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The SPHINX



VOL. IV

Madison, Wis., May 20, 1903

NO. 13

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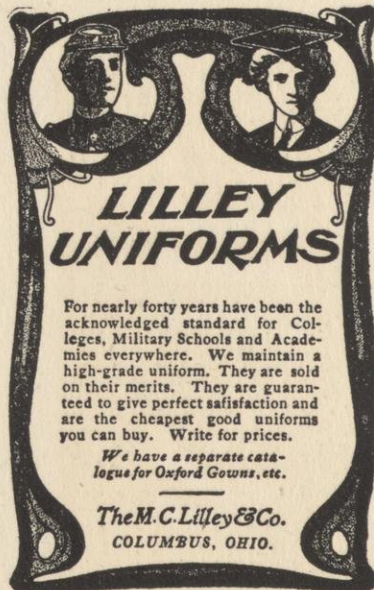
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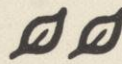
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The Sphinx

The Blatter Blatts.

The trouble with you fellows is, your college spirit's nil,
 You think you do your duty if you climb
 the blooming hill,
 And make your classes regular and yell
 some for the crew,
 But when it comes to cashing up—

"Come in! Getting crew subscriptions. Gee whiz! you fellows are after us all the time. Think I'm made of money! A dollar! No, not a cent. I can't help it if other fellows do, I know my own business best. Good day."

As I was saying you guys think that you
 have done your part,
 When you prate of "Alma Mater" and her
 place within your heart,
 But you don't support her papers and you
 never help a bunch
 Like those Y. M. C. A. fellows who are
 trying to—

"SPHINX? No, I don't want it. Its never any good, and I can read it at the Co-op without paying fifteen cents. Are you giving those posters away? No?—Ten cents! well you are shysters. You tell."

Now to continue—

How are you? Representing the Y. M. C. A., are you? More money, I suppose. You got a bunch of leg pullers there. I can't give you anything. I'm way in debt now, and besides I don't think that building project is a good one. Yes, I suppose it is hard, such a bunch of close-fisted lobsters as these fellows are. Good-bye.

What was I saying—yes, its true, you
 merely talk and talk,
 Instead of forking over when its time and
 place to chalk,
 You're afraid to spend your money—

No, we've got one at the house. Besides the Cardinal's no good. It isn't worth even five cents a year. At least I wouldn't pay that for it.

* * *

Badger out? Got yours? Good work; let's see it!—Can't! Haven't the money.—You won't, well, you're pretty poor. Where's your college spirit? Why don't you favor a fellow student? Well, you're a lobster!—I'll wait till next year and get it for a dollar! I always do that!—Well it only shows how little college spirit you fellows have.

KIM.





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Always remember that this is only pretence, so that you are not to believe a word of it, even if it is true.—Kingsley

WE HAVE ONLY TWO distinctly national holidays, one to celebrate the beginning of the nation, and one to pay tribute to those who have made the supreme sacrifice for its existence. It is becoming hard to distinguish between the two.

This year Decoration Day has the misfortune to come on Saturday, the date most convenient for athletic events, and the Memorial services must be arranged so as not to conflict with these more important things. It is not unusual for the Sandy Hollow Stars to take this occasion to play the Jug Prairie Boosters a match game of baseball. This is to be expected from the thoughtless. It is an entirely different matter when the High School Principals of the entire state arrange to hold the biggest meet of the season upon this day. The Interscholastic is an important event. It helps the University by bringing it in close touch with the High Schools, but is it of quite enough importance to take the place of a national holiday? Those in charge state that they regret being obliged to hold the meet on the 30th, but the preceding Saturday is too early for the schools of the north, and by June 6th many schools are closed. This is a good excuse as to Saturday, but does not explain why some other week day would not have done just as well. No doubt the good Principals would be scandalized at the thought of giving over one whole day of precious time to athletics, but it would be much better to lose a week of high school work rather than flood the town with a crowd of people, who are in reality pleasure seekers, on Decoration Day. Add the fire crackers, some toy cannon, and a thunder shower, and you have—a Fourth of July celebration, pure and simple.

Of course this applies equally as well to the college meet that is to be held on the same day, except that it has been arranged by thoughtless managers who have more regard for the gate receipts than for anything else. It has not been planned by the heads of the institutions.

