



THE DIVERSION OF THE SEX.

MR. QUICKLY—"Where'r you off to, Jennie?"

MRS. Q.—"I'm going shopping."

MR. Q.—"What are you going to buy?"

MRS. Q.—"Buy? Why, nothing, of course. I'm only going shopping, you stupid fellow."

THE DISILLUSIONS OF THE PHONOGRAPH.

CONVENTION OF AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, A.D. 2643—PAPER ON
"ANCIENT ORATORY," BY PROF. DRILITE, INTER-
SPERSED WITH PHONOGRAPH EXAMPLES.



PROF. DRILITE—"Among the most eloquent and brilliant speakers of what was *par excellence* the age of oratory, the nineteenth century, was the celebrated Jonsmith, a few of whose masterpieces, as recorded in the newspapers of the period, have come down to us. At that semi-barbarous period that wonderful instrument, the phonograph, existed only in a very crude and imperfect form, and was not in every-day use as at present.

It is to be regretted, therefore, that very few specimens of the

matchless eloquence of that age, as actually spoken, have been preserved. It was not supposed that any phonograph preservation of Jonsmith's *ipssissima verba* existed, but a few weeks ago the distinguished archaeologist, Prof. Daveboyle, in his researches amid the ruins of

ancient Toronto, secured a plate containing the phonographic record of one of Jonsmith's most celebrated speeches. (Sensation.) It has not as yet been given before any audience, as it was thought fitting to reserve it specially for this occasion. You, therefore, ladies and gentlemen, will be privileged to hear for the first time, after the lapse of six centuries, the marvellously powerful utterances of the eloquent tongue that has so long since crumbled into dust." (Applause.)

The Professor starts the phonograph, with the following result:

"Mr. Chairman,—Ahem—The question which we are met here to—ah—to discuss—to consider—is—ah—very important—most important in connection with—in relation to—the—the—happiness—um—welfare of humanity. (Pause.) It—ah—is not often—comparatively seldom, so to speak—I mean that those who can impartially and—without prejudice or party bias contemplate those grand results which would undoubtedly flow from—ah—result from a proper apprehension of the great truths enunciated by our platform, will thereby be enabled to—to follow to their ultimate conclusion—ah—to unite with us in declaring their unalterable and undying devotion to the cause of civil and religious liberty. (Applause.) But, sir, it must be apparent—I repeat it must be perfectly obvious—perfectly obvious—is it not, sir, unmistakably obvious—to the meanest understanding, so that it is, in fact, brought to the comprehension—comprehension of all, even those who it may be have not given that thought and attention which the subject demands, and would necessarily be thereby—excluded—precluded from forming an intelligent opinion, but—ah—but as I may say emphatically and without fear of opposition—of contradiction—cherish with a zeal, sir—an enthusiasm which does them credit. In no respect—I mean there are times when—when, in spite of all which might—which does at times seem to—to indicate—to point to—the grand and glorious future of our country so long as it remains under the radiant and protecting folds of the flag which never sets, and—ahem—and in fulfilment of their sworn duty as citizens, unite in upholding—in maintaining—upholding *and* maintaining the cause of the Empire of which we form a part—" [phonograph shuts off.]

PROF. DRILITE (*resuming*)—"Ladies and gentlemen, really, this is extraordinary—most extraordinary—a painful disappointment, I am sure, to all of us. It appears impossible that this jumble of incoherent phrases and dislocated sentences, full of repetitions and tautological expressions, can be the utterance of the eloquent Jonsmith, whose speeches are reported to have held his audiences spellbound. In the printed form in which they have come down to us they read smoothly and connectedly, and while not, perhaps, what would be now called logical or characterized by much solidity of thought, they have the force and clearness calculated to appeal to the semi-civilized intellect of the period. We can only conclude that owing to the very rudimentary character of the phonograph at that day, Jonsmith's remarks have been very imperfectly recorded on account of defects in the machines of early construction."

THAT ACCOUNTED FOR IT.

JONES—"That is the dearest restaurant in town."

BROWN—"How do you make that out? They don't charge half as much there as they do at Monico's."

JONES—"But I consider my time worth at least two dollars per hour."