

BETZVILLE TALES

Randolph Binks and the Safety Hammock

By Ellis Parker Butler
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ILLUSTRATED BY PETER NEWELL



Peter Newell

With Consternation Wilfred Started to Leave the Hammock. So Did Adelia.

Randolph Binks of Betzville is passionately fond of reclining in a hammock, but up to the present he has never reclined in one to any great extent. Mr. Binks is an excellent citizen, but is more rotund than any other man in this county, and when he reclines in a hammock so much of him protrudes upward that it overthrows the equilibrium, and the hammock quickly but gracefully turns over and drops Mr. Binks on the ground with a thud. Any man less passionately fond of reclining in a hammock would have given it up long ago, but Mr. Binks said in our hearing that he would be blamed if he would let any hammock in creation get the best of him. He says he has gently climbed into the hammock over 8,962 times, put his head back carefully, grasped the edges, and that each and every time the hammock has revolved half a revolution suddenly, and spilled him on the hard, hard ground. He says that at about the eight thousand, nine hundred and third time he decided that he had been attacking the hammock too gently, and that it must be taken roughly, like the nettle, to be handled properly, so he stood back and made a leap, landing in the hammock. This was almost successful, except that the hammock acted like a spring board and, taking Mr. Binks, threw him six feet against the fence, head first, breaking three pickets. In his temporary anger Mr. Binks arose and kicked the hammock, which then grabbed him by the foot, yanked his other foot off the ground, and bumped him down on the back of his head.

When he became calm Mr. Binks went as far away from the hammock as he could get and sat down on the ground and studied it, and he came to the conclusion that what the hammock needed was a counterweight. If there was a greater weight attached to the underneath of the hammock when Mr. Binks got into it, it could not turn over. He said he wondered that no one had ever before thought of putting a keel on a hammock, and he immediately began looking about for a good, heavy weight. The best thing he could find was an old millstone, and he built up a solid wall of loose brick underneath the hammock. On top of this he laid the millstone, and then he pressed the hammock smoothly against the millstone, and, warming two quarts of glue, he poured it into the hammock and went away to allow the glue to harden in peace.

That evening Adelia Binks and her fiancé, young Wilfred Doppelgang, went quietly into the back yard to sit in the hammock and spoon. They sat.

About three hours later Adelia raised her head from Wilfred's shoulder and said, "It don't seem like you hug as hard as you used to, Wilfred!" She said this in a reproachful tone of voice, implying that perhaps Wilfred did not love her as of yore, and Wilfred, who did love her as of yore, tried to take his arm from about her waist and get a new strangle hold, but, alas! he could not! He could not get his arm loose from that hug. In the course of three hours the glue had hardened and the hug had become a permanent, guaranteed-fast embrace. He had undoubtedly allowed his sleeve to repose a moment or more in the glue, and Wilfred's sleeve and the back bones of Adelia's shirt waist had become one and inseparable. This is desirable in a union of states, but it is not recommended for all purposes.

With consternation Wilfred started to leave the hammock. So did Adelia. Instantly, without a moment's hesitation, they did not leave. Reader, have you ever been glued to a large, round, sandy-complected millstone? Have you ever seated yourself upon a millstone well buttered with glue, with the girl of your choice beside you, and then sat there until the glue hardened and you became, as you

might say, two souls with but a single thought? Wilfred and Adelia could not arise; they could not even side-step. They were glued to the millstone, and the millstone was glued to the hammock, and the hammock was tied to two large trees, and the roots of the trees extended many, many feet into the soil. There was but one thing to do.

Cautiously leaning forward, Adelia and Wilfred began to remove the loose pile of brick from beneath the millstone, until all the bricks were gone. Then, wrapped arm in arm, they began to joggle the hammock. It was a trying moment. Suddenly, as out of a clear sky, there was a sound of ripping, breaking, tearing, and then a thud. The millstone had fallen to earth, taking with it the central portion of the hammock. This left a large hole in the hammock. It also took with it—Pardon me, I should say it also left a large—At any rate Wilfred and Adelia sped hastily toward the house.

Half an hour later Mr. Randolph Binks strolled home, and all was silence. As has been said, he is passionately fond of reclining in a hammock. He has since remarked to Uncle Ashford Clute that his invention of non-tipping hammock was a success. Formerly, when he entered a hammock one thing always happened—the hammock reversed itself and threw him out. But now Randolph Binks walked up to his hammock and threw himself into it with confidence.

