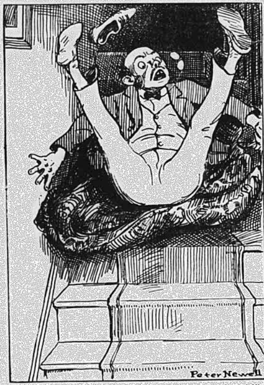
# BETZVILLE TALES

## *Philharmonius Bibbins and the Rug*

*By Ellis Parker Butler*

Author of "Pigs is Pigs" Etc.

ILLUSTRATED By PETER NEWELL



But Just as His Foot Touched the Rug It Slipped and the Rug Carried Him Rapidly Downstairs.

Philharmonius Bibbins is the only psychologist we have in Betzville, but one is plenty, for this isn't a very good place to study psychic phenomena. There are hardly any ghosts in the neighborhood, and those of a low, uninteresting quality. In any place where ghosts amount to anything you could get loads of cheap second-hand ones, all better than any native ghosts we have. So Phil is sort of forced to take up other branches than ghosts. If he lived anywhere else he would be a good psychologist, for he is a whole-hearted believer. He will believe anything that has no sense. And he believes it thoroughly.

Last Wednesday an Armenian rug peddler struck town, and he had a lot of Oriental rugs of various qualities from bad to worse, but he wasn't doing very well, because although Betzville is a center of culture and refinement it runs more to rag carpets than to the gems of the oriental loom. But the moment he called on Philharmonius he saw he had a sale. The very sight of the rugs set all Phil's psychic brain-lobes palpitating like a six-cylinder motor, and he asked immediately whether the Armenian had a magic carpet. The Armenian immediately said he had. He undid his pack and pulled out a rug that looked like the first attempt of a uncultured rug maker who never would be any good at rug making, and that had the general floppiness of a piece of cheese-cloth. The rug had a tag on one corner that said "$6.75," but the Armenian raised it to "$16.75" and then was sorry he hadn't made it "$116.75," Philharmonius took it so quickly.

Philharmonius explained to us, Wednesday night at the lodge, just what a magic carpet is good for, and how you sit on it and say a few strong Arabic words and go floating off on it to any part of the world. When we asked him he said he had not been able to do much floating off yet, but that in a few days he would probably take some trips. He took one that same night.

He had the rug at the head of his stairs, and he started down, but just as his foot touched the rug it slipped and the rug carried him rapidly down stairs. It was quite a triumph for Philharmonius, but it was noticed by his wife that he said the strong Arabic words after he had started, and on the way down, instead of at first. Of course it wasn't much of a flight, just a trial trip, as you might say, but Philharmonius was mighty proud of it, and said it showed that the rug worked all right. He said that probably in a few days he would be able to sail away to Bagdad on it without the least trouble.

All the next day he sat on the rug in his bed-room saying strong Arabic words, but he didn't seem to get anywhere much. He felt that if he wanted to he could easily fly down stairs again, but he seemed tired of doing that. Flying down stairs that way gets so monotonous. So Philharmonius strongly urged his wife never to put the rug at the head of the stairs again.

About seven o'clock in the evening Phil went down stairs to supper, and after supper he saw a big windstorm coming up, so he rushed upstairs to close the bed-room windows, and as he dashed into the bed-room his feet struck the rug. He says he uttered the strong Arabic words as he was coming down, he thinks. He admits he didn't come down on the rug as gracefully as a man could after a little practice, for when his feet went out they went too high, thus raising them above his head so that he sat down on the rug with the back of his head, as you might say. But he says it makes little difference to a man who really has his heart in the magic carpet business how he alights. The main thing is to alight.