If respect for national traditions is not taught in the High Schools it will not be obtained elsewhere.

The most remarkable thing of all is that there seems to have been no objections from any source, to holding the meet on this day. People have become so accustomed to the encroachment of other things that a greater infringement passes without notice. If

the day is to be given over to miscellaneous "events" it would be far better to abolish it as a holiday altogether. Then those people who were so inclined might still keep the day sacred, while the others would go quietly about their business.

AND NOW COMES the *Daily Scaredinall* jauntily to the front and advertises for a name for Library Hall. Because the Registrar in an unguarded moment dubbed it "Assembly Hall," and because the School of Music has taken refuge there, the poor hall is without a name and is daily rechristened as the fancy of each person dictates. It is suggested that, now the library has been removed, we should go deliberately to work and give it a real nice name, that of some man for instance.

The old library wasn't as pretty to look at as the new one. There were no marble stairs, the stacks were dusty and the chairs decrepit, yet those of us who studied there know that there was something about it that is lacking in the new building. For those who read there during their entire course many memories must cluster about the place. The library is gone, but when the old students come back let them know that we still keep the name. This in itself may not be of any particular importance, but it is important that each new generation of students should feel that they cannot lay vandal hands on everything within reach. No, "Old Library Hall" is good enough for us as long as the building stands.

Reception Luck.—Triolets.

I.

O, radiantly fair was she,
I worshipped from afar,
A friend—nay more—I longed to be—
O radiantly fair was she;
I met her not—she's still to me
As distant as a star.
O, radiantly fair was she,
I worshipped from afar.

II.

Of freckles she had full three score,
Her nose turned up—ah me—
O, if I'd only gone before!
Of freckles she had full three score,
She giggled, and I eyed the door,
And how I longed to flee.
Of freckles she had full three score,
Her nose turned up—ah me. K. H.

Over the Telephone.

Mae (at the hall)—Can you call to-morrow night?

Freshman—Sure, what number is your room?

Baby drank sulphuric acid,
Mother's always very placid.
All she said was, "Baby dear,
Die outside and not in here."

X. M.



Confidences.

Tillie—Frank promised me faithfully that he never would smoke a bit of tobacco again, and to-day I saw him smokin a cigarette.

Millie—A cigarette; well, that doesn't affect his promise, does it.

Little Bessie, unawares,
Fell down fourteen flights of stairs,
Mother called to Bessie's pup,
"Fido, bring the pieces up."

H. G. W.

Little Willie, yesterday,
Ate three bales of new mown hay.
Mother, startled at the sight,
Said, "Dear me, how impolite!"

H. G. W.

Jim Blunderbad was good at heart,
But always played a tactless part,
A box of tacks he ate with vim
And now he's always "Tackful Jim."

A. B. B.

"Jones has a beautiful tenor voice."
"His voice may be a 'tenner' but his face
is worth about 30 cents."

"To arms," said the fat maiden when her
lover found that one would not go clear
round her waist.

"Why do you wish to marry Miss
Golder?"

"Well, my money affairs are in a bad
way and I need her balance at the bank to
restore my financial equilibrium?"

Jimson — Jones has got an ingrowing
moustache.

Jamson—Gee, he must feel down in the
mouth.

The Oracle on Dog Fights.

The Oracle lit another cigarette, and leaned back with a musing smile on his face. We who knew the signs, waited expectantly.

"Dog fights," began the Oracle, slowly, "are an interesting phase of human nature. That sounds like a bull, but it's not, for I am talking of dog fights as they affect the human animal.

If you want to see the savage, lusty barbarity in civilized man, which underlies the veneer of civilization, come to the surface, watch him at a dog fight. See how he grips his pipe stem hard between his teeth, sets his jaw, and strains every nerve and faculty to the breaking point. Hear him grunt in short staccato when one dog or the other gets the advantage. Watch how his cheek and throat muscles bulge and knot as the crowd jostles about him. Is this bad? I think not. It is this substratum of brute in man which makes him worth while. It is this dogged (I don't mean to pun), blood-thirsty spirit which gives him success in the life before him. And it does no harm to have it come to the surface now and then. It may be over-developed, but there is no such danger at present.

