "and I honor them for it; but, of course, this is no women's war. They must let the husbands do the fighting."

"But suppose the husbands don't want to do the fighting?"

"I can't suppose anything of the sort, Mrs. Bowser. Is there even a man in this neutral country whose blood does not run faster as he thinks of bullet and shell and the shouts of victory? Not one. He knows there

I even mentioned war and its glory you would faint away and fall on the floor. I thought after you came to you would cry and beg and plead for me to remain at home and protect you."

"Protect me from what?" was rather independently asked.

"From the thousand dangers which lurk about us day and night, although we are not in the theater of war."

"I have never lost any sleep over it."

Mr. Bowser was nonplused. Mrs. Bowser seemed perfectly willing that he should go to war. He had expected different results when the conversation began.

He had no desire to go his own country he wouldn't have been any too quick about it. He wanted to stand well in Mrs. Bowser's estimation, however, and he must resort to a bluff. He therefore gathered himself together and retorted by asking:

"Mrs. Bowser, I want you to answer with truth and sincerity. Are you willing for me to go to Europe and take part in the great conflict which is raging there? Now, don't try to dodge a question."

"I shall not try to dodge it, Mr. Bowser. If you want to be a hero and have your name inscribed on the pages of history it is my duty to kiss you goodby and pray for your safe return. If you return with one arm or leg missing I shall love you just as much as now and shall honor and be proud of you."

Mr. Bowser got up and walked the floor again, and Mrs. Bowser could hear him whispering to himself as he walked. When he came back to his chair again he said in very serious tones:

"I am off. I shall go this very night to catch a steamer which sails early in the morning."

"Is there any great hurry about it?" was asked.

He entered the library, took down the old junk sword and buckled it around his waist and came out with the bare blade in his hand. After giving it five or six flourishes around his head he shouted:

"On men! On to victory or death!"

"Which means you will go tonight?" asked Mrs. Bowser.

"In five minutes, and I may never return. If I do not you will remember that my last thought was of you as a cannon ball struck me full in the chest and made a widow of you."

"I know you will fight bravely, Mr. Bowser, and if you will wait a minute I will find pencil and pad that you may write to me how your brave men followed and cheered you. I shall let the papers over here know how gloriously you died. If you get cold and have a lame back try and get a mustard plaster to draw the pain out. Here is a loving kiss for you."

Mr. Bowser didn't wait for the loving kiss. He merely waved a farewell with his hand and stalked out still carrying the unsheathed sword in his good right hand. He was off for the war, but he felt no glory in his heart instead of seeking to restrain him from going Mrs. Bowser had promptly encouraged it. He had tried to bluff her, but had failed. What course should he take now? He was walking along the street trying to plan out something and using the murderous sword as a cane when a policeman stopped him and asked:

"Is there a military parade anywhere tonight?"

"Not that I know of," was the reply.

"Then why are you all togged out with that old toad sticker?"

"I have started for the war."

"The war in Europe?" was asked.

"Yes."

"Well, you had better go back home again. They have got enough crazy men over there. Where do you live?"

"Oh, back there a little ways," was the indifferent reply of the hero as he clattered his sword against the trunk of a shade tree.

"Then I'll see you to your gate. It strikes me you are not quite right in your head. It's against the law, anyhow, for a man to walk the streets with a deadly weapon in his hand, and I am responsible for the lives of the people walking on the streets. Does your wife know you are going to war?"

"Yes; she said that I could go if I wanted to."

"But you didn't want to go?" laughed the officer.

Mr. Bowser made no reply. The officer had seen through his bluff as clearly as Mrs. Bowser had done.

"Come on, old man, and don't hack any more shade trees."

The officer took Mr. Bowser by the arm and led him to his gate and opened it and whispered in his ear:

"I am a married man also and know how the old thing works. Whenever we have a row the old woman generally comes out first best. The way for you to do is to sit on your steps for about two hours, although the night is rather chilly, and then go in and tell her that the war has closed and that there is no longer a chance for you to make a hero of yourself. Better throw that old sword at the first dog that comes along. Ta-ta, old man."

Mr. Bowser followed instructions, and Mrs. Bowser replied:

"The war is over, is it? Well, I am glad of it. But you can wait and go to the next one."

When Equality Vanishes.

"Men are born equal," so she said.

