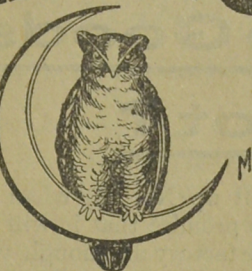


MAGIC



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E.W. GILLETT COMPANY LIMITED
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Bowser Tries Playwriting

He Returns to the Old Subject With New Hopes and Ambitions, Even Though Mrs. B. Gives Him No Encouragement.

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AFTER one glance at Mr. Bowser's face Mrs. Bowser had no doubt that he had something on his mind to bother him, but whether he was trying to figure out a new flying machine or seeking to find out how long it would take a bear running at twenty miles an hour to catch a boy running at eighteen she couldn't say. As he was quiet and good natured over it, she let him figure away, and it was half an hour after dinner before he finally said:

"Look here, now, but I'd like to have a talk with you—a real sensible talk. I'll agree not to get mad, and you must agree to say nothing sarcastic."

"I'll talk, of course, and be glad to," she replied. "What is it that's bothering you?"

"Well, you know I belong to the Primrose Dramatic club. I haven't attended but two or three meetings, and they are pushing me to show up. In fact, they want me to write a play to be produced two weeks hence."

"Well?"

"I want to oblige them, of course, and I want the honor and prestige of the play, but can I write one? That's what I want to talk to you about. Don't jump on me with both feet, as you generally do, and cry 'fud,' but give me a candid opinion."

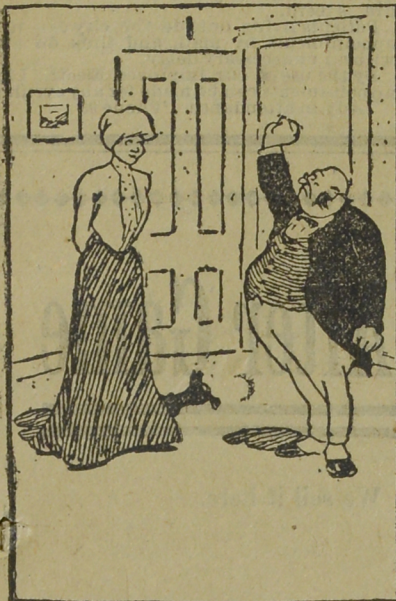
"Mr. Bowser, how many times in your life have you been to the theater?" she asked as she laid aside her book.

"As many as five or six."

"And did you pay the least attention to what is called the action of the play—to the construction—to the situations—to the stage craft?"

"I—I don't know that I did, but what has that to do with it? Some of the plays written by people who were never inside a theater have been the most successful."

"Whoever has told you that has told you nonsense. You can't learn to be an actor by looking at a drug store nor



"I SAID THERE WAS TO BE NO SARCASTIC," PROTESTED MR. BOWSER.

a lawyer by walking around a courthouse. I should say that you might as well try to cure a patient of typhoid fever as to expect to produce a play for the stage."

"But, you see, you start in prejudiced against me. I wrote a play last winter, and we had a little scrap over it, and so you are naturally down on me."

"Yes, you wrote a play. Do you remember where the scene was laid?"

"In Bagdad."

"Yes, in Bagdad, and for no other reason than that you wanted to show as many Bagdad curtains as possible. Are you thinking of laying this one in Arabia, so as to get as many dates into it as you can?"

"But Bagdad curtains are not dates Mrs. Bowser."

"No, and dates are not California prunes. Why not lay it in California? However, we won't dispute about that. What is your plot?"

"A young man loves a young girl." "That's nothing startling." "He is poor, but proud." "He generally is."

"Her father is a rich old skinflint and would sell her to an old chap of the same ilk for \$50,000. The young man asks for her hand, and of course he gets the bounce. Right there, when he throws his hat down and jumps on it and says he will defeat the father's villainous machinations or perish, is a chance for some of the strongest acting on the American stage. It makes my hair curl to think of it. Adolphus stands like this, and gestures like this, and hurls his words"—

It was the cat. He had been sitting up and listening to every word and wondering when Mr. Bowser would begin to get red in the face and yell out, and his attitude and gestures struck terror to his heart, and he uttered a howl and dived under the lounge.

"By thunder, but that infernal old feline shan't live another day!" he exclaimed as he located the interruption.

"Never mind the cat," replied Mrs. Bowser, "and you needn't go on with what Adolphus says either. There is no originality about that. All poor and proud young men get off the same expressions when told to go forth and hoe potatoes at 50 cents a day. How does your hero finally get the girl?"

"He bears her away at midnight after she has put a dose of chloral in her father's gin and water."

"That's very fair. But how much does she weigh?"

"How much? How much? Why, what odds does that make? Whoever heard of weighing the characters of a play?"

"It makes just this difference, Mr. Bowser. If your heroine weighs 160 pounds and your hero only 140 the audience won't be prepared to see him throw her over his shoulder and trot across a grapevine bridge and up the side of a steep mountain. However, you can have her take antifat and feed him upon corned beef at the same time and thus get the right proportions. He bears her off at midnight, but where to?"

"I said there was to be no sarcasm," protested Mr. Bowser.

"And there is none. I am just making friendly comments. Does he bear her to a depot, a ferryboat or where?"

