

THE JOKER'S BUDGET.

JESTS AND YARNS BY FUNNY MEN OF THE PRESS.

At the Menagerie—An Egotist—A Tender-Hearted Man—The Only Causes, Etc., Etc.

AT THE MENAGERIE.

"Step this way—we're about to feed the animals."

"Ah! thank you, awfully, don't you know, don't you see, I've—ah—just hand me—ah—dinnah."

AN EGOTIST.

Miss Gussie—Riverside—I don't think I would ever marry a very handsome man. I'd be so jealous if my husband was an Apollo.

Dude Canesucker—Don't say that, Miss Gussie. You won me of my last hope.—[Texas Siftings]

A TENDER HEARTED MAN.

Customer—Why is it that you charge as much for a six pound pig as you do for a sixteen pound pig?

Butcher—The smaller the pig, the more it hurts us to kill it. Got to charge somethin' fur our feelin's, man.—[Chicago Tribune]

A PRECEDENT ESTABLISHED.

"What makes you think she will marry you?"

"She has married other men.—[Truth.]

THE ONLY CAUSES.

Mrs. Dobson—Bridget told me she saw Mr. and Mrs. Hobson going to church this morning. I wonder what's the matter?

Mr. Dobson—Why either Mr. Hobson has had another attack of his heart trouble, or Mrs. Hobson has a new hat.—[Puck.]

UNSELFISH LOVE.

He—if you loved me you would marry me while I am poor.

She—You do me an injustice. I love you too much to have your precious health risked by my cooking. Wait until you can afford to keep servants.—[Life.]

A MAN TO BE AVOIDED.

Higgins—There comes Baggs. I don't care to meet that fellow. I asked him to lend me \$10 one day last spring.

Hoggons—He ought to have let you have it: he's rich.

Higgins—Well, you see, he did.—[Life.]

BAROMETRIC INDICATIONS.

Senior Partner—One thing I like about our new clerk is that he is reliable. You can always tell what he is going to do next.

Junior Partner—And what is that?

Senior Partner—Nothing.—[Truth.]

AN ABSORBING TALE.

Office Boy to Butcher—Mr. Serial wants ten cents' worth of sliced ham wrapped up in the continuation of the story you sent him yesterday with the sausages.—[Browning's.]

RELENTLESS.

Grotox—You can't work any dynamite fakes here. There isn't any use for you to try it.

Dismal Dawson—Dis ain't no dynamite. Dis is a accordion; an' if you don't give up two bones, I'll play "Two Little Girls in Blue" right here. See?—[Puck.]

FULLY OCCUPIED.

Cora—How is it that when a man writes one famous story he seldom writes another?

Merritt—Because he devotes the rest of his life to telling us how he came to write it.—[Puck.]

WANTED TO ASK SOMEBODY WHO KNEW.

Under ordinary circumstances he was a man of prominence—but as he ascended the steps of his residence, very early in the morning, it was as evident that he desired to be as much otherwise as possible. The cabby was lingering near to see that his charge was safely disposed of for the night. The door opened before the man on the steps could get his key to work, and he was met with the question:

"John, where have you been?"

(Silence.)

"John, where have you been?"

He turned to descend the steps.

"Are you going to answer my question?"

"Yes 'm dear, I am. From my personal knowledge, I can't give you the desired information, 'a I'm goin' to ask the man that drives the hack."

—[Life.]

DANGERS OF THE BOTTLE.

Fogg—There's an example of the bottle working a man's ruin.

Fogg—Humph! Whiskey?

Fogg—Nop; ink. Jury awarded the girl \$50,000 damage in a breach of promise suit on the strength of the letters he wrote, and it took every cent he had to pay it.—[Buffalo Courier.]

CURTAILING EXPENSES.

"Never knew such hard times, old boy. We're economizing at our house now just like other folks."

"You were always an excessive smoker. I suppose the first thing you did was to cut down the number of your cigars?"

"Well, no; not exactly. You see, wifey does the household work instead of hiring a girl, and that's where the economy comes in."—[Judge.]

A WISE DOCTOR.