"When she the constitution read:

She met the high and humble bred

And still maintained that view.

And as the years were told to cease

This sturdy maiden democrat

Still kept that thought beneath her hat.

Which hat was pretty too.

But now (as matron) see her gaze

Upon her offspring as he plays!

No other baby has such ways.

She will assert to you.

All men born equal? Oh, the mirth

As she surveys the wondrous worth

Of just the finest thing on earth!

All men born equal? Pooh!

—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Read the Tribune Want Ads.



Economy Hints

A penny saved is a penny earned.— Benjamin Franklin.

EVERY one should have on hand directions for removing various stains which are apt to disturb one's peace of mind at some time or other.

A grease spot on silk is a common thing, and yet in many cases it could easily be removed by applying a paste made of equal parts of powdered French chalk and fuller's earth. Allow the mixture to remain on the spot for a few days, and then brush it off.

Iron rust, the bugbear of many housekeepers, can often be effaced by applying lemon juice and salt. Spread the stained article in the sun and keep the stained portion moist with lemon. Wash the article in the regular way when the stain has disappeared.

Milk applied to a fresh ink stain will prove successful in removing it, but the trouble is that the ink usually spills when there is no milk near at hand. In this event the unfortunate one must wait until it is convenient to purchase oxalic acid. Having procured it, the spot should be moistened with cold water before the acid is applied, drop by drop. Allow it to stand a few minutes, and then rinse the stained article in cold water, to which a little ammonia has been added. A medicine dropper is a splendid thing to use to apply the acid.

It is advisable for every woman who was unable to remove fruit stains that marred her linen in the summer to place the linen out in the frost now that real winter days are here.

Stubborn tea stains can be eradicated by spreading the stained portion over a bowl and pouring glycerin through the material. Afterward pour boiling water.

Boiling water poured from a height will also remove coffee stains.

FOR HOUSEKEEPERS.

How to Remember Certain Proportions in Cooking Common Things.

Four eggs to one quart of milk for custards.

One teaspoonful of vanilla to one quart of custard.

Two ounces of gelatin to one and three-quarters quarts of liquid.

Four heaping tablespoonfuls of cornstarch to one quart of milk.

One even tablespoonful of baking powder to one cupful of flour.

One teaspoonful of soda to one pint of sour milk. One teaspoonful of soda to one pint of molasses.

One teaspoonful of baking powder is equal to one-half teaspoonful of soda and one teaspoonful of cream of tartar.

In preparing for baking, mix dry materials in one bowl and liquids in another; combine them quickly and put at once into the oven.

The oven for baking bread should be hot enough to brown a teaspoonful of flour in five minutes. For biscuits it should brown in one minute.

Rubbing a pie crust with butter a few minutes before it is time to take it from the oven will make it crisp.

How to "Do" Your Hair For Evenings This Winter.

Coinards of tortoise shell or imitation amber, with touches of gold inlay on the ends, are intended to be thrust through the loose knot of hair.

Pins whose tops are on hinges so that they may be folded down flatly after they are thrust into the hair are set with rhinestones and with colored gems.

Spanish combs of crystal set with brilliants that are beautiful in dark hair or the gray hair of the middle aged woman make stunning hair ornaments.

Gray pins of artistic shades and shapes are popular not only with white haired women, but also with girls who have blue eyes, since the use of gray pins or a gray comb in the hair will accentuate the blue and deepen it.

How to Let Down a Hem of a Cotton Gown.

Almost all cotton dresses shrink in washing and need letting down in the skirt. Before the dress goes to the tub take out the wide hem and turn it again at half the width. This brings the edge of the new hem to the crease in the bottom of the skirt, which gives a straight guide for basting. In almost every case the skirt comes out of the wash just the right length, with no streak of dirt to mark the old line.

How to Tell a Woman's Age Without Asking It.

The American Magazine gives the following rule for telling a woman's age:

"My son, wouldst thou know a woman's age? Watch her when she putteth on her hat, whether she rammeth it on carelessly or regardeth the mirror with overmuch care. For, behold, her eyes shall tell thee where her mind wandereth!"

How to Make a Scalloped Edge in Embroideries Durable.

Before embroidering a scalloped edge place the piece under the machine and stitch around on the outline mark, then work from the outside of stitching, and the scallop will be twice as durable.

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