

The Clue to His Door-Mat

By JAMES F. DWYER

WNU Service

IT WAS MIDNIGHT. In Fifth avenue there were few pedestrians, and a fat man in evening dress hurrying northward, attracted attention. Six night-birds, who thought his actions mysterious, followed a few paces in the rear.

At Thirty-second street a policeman, dozing on the opposite side of the road, straightened himself as he saw the hurrying group coming towards him. Swinging his light stick he crossed over and waited the approach of the little procession.

The Law was a trifle astonished. As he stood looking after the leader of the hurrying squad, he was jostled by the inquisitive ones following, and he became annoyed. He grabbed a straw-hatted youth by the shoulder and questioned him.

"What's the matter?" he cried. "Search me," answered the questioned one. "Let me go; I want to see the ole guy is up to."

The policeman took his leave. He was being treated with disrespect. A festive citizen was running a foot procession over his beat without giving him the least explanation! So he let go of the youth's shoulder and dashed madly after the man in evening dress.

"Here, what's the game?" he panted. "What sort of a stunt are you up to, anyhow?"

The fat man shook off the grip of the Law and ran faster than even his outstretched hands circling round each other like the arms of a windmill in a gale.

"Stoop down and I'll tell you," he gasped, as the moment made another effort to restrain him.

"Been told that all the way from Twenty-eighth street," rasped the early follower, proud in the possession of that much information. "He told the cop a joke, an' now the nicky welder is bittin' the trail with him."

A Forty-eighth street policeman met the officer on the adjoining beat, and hooking him by the arm he whispered into his ear as he kept pace with the fat man. The new policeman guffawed loudly, and again the angry crowd looked vainly for the humor that seemed apparent to the two guardians of the peace. The first policeman slackened speed, called out a friendly "Good luck" to the fat man, and then returned to his own beat, while his comrade trotted swiftly in his place.

The fat man swung east, down Fifty-third street, and new recruits joined the procession at every yard. But all thrived vainly for information. Questions put by the newcomers were met with the one answer: "Don't know; look at his hands. Been twisting them round and round all the way from Twenty-eighth street."

Crossing Third avenue the fat man halted suddenly. He knelt down upon the car tracks, and the officer stopped beside him. The crowd pressed round till the swift-swinging nightstick swept them back. The man in evening dress crawled across the tracks and raked the ground with his fingers.

Presently he leaped to his feet and yelled out excitedly: "It's all right, officer," he cried, and once again his hands started to revolve round each other as he dashed towards the water.

Just here a third policeman was infiltrated into the mystery that was troubling the crowd, and with a mac-

ry laugh he took up a position by the side of the fat man. The crowd circled collectively. Here was a mystery that had been explained three times to bulky policemen, yet they were kept in ignorance. It wasn't fair. They had a right to know why the man in evening dress was doing the windmill performance with his hands, and why that stunt amused the policeman. Much of their breath was exhausted in strange phrases denouncing the secrecy of the police, but they were determined to see the end.

Near Second avenue a man standing on the sidewalk turned when he heard the noise of the charging squad and contemplated the runners. Then he stopped into the street and crossed over. The fat man started. He whispered to the policeman at his right hand, and the officer dashed ahead. The man in front started to run, but his pursuer overhauled him in a dozen strides, and they rolled on the pavement.

"What's the matter?" gasped the captured one. "What are yer scruffin' me for?"

"This gentleman wants his rubber door-mat," murmured the policeman, relieving his captive of the parcel he carried beneath his arm.

"Hully Gee!" exclaimed the prisoner, rubbing his eyes and starting round him. "Where did yer get the mat, an' how did yer know I had it, anyhow?"

"I had you on a string," explained the fat man, holding up a black thread in the light of the street lamp. "I've caught five men who have tried to steal that mat. It's attached to a thousand yards of strong thread, and as they generally grab it when they begin a run, the trail is always clear."

Coloring Hydrangeas
The color of the flowers of the shining hydrangeas is variable and seems to be dependent on the acidity or alkalinity of the soil. An abundance of lime produces pink in the flower, while blue is produced by acid conditions which may be argued by the use of alum, rusty iron or iron filings.

Too much lime will check the growth of the plants and cause a yellowing. Treatment for any effect here to be begun a year before the result is desired.

