

## SATAN'S SUPPER

or

## Secrets of a Fire King

*This is an excerpt from one of Griffin's most successful books, copyrighted in 1895. At an earlier point in his career, Griffin billed himself as "Mons. F. Le Costro." Readers are advised to heed the author's cautionary remarks.*

## CAUTION

As a certain amount of danger attends the performance of all Fire Tricks the student should carefully observe the following: Read the instructions over carefully and be sure you understand every trick before you commence to practice.

Keep your gasoline and kerosene bottle well corked and at least a foot away from fire.

Do not under any circumstances draw your breath in while practicing. If you do you will suck the flames into your throat and lungs and it will kill you. So be careful.

It is advisable to have a bucket of water handy in case of accident. If your clothes catch on fire wrap yourself up in a quilt or blanket.

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Original Expose of Fire Eating Phenomena  
by Mons. F. Le Costro  
[C. E. Griffin]

## How To Be a Fire King

First procure the following articles and place them on your table in a convenient manner:

1. Candle and candle stick.
2. Fire pot, like tinnerns use, with charcoal fire.
3. Bottle of gasoline and kerosene mixed, equal parts.
4. Two saucers.
5. A table fork.
6. A quantity of cotton batting, all picked out so as to make as big a "flash" as possible.
7. A stick of red sealing wax (Denison's No. 2).
8. A few small pieces of brimstone whittled into round balls and covered with cotton to protect the teeth.

9. Fake tin cup, described in No. 4.
10. An iron ladle and an iron spoon.
11. Fusible metal as described in No. 5.
12. Piece of light colored resin.
13. A large red bandana handkerchief.
14. Most important of all—a box of storaxine, the magic fire preparation. Greatest thing in the world for scalds and burns. Price for large box, 50 cents; small box 25 cents.

## RECEIPT FOR MAKING STORAXINE.

1 Bar Ivory Soap, cut up fine. 1 Pound Brown Sugar, 2 Ounces Liquid Storax (not the gum). Dissolve in hot water and add a wine glass full of carbolic acid.

Just before giving your exhibition rub this ointment on the parts most likely to come in contact with the fire—the lips, tongue and roof of mouth—after which you rinse the mouth out with good, strong vinegar. You are now ready for business. A few years ago I had run out of printed copies of this explanation, and receiving an order from a young man who all but intimated that he would like the reply by telegraph, I wrote out the instructions and sent him the Ms. A few days later I received the following letter:

"DEAR PROFESSOR—Your instructions, 'Secret of a Fire King,' received. Something must be wrong. I did as you told me and burnt myself like Hell."

Something was wrong. I had forgot to mention STORAXINE, THE MAGIC FIRE PREPARATION.

Now I don't mean to say that STORAXINE will render the skin perfectly impervious to fire, but it is a great help and is the best preparation that has ever been tried for this purpose. For scalds and burns it is unsurpassed. Rub the Storaxine on a clean cotton cloth and tie around the affected part.

## MODUS OPERANDI

Each Trick Explained Separately.

1. BURNING COALS.—Take several pieces of burnt or charred cotton, place them in a saucer, pour a little kerosene and gasoline (mixed equal parts) over them. Light with candle and eat with a fork.



2. MELTED SEALING WAX.—Take a stick of ordinary express sealing wax (Denison's No. 2 is the best) in one hand and a candle in the other. Melt the wax over the candle and place it blazing on your tongue. The moisture from your mouth cools it instantly. Be careful not to get any on the lips, chin or hands. Chew and remove in handkerchief.

3. BRIMSTONE ON TONGUE.—Take two or three small round pieces of brimstone (stick or sulphur) and wrap cotton around it. Put these in a saucer and pour a little of your mixture of kerosene and gasoline (squeezing the surplus oil into saucer), light it by your candle and place it in the open palm of your hand. You can hold it there a full minute without its burning if your hand has been annointed with STORAXINE. Now throw back your head and place the burning ball on your tongue. A freshly blown out candle may be ignited from the flame, which makes it more effective. After lighting candle chew up the brimstone and apparently swallow it, but in reality remove the brimstone under cover of handkerchief. When you try this trick you will notice that the brimstone does not burn at all. You only use brimstone for the effect the chewing of it gives. The cotton protects the teeth. To make it appear still more real throw a piece in your furnace. As they smell the burning brimstone no one will doubt its being brimstone that you are eating.

4. TO DRINK BOILING LIQUOR.—For this experiment have a tin cup made with a double bottom. Have a hole or slit in one side of the "fake" bottom large enough to let the liquor run through. Pour a little liquor (water answers as well) into the cup and set it over your fire until it boils, then pour a little on the floor from the side which has the slit in *fake* bottom, thus showing how hot it is. Now place the *other* side to your mouth and pretend to drink. The liquor remains in the cup *under the fake bottom*.

5. BURNING PITCH BALLS.—Take a piece of light colored resin and small wad of cotton. Roll this into a ball about the size of a marble. Place this on a fork, ignite it with a candle and put in your mouth, quickly changing it from one part of the mouth to another. When it quits "sizzling" wipe off your mouth and lips, and in so doing remove the ball in your bandana.

6. MELTED LEAD.—This is not really lead, but a fusable metal composed of the following metals mixed and melted together:

- 3 oz. lead
- 2 oz. lock tin
- 5 oz. bismuth

The above combination of metals will melt in boiling water. Melt a piece about the size of a silver quarter in your iron ladle. Pour out of ladle into iron spoon, and then into your mouth. Roll it around with your tongue until it becomes congealed, then spit it out into one of the committee's hands. He will drop it mighty quick, which always raises a laugh in your favor.

7. AFTER SUPPER SMOKE OR HUMAN VOLCANO.—Eat common cotton batting by chewing a large bunch into a small wad and renewing same while taking another mouthful. When ready to finish you secretly light a small piece of cotton and after it has quit blazing and is only a live coal, place it in a larger bunch of cotton, place the whole in your mouth and blow when fire and sparks will come forth in a most wonderful manner. Remove the cotton in your bandanna, make a polite bow and retire.

#### HOW TO BE A SWORD SWALLOWER

I always finish this act with sword swallowing, and it makes an excellent finale, giving the act an effect of realism unsurpassed. I furnish best spring steel swords with full directions for swallowing same without danger or fear of detection for only \$3.00. Price of secret only \$1.00.