The hammock did not, Mr. Binks says, throw him out. Mr. Binks merely walked up to the hammock in the dark and threw himself into it. Mr. Binks says that in passing through the hole that had been torn in the hammock he thought very few things worthy of reproduction by the press. He says he merely passed through a simple, unconventional way, and met the millstone quite informally, saluting it with the back of his head. He says it was a mere love tap—for the millstone.

Mr. Binks claims that his hammock was a success on three counts: First—The hammock did not turn over and drop Mr. Binks on the ground with a thud; he fell through. Second—The hammock did not drop him on the ground with a thud; he hit the millstone. Third—The hammock did not drop him with a thud; the noise was clean and sharp, like the iron rim of the millstone. Mr. Binks says he can think of only one improvement. Hereafter when he wishes to glue anything under a hammock he will choose a feather bed rather than a millstone. (Copyright, 1908, by W. G. Chapman.)

At Old-Time Tea Table.
Tea-table etiquette was somewhat complicated in the days of that "hardened and shameless tea drinker," Dr. Johnson, when many people thought nothing of drinking ten or 12 cups at a sitting. It was considered proper for the cups and saucers of a party of tea drinkers to be all passed up to the hostess in one batch when replenishing was considered necessary, and in order that each person might be sure of getting back the right cup; the teaspoons were numbered. When the cups were passed up those who did not require any more were supposed to place the spoon in the cup.

Too Professional.
"The funniest test of skill in washing clothes I ever saw," said the village liar, "was in Holland between the washerwomen."
"I presume," said the man who was listening, "that your betting instinct led you to put up a wager on one of the amateurs?"
"Yes it did," admitted the speaker. "Did you win?"
"No. There were too many wringers in the contest."

SHARKS ATTACK WRECK'S VICTIMS

BIG FISH BITE PASSENGERS
THROWN INTO SEA WHEN
SHIPS CRASH.

101 PERSONS ARE DROWNED

Mail Steamer, Cut in Half in Collision
Near Singapore, Sinks in Two
Minutes—Sixty-one Rescued.

Singapore.—The mail steamer La Seye, of the Messageries maritime service, running between Java and Singapore, and on her way to this port, crashed into the Onda, of the British India Line, and sank within two minutes.

Seven European passengers, including Baron and Baroness Beniczky, the Captain of La Seye, five European officials and eighty-eight others, comprising native passengers and members of the crew, were drowned.

The rescue of sixty-one persons, practically from the jaws of shoals of sharks, formed a thrilling incident of the wreck.

The accident occurred about 4 o'clock in the morning in a thick mist. The vessels were steaming at good speed and the La Seye was out almost in half. There was no time for panic nor for any attempt on the part of the officers of the foundering steamer to put out the boats. The majority of those on board were caught in their berths and carried down with the vessel.

The force of the collision brought the Onda to almost a dead stop and her engines were at once slowed and boats lowered. The rescue work proved thrilling, for not only were the rescuing parties impeded by the darkness, but shoals of sharks were already attacking those clinging to pieces of wreckage in the water.

Sixty-one persons from the ill-fated steamer were finally dragged into the boats and brought by the Onda to this



Hurled into School of Sharks.

port. Many of them had been bitten by sharks and several were severely injured.

In the Wrong "Den."

Under the head of "Synonyms," Will Greer was explaining his position to the Ad club the other day. "Words have associations," he said, "and synonyms sound strange to the ear when used in other than familiar terms and connections. So, when I read in the financial column of one of the papers that Pittsburgh coal, common, had demonstrated indications of its salient resiliency, I knew at once that the automobile editor had filled in for the financial editor. We are accustomed to associate the resiliency business with rubber tires, and so with the automobile line, although its application was perfectly sound in the connection in which it was used.

"A man came into the bank recently to sell us some advertising cuts, embellished with what he called epigrams. The first he sprung upon me read like this: 'A savings deposit is a potential power pregnant with possibilities.' I told him he was in the wrong shop. What he was looking for was a School for Alliteration."—Cleveland Leader.

Dormice Immune to Snake Bites.

Three animals have long been known to be immune to the bites of snakes—the pig, the porcupine and the mongoose. According to M. G. Ballard, a naturalist of Clermont-Ferrand, France, the common or garden dormouse must be added to this list. This little animal does not hesitate to fight a viper and kill the reptile. Of course he would be helpless if attacked by a big rattlesnake, for this would swallow him at one gulp.

M. Ballard injected four milligrams of dried viper poison into a dormouse with absolutely no effect. Half an hour after the injection the dormouse was nibbling an apple as if nothing had happened. The dormouse weighs only two ounces, and the amount of venom he received was enough to kill 11 pounds of such animals as rabbits and guinea pigs.

