

HENRY MILLER'S TACT

Frank Morse, who for years has been the press representative of Henry Miller, was chatting with a group of theatrical folk the other day, according to the Wasp, and was explaining why Miller did not come back to San Francisco with "Daddy Long Legs."

One of his companions, with "that reminds me" proclivities, suddenly recalled "a good one" on Miller, which he insisted on telling, much to the amusement of the party.

It seems that Miller was playing "The Only Way," a dramatization of Dickens' immortal "Tale of Two Cities." Miller was starring in the role of Sydney Carton, the hero, who finally goes to the guillotine.

Upon his arrival in San Francisco Miller heard people on all sides telling each other to "23." The "skidoo" expression had taken the town by storm.

The actor himself proved not immune to the verbal contagion, and a day after his arrival he found himself telling members of the company to "23."

It all struck him humorously until he was in his dressing-room preparing for his first performance. And then he suddenly recalled that in the play he was the twenty-third to go to the block. His mind ran swiftly to the final scene, with the knitting women counting the victims until Sydney Carton is summoned to his death as the twenty-third.

He whispered to himself the closing lines of Dickens' immortal play: "The murmuring of many voices, the upturning of many faces, the pressing on of many footsteps in the outskirts of the crowd, so that it swells forward in a mass, like one great heave of water all flashes away. Twenty-three."

But Miller did not want a laugh from his audience at the tragic climax of the play, and so, altering Dickens to the slang of the day, the knitting women summoned the unfortunate Carton to the guillotine with the call of "Eighteen."

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