The moment he alighted he began to travel. He says he thinks may be he went to Bagdad, but a sleepiness came over him the minute he struck the rug, and he says it was mighty lucky, too, for if he had retained his senses the sight of the great depths below him as he sailed along would probably have made him dizzy, and while in that state of vertigo he might have fallen off the rug and been dashed to pieces. He said he seemed to be traveling for ages, and undoubtedly did go to Bagdad, or somewhere, for he had no recollection of being in Betzville, and that he is thankful that he did not have to stop in Bagdad, for everybody knows how hard it is for a man who does not speak the language to get along in those foreign towns, and he might have gotten into serious trouble. A mad dog might have bitten him, and he did not know the Arabic for "Pasteur cure."

Philharmonius says that the most wonderful thing was that after all that flight, and in spite of the incredible swiftness with which he must have traveled if he went as far as he may have gone, that rug landed him within a foot of where he started from. He says it was a wonderful exhibition of landing, and he wishes he had been awake to see it, but he wasn't; his spirit, as Philharmonius says, was in "psychic realms."

He says he never enjoyed anything in his life as he enjoyed that flight, but that he feels that he has proved that magic carpets really do all that is claimed for them and that the real student of psychic phenomena know when they have had enough. When a thing is proved it is proved, and it is foolish to go on proving it. So, in order, probably, that he may not be tempted to make any more flights, Philharmonius has put the magic carpet under the bed, and nailed it there.

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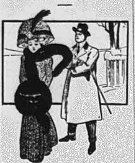
### Bridesmaids for Hire.

Romance dies out in the world, it would almost seem, with the advent of the professional bridesmaid. Whether for better or worse, however, she has arrived, and a bureau in London offers to supply her, or a dozen of her, suitably attired, at an hour's notice, for the sum of one guinea. Runaway couples might be expected to figure as the bureau's chief patrons, but it is said that the professional appears at formal weddings also, and seems to fill a want as clearly as does the paid guest who goes to dinners and dances given by the new rich. It would be interesting to know whether this type of bridesmaid feels emotion or catches a thrill of inspiration from the events in which she officiates. If the thought of the guinea leans in her mind no room for softer sentiment hers is a hopeless case indeed.

### VERY LIKELY.



Nelly—They say he has turned over a new leaf.

Ned—He's so economical I'm afraid he'll use the same one over again.

SCRATCHED SO SHE COULD NOT SLEEP

"I write to tell you how thankful I am for the wonderful Cuticura Remedies. My little niece had eczema for five years and when her mother died I took care of the child. It was all over her face and body, also on her head. She scratched so that she could not sleep nights. I used Cuticura Soap to wash her with and then applied Cuticura Ointment. I did not use quite half the Cuticura Soap and Ointment, together with Cuticura Resolvent, when you could see a change and they cured her nicely. Now she is eleven years old and has never been bothered with eczema since. My friends think it is just great the way the baby was cured by Cuticura. I send you a picture taken when she was about 18 months old.

"She was taken with the eczema when two years old. She was covered with big sores and her mother had all the best doctors and tried all kinds of salves and medicines without effect until we used Cuticura Remedies. Mrs. H. Kiernan, 663 Quincy St., Brooklyn, N. Y., Sept. 27, 1909."

### Her Idea of Discipline.

One day recently, just after the opening of the Baltimore schools, the teacher of a primary class had occasion right at the start to enforce discipline.

"Here, young man!" she exclaimed, indicating a pupil whose name she did not yet know. "I saw you laughing just now. That won't do. No laughing in this school."

"I was only thinking about something, ma'am," said the youngster, sheepishly.

"Well, don't let that happen in school again," said the teacher, sternly.—Sunday Magazine of the Cleveland Leader.

### One on the Judge.

A newly qualified judge in one of the small towns of Tennessee was trying one of his first criminal cases. The accused was an old darky who was accused of robbing a hen-coop. He had been in court before on a similar charge and was then acquitted.

"Well, Tom," began the judge, "I see you're in trouble again."

"Yes, sah," replied the darky; "the last time, jedge, you was ma lawyer."

"Where is your lawyer this time?" asked the judge.

"I ain't got no lawyer this time," answered Tom. "I'm going to tell the truth."

### Rather Tall.

"That," said Senator Tillman of an opponent's argument, "is an amusing exaggeration."

He smiled.