Salmon's Rapid Growth.

It is said that a 20-pound salmon which was caught in Scotland long ago had attached to one of its fins a small silver plate marked "958B." Upon inquiry it was found that this label had been put on the fish by the Loch Lomond Angling Improvement Association in December, 1907, in a river feeding the lake. The records show that it then weighed ten pounds, and thus in the space of 18 months it had doubled its weight.—Forest and Stream.

In the Matter of Shoes



Fig. 3.

By Julia Bottomley.
American-made shoes have outdistanced those made anywhere else in the world in the race for excellence. This has been true so long that the American shoe in American shoe shape is sold everywhere. In points of style, finish and variety the American shoe is first and so far in the lead that there is no second. Even the French shoes strike the educated taste of our countrywomen as unsightly and uninteresting, almost wholly lacking in style.

Women have grown more fastidious in the matter of shoes and the advance of the manufacturers in variety of models produced, meets with a demand so ready that our mind is in doubt as to whether this demand is in existence before it was met, or not. At any rate, each season brings forth numbers of new models, and the styles in shoes are getting about as much at attention these days as the styles in millinery.

Women have outgrown the foolish practice of pinching the feet, or wearing shoes unsuited to their individual needs. Such is the variety of lasts made that there is one for almost every foot. There are several "types" which are understood, and shoes are so cleverly cut by the manufacturers, so well thought out, that shapeliness is the effect in all the different models. "Manshi" shoes are chosen for walking, having good substantial soles, heels moderately high and very strong and a general appearance of strength and durability in the entire make-up. For such shoes, tans and blacks are naturally most popular. One may get them in brown, gun metal, ox blood and probably a similar shade in other colors. Kid and calfskin furnish the materials of the greatest number of models in street shoes. In Fig. 1 an ideal shoe for general wear is shown. It is as trim and sensible looking as the plain and handsome tailored gown, with which it is intended to be worn, and shows the same beauty and simplicity in cut, the same care in its finish. Such a pair of shoes, it goes without saying, almost, is the first essential in any woman's shoe-outfit. These she must have—be she poor or rich. Happily, the price is not above the reach of any one. Two pairs of walking shoes, in good condition should be always on hand and worn alternately. One should keep the pair not in use, on shoetrees and in good shape as to cleanliness. Occasional attention to the heels, where there is a tendency to wear them off at one side, will prolong the life and keep the shape of the shoe. It is a good idea to have one pair with high tops so that the ankles will be protected in wet weather. Nothing repays care better than shoes. A shabby appearance is the fault of the wearer, and any shoe man will tell us that proper care in keeping up the good appearance of shoes lengthens their term of service by half the usual time of wearing.

Street shoes are distinctly not for

the house. A pair of slippers or a softer, dressier boot, should replace them indoors. This change is good for the shoe, for the wearer and for the floors. If one lives in a house with a summer atmosphere all winter, there is no reason why slippers should not be worn. A lovely woman should provide herself with such a pair. Most of all, the business woman, who is apt to come home fatigued from a trying or a monotonous day. A simple toilet finished with a dainty and comfortable pair of slippers. The "feel" of the light, flexible and womanish slipper seems to pervade one. It shows in the carriage and amounts to a positive refreshment. A little gown for evening wear at home should be of the same characteristics as this slipper, simple, pretty and most easily taken off and put on.

A dress shoe, is another essential to the wardrobe. This is lighter in make than a street shoe and a great variety of styles is shown to select from. Where the purse allows only one pair a fine, plain, well-made kid boot, like that shown in Fig. 3, is the happiest choice. This model is cut on beautiful "classy" lines. One may buy it with patent leather tip or vamp, or in dull-finished kid. The moderate French heel is graceful and redeems the model from too severe lines, with just a hint of the frivolous in shoes. The cloth top shoe shown in Fig. 4 is for those who require a little more elaboration in a dress shoe, or for those who wish to match a costume. It is very quiet by comparison with the footwear of those ultra fashionables who can indulge themselves in luxuries in shoes as well as other things. The cloth top has a velvet collar and is finished with a silk cord and tassels. The Cuban heel brings the design down to earth, as it were, so that midday may wear this boot on a clear day with a visiting gown, when she goes to pay her calls or to attend some of those gatherings or which she must "dress up" a bit. This beautiful boot is dressy enough for any occasion, and appropriate for any, except, perhaps, for dancing.