Odd Fact About Zeals
Among the Arctic fishermen February 28 is called the seal's birthday, for in the rookeries of the Far North it seems almost as if the baby seals had dropped from the sky in one shower. With unwavering regularity the baby seals appear within a day or two of that date. This is regarded as one of the amazing wonders of nature. The total area covered by these animals at this season amounts to thousands of square miles of ice fields.

Similarity
"Good morning, sir," said the stranger. "Your face seems familiar; I've either seen you before or some one very much like you." The native pondered over this, took another chew of tobacco and replied: "Well, I've never seen you before—or else it's some one else very much like you I've never seen before."

Possible Reason
During a cross-examination an undertaker produced his business card, on which was a telegraphic address. He was asked why the latter should be necessary.

"Oh," interposed the judge. "I suppose it is for the convenience of people who want to be buried in a hurry."

Light on Biblical Authorship

An Egyptian tomb in western Thebes, it is said, has furnished evidence that the writer of the book of Proverbs is indebted for some of his passages to an Egyptian named Amenemhat, who, according to records, lived hundreds of years earlier than the Bible author. A comparison of the two passages referred to follows that of Proverbs 1: "Incline thy ears and hear the words of wisdom and apply thy breast to my knowledge. For it is pleasant if thou keep them in thy breast; if they are ready, all of them on thy tongue." "Incline thy ears and hear my words and apply thy heart thereto to understand them. Good is it if thou dost set them in thy heart, but woe to him who transgresses them. Let them rest in thy breast, that they may be a key to thy heart. So may they be the key to thy tongue."—Family Herald.

Her Affliction

Millie had achieved great success at her school, and was being sent to a higher grade. Needless to say, her parents were pleased with her and anxious to hear how she would get on in the new class.

When she returned home at lunch time the first question her mother asked was this: "Well, darling," she said, "how did you like your new teacher?"

"She seems very nice," replied Millie, "but I can't understand all she says."

"How is that?" asked her mother. "Does she talk too quietly?"

"Oh, no, mummy," returned Millie, "but—with the air of one who knows—" "I think she's got a predicament in her speech."

Monk Man of Learning

The epithet "Admirable Doctor" was bestowed upon Roger Bacon (1214-1292), an English monk of the Franciscan order. He was without doubt the greatest philosopher of his time, and his great work, the Opus Majus, was written about 1265, and first printed in 1733. It treats of nearly all the sciences. He was accused of practicing black magic; and in 1278 a council of the Franciscans, jealous of his superiority, condemned his writings and committed him to prison in Paris, where he remained for ten years. He died at Oxford about 1292.—Kansas City Times.

Deadly War Weapons

Used by the Aztecs

The offensive weapons of the Aztecs consisted of bows and arrows, slings, clubs, spears, light javelins and swords. The bows were made of tough, elastic wood and were about five feet in length. For strings they used the sinews of animals or stung hair twisted, says the Detroit News.

The arrows were of light cane, with about six inches of oak or other hard wood inserted in the end; at the extremity a piece of flint (obsidian) was fastened with henequin fiber and further secured with a paste of resin or other adhesive substance.

Sometimes instead of flint they used the bones of animals or fish. The bone of a fish called tilapia is said to have caused by its venomous properties a wound very difficult to heal.

It is well known that the Nahuas did not use poisoned arrows; such weapons would have defeated the object for which they often fought—namely, that of taking their enemies alive for the purpose of sacrificing them upon the altars of their gods.

EASING THE BURDEN OF STATE TAXATION

Banker Points Out Benefits of Community Property System in Some States.

Favorable aspects of tax systems now in vogue among the most highly prized assets of our states, it is pointed out in the American Bankers Association Journal in connection with an article on how California, which has never had a state income tax, out state and Federal death taxes nearly in half the "community property" system. L. H. Roseberry, Vice President Security Trust and Savings Bank, Los Angeles, author of the article, says that a recent amendment to the tax law enables future residents of California to take advantage of it. Reference is made to a former article by Assistant Secretary of the Treasury DeWolf, voicing the need for death tax reform and citing a hypothetical case involving California inheritance taxes which might have been levied in 1925. Since that time the laws have been changed, Mr. Roseberry declares, so that the figures are now given as 65 per cent of all property in the state is "community property." Such property in California enjoys the most favorable position in regard to death taxes of the both state and Federal, of any state in the Union (excepting possibly the eight other states having a similar property system) including states boasting of no inheritance tax whatsoever. The California "community property" system, as recognized for the purpose of levying Federal estate taxes, and only one-half of it now so taxed, while the Federal estate tax rate of a decedent is subject to the Federal levy.