"He bears her to the mountains, of course. I want mountains in for scenic effect. He bears her to a cave in the mountains. Her father discovers her flight next morning, and he raises a force of fifty men and starts in pursuit. He swears that he will have her back dead or alive and that he will kill Adolphus or put him to the torture. Right there again is a chance for a Booth or Barrett. Imagine the scene. The fifty men are drawn upon a bridge over a gulf. The old man stands confronting them. Suddenly he raises his right hand and—"

The cat had come out, thinking the performance had closed, but when Mr. Bowser's right hand went up he realized the peril of the situation and made a second scramble for life.

"Never mind," consolingly observed Mrs. Bowser as the hand fell.

"But I will mind," he savagely retorted. "Do you think I'm going to have one of the best plays of the century knocked out by a cross eyed, double jointed old spotted tomcat?"

He spent five minutes freezing the cat's soul with terror by words and glares and then gave it up, and Mrs. Bowser said:

"Well, Adolphus gets the heroine to a cave, and they have a picked up breakfast of johnnycake and bologna sausage, and then what happens?"

"Who said they had any such breakfast?"

"Then they couldn't have had any at all. That isn't so material to the play, however. The father and his fifty men follow on, of course?"

"Of course. What are they there for?"

"But you should have the villain guide them. You have a villain, haven't you?"

"Yes—that is, I'm going to have. There's no particular hurry about the villain butting in. He will naturally lead the crowd when he does come in."

"Well, the villain, the father and the fifty armed men set off up the mountain, and then what happens?"

"They are overwhelmed," replied Mr. Bowser.

"By a snowslide?"

"Yes, by a snowslide started by Adolphus. He sees them coming. He sees a snowslide just ready to slide. He would spare the father in order to have a father-in-law, but he cannot. He swings his hat. He calls out. He warns them to return before it is too late. He stands thus, and—"

And Mr. Bowser looked around for the cat. The feline had his head out from under the lounge, and the two stood glaring at each other till Mrs. Bowser had to laugh in their faces.

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On Tuesday, September 20th, there will be special train from Presque Isle, Edmundston and Plaster Rock to St. John via Newburg, Gibson Branch and Fredericton, taking business from all points as far South as St. Marys. This train will reach St. John about 4 p.m., so as to give passengers an opportunity to get settled and spend the evening at the Exhibition. Tickets will be good to return on special train leaving St. John Thursday, September 22nd, at 1:30 p.m., reaching above points early in the evening.

For any further particulars in connection with above, please communicate with
C. B. FOSTER, D.P.A., C.P.R., ST. JOHN, N. B.

"Thanks for the insult," stilly replied Mr. Bowser.

"But it is no insult. Please go on with the plot."

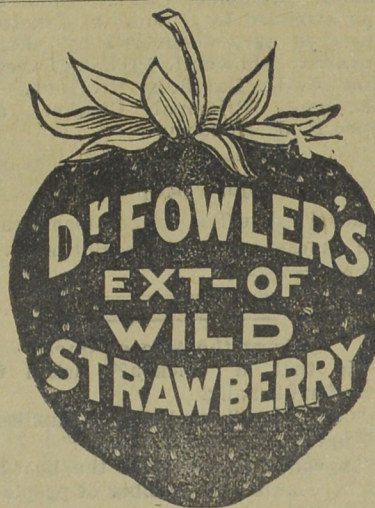
"Not another word, madam. I was an ass to have told you as much as I did. It is evident to me that you are far more interested in an infernal old cat than in my play, and you and the cat can go to Ballyhack!"

He thereupon walked down the hall and put on his hat and overcoat and walked over to the drug store. He knew the druggist to be an old theater goer, and after a bit he queried of him: "What would you say if I told you I was writing a four act comedy?"

"I should say that you were the biggest jackass in town!" was the prompt reply.

Mr. Bowser looked at him for a moment with sudden death in each eye and then passed out into the night. And the gas lamps flared, the shadows danced as he wandered to and fro and felt that of all the living, breathing human beings on earth he was the only one who couldn't write a play and get a snowslide started at the proper moment.

M. QUAD.



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TRAINS WILL LEAVE ST. JOHN

No. 6 Mixed for Moncton	8.00
No. 2 Express for Halifax, the Sydneys and Campbellton	7.00
No. 4 Express for Point du Chene	11.10
No. 26 Express for Point du Chene, Halifax and Pictou	11.45
No. 136 Suburban for Hampton	13.15
No. 8 Express for Sussex	17.15
No. 138 Suburban for Hampton	18.15
No. 134 Express for Quebec and Montreal	19.00
No. 156 Suburban for Hampton	22.40
No. 10 Express for Halifax and Sydney	23.25

TRAINS WILL ARRIVE AT ST. JOHN

No. 9 Express from Halifax and Sydney	6.25
No. 135 Suburban from Hampton	7.45
No. 7 Express from Sussex	9.00
No. 133 Express from Montreal and Quebec	12.50
No. 5 Mixed from Moncton	15.10
No. 137 Suburban from Hampton	15.30
No. 8 Mixed from Point du Chene	17.05
No. 25 Express from Halifax, Pictou and Moncton	17.15
No. 1 Express from Halifax	18.45
No. 156 Suburban from Hampton	22.05
No. 81 Express from Moncton, (Sunday only)	1.35

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