

HUMOROUS.

They Carried It Too Far. Mr. Butterwick called to see me the other day, and in the course of the conversation he said:

"I'm going to move. I can't stand those Thompsons next door to me any longer. They're the awful people to borrow things that I ever saw. Coffee, and butter, and sugar, and flour, I don't mind so much, although when a woman borrows high-priced sugar and Java coffee and sends back sand and chicken, a man naturally feels mad. But they've borrowed nearly everything in the house. First it's one thing and then it is another, from morning till night right straight along. Now there's the poker. A poker's a piece of machinery that you'd think anybody would go around and buy, or, if they couldn't afford it, might use a fence piling to shake up the fire. But Mrs. Thompson seems to hanker after our poker. So she borrows it fifteen or twenty times a day, and, and last Saturday she sent for it thirty-four times. She pays a boy two dollars a week to run over and borrow that poker, and she's used it so much that it's best like a corkscrew. Now take chairs, for instance. She asks us to lend her our chairs three times a day, at every meal, and she borrows the rocking-chair every time she wants to put the baby to sleep. A couple times she sent over for a sofa, and when the boy came back with it he said Mrs. Thompson was mad as a hatter and kept growling around the house all day because there is no castors on it. Last Monday she borrowed our wash-board, and we had to put off washing till Tuesday. She did her preserving in it, and the consequence was our clothes were full of preserved peaches. I've got on an under-shirt now that I'm mighty doubtful if I'll ever get it off, it's stuck so tight. Every now and then she has company and she borrows our hired girl and all the parlor furniture. One day, because I wouldn't carry the piano over for her and take down the chandelier, she told our girl that there were rumors around town that I was a reformed pirate.

"Perfectly scandalous! They think nothing of sending over for a couple of bedsteads or the entry carpet, and the other day Thompson says to me: 'Butterwick, does your pump let pull up easy?' 'And when I said I thought maybe it did, he said: 'Well, I would like to borrow it for a few days till I can get one, for mine's all rotted away.' 'The only wonder to me is that he didn't try to borrow the well along with it.' 'And then on Thursday Mrs. Thompson sent the boy over to know if Mrs. Butterwick would lend her our front door. She said there was away getting painted, and said she was afraid the baby would catch cold. When I asked him what he supposed we were going to do to keep comfortable without any front door, he said Mrs. Thompson said she reckoned we might tack up a bed quilt or something. And when I refused, the boy said Mrs. Thompson told him to ask if, would he send over the front door, to ask Mrs. Butterwick to lend her a pair of striped stockings and a horse-hair bustle, and to borrow the coal scuttle till Monday. What is the name of Moses she's going to do with a bustle and a coal scuttle I can conceive. But they're most extraordinary people. Last Fourth of July was it? Yes—last Fourth of July the boy came over and told Mrs. Butterwick that Mrs. Thompson could be much obliged if she'd lend her the twins for a few minutes. Said Mrs. Thompson wanted 'em to suck of a new bottle-top, because it made her baby sick to taste fresh india rubber. Cheeky wasn't it? But that's her way. She don't mind it any more. Why, I've known her to take off our Johnny's pants when he's been playing over there with the children, and send him home bare-legged to tell his mother that she borrowed them for a pattern. And on Thompson's birthday she said her house was too small for a party, that if we'd lend her our's we might come in the evening and dance with the company, if we wouldn't let on that she didn't live there.

"Yes, sir, I'm going to move. I'd rather live next door to a lunatic asylum and have the maniacs pour red-hot shot over the fence every hour of the day. Indeed I would.

The world, without women, would be a perfect blank—like a sheet of paper—not even ruled.

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