How the Law Works
"California's law expressly provides that upon the death of either husband or wife, testate, only one-half of their joint community property shall be subject to inheritance taxes. The same exemption applies upon the death of the husband, intestate, while the whole net community property is totally exempt from all state inheritance taxation upon the death of the wife intestate. The Federal estate tax law now follows precisely the California law in this respect.

"As the result of an amendment made to the California inheritance tax law by the 1925 Legislature, this immunity from state inheritance taxes likewise now extends to 'community property' of non-resident married persons, who heretofore take up their legal residence in the state. This puts 'community property' in a death tax position regarding death taxes that exists in any other state in the Union, with the possible exception of the other 'community property' states. This extension of the exemption will add 15 per cent to property in the state coming under this definition, which means that approximately 80 per cent of all property probated in California will now enjoy the highest death taxes in America.

"To illustrate, the following example of a man survived by a wife and two minor children is computed, the estate consisting of 'community property' all left by will to the wife and children. One-half of such property would go under the law to the wife without any death taxes, and the other half only would be subject to both state inheritance and Federal estate taxes.

"As a subject of comparison, take a state which has no inheritance tax, such as Florida. If the comparison were made with the states which impose inheritance taxes but do not have the 'community property' system, the advantage in favor of California would even be more striking.

Estate of \$100,000	Total Tax
None	\$0.00
Non-inheritance-tax state	\$200.00
Advantage in favor of California	\$200.00
Estate of \$200,000	906
Non-inheritance-tax state	2,000
Advantage in favor of California	2,094
Estate of \$400,000	2,095
Non-inheritance-tax state	5,779
Advantage in favor of California	13,684
Estate of \$10,000,000	7,250
Non-inheritance-tax state	1,219,105
Advantage in favor of California	1,211,855

"If the two children were adults, the California tax would be increased only \$280 in each case.

Another New Amendment
"Another feature of the recent amendment to the California inheritance tax law is a section fixing the inheritance taxes on stock in California corporations owned by non-residents at a flat sum of 2 1/2 per cent on their actual value. When considered in conjunction with the ruling that no inheritance taxes can be levied upon any stock in foreign corporations, or upon bank accounts, bond notes, debentures, or similar securities belonging to a non-resident but located in the state at the time of such non-resident's decease, it will be observed that at present the inheritance tax situation in California is most favorable, both to non-residents who have property in this state and to married people who live here or who may subsequently move here from elsewhere."

Why Sleeper Emits Noises That Annoy

A writer in the weekly bulletin of the Chicago department of health, says that snoring seems to be particularly a human attribute, and says that there is little in medical literature relating to it. He says snoring is due to vibration of the soft palate and uvula, produced by deep inspiration and expiration through the nose and open mouth.

The sleeper, if normal, sleeps with the mouth closed, breathing naturally through the nostrils, which prevents the vibration of the loose tissues of the throat. Snoring, as a rule, indicates a disturbance of the breathing apparatus, especially obstruction in the nose, that prevents the sleeper from keeping the mouth closed.

In children, the writer says, snoring is commonly an indication of enlarged adenoids and tonsils.

Making a Long Evening

Wife—Next time you spend an evening at the club please let me know if I am to keep breakfast waiting for you.—Klods Hans (Copenhagen).

Birds Cause Trouble

When an electrical transmission line runs through country in which oak trees grow, there is trouble. Woodpeckers drill hundreds of holes in a single pole and into each hole they drive an acorn. When the acorns are wet by rain they swell, starting cracks in the pole, which catch water and cause the pole to rot. Thousands of dollars' damage is done in this way and so far no remedy has been forthcoming.

These Sadder Days

On the whole, these are much sadder ages than the early ones; not sadder in a public and deep way, but in a dim, wearied way—the way of ennui, and faded intellect, and uncomforthableness of soul and body. Not that we are without fealty, but fealty more or less forced, mistaken, quibbled, incomplete; not of the heart. And the profoundest reason of this darkness of heart, I believe, our want of faith.—Ruskin.

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