# An O. Henry cocktail

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threepence.' The reviewer's partial description has proved to be correct, for it agrees with the only recorded copy - here more fully described.

THE STORY OF TOBY, A SEQUEL TO "TYPEEE," BY THE AUTHOR OF THAT WORK.

U (being the signature)

LEAF: 4 7/8" X 7 1/2".

COLLATION: A single signature, U8, with additional signature-mark U2 on the second leaf of the gatherings; signed to follow Murray's first edition of Typee. Issued without fly-title.

PAGINATION: [i], this serves as a title-page, but it is a divisional half-title as subsequently used in the first English cloth edition of Typee (1847) to contain the Sequel; [ii], Note to the Sequel, dated New York, July, 1846; 289-301, text; at foot of 301, printer's note, beneath a rule: London: Printed by William Clowes & Sons, Stamford Street; [302], blank.

BINDING: Printed gray paper wrappers, trimmed to leaf size, uniform with those of the first English edition of Typee issued in parts in Murray's Home and Colonial Library. The front wrapper, inside, and the back wrapper, inside and outside, are imprinted with publisher's advertisements.

The front wrapper, outside, bears a small ink-stamp of a Liverpool bookseller, W. Crape.

JOHN H. BIRKS

An O. Henry Cocktail

HENRY'S 'Thimble, Thimble,' a story with an unsolved ending frankly imitated from Stockton's 'The-Lady or the Tiger,' was published in Hampton's Magazine, XXI (December, 1908), 698-704. An editorial note remarked: 'This story has caused so much commotion around the office that we are leaving it to our readers - with O. Henry himself as judge - to settle the perplexing question. As an inducement we will pay $5.00 for the best answer; $2.50 for the second; $1.50 for the third, and $1.00 for the fourth - a total of $100. And we do so with a genuine feeling of relief!' In the following February (XXII, 282-284) the editor wrote that 'every incoming mail is still bringing answers,' and that 'at this writing' nearly three thousand of our readers have sent in guesses; while O. Henry awarded the four prizes to contestants from St Paul, Minnesota, Augusta, Maine, Red Key, Indiana, and Richmond, Virginia. All four winners picked Black Tie as the Virginia Carteret to whom Uncle Jake delivered the heirloom watch.

As indicated by manuscripts now in the Harvard College Library, at least one reader, Miss Edith Morse, New Rochelle, New York, wrote directly to the author, using light blue stationery:

Dear O. Henry,

"Thimble, Thimble" is a mighty clever little story and had me guessing for almost a minute. - However, you
can't fool sister when it comes to spotting
the N.Y. guys.

"Blue Tie" is the Manhattan kid, & the
one who did the proposing to Miss De Ormond, but it was "Black Tie" who
comes to the rescue by handing out the
necessary coin & it was he who rec'd the
watch from Jake.

My reason for arriving at this conclu-
sion, is the clue given in "Black Tie's"
speech in which he says that "times have
changed," & while the old Southern
idea of chivalry consisted in "maintaining
a look of eaten arrogance" his code was
"the prompt payment of debts" - Black
Tie, in his life North, has learned "some-
thing of business & a little of life."
Also in the same speech, Black Tie says
"Northerners, Southerners," while if he
were a Northerner, he would in all prob-
ability be polite & say Southerners first -
comprehend?

Goodluck to you, O. Henry, you &
Bill Shakespeare can divvy up the laurel
wreath for giving us side lights on the
human nature problem, & your little
stories have cured me of the blues quicker
than a Dry Martini or a dose of quinine.

Hope you will solve the problem soon
& save us from brain fever.

Bag to remain,

Your sincere admirer,
Your sincere admirer,
(Miss), Edith Morse

P. S. Would much rather have your
autograph than the $25

One would suppose that O. Henry
was disconcerted by the ease & unanim-
ity with which his supposedly in-
soluble ending was solved. But in a
letter dated December 23, though post-
marked January 10, 1929, he wrote
from the Caledonia, 25 West 26th
Street, New York City, to his nearby
admirer, therein adding nothing to
literature but something guaranteed to
tickle the palate:

My Dear Miss Morse

Thanks for your letter. It was a pale
blue oasis in a desert of "communica-
tions"

Joy compenancy. I'm "awful" glad to
hear that my poor little stories rank with
a martini as a blues-dispeller.

Your answer was correct but escaped
me until too late - so here it gets this
"honorable mention."

Did you every [sic] try:

Gordon gin ½
Private Stock ½
Orange bitters a big dash
Absinthe Moderate "
Mix

It is with genuine pleasure that I ap-
pend the autograph, & await confi-
dently your decision that the martini
substitute will win out against both lit-
terature & quinine.

Yours Very truly
O. Henry

I regret to say that I cannot endorse
O. Henry's opinion, but possibly the
fault is to be laid on the quality of
liquids obtainable in these days of Pri-
orities and Shortages.

Hyder E. Rollins
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