

caught just in time by——who was standing near, eating——. I looked around for Hiram, but I might as well have hunted for——in——with——to help me, as to have found him among all those excited people.

I walked up to——who was leaning against a lamp post, and asked if he had seen anybody who looked like——named Hiram Meddergrass, and he said “No,” but he had seen——who looked like——named——, and then he began to laugh at the top of his voice.

I was becomin' disgusted and not being able to find Hiram, I decided the best thing to do was to go home. So, after buyin'——of a fruit vender, I took a car for the station, where I boarded the train for home, my arms loaded down with——, a much wiser and a very tired man.

Peter Coddle's Visit to New York



A READING GAME.

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PETER CODDLE DIRECTIONS

1. It is a narrative of Mr. Coddle's experiences during his first and only visit to New York, with blank spaces left to be filled in by the players as the game progresses.

2. The curious and contrary nature of the articles, for the uses to which they are assigned in the story, cannot fail to excite laughter and merriment.

3. One person is selected to read the story, who divides the cards among the players. The players keep their cards in a pile, face downwards, and do not select or pick them out, but take them in regular order as they lie in the pile.

4. The reader pauses at each—in the story and the players, beginning at the left of the reader, read their cards in rotation, one for each—thus making the story complete. After reading a card lay it aside.

5. As the cards never come twice in the same order, an endless and comical variation in the narrative is secured.

(2)

INTRODUCTION TO PETER CODDLE

Peter Coddle was a highly respected citizen of Wayback, which is a town so small that it is not down on the map. He lived on a farm a mile and a half from the village, and up to the time of this story his greatest excitement, aside from fighting potato bugs was to go down to the Post Office occasionally and play a game of "Checkers."

All his life long he had looked forward to the possibility of sometime making a trip to New York, and when the opportunity came, he was not long in deciding to go. We will let him tell his story in his own words.

(3)

NARRATIVE.

Well, yer see I hain't much fer story tellin', but I don't mind tellin' yer a few things that happened when I went down ter New York.

It came about this way. I was down ter the village post office one day, sett'n round with some of the fellers, jokin' and laughin' and callin' each other—or——, when I jumped up to see if any letters had come for us up ter the farm. Well, there was only one and that was for me. There was my name all spelled out on the envelope, looking just as important as if it was——.

The letter was from Hiram Meddergrass, who went down ter New York about ten years ago to go into business, and asked me ter spend a week with him. I hurried home and told the folks, and everybody said "yer better go an' see the sights," so that afternoon I rigged all up and took the train for the city.

Well, say! talk about——or our bay mare doing fast time, why that ar train went faster than—— would run from——. I tell yer I had a fine trip. I bought——and some——of a boy on the train, and I just had a feast fit for——.

(4)

There was one station where we stopped five minutes, so I got out to look around. The first thing I saw was——chasin'——around——. I didn't like ter see——pickin' on——so much smaller than himself, so I started in to help the youngster out. I hadn't run further than the baggage car when I was struck in the head by——which was thrown by—— in the car. It knocked me down right on top of—— and after rolling over——and——, I got up looking like——, whereupon the train started, and I jumped aboard and went to my seat feeling like——.

The train pulled into New York and, as I was getting out, I'll be confumuxed if there wa'nt Hiram all dressed up as fine as——with——in his hand,—— in his buttonhole, and a smile on his face as big as——.

He rushed up to me and shook my hand so hard it made me dance like——. He told me I looked like——, and that he intended that I should have a good time, fit for——.

Well, we walked along with the crowd, who were hurryin' to get——or to catch——until we got out into the street. And geewhittaker, I never did see the beat of such sights before. Right in front of me was——running right through——and over on one

side of the street was —— selling —— to —— and then there was —— running on two rails in the middle of the street and all the queerest sights anyone could imagine.

Well, we started down town and had just got on to one of the principal business streets when along came —— ridin' in —— . This, Hiram said, was —— advertisin' —— , and says he : " Let's go see it."

We went into one of the big stores, and gee whiz, you could buy anythin' from —— down to —— . Thinkin' the folks to home would like somethin' or ruther, I bought —— for mother, —— for father and —— for the younger ones. I saw a big fat woman ahead of us with her arms filled with —— drop —— right on top of a baby. The baby gave a yell that sounded like —— barkin' and would not stop until the woman gave her —— which she had in a bag.

Well, we went around lookin' at —— and —— and one thing and another until we thought we'd like somethin' ter eat. We went into a restaurant, and they had almost everythin' ter eat you could imagine. There was —— and —— and —— and —— a la —— and —— a la —— but I didn't see any pumpkin pie.

We sat down and had —— and —— and —— and all it cost us was forty cents. Hiram said after we got

through that we'd better go into some show. The admission was ten cents, and Hiram paid it, and of all the things I ever see! There was a fat lady with —— hangin' from her head, —— who looked like —— just after eatin' —— . There was —— , —— and —— that would eat glass.

Well, we saw all these and then went into the stage show. First there was some music that sounded like —— dyin' and then the curtain went up and a little gal, a mighty sight homlier than our Sal, all dressed up in —— with —— on her head came out and sung a song all about —— who loved —— but could not get her, 'cause her father said he was —— . Then a lot of gals come out, some dressed like —— , others like —— and all began dancing, when some one yelled " Fire."

Well, right here was where the trouble began. Everybody run for the door like —— . All the freaks, includin' the —— , the —— and —— set up a howlin' that sounded like —— in distress.

As we all rushed out, I lost Hiram in the crowd, and I no sooner reached the sidewalk than a stream of water hit —— underneath my arm driving it through a window onto —— .

I started to run, but tripped over —— and was