

THE BAD BOY.

"What are you sitting there like a bump on a log for?" asked the grocery man of the bad boy, as the youth had sat on a box for half an hour with his hands in his pockets, looking at a hole in the floor until his eyes were set like a dying horse. "What are you thinking of, anyway? It seems to me boys set around and think more than they used to when I was a boy," and the grocery man brushed the wilted lettuce and shook it, and tried to make it stand up stiff and crisp before he put it out doors, but the contrary lettuce, which had been picked the day before, looked so tired that the boy noticed it.

"That lettuce reminds me of a girl. Yesterday I was in here when it was new, like the girl going to the picnic, and it was as fresh, and proud, and starched up, and kitteny, and full of life, and as sassy as a girl starting out for a picnic. To-day it has got back from the picnic, and, like the girl, the starch is all taken out, and it is limber, and languid, and tired, and can't stand up alone, and it looks as though it wanted to be laid at rest beside the rotten apples in the alley rather than be set out in front of a store to be sold to honest people and give them the gangrene of the liver," and the boy put on a Health Commissioner air that frightened the grocery man, and he threw the lettuce out the back door.

"You never mind about my lettuce," said the grocery man. "I can attend to my affairs. But now tell me what you thinking about here all the morning."

"I was thinking what a fool King Solomon was," said the boy, with the air of one who has made a statement that has got to be argued pretty strong to make it hold water.

"Now look a-here," said the grocery man, in anger. "I have stood it to have you play tricks on me, and have listened to your condemned foolishness without a murmur as long as you have confined yourself to people now living, but when you attack Solomon, the wisest man, the great King, and call him a fool, friendship ceases, and you must get out of this store." Solomon in all his glory, is a friend of mine, and no fool boy is going to abuse him in my presence. Now you dry up!"

"Sit down on the ice box," said the boy to the grocery man. "What you need is rest. You are overworked.

Your alleged brain is equal to wilted lettuce, and it can devise ways and means to hide rotten peaches under good ones, so as to sell them to blind orphans, but when it comes to grasping great questions, your small brain cannot comprehend them. Your brain may go up sideways to a great question, and rub against it, but it cannot surround it, and grasp it. That's where you are deformed. Now, it is different with me. I can raise brain to sell to your grocery men. Listen. This Solomon is credited with being the wisest man, and yet history says he had a thousand wives. Just think of it. You have got one wife, and pa has got like a lady, too," said the clerk.

"You can't always tell," said the watchman; "I look mighty close at them kind."

"Well, we can't have it, and I'll throw out!"

And he knocked at the door. All was still. Then another knock.

"Who's there?" said a woman's voice.

"It's me, the clerk," was the ungrammatical reply.

"What do you want?"

"Open the door. There's something important!"

"I can't; I'm not dressed."

"But you must."

"I tell you I won't."

"Will you tell me if there is a man in there?"

"Yes, there is."

"Well, that's what the row's about, and he's got to come out or I'll kick the door down. This is a respectable hotel, and we won't stand any such performances!"

Then the door opened and a man appeared.

"What's the matter with you?" he asked.

"What are you doing in there this time of night?" asked the clerk.

"I'm getting ready to go to bed."

"But you don't do it in this hotel. If you get up p. d. q., or I'll call the police."

"All right. Call your police. If a man and his wife can't stop peacefully at a hotel, it's time the police were cleaning the place out."

"What's that? Are you her husband?"

"Why, you blamed fool, did you think I wasn't."

Then there was a guffaw at the other end of the hall, and the clerk looked up in time to see six coat-tails disappearing around the corner, and when he got down to the office the boys were waiting for him to "set 'em up," and he did.—*Hotel Reporter*.

a boy to try and figure out things. How would you like to have a thousand red-headed wives come into the store this minute and tell you they wanted you to send carriages around to the house at 3 o'clock so they could go for a drive? Or how would you like to have a hired girl come rushing in and tell you to send up 600 doctors, because 600 of your wives had been taken with cholera morbus? Or—"

"Oh, don't mention it," said the grocery man, with a shudder. "I wouldn't take Solomon's place, and be the natural protector of 1,000 wives if anybody would give me the earth. Think of getting up in a cold winter morning and building 1,000 fires. Think of 2,000 pair of hands in a fellow's hair! Boy, you have shewn me that Solomon needed a guardian over him. He didn't have sense."

"Yes," says the boy, "and think of 2,000 feet, each one as cold as a brick of chocolate ice-cream. A man would want a back as big as the fence to a fair ground. But I don't want to harrow up your feelings. I must go and put some arnica on pa. He has got home, and says he has been to a summer resort on a vacation, and is all covered with blisters. He says it is mosquito bites, but ma thinks he has been shot full of bird shot by some watermelon farmer. Ma hasn't got any sympathy for pa because he didn't take her along, but if she had been there she would have been filled with bird shot, too. You mustn't detain me. Between pa and the baby I have got all I can attend to. The baby is teething, and ma makes me put my fingers in the baby's mouth to help it cut teeth. That is a humiliating position for a boy as big as I am. Say, how many babies do you figure that Solomon had to buy rubber teething-rings for, in all his glory?"