Then did you ever notice the different sorts of people watching the fight. There's the short, stocky fellow who runs around the dogs and cheers them on; the fat, lazy man who watches with his hands in his pockets and easy smile on his face; the sanctimonious fellow whose face looks disapproving, but whose eyes gleam with interest; the energetic boy who shoves the crowd back; the fellow on the edge of the gang who is trying to push closer; the little fellow who jumps up to see better and lands on various corns, but is so genuinely sorry that no one is angry even when he does it again; the man who wants to bet everybody at any odds; and lastly the man who tries to separate the dogs by poking them or pulling their tails.

For human nature in the prehistoric stage, for civilized idiosyncrasies mixed with savage barbarity, give me a dog fight, I—"

"Hi, fellows," came up from below, "the Psi U dog's trying to do up the Beta dog. Its—"

The Oracle dropped to the ground from the window.

"Fifty cents on the Beta!" he yelled!

KIM.

Many a man doesn't get square with the
world till he's reached the top round.

Jenks—Why is a Madison policeman?
Benks—He isn't!



Mother—(a Christian Scientist)—Willie, you haven't washed your face this morning.
Willie—(also a believer)—I—I gave it absent treatment.

A Whitmanesque Plaint.

Verily I shall swear presently,
Various large, rough, uncouth and black-
ened cuss words shall I swear.
(For am I not one of these, the infinite in
me with these.)
In truth this is a variegatedly demnible case,
(As is the case in all spontaneous gladness)
That after I have cribbed this cussed Dutch,
(I shall not say the thoughts, the eidelonic
thoughts aroused in me.)
I find it is not what the Prof. assigned,
And all the toilsome labor,
Is gone for naught.
Invincible me! I rise up and curse long and
cheerfully,
With a detonating accent,
O, the deceived one!

X. M.

He is a fellow whose long suit is Trouble, spelled with a capital T and underlined. The other day he went to the telephone and called for six-nought-five. He didn't get his number, but while he was waiting he heard a phonograph which had in some way got connected with the line. Pretty

soon a voice said, "What was it you wanted?"

"I wanted six-nought-five, central, but it will be all right, sweetheart; just leave me connected with the funnygraf."

Then he heard the same voice again, but the tone had changed. "This is six-nought-five." it said.

Consolation.

My Laundry Bill's \$5.53,
My Florist's is \$10.32,
My Tailor's is—Lord, don't ask me!—
It's big, I can give you *that* clew;
My Livery's something like—whew!—
A hundred, or something immense—
But why should I worry or stew?
My room-mate owes *me* .50c.

My room-rent's unpaid for—let's see—
Three months—and my board-bill is due;
My landlady greets me—with glee,
And sticks to me often—like glue!
I've pledged a round sum to the crew.
My watch will be found in suspense.
Yet, why should I sulk or be blue?
My room-mate owes *me* .50c.

So, creditors, listen to me:
Some day I will pay every "sou,"
Some time I shall cleverly free
Myself from the toils which imbrue.
"And how will you pay, and through who?"
(Their grammar is faulty and dense),
Why, I say, I've a backer in view,
My room-mate owes *me* .50c.

ENVOY.

Say, lend me a fiver, will *you*?
I'm strapped, for the moment, of pence.
My assets? Of course, thought you knew,
My room-mate owes *me* .50c.
R. H. K.

A Lucky Stab.

Freshy—B D C E—is—is the base of the
cylinder and also the base of the cone.
Prof.—Yes, that was a very good bat,
you made a two-base hit.

Minister—(on Sunday)—My boy, what
are you fishing for?
Boy—Fer fish of course. What yuh
think; elephants?

"There was a time, mused the Senior, sadly, "when you could tell whether or not a man was an athlete a block away by his build."

"And now?" queried the ex-congressman's son—

"Now, you can rarely tell by looking at a man whether he buys his clothes off the shelf or has them made to order. I judge you belong to the made-to-order class."



"I put in a good morning," said one, in a satisfied sort of a way as he lolled on the window seat. "I wrote two good quizzes and made two recitations."

"And I," said another, "sat through a lecture in ethics without going to sleep, without even yawning more than once or twice."