"Doctor, I have a frightful cold in the head! What shall I take for it?"

Doctor (after reflection)—A hand-kerchief.—[Texas Siftings.]

WHAT PAPA SAID.

Mr. Bigwaist—And so your father has been giving you some points in physiology and has told you that all persons' bodies are composed mainly of water.

Little Robbie—All except you.

"Except me?"

"Yes, he said you were made up mainly of beef"—[Boston Courier.]

CLEAVING TO AND CLEAVING FROM.

Miss Backbay—What a solemn thing it is for two people to wed; to cleave to one another till death do part.

Mrs. Jackson—Parke—Isn't it though? I'm mighty glad that folks don't have to marry on any such cast iron conditions nowadays.—[Indianapolis Journal.]

NO ROOM TO EXPLAIN.

The tramp with a new gag apprised the man with money in his pocket.

"Please, sir," he said, "will you give Mahmemosic something to day?"

"Who's Mahmemosic?" asked the gentleman, somewhat puzzled.

"It's Indian, sir, for Man-not-afraid-to-ask-for-a-dime."

"That's all right, but I never heard of Mahmemosic before."

The tramp assumed a look of amazement.

"What?" he exclaimed; "never heard of Mahmemosic?"

"No; never did."

"Did you ever hear of Abraham Lincoln?"

"Lincoln? Lincoln?" queried the gentleman, catching a cue. "Who's he?"

The tramp ignored the question.

"Perhaps you've heard of General Grant?"

"Can't say I ever did."

You've certainly heard of Washington?"

"Washington? Washington? and the gentleman rubbed his chin thoughtfully. "Let me see; what was his first name."

"George, sir—George Washington."

"No; I never heard of him. Who was he?"

The tramp took a long look at his proposed benefactor.

"Well," he said, "he was a man who never done what you are doing now in great shape," and the tramp had the gentleman in a hole he couldn't get out of without paying a dime and cutting short further explanation.—[Detroit Free Press.]

CLEARLY NOT TO THE DOGS.

"I heard Rhyme say the other day that poetry was going to the dogs."

"I guess he's about right."

"It doesn't seem so to me. Swinburne has just written a poem 'To a Cat'?"—[New York Press.]

THEY GET THEM IN THE NECK.

"The little mermaids and merboys never have any snow under the ocean, do they, mamma?" said Jacky.

"No, dear."

"I suppose instead of snowball fights they have fishball fights, eh?" said Jacky.—[Harper's Young People.]

STUFFING A VISITOR.

"When that man came to Chicago, sir, he couldn't write his name. And how's he's worth millions."

"I suppose he has learned to write by this time?"

"Write? Write? That man, sir, yields the finest cattle pen in Chicago."—[Chicago Tribune.]

A PREVENTIVE DISEASE.

Jackson—What was the trouble between you and the landlady this morning?

Mrs. Comnick—Only a little liver complaint.—[Hallo.]

BY WEIGHT.

Publisher—I tell you, we sold every copy of our mammoth edition last week.

Cynic—How much a pound did you get?—[Hallo.]

PURELY BUSINESS.

"That Lord Bronson who married Jenny Simpson was an awful hoer. He was married actually in a business suit."

"Well, why not? The wedding was a pure matter of business so far as he was concerned."—[Harper's Bazaar.]

CAUSE FOR INDIGNATION.

"Sir, you have insulted both of us."

"How?"

"You said we resembled each other."—[Hallo.]

HIS GEOGRAPHY.

Teacher—In what State is Chicago? Pupil—New Jersey.

"Wrong. Where is the Hudson River?"

"Rises in the Rocky Mountains and flows to the Gulf of Mexico."

"My goodness, child, you must have been reading a London newspaper."—[New York Herald.]

NOTHING STRANGE ABOUT IT.

Ethel—He hardly knows me yet and he has proposed. Don't you think it strange?

Clarissa—No, I don't see anything strange in his proposing if he hardly knows you.

LIKE SAMSON.

She—You have such a curly head!

He—Yes; that is my—er—weak point!