And the boy went out leaving the grocery man reflecting on what a family Solomon must have had, and how he needed to be the wisest man to get along without a circus, afternoon and evening.—*Peck's Sun*.

A Hotel Clerk for Once Comes to Grief.

Some of the boys put up a job on a Cincinnati hotel clerk. A lady had registered during the day and was assigned a room. One of the boys knew her, and knew also that her husband would come in on a late train, so he told the others and they met the husband at the train, took him to the hotel, and sent him to his wife's room without letting the clerk see him. About half-past 11 o'clock, while the crowd was in the office, the watchman came down, and, after a whispered conference with the clerk in which could be heard something about a man in 214, the clerk and watchman skipped up stairs. The boys followed and got within hearing distance. Just as they reached the door they heard the following:

"Listen!" said the watchman; "hear his voice?"

"That's so; a man as sure as the world; wonder who he is; she looked like a lady, too," said the clerk.

"You can't always tell," said the watchman; "I look mighty close at them kind."

"Well, we can't have it, and I'll throw out!"

And he knocked at the door. All was still. Then another knock.

"Who's there?" said a woman's voice.

"It's me, the clerk," was the ungrammatical reply.

"What do you want?"

"Open the door. There's something important!"

"I can't; I'm not dressed."

"But you must."

"I tell you I won't."

"Will you tell me if there is a man in there?"

"Yes, there is."

"Well, that's what the row's about, and he's got to come out or I'll kick the door down. This is a respectable hotel, and we won't stand any such performances!"

Then the door opened and a man appeared.

"What's the matter with you?" he asked.

"What are you doing in there this time of night?" asked the clerk.

"I'm getting ready to go to bed."

"But you don't do it in this hotel. If you get up p. d. q., or I'll call the police."

"All right. Call your police. If a man and his wife can't stop peacefully at a hotel, it's time the police were cleaning the place out."

"What's that? Are you her husband?"

"Why, you blamed fool, did you think I wasn't."

Then there was a guffaw at the other end of the hall, and the clerk looked up in time to see six coat-tails disappearing around the corner, and when he got down to the office the boys were waiting for him to "set 'em up," and he did.—*Hotel Reporter*.

A Belligerent Bird.

The kingfisher is not regarded as a dangerous bird, but an artist friend of mine once had a most remarkable adventure with one. While sketching on the shore of a river he saw one of these birds flying across the water directly toward him. He watched its approach, expecting every moment to see it change its course, but, to his astonishment, the bird, swerving neither to the right nor the left, came straight at his face. His hands were filled with palette and brushes. He raised his foot to shield himself. "Thud!" came the bird against it, falling to the ground stunned by the shock; but, recovering quickly, it again took wing and disappeared around a bend in the shore. Now, the snowy owl (*Nyctea scandiaca*) is said to alight at times upon the heads of sportsmen while they are crouching quietly among the reeds watching for wild geese and ducks, probably mistaking them for stumps or something of that sort. But to suppose that the kingfisher had mistaken my friend for a stump would not be complimentary to either the bird or the artist.—*De Cost Smith, in St. Nicholas*.

"RIGHT-HANDEDNESS" extends very far along the animal series. Parrots hold their food by preference in the right foot, and, though we cannot speak positively, wasps, beetles and spiders seem to use the right anterior foot most commonly.

GORSEY AGAIN.

Interesting Correspondence Bearing on the Campaign of 1880.

A Series of Letters from Leading Members of the "Great" Republican Party.

The Raising of a Corruption Fund—The Sale Topic Discussed.

[From the New York Sun.]

Soon after the Republicans National Committee was organized Gen. Garfield began an active correspondence with Senator Dorsey and with Gov. Jewell, which lasted throughout the campaign. He was especially concerned about the election in Indiana, and July 9 wrote the following letter to Senator Dorsey:

MENTOR, Ohio, July 9, 1880.

The Hon. S. W. Dorsey, Secretary, etc. My dear Sir: I hope my anxiety to see Gen. Arthur, Gov. Jewell, and yourself will not be from publication my letter of acceptance much longer, and I should be glad to counsel with you all in respect to it before it appears in print. I am glad to know that you and the Gov. are among the most prominent in the State. Yours are the only words I can read, and I am sure they are good. I hope to do the same in your telegram I should be glad. There are several topics concerning which we ought to consult.

Very truly yours, J. A. GARFIELD.

This letter shows that at the very beginning of the canvass Gen. Garfield sought the advice of Mr. Dorsey respecting such an important matter as his letter of acceptance July 9 to be followed:

INTERESTED IN INDIANA. MENTOR, Ohio, July 19, 1880.

The Hon. S. W. Dorsey, No. 254 Fifth Avenue, New York. My dear Sir: Yours of the 16th inst. with inclosure came duly to hand. I am glad to hear that the letter of acceptance is so generally well received. Some parties are kicking, as I expected, but, on the whole, no serious damage will be done. I am sure the Gov. and Arthur are among the most prominent in the State. Yours are the only words I can read, and I am sure they are good. I hope to do the same in your telegram I should be glad. There are several topics concerning which we ought to consult.

