Why Fifty Degrees is the Danger Point

A Drama in Three Acts

Time: Present
Scene: Any Home

Dramatis Personae

Chorus of Bacteria
Mold
Mildew
Ferment

Chorus of Food
Butter
Mush
Milk
Vegetables
Fish
Lettuce

Mother
Father
Thermometer

ACT I
Scene: The Refrigerator

Thermometer
Heavens! I've been feeling fine all day, and now see! Some careless person has left the refrigerator door open, and Mercury is running up. 46, 48, 50, 52! Too bad. Now there'll be war, and I am powerless to prevent it.

Chorus of Bacteria
(awakening)
Yo ho ho! For the good moist warmth. Come brothers, on to battle! We need nourishment! On!

Chorus of Food Stuffs
Clear out, you can't harm us!

Bacteria
No? We couldn't when the thermometer was below fifty. But now we have you in our power.

(Bacteria assault Food Stuffs, and the latter succumb, becoming poisonous, wilted, putrefied.)
Alice D. Nelson
1230 French Street
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THERMOMETER (Sighing) Oh, dear, now there will be all kinds of trouble and expense, and I shall be blamed.

ACT II
Scene: The Dinner Table

FATHER I have been listless and drowsy all day. I almost feel as if I had been poisoned.

MOTHER I have noticed that the Child is not playing. Her milk disagreed with her. I had the Doctor in. He fears typhoid.

THERMOMETER Oh, dear, if I could only speak.

ACT III
(Some time later) Scene: The Kitchen

FATHER Our bills have been inordinately heavy this month, ice and food much more than usual.

MOTHER So much was spoiled and had to be destroyed.

FATHER —and the Doctor for the Child. Business losses at the office, too, due to my headaches and lowered efficiency.

MOTHER (Cooking in at the refrigerator) I wonder if this thermometer is right? It says eight degrees.

THERMOMETER At last!

FATHER That's the secret of our trouble. The villainous bacteria have waged war on us all because they had strength from the 50 degree temperature.

MOTHER We have paid high for our disregard of that thermometer. Paid in poor health, lost food, increased expenses. Never again.

THERMOMETER Thank Heaven.
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(Colder air is generated; the refrigerator door is firmly closed, and the curtain falls on aailing thermometer, dropping into the forties.)

The End.

363 Words