"Whereas I," said the third, "worked all morning in the library on a thesis that will never be any good to anybody, and which isn't due for a month anyway; and what's more, there was a ball game going on on the campus."

We decided that the last man deserved the medal.



"Owing to circumstances over which I have no control," said the student, nervously twirling his cap, "I am not prepared, professor, to recite to-day."

"Judging from the looks of your eyes," said the professor, "I should say that for once you are telling me the truth. Did they carry you home, or buy you a hack?"



The senior was finishing his story, "Yes, and after that," he said, "the fellow elected slides, in place of hard studies, and was happy ever afterwards."



Anna (sitting on his lap)—Herbert, aren't your knees tired?

No, Anna dear, they went to sleep long ago.



They tied me up in double knots,
And cut me up in four pound lots.
Their little jokes I do not mind,
But this was certainly unkind.

T. R.



The Greatest Thing in the World.

[Scene: A student's room. Jim discovered trying to write a story. Charley trying to buck, but with his eyes dreamily looking at a picture on the wall.]

Jim—What'll I call this thing any way?

Charley—Heigho; Jim, did I tell you what she said last night; I came a little late and—

Jim—(mumbling)—"The hoarse waves roared against the shore"—a blame good touch that.

Charley—And then she took both my hands and said—*Jim!* are you listening?

Jim—Yes, yes, of course—"The struggling man gasped and choked horribly," go on Charley, old mushiness, and pour forth that softened heart of yours.

Charley—She said that I might call her Jane if I were real good and she looked so—

Jim—Gee, that's the idea, I'll change that to "breathed her fragrant voice into his ear," that makes a remarkably dainty effect, and I'll kill the villain in his own room.

Charley—I thought you were listening to my heart-strings breaking.

Jim—I was.

Charley—Well, what did I say—

Jim—You said that she called you a—oh—well—say here's a peach of an idea I'll—

Charley—Confound your ideas, Jim. Do you know, did you ever realize how sweet and tender—

Jim—(abstractedly)—Yes, they often have 'em.

Charley—Have what?

Jim—Fenders. Didn't you say she had her feet on the fender?

Charley—No, I didn't

Jim—Well, what did you say?

Charley—I was making heartfelt remarks about her beauty and grace. Now I'm going to put you out of the window.

Rough House—Curtain. J. H. H.



L. VANHAGAN

*On the Steps.****The Creed of Manustes.***

SONNET.

The wheeling Spheres of Space invisible
Groan through the Aeons, changeless,
vague and vast,
Like pain wrought Mountains in the Ocean
cast,
That seek unquestioning their Heaven or
Hell.

The Passion of our Pulsing Souls, that fell
Among the blackened Embers of the Past,
Arose once more—and spent its fiery blast.
In dull and formless fury—who can spell
The Magic of the Moons that are no more?
The glory of the Suns that charred to
Naught,

The awful grandeur of the Planet's Roar?
Immutable as Death and keen as thought,
My soul is thine through Time's unending
days,
Wrapped in the azure Mantle of thy gaze.

May be True.

Many a man's enthusiasms are dampened
because he is too enthusiastic.

The Lord is on the side of the heaviest
stockholder.

Distance lends enchantment to the view,
but not to much of anything else.

Before the Good News.

"Father, what is a president?"

"A president, my son, is, well—a being
which Wisconsin University does not pos-
sess."

"He is the head of things, then, father?
Wisconsin has no head?"

"No, my son, but Wisconsin keeps ahead
of the rest, just the same. Now run and
play with Miss Gay's French class."

An interesting debate occurred in a faculty meeting recently. The question was whether the *Scaredinall* was a weekly or daily paper. One professor said that since the *Scaredinall* had been delivered to him four times during the year, he thought it was a quarterly. Another held that it was an annual, because he never received but one issue, and he had heard of no one receiving more.

Those who believed it to be a weekly contended that they had seen the staff coming from the vicinity where the *Scaredinall* was supposed to evolve itself, and that this exodus of the staff had occurred weekly for three successive weeks. They also vaguely remembered seeing a newsboy deliver two copies once a week for two weeks. Some one remarked that he had once heard the Editor-in-Chief mention having been near the office, but presumed it was a joke.

