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### GOT HIS "THINK-TANK" GOING

Mexican Farmer Proved He Was Capable of Invention When Object Was to Save Labor.

That the Mexican farmer is not the slow-thinking, lazy person the average stranger imagines is illustrated by an ingeniously devised well constructed by a farmer living near a little town just across the boundary line. The natives seldom go far away from their homes and they have very primitive ideas and customs. This well is about 50 feet deep and the owner has built a curious device for hauling water from it. If this Mexican had been an educated man he might have been an inventor.

A tree flourished near the well which had two branches growing out of the trunk. These boughs separated into four branches higher up. The Mexican cut the branches in such a way that they formed a perfect rest for a long well sweep. He fastened the sweep to a crossbar laid across the two upper branches in the middle, using stout thongs for the purpose.

Then he fastened a weight on one end of the sweep and a long rope to the other end. The bucket is fastened to the end of this long rope, and all he has to do is to lower the buckets into the well. The weight of the stone pulls it up again, brimming full.

### NAVAL SALUTATION VERY OLD

"Dipping the Flag" One of the Most Ancient Forms of Greeting of Which There is Record.

The salutation given when a vessel lowers or "dips" its flag is one of the oldest and most honorable of all forms of marine greeting. This form of salute has always been demanded by English-speaking seamen, and its exactness has warmed the hearts and used up the powder of generations of naval commanders.

In the old days, for a foreign ship, whether merchant or naval, to enter an English port without veiling top-sails or dipping its national flag was to run the risk of war, although peace existed.

Without warning or argument, the shore defenses or a man-of-war would send a round shot across the bows or between the masts of the foreigner, and if the offending flag did not instantly come down the insolent intruder was brought to her senses by being raked through and through.

Salutes are essential matters of naval etiquette, and are exchanged on an elaborate code fixed by the maritime powers. The number of guns to be fired in all circumstances is minutely stipulated.

### Why People Attend Theaters.

The playwright is never and will never be bettered by watching plays, but by watching audiences. People go to the theater for the same reason that they go to church, concerts, picture galleries or the opera—for relief from the stress of real life. Let the young playwright sit among playgoers, not among other playwrights, and get to understand how he may contribute to the relief of the vast army of tired men and women. He will find that what people ask of the theater is not the real—people rush to the theater to escape from the real. He will find that the theater is most powerful and its attendance greatest when audiences are given plays in which the real is invested with an idea—which is all that any of us ever mean by the word ideal.—Charles Frohman.

### Knew What Tommy Needed.

"It's enough to make a fellow sore," remarked Tommy "Yesterday was pa and ma's wooden wedding and nearly all the neighbors sent shingles."

### Yes, Misery Loves Company.

Even an editor has his simple pleasures, such as seeing unfortunate typographical errors in other papers, for instance.—Ohio State Journal.

Fine Job Printing at this Office.

### CUPID 'WID A UMBRELL'

By ROSSER W. COBBE.

"Aw, lace it out, Cal. Gee—it makes me sick to see dem big lobsters bunt be hall."

Jimmy spoke to no one in particular—to everyone in general. You do not have to be introduced to open a conversation at a baseball game.

"Hit it—hit it. Run, you ice wagon, run. Police—police—stop dat guy—he'll try to make a homer out of a single."

Jimmie stopped suddenly, feeling that everyone in the stand was looking at him. Then he said in a more natural tone of voice to the man who sat beside him:

"Dat guy is always overrussin' de bag. He'll get caught directly and de Sox need dis run. De'y'll lose today, dough, I s'pose. De'y always do on Ladies' day. Gee, it's goin' to rain." Rain it did, and as the shower grew in violence, the umpire "called" the game for 15 minutes, at the end of which time, no cessation in the down-pour appearing to be likely, he faced the grandstand, hat in hand, and made this announcement, in his deep, fog-horn voice:

"Game called. Rain."

Then he solemnly walked to the clubhouse, preceded by the players and followed by the jeers of the crowd. Meanwhile, Jimmie of the bleachers had not been idle. Beneath the grandstand he had ten or twelve more or less disreputable looking umbrellas, and these he now drew forth and proceeded to brush and "slick-up."

Rain on "Ladies' day!" Why it was like finding money, and when the crowd began to come out of the main exit, Jimmy's profits began.

"Umbrells. Get a umbrell'. Don't let de ladies get wet. Yessir, one dollar. One bone. One buck. Cheap at any money in dis kind o' wedder."

He was offering the last one to the crowd.

"Yes, ma'am. One dollar. No, ma'am, dat's what I get for dem. Only 80 cents? Can't help it."

"But you are surely here every afternoon, and tomorrow I'll come and give you a dollar beside. See—this is all I have." The young lady emptied the contents of her little purse into her hand.

"Nix. I hold dat kind o' talk before, and it don't sound no good to me."

Then Jimmie looked up into her face.

"You don't look dough," he continued with surprising frankness, "as dough you'd do a guy out a anything."

Just at that moment "De Guy" came. That is what Jimmie always called him afterward. He was big and broad, and young and good to look at, Jimmie thought, and without a glance at the girl he said:

"What do you want for the umbrella, kid?"

"I don't know whedder it's fer sale or not," Jimmie answered.

"Here's a dollar. Hurry up." Jimmie looked at the dollar and was nearly lost. Then he looked at the girl, and—

"Nope. Dis lady is buyin' dis."

"Oh, I beg your pardon," de Guy said, and then both he and the young lady turned red, coughed and looked away. Then Jimmie with that great head for business, which will some day make his name well known, made a proposition.

"Maybe you two live clost to each odder, an' 'f y'do w'y don't you go home togedder?"

Then events began to happen that kept Jimmie "guessing" for many a day. He was telling his mother about it that night at the supper table.

"Den I guess de two o' dem knewed each odder, 'cause de Guy says, kind o' stiff like:

"'F I mite be p'mitted, Miss Gray, and' she seemed willin', only she wouldn't talk. So I seen dat dey was goin' my way, so I butts in. I says:

"'Wot did you 'tink o' de game?' and de Guy says:

"'O, all rite." It was a shame dat Cal got put out o' de game. He might 'a made de winnin' run."

"Den de Guy kinda looks at de Fairy, an' says:

"'Dat's de same way wit' me, son. I was in 'de game' once, but I got 'put out' just w'en I tought I was makin' de winnin' run."

"'Oh, I says, 'you play too? What's your posh?"

"'Well, he says, 'used to play foist, but I guess I'm on de bench now.' 'Up to dis time de Fairy ain't said a word, but now she butts in.

"'Say, she says to me. 'In a ball game don't dey never give de players anodder chancet when dey've been put out o' de game?"

"'Nope, I says, 'it's against de rules. De rules says dat de umpire can't change his decision.' 'Well, de Fairy says, 'ain't dere ever any 'ceptions dat proves de rule?' 'Not in baseball, I says.

"'Well, I says she, and she looks de Guy right in de face, 'dere may not be in baseball, but dere is in life.' 'Well, you ought to 'a seen dat Guy. He don't do a 'ting but dig down in his jeans an' hand me a big five-spot, an' grab me by de mitt an' shake it up an' down, an' slap me on de back for a fare-de-well, an' says:

"'Good-by, ole pal. Good-by, ole Cupid wid de Umbrell'."

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All Passenger Trains reaching Springfield before 12:00 o'clock noon, and which terminate there, will run through to the Fair Grounds Station to discharge passengers on October 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th.

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