When one wanders into the realm of dress shoes a fascinating array charms the eye—revealing the varied demands of women of fashion. Shoes and slippers and sandals in bronze and gold and silver, more or less embellished with embroidery, fairly beckon one to study the alluring possibilities in dainty footwear. But this is another story. This fairy-land of footwear appears to the eternal feminine and shows that the modern woman in remembering to be sensible in street shoes, has not forgotten to be romantic where she may.

For Rough Hands.

Seaside work is sometimes very hard, and roughened hands are the result. A good lotion for softening and whitening the skin may be made from five cents' worth of rose water, five cents' worth of glycerin, two cents' worth of liquid ammonia and the juice of one lemon. Mix these ingredients well together, and shake the bottle thoroughly before using. Apply to the hands after washing, while they are still wet, and rub well in. Dry carefully with a soft towel.

Long Chains in Fashion.

The desire for the Cartier watch, on its short enameled chain, has not abolished the fashion for the long watch chain, or the long chain without a watch for evening. These hang well below the waist and are made of semi-precious stones, as well as precious ones. The extra heavy twisted cable of gold, such as worn by gentlemen before the war, has returned to favor for women.

Jet is much in evidence, but the new chain for watches is a slender cord of oxidized silver with carved links of silver set in it. Cameos are also revived, and the cameo bracelet is the thing in arm jewelry.

DRAPERIES FOR THE BEDROOM

Needlework Decorative Schemes Help Much in Giving Pleasant Appearance to Chamber.

In the modern development no applied art is more interesting to women than needlework which goes to further a decorative scheme in the home. Feminine handwork is intimately associated with the home and, while a certain amount adds a pleasing touch to the other decorations. Out of the dead past comes the womanly craft of making linen bed clothes, those covers with appliqued borders. If you have a bedroom which perchance lacks the proper note of decoration, you may be able this winter to turn your clever hands to the making of something in the way of overapricos, such as bed covers, dresser scarfs and the like. Creamy linens are used for the purpose and the applique design is white, cut from white linen and attached to the cream linen. Crowel and knot stitches, short and long embroidery, French



Oil Heat

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No matter how sensitive your olfactory nerves may be, or under what working conditions you encounter the

PERFECTION Oil Heater

(Equipped with Smokeless Device)
you'll not detect the slightest odor of smoke. The new

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positively prevents both. Removed in an instant for cleaning. Solid brass font holds 4 quarts of oil—sufficient to give out a glowing heat for 9 hours—solid brass wick carriers—dampers—top—cool handle—oil indicator. Heater beautifully finished in nickel or Japan in a variety of styles.

Every Dealer Everywhere. If Not At Yours, Write for Descriptive Circular to the Nearest Agency of the

STANDARD OIL COMPANY

(Incorporated)



The Darcy's idea of it. A correspondent of the Walker County Messenger tells this one: "A darcy was on trial in the criminal court last week on a charge of bigamy. After the jury had returned a verdict of guilty Judge McReynolds remarked:

"The best I can do, Crum, is to give you the minimum."
"Lordy, mercy me, Judge, don't do dat! I'd rather go to the pen," said Crum."—Atlanta Constitution.

TORE HIS SKIN OFF

In Shreds—Itching Was Intense—Sleep Was Often Impossible.

Cured by Cuticura in Three Weeks.

"At first an eruption of small pustules commenced on my hands. These spread later to other parts of my body, and the itching at times was intense, so much so that I literally tore the skin off in shreds in seeking relief. The awful itching interfered with my work considerably, and also kept me awake nights. I tried several doctors and used a number of different ointments and lotions, but received practically no benefit. Finally I settled down to the use of Cuticura Soap, Cuticura Ointment and Cuticura Pills, with the result that in a few days all itching had ceased and in about three weeks' time all traces of my eruption had disappeared. I have had no trouble of this kind since. H. A. Krutskoff, 5714 Wabash Ave., Chicago, Ill., November 18 and 28, 1907.

Potter Drug & Chem. Corp., Sole Props., Boston.

Boy's Essay on Clothing.

Here is an extract from an essay, written by a boy in a London school: "Clothing is an article which every body should wear. The least of this article is worn by savages or natives, which is a piece of cloth or a few leaves or feathers round the waist. In cold countries, same as Eskimos, the people wear more clothes than we do, count of the icy cold out there. They can skate all the year round, except about one thaw there is in summer. If they walked about like natives they would catch cold directly and die of bronchitis. We put clothes on which are nearly like our bodies, some have caps, coats and trousers, but women and girls wear hats and frocks to tell who they are."

The Fex a Necessity.

All through the markets of every Turkish city and village are little shops where the fex can be pressed and ironed for a few cents. At his prayers a Moslem could not use a hat with a brim, as his head must press the prayer rug a certain number of times during each prayer. As the head must be covered at all times, a fex or some other brimless covering must be used.

