

Why He Wept

The fifty-thousand-dollar school-house had just gone up in smoke, and the taxpayers in the crowd looked at one another, and groaned, for the building was insufficiently insured. A small boy gazing upon the smouldering ruin suddenly burst into uproarious grief.

"Why, my little man," exclaimed a sympathetic bystander, "you must have been very fond of your school!"

"Tisn't that," howled the boy; "but I left a nickel in my desk, and I'll never be able to find it in that mess!"

Told Too Much

Archbishop Riordan, of San Francisco, called on President Roosevelt recently. Afterward, in talking about calls generally, the archbishop said: "A friend of mine in San Francisco called with his wife one afternoon at the house of an estimable lady. The lady's little daughter answered the bell, and my friend said to her: 'Won't you please tell your mother that Mr. and Mrs. Smith are here?' 'Certainly,' said the little girl, and she departed. In a moment she returned. 'Well, did you tell your mother?' said my friend. 'Yes,' the child answered. 'And what did your mother say?' 'Why,' said the little girl, 'she said, 'Oh, dear!''"

Naturally

The late Henry W. Oliver, the Pittsburg capitalist, took great interest in poor children and left numerous bequests in their behalf. One day he tried to test an urchin's intelligence.

Pointing to a pile of stones, he asked how they were made. The boy replied that "they grewed, jist like potatoes."

Mr. Oliver shook his head. "No, my lad, you are wrong," he said. Stones can't grow. If you were to come back to these stones five years or ten years or twenty years from now, they would still be the same size."

"Of course," said the little boy, sneering; "they've been taken out o' the ground now, and have stopped growin', same as potatoes would."

Hard to Please

Dr. Richard T. Gotthell, of Columbia University, has a broad knowledge of Oriental tales and proverbs.

Dr. Gotthell was condemning pessimism one day at Columbia.

"Pessimism," he said, "is as old as the hills. Mankind has always recognized it and has always derided it."

"There is a Persian story about a pessimist. This story is so old that no date can be assigned to it. It concerns a pessimistic farmer.

"'Good friend,' a visitor said to the farmer, 'you are fortunate this year.' He pointed to the heavy and rich grain fields spreading as far as the eye could see. 'You can't grumble,' he went on, 'about your crop this season, eh?'

"No," whined the pessimist, 'but a crop like this is terribly wearing on the soil.'"

Too Sudden

As there is a law against burying in the city of Albany, the Bishop had to have a special act of Legislature to be buried in the Cathedral. He was successful in having the act pass the lawmakers, but his friends were astounded and worried when they read its text. It began with the usual verbiage. The ending was something like this: "We do grant that Bishop Doane be buried within the precincts of the Cathedral at Albany. This act to take effect immediately."

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