Very truly yours, J. A. GARFIELD.

This indicates that at that very beginning of the canvass Gen. Garfield sought the advice of Mr. Dorsey respecting such an important matter as his letter of acceptance July 9 to be followed:

MENTOR, Ohio, July 19, 1880.

My dear Sir: Yours of the 16th inst. with inclosure came duly to hand. I am glad to hear that the letter of acceptance is so generally well received. Some parties are kicking, as I expected, but, on the whole, no serious damage will be done. I am sure the Gov. and Arthur are among the most prominent in the State. Yours are the only words I can read, and I am sure they are good. I hope to do the same in your telegram I should be glad. There are several topics concerning which we ought to consult.

Very truly yours, J. A. GARFIELD.

This indicates that at that very beginning of the canvass Gen. Garfield sought the advice of Mr. Dorsey respecting such an important matter as his letter of acceptance July 9 to be followed:

MENTOR, Ohio, July 19, 1880.

My dear Sir: Yours of the 16th inst. with inclosure came duly to hand. I am glad to hear that the letter of acceptance is so generally well received. Some parties are kicking, as I expected, but, on the whole, no serious damage will be done. I am sure the Gov. and Arthur are among the most prominent in the State. Yours are the only words I can read, and I am sure they are good. I hope to do the same in your telegram I should be glad. There are several topics concerning which we ought to consult.

Very truly yours, J. A. GARFIELD.

This indicates that at that very beginning of the canvass Gen. Garfield sought the advice of Mr. Dorsey respecting such an important matter as his letter of acceptance July 9 to be followed:

MENTOR, Ohio, July 19, 1880.

My dear Sir: Yours of the 16th inst. with inclosure came duly to hand. I am glad to hear that the letter of acceptance is so generally well received. Some parties are kicking, as I expected, but, on the whole, no serious damage will be done. I am sure the Gov. and Arthur are among the most prominent in the State. Yours are the only words I can read, and I am sure they are good. I hope to do the same in your telegram I should be glad. There are several topics concerning which we ought to consult.

Very truly yours, J. A. GARFIELD.

This indicates that at that very beginning of the canvass Gen. Garfield sought the advice of Mr. Dorsey respecting such an important matter as his letter of acceptance July 9 to be followed:

MENTOR, Ohio, July 19, 1880.

My dear Sir: Yours of the 16th inst. with inclosure came duly to hand. I am glad to hear that the letter of acceptance is so generally well received. Some parties are kicking, as I expected, but, on the whole, no serious damage will be done. I am sure the Gov. and Arthur are among the most prominent in the State. Yours are the only words I can read, and I am sure they are good. I hope to do the same in your telegram I should be glad. There are several topics concerning which we ought to consult.

Very truly yours, J. A. GARFIELD.

This indicates that at that very beginning of the canvass Gen. Garfield sought the advice of Mr. Dorsey respecting such an important matter as his letter of acceptance July 9 to be followed:

MENTOR, Ohio, July 19, 1880.

My dear Sir: Yours of the 16th inst. with inclosure came duly to hand. I am glad to hear that the letter of acceptance is so generally well received. Some parties are kicking, as I expected, but, on the whole, no serious damage will be done. I am sure the Gov. and Arthur are among the most prominent in the State. Yours are the only words I can read, and I am sure they are good. I hope to do the same in your telegram I should be glad. There are several topics concerning which we ought to consult.

Very truly yours, J. A. GARFIELD.

This indicates that at that very beginning of the canvass Gen. Garfield sought the advice of Mr. Dorsey respecting such an important matter as his letter of acceptance July 9 to be followed:

MENTOR, Ohio, July 19, 1880.

My dear Sir: Yours of the 16th inst. with inclosure came duly to hand. I am glad to hear that the letter of acceptance is so generally well received. Some parties are kicking, as I expected, but, on the whole, no serious damage will be done. I am sure the Gov. and Arthur are among the most prominent in the State. Yours are the only words I can read, and I am sure they are good. I hope to do the same in your telegram I should be glad. There are several topics concerning which we ought to consult.

Very truly yours, J. A. GARFIELD.

This indicates that at that very beginning of the canvass Gen. Garfield sought the advice of Mr. Dorsey respecting such an important matter as his letter of acceptance July 9 to be followed:

MENTOR, Ohio, July 19, 1880.

My dear Sir: Yours of the 16th inst. with inclosure came duly to hand. I am glad to hear that the letter of acceptance is so generally well received. Some parties are kicking, as I expected, but, on the whole, no serious damage will be done. I am sure the Gov. and Arthur are among the most prominent in the State. Yours are the only words I can read, and I am sure they are good. I hope to do the same in your telegram I should be glad. There are several topics concerning which we ought to consult.

Very truly yours, J. A. GARFIELD.

This indicates that at that very beginning of the canvass Gen. Garfield sought the advice of Mr. Dorsey respecting such an important matter as his letter of acceptance July 9 to be followed:

MENTOR, Ohio, July 19, 1880.

My dear Sir