Avoiding Popularity.

"How shall we avoid popularity?" John Wesley once asked his preachers, and straightway gave them the answer in a set of rules. Here is rule 4: "Warn the people among whom you are most of ostentatious or loving you too much." And here is rule 5: "Converse sparingly with those who are particularly fond of you."

SECRET WORKERS

The Plan Upon Which Coffee Operates.

Coffee is such a secret worker that it is not suspected as the cause of sickness or disease, but there is a very sure way to find out the truth.

A lady in Memphis gives an interesting experience her husband had with coffee. It seems that he had been using it for some time and, was an invalid.

The physician in charge shrewdly suspected that coffee was the "worm at the root of the tree," and ordered it discontinued with instructions to use Postum regularly in its place.

The wife says: "We found that was the true remedy for his stomach and heart trouble and we would have gladly paid a hundred times the amount of the doctor's charge when we found how wise his judgment was."

"The use of Postum instead of coffee was begun about a year ago, and it has made my husband a strong, well man. He has gained thirty-five pounds in that time and his stomach and heart troubles have all disappeared."

"The first time I prepared it I did not boil it long enough and he said there was something wrong with it. Sure enough it did taste very flat, but the next morning I followed directions carefully, boiling it for fifteen minutes, and he remarked 'this is better than any of the old coffee.'"

"We use Postum regularly and never tire of telling our friends of its benefits. We have received from leaving off coffee."

Look for the little book, "The Road to Wellville," in place of "There's a Reason."

Ever read the above letter? A new book appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.

A MAN OF RESOURCE.



Actor (of provincial company)—Can you give me ten cents on account? I must get a shave. I have been playing Hamlet for four days, and my beard is beginning to grow. Manager—Well, that's easily remedied. We'll put on Othello.

FREED AT LAST

From the Awful Tortures of Kidney Disease.

Mrs. Rachel Iyle, Henrietta, Texas,

says: "I would be ungrateful if I did not tell what Doan's Kidney Pills have done for me. Fifteen years kidney trouble clung to me, my existence was one of misery and for two whole years I was unable to go out of the house. My back ached all the time and I was utterly weak, unable at times to walk without assistance. The kidney secretions were very irregular. Doan's Kidney Pills restored me to good health, and I am able to do as much work as the average woman, though nearly eighty years old."

Remember the name—Doan's. Sold by all dealers. 50 cents a box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

Special Note from Atchison.

The engagement of Mr. Hiram Hardesty and Miss Suzette Snarley is announced. It occurred the other evening at 9:45 on the red sofa in Miss Snarley's parlor. The young lady was dressed in black, and wore no ornaments. She did not look unusually pretty, and what caused the young man's mental aberration is not known. Neither one could remember exactly what was said, and both admitted it was not the first time he kissed her. We print the details for the romantic young things who are always curious to know how an engagement is brought about.—Atchison Globe.

Important to Mothers.

Examine carefully every bottle of CASTORIA, a safe and sure remedy for infants and children, and see that it bears the Signature of J. C. Watson. In Use For Over 30 Years. The Kind You Have Always Bought.

That Single Thought.

You've heard the old story of sweet wedded bliss, of the two hearts that flutter as one, and the two souls single-thoughted sealed with a kiss, and have wondered, no doubt, how 'twas done. As a wise one who was by experience taught, this effect we will briefly explain; in most of the cases that "one single thought" is: "I wish I was single again!"

The next time you have a cold on the lungs try rubbing Vicks Vapo-Rub on your chest and see how quickly it will draw out the inflammation and break up the cold.

Every man has his gift, and the tools go to him that can use them.—C. Kingsley.

WHEN YOUR JOINTS ARE STIFF and aches score from cold, rheumatism or neuralgia, rub Vicks Vapo-Rub on the stiff joints and you will find relief.

Conscience is something those who need it haven't got.

The Exceptional Equipment

of the California Fig Syrup Co. and the scientific attainments of its chemists have rendered possible the production of Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna, in all of its excellence, by obtaining the pure medicinal principles of plants known to act most beneficially and combining them most skillfully, in the right proportions, with its wholesome and refreshing Syrup of California Figs.

As there is only one genuine Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna and as the genuine is manufactured by an original method known to the California Fig Syrup Co., only, it is always necessary to buy the genuine to get its beneficial effects.

A knowledge of the above facts enables one to decide intelligently as to the value of any product, and upon viewing the package, the full name of the California Fig Syrup Co. is not found printed on the front thereof.