"In fact," he continued, "it is as bad an exaggeration as the story about Ben Johnson's height. They said of Ben, you know, the candidate for sheriff, that when he made a stump speech, instead of getting a stump ready for him to mount, they would, because he was so tall, dig a hole for him to stand in."

HARD TO DROP
But Many Drop It.

A young Calif. wife talks about coffee:

"It was hard to drop Mocha and Java and give Postum a trial, but my nerves were so shattered that I was a nervous wreck and of course that means all kinds of ails.

"At first I thought bicycle riding caused it and I gave it up, but my condition remained unchanged. I did not want to acknowledge coffee caused the trouble for I was very fond of it. At that time a friend came to live with us, and I noticed that after he had been with us a week he would not drink his coffee any more. I asked him the reason. He replied, 'I have not had a headache since I left off drinking coffee, some months ago, till last week, when I began again, here at your table. I don't see how anyone can like coffee, anyway, after drinking Postum!'

"I said nothing, but at once ordered a package of Postum. That was five months ago, and we have drank no coffee since, except on two occasions when we had company, and the result each time was that my husband could not sleep, but lay awake and tossed and talked half the night. We were convinced that coffee caused his suffering, so he returned to Postum, convinced that coffee was an enemy, instead of a friend, and he is troubled no more with insomnia.

"I, myself, have gained 8 pounds in weight, and my nerves have ceased to quiver. It seems so easy now to quit coffee that caused our aches and ails and take up Postum."

Read the little book, "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs. "There's a Reason."

**Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.**

CLIP THIS OUT

Renowned Doctor's Prescription for Rheumatism and Backache.

"One ounce Syrup Sarsaparilla compound; one ounce Toris compound; Add these to a half pint of good whiskey; Take a tablespoonful before each meal and at bed time; Shake the bottle before using each time." Any druggist has these ingredients in stock or will quickly get them from his wholesale house. This was published previously and hundreds here have been cured by it. Good results show after the first few doses. This also acts as a system builder, eventually restoring strength and vitality.

### Why "Potter's Field" for Beggars

It is not because the beggar fails to make money that he finally lands in the potter's field. "Any good, industrious beggar," says Mr. Forbes, "can and does make a great deal more money than the average workingman." But the trend of the beggar is downward, and in the end he is pretty sure to become a hopeless wreck and a derelict.

How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

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We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by his firm.

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Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price 75 cents per bottle. Sold by all Druggists.

Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

### Knew the Calendar.

They were little girls, so small that the teacher was telling them about divisions of time, and receiving all sorts of answers to her simple questions. The little girl who lived in a boarding house was a year older than any of the others.

"We have learned that years are divided into months, months into weeks, and weeks into days," said the teacher. "Now can any one tell me how the days are divided?"

The little girl who lived in a boarding house raised her hand, and was asked to speak.

"Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, beef," she said, glibly; "Friday, fish, Saturday, corned beef and beans; and Sunday, chicken."—Youths's Companion.

Children Who Are Sickly.

Mothers should never be without a box of Mother Gray's Sweet Powders for Children. They break up colds in 24 hours, cure Feverishness, Constipation, Headache, Teething Disorders and Stomach Troubles. Over 10,000 testimonials. At all Druggists, 25c. Ask today. Sample mailed FREE. Address, Allen S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.

Associate with men of good judgment, for judgment is found in conversation. And we make another man's judgment ours by frequenting his company.—Fuller.

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To learn to work and work cheerfully is the central lesson of life.—Cowen.

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He loves his country best who strives to make it best.—Ingersoll.

DOCTOR YOURSELF

when you feel a cold coming on by taking a few doses of Perry Davis' Painkiller. It is better than Quinine and safer. The large size bottles are the cheapest.

Time cannot remove kindly acts from a grateful heart.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup.

For children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic. 25c a bottle.

A friend is merely a person we can tell our troubles to.

Lewis' Single Binder, the famous straight 5c cigar—annual sale 9,000,000.

It might improve the pound cake to hit it with an ax.

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