

SMILES FOR THE DINNER HOUR.

MRS. RIFTER: I ordered some draperies here yesterday, and should like to know if they have been made yet. Floorwalker (after investigation): No, ma'am, they have not; the salesman said you hadn't been in to change your mind.

Senior Partner: That new foreign buyer of ours understands his business. Why, you could ship those goods back to London and sell them at a profit! Junior Partner: That's a Customs house invoice you are looking at!

He hung up curtains all the day,
With whistle and with song,
And when his wife came home at night
She said they all were wrong.

I see, said Spatts to the dealer, that you advertise \$5 hats for \$4. Yes, sir; shall I show you some? And \$4 hats for \$3? Yes; would you like to look at a \$3 hat? And \$3 hats for \$2? Yes; what is your size, please? And \$2 hats for \$1? Would you like to try on a Derby or a slouch? I'd just like to take a \$1 hat for nothing.

Didn't want Mother-in-Law: John, she said, softly, I've concluded to do without a new hat and send for mother with the money—it won't take much to pay her expenses here. My dear, he cried, excitedly, the idea of you wearing that old bonnet another day is too horrible for me to endure, and I'll never enter this house again until you get a new one. The wife smiled to herself.

Mrs. Tinkler: What, been getting yourself another \$8 hat? Charlie, you're too extravagant altogether. Mr. Tinkler (penitentially): I'm afraid you're right, and I won't do it again. Truly, I won't. Mrs. Tinkler (breaking into tears): And you forgot all about that \$32 bonnet I wanted you to bring home.

Good Advice: Mrs. Witherby—I am going to open an account in a dry goods store to day. Witherby: Do they know you? Mrs. Witherby: No. Witherby: Then wear your sealskin.

Algy: I only wish my man were here. It's waining so I cawn't go out. Wegy: Why not, old fellow? Algy: Why, when I cress the streets I must have some one to hold up my fwock coat.

Head of Firm: Penwiper, have you been working nights lately? Penwiper: Working nights! I should say I had. Head of Firm: But the books are behind hand. Penwiper: I know it. But we've just had a new arrival at my house.

Sadie. Were those last shirts of yours made to order? Rose: Yes. Why? Sadie: They don't fit very well. Rose: They were made to order for my brother.

Close Merchant: Yes, sir, I want a new bookkeeper; but yod won't do. Applicant: May I ask why? Close Merchant: You are bald as a billiard-ball, sir. A man with no hair to wipe his pen on will rust out a whole box every week.

AN ENGLISH VIEW OF IT.

We love our brethren of the United States with a very natural affection, says The English Textile Mercury, but we cannot have them playing the part in Canada which anciently Jacob played with Esau. The manufacturing industries of the States have been very greatly depressed, and those engaged in them have for some time been very anxious to get access to new markets. This is a very laudable desire, but it should be advanced with some regard to a

sense of equity. Canada, being at their door, has long been regarded with acquisitive sentiments, which have been further excited by its recent concession of more favorable terms of importation to the Mother Country than govern those of other countries. Of course, the friendly negotiations, just suspended for a short time, offered a specially favorable opening for attempting to gain free admittance thereto. As we well know, our cousins never miss anything for want of asking for it. This, if we may trust Reuter, they have done, and widespread alarm has been caused among Canadian manufacturers by the proposal that a large list of manufactures shall be admitted free from the United States. British manufactures, under the preferential arrangement, have one-fourth of the duty remitted, while, under the proposed new system, many United States manufactures would be admitted free. This would be a very nice arrangement for the New England manufacturers, but not quite the same for Canadian and British manufacturers, the latter of whom, we suppose, it is designed by the proposers of this resolution, should continue to pay present duties. No, cousins, we are sorry to conclude that the proposal is not quite good enough.

OPPOSED TO TRADING STAMPS.

THE Halifax city council proposes to levy a license fee of \$600 on trading stamp companies doing business in that town. It is said that this branch of commerce is thriving in the sister city, as it is in many other places. The Sun was examining a trading stamp book the other day, and found that it contained the names of nearly 200 shopkeepers and other business concerns in St. John. All these firms agree to give one stamp to the purchaser of each ten cents worth of goods sold for cash, provided the purchaser asks for them. As the stamps are furnished to the merchants at 50c. per 100, the seller of goods makes a discount of five per cent. If he should make this cash reduction direct to the buyer, the customer would get the whole advantage. But this does not happen. The stamps are redeemed by the stamp company at the price of \$1.75 for the 510 stamps which are required to fill a book. These stamps have cost the grocer, butcher or other dealer \$2.55. When the calculation is worked out, it will be found that the customer gets his goods reduced by 3.43 per cent. of the price, and the trading stamp man gets a commission of 1.57 per cent. on the cash trade of the firms on his list. If the list contains 200 firms it follows that the stampman would get for his total net profits a sum equal to the total cash sales made by three average firms, provided all the cash customers remembered to ask for the stamps. The profits are further augmented by the whole cost to the dealer of all the stamps that are taken from the traders and never redeemed. To fill a book requires cash purchases of \$51 from firms who keep the stamps. Many careless purchasers take the stamps once in a while when they happen to see them, but never fill a book. Thousands of trading stamps must be lost or mislaid, or for other reasons never presented. On all these the stamp company gets a net profit, not of \$1.57, as in the other case, but of \$5 on each \$100 worth of cash business done by the trade. As against this statement the trading stampman may perhaps claim commendation as a means of inducing people to pay cash for their goods. It would be obviously better for the seller to give the customer at once five per cent. in cash instead of in stamps. The Sun threw out this suggestion to a trader the other day. His reply was that the people seemed to prefer the stamps. That is to say, the purchaser would rather get \$1.75, after taking the trouble to save up a book full of stamps, that have \$2.55 in cash without any trouble. If this is so we see no reason why the trading stampman should not have a fair title to recognition as one of the modern agencies which for a cash consideration furnishes innocent enjoyment to the community.—St. John, N.B., Sun.