

HUMOR



The "Atomazician" seemed to treat this morbid subject as an everyday occurrence and continued with his narration: "I goes up to John and I says, 'That bird's got some wing; we've got to wait him out.'"

This cunning subterfuge quite fascinated me. The idea of using a bird in weighing the earth seemed so original. I suppose he attached one end of the atomizer to the bird's body and fastened the other end to the earth, much as a spring balance. Surely a novel idea! The bird was so fleet of wing that the only method they had of capturing it was to wait until it was tired out. Again I was about to give voice to my feelings of admiration, but something told me to control myself, and the inventor continued:

"So we just went up there with a stick and a prayer, and let him shoot 'em at us. A few of us flied up, but no one could connect."

Ah! The plot thickens. For the benefit of my readers, I will have to explain that when excited the Hon. "Atomazician" forgets his rules of English. He means "flew up," but this mistake must be attributed to the stress under which he was working. A few of his assistants flew up, presumably in aeroplanes, to give battle to this bird of prey. It must have been an eagle! I had already looked upon inventors as a most unromantic, mathematical lot, but here was an inventive genius, and how my romantic blood boiled! Think of it! Man going up in wings to conquer a bird of prey, to harness and use it as an instrument in weighing the mighty universe.

"Along about the eighth (the eighth of November, I believe, all of the experiments were made in that month) I saw that he was beginning to slow up, and so I shouted to the bench, 'Come on, fellows, the old bird's losing his pepper. We've got him now.'"

This account so thrilled me that I could contain myself no longer, but shouted, "Why didn't you use salt to catch him? That's better than pepper to put on his tail."

For the complete account of this epoch-making invention, I must refer my readers to the current technical journals. It seems that my reminding him of his mistake temporarily unbalanced his mind, as he began acting violently. I have entirely recovered, however, but naturally am not able to give a complete account of the invention.