COLD IRON BITS.

One of the most careless forms of cruelty in winter is the use of a cold bit. A writer in the Kentucky Live Stock Record thus calls attention to the evil, which is as common in the blue grass region:

"Let any one who has the care of horse these cold, frosty mornings, deliberately grasp in his hand a piece of iron; indeed, let him touch it to the tip of his tongue, and then let him thrust the bit into the mouth of the horse if he has the heart to do it. The horse is an animal of nervous organization. His mouth is formed of delicate glands and tissues. The temperature of the blood is the same as in the human being, and, as in man, the mouth is the warmest part of the body. Imagine, we repeat, the irritation that would be to the human, and, if not the same degree, still the suffering of the animal is very great. And it's not a momentary pain. Food is eaten with difficulty, and the irritation repeated day after day causes loss of appetite and strength. Many a horse has become worthless from no other cause but this. Before India-rubber bits were to be had, I myself used a bit covered with leather, and on no account would have dispensed with it in freezing weather."

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

OUIDA, the novelist, describes the nineteenth century clothing of an Englishman as "the most frightful, grotesque and disgraceful male costume which the world has ever seen."

In one convenience San Francisco is ahead of every city in the world; this is in its system of rapid transit. This is effected by means of cable cars, running not only on the principal avenues, but in the cross streets, up and down the steep hills, in short everywhere.

The fleet of ships once owned at Newburyport, Mass., has disappeared from the registry of that port, and only four barks are left to keep up the marine glory of the old town.

The last ship registered there was the Mary L. Cushing, which was recently purchased by a New Yorker and will go into the China trade, sailing from New York.

The Russian government has decided to impose a tax on all occupied houses. This tax is to be in lieu of an income tax which was abandoned as nonfeasible some little time ago.

The impost is to be levied for the benefit of 220 of the chief towns of European Russia and Poland, which are to be divided into four classes.

The head nurse in a ward of a training school for nurses, says: "I am sure that any one who could provide the Americans with a substitute for animal food would be conferring a national benefit. They eat twice as much meat as we English do, and to that, I believe, is largely due the nervous derangements, and too often shortened life of the average American."

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A MINNESOTA jury has refused to recognize the validity of a contract specifying a matrimonial match as a consideration for the payment of money. A man in that State agreed to give another man \$25 if he would secure him a wife. When the wife had been obtained the bachelorette repudiated his contract and the matchmaker brought action against him. The matchmaker was defeated.

A RESOLUTION in favor of birching bad boys instead of sending them to prison has been sent to the British Home Secretary, signed by a number of magistrates.

The proposition is to birch boys under sixteen for all offences, at the discretion of the magistrate. The judicious use of the birch, it is believed, would not only have a more salutary effect, but would save the boys from acquiring the prison taint, losing their dread of the prison, and sinking deeper into crime.

SPEAKING of football, the London Lancet says: "There can be no denying that a pastime which has accumulated in four months, even by our confessedly imperfect records, for five sudden deaths, two concussions of the spine (in one of which it was stated that 'three ribs were torn from the spinal column'), one concussion of the brain, one fracture of the thigh, sixteen fractures of the leg (some of these were simple and some of both bones, but further classification is unnecessary), nine fractures of the clavicle and two of the arm, is a dangerous one."

Having thus adroitly stimulated the curiosity of his friends, who begged him to proceed with the story, the lawyer continued:

"You may remember the intense interest the public took in the Grant-Ward failure and in the subsequent hearings in which creditors sought to recover from the wreck a slice of their investments. Many hearings took place, most of them in the law office of Julian T. Davies, in the bank building, Broadway and Wall street.

"Mr. Hornblower was one of the counsel retained. Another was the late Francis Bangs, a remarkably good lawyer and aggressive to a degree, while he kept up a flow of wit and humor at the expense of his adversary.

"On the occasion I speak of Mr. Davies' office was crowded. It was a very important hearing. A witness was expected to testify on a vital point in the proceedings.

"The witness was detained a long time for some reason and the silence grew painful. It was a dignified hearing and no one spoke. At last