Those claiming the *Scaredinall* was a daily, pointed to the fact that it purported to be such; that the subscribers bought it under that impression; that it had once come out every day for three days successively, and that the Editor said so.

One even went so far as to claim he knew a man who had heard of a man whose friend's cousin dreamed he received the *Scaredinall* regularly every day. This statement was received with incredulity. The meeting finally broke up after passing the following resolution:

"Resolved, That no one knows what the *Scaredinall* is, and that to anyone proving its actual existence to the satisfaction of all thinking men, a reward of 4 fifths credit in any hard study will be given!"

C. K. F.

Questions Sent Around by One of Prof. O'Shea's Normalites.

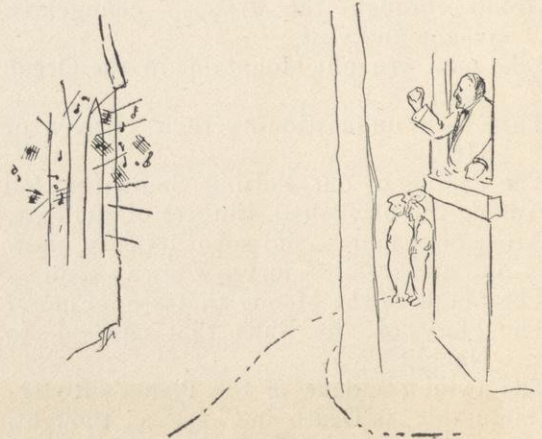
I am studying the early psychology of men of genius and therefore ask you to please answer the following questions:

1. Do you consider yourself a genius?
2. How old was your father when he began to wear long trousers?
3. How early did you stop eating green apples?
4. Did your parents encourage your early attempts to smoke?
5. When you hold the thumb of your left hand on your perricardial nerve, do you feel a sensation?
6. Did your nourishment consist chiefly of nuts or of potatoes?
7. Do you have a mother-in-law? If not, why not? Give reasons. Amplify.
8. Did you experience religion early or later? Are you religious now?
9. At what age could you wear your father's hat and how early his shoes?
10. Are there any more at home like you?

There once was a handsome young Jew
Who was caught by a cannibal crew,
With a ju-ju wood fire
They caused him to perspire,
Which is just what a ju-ju wood do.

Questions in University Etiquette.

- I. Should a young lady, or should she not, recognize an acquaintance when he is running with the track team?
- II. Is it good form to cut a professor's dance who has conned you?
- III. Is it proper for a co-ed to flirt with a base ball player while he is running bases?
- IV. Is it in good form for a sophomore to ring up the president of the University while the latter is attending a Board of Regents' meeting?
- V. Should a young man give a young lady a box of cigarettes without asking her if she likes the brand?



"There's music in the air."

Celestial Jests.

St. Peter — "What's all that noise in there?"

Angel — "Piano tuner from New York claims he has exclusive right to tune harps here and he's fighting with St. Cecelia."

Gabriel — "What was it the enemy said when you stopped the sun?"

Joshua — "Said, if I was going to re-inforce my light forces that way, they might as well give up."

St. Augustine — "What's all the racket among the angels?"

Luther — "Oh, it's nothing but John Calvin putting the cherubims through the catechism."

St. Paul — "Heard Solomon's great joke?"

St. Luke — "No, what is it?"

"Oh, he says, 'this is a sad place, always Zion.'"

St. Mathew — "Here comes Samson, mooning along."

St. Patrick — "Mooning along. Sure, an' he was a star Gaza."

St. Mathew — "Well, he'd better get a gate on him anyway." Whereat the nearby angels fainted.



A Fighting Man.

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My girl Elise is fair and sweet,
With carmine lips and tender eyes,
I've laid my whole heart at her feet,
My girl Elise.

She is all blushes, smiles and sighs,
All daintiness, piquant, petite,
Most sorely though, my heart she tries.

Her virtues are not *quite* complete,
She twists the truth most waywardwise,
Her fault is being too discreet,
My girlie *lies!* A. B. B.

At Bedunk'ville.

First Citizen—Blake's boy is going to be a railway conductor.

Second Citizen—Thought he was in the University.

He is, but I heard him say he was going to take a con exam this semester.

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Prediction

.....
A King in the country of Spain
Attempted his heir's life in vain.
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He said, "It's your guess!"
And remarked that he thought it
would reign.—*Yale Record.*

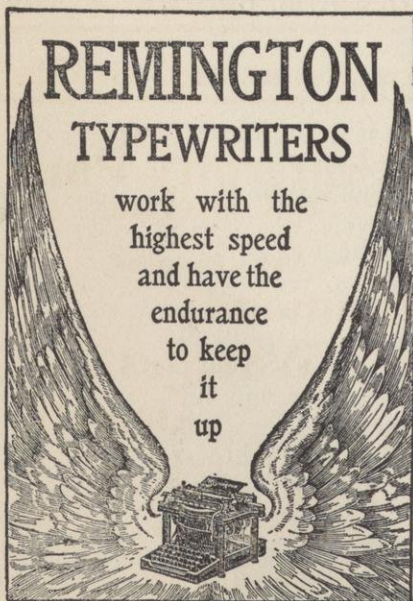
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tion do they?"

"No, Rollo,"

"And the idea is everything
with them?"

"Yes, Rollo."

"Then, Father, can Christian
Scientist men and women kiss by
telephone?"—*Tiger*.

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—*Tiger*.

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Jackie, I'm sitting all alone,
Just a-playing wif my curl,
They don't love nobody at home
'Cept sister's beau and bruder's
durl.

F'get 'bout me every day
And when I cry they call me
'boo."

So I fought I'd rite and say
Dat I love 'oo, too.

—*Punch Bowl*.

A bottle of arsenic sat on the
shelf,
Baby reached up and helped her-
self—

Mama discovered with what she'd
been filling,
And then remarked, "That prank
was too killing!"

—*W. H. S., in Wrinkle*.

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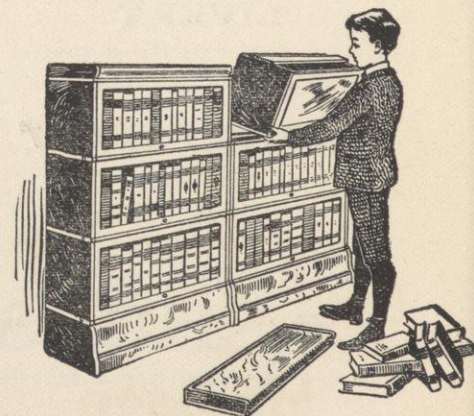
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Fond Father—Why, my dear?
Fond Mother—Well, he opened the "Master Christian" this mornink and took out the Appendix.
—The Widow.

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Horse Commits Suicide.

The Wabash Railway, in a damage suit instituted by J. M. Sauvinette to recover the value of a horse which met his death on the Wabash tracks, sets up the novel defense that the horse committed suicide. Perhaps the animal had been reading the advertisements of the Wabash and got it into his head that it was the direct route to heaven.—Globe-Democrat, Feb. 27, 1903.

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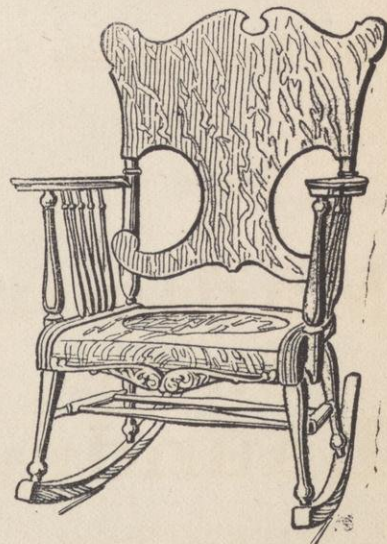


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Shakespeare made a mistake. What Antony really said was, "The people that men do, get after them."—Tiger.



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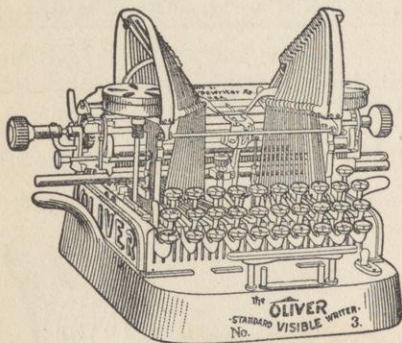
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"My what a mess, bet I catch
thunder."—*Wrinkle.*

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