

curly, "I felt it my duty as Rector of the parish, to endeavour to bring your friend to a proper sense of her position." Joan turned toward him.

"Has she done it?" she asked.

The Reverend Harold felt his enthusiasm concerning the young woman dying out.

"I—I—" he stammered.

Joan interrupted him.

"Don't you see as she has done her any good?" she demanded. "I dunnot myself."

"I have endeavoured to the best of my ability to improve her mental condition," the minister replied.

"I thought as much," said Joan; "I make no doubt that she has done her best, neither. Happen that she's given her what comfort she had to spare, but if you'd been wiser than you are, you'd ha' let her alone. I'll warrant there is na a parson 'twixt here an' Lunnon, that could na ha' tow'd her that she's a sinner an' has shame to bear; but happen there is na a parson 'twixt here an' Lunnon as she could na ha' tow'd that much to her. Howiver, as she has said this, happen it'll do you fur this toime, an' you can let her be for a while."

Mr. Barholm was unusually silent during dinner that evening, and as he sat over his wine, his dissatisfaction rose to the surface, as it invariably did.

"I am rather disturbed this evening, Anice," he said.

Anice looked up questioningly.

"Why?" she asked.

"I went to see Joan Lowrie this morning," he answered hesitatingly, "and I am very much disappointed in her. I scarcely think, after all, that I would advise you to take her in hand. She is not an amiable young woman. In fact there is a positive touch of the vixen about her."

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Which Can See Best?

There were two short-sighted men in China, and their names were Ching and Chang. They were always quarrelling as to which of them could see best. One day they heard that there was to be a tablet erected at the gate of a neighboring temple, and they agreed to visit it together and put their visual powers to the test.

Each, however, wished to take advantage of the other, so Ching went at once to the temple, and looking quite close at the tablet saw an inscription with the words—"To the great man of the past and the future." Chang also went, but he advanced still closer, and in addition to the inscription "To the great man of the past and future" read in smaller letters, "This tablet is raised by the family of Ling in honor of the great man."

On the day which they had agreed on, standing at a distance from which neither could read, Ching exclaimed, "The inscription is, 'To the great man of the past and the future.'"

"True," said Chang, "but you have left out a part of the inscription which I can read but you cannot, and which is written in small letters, 'Erected by the family of Ling in honor of the great man.'"

"There is no such inscription," said Ching.

"There is," said Chang.

So they both grew angry, and after abusing one another, agreed to refer the matter to the high priest of the temple. He heard the story, and then quietly said, "Gentlemen you are both wrong. There is no tablet to read; it was taken into the interior of the temple yesterday."

Wore His Army Clothes.

It was Sunday evening. Angelica had invited her "best young man" to the evening meal. Everything had passed off harmoniously until Angelica's seven-year-old brother broke the blissful silence by exclaiming,

"Oh, ma! yer ougher seen Mr. Lighted the other night, when he called to take Addie to the drill. He looked so nice sittin' long side of her with his arm—"

"Fred!" screamed the maiden, whose face began to assume the color of a well-done crab—quickly placing her hand over the boy's mouth.

"Yer ougher seen him," continued the persistent informant, after gaining his breath, and the embarrassed girl's hand was removed, "he had his arm—"

"Freddie!" shouted the mother, as in her frantic attempts to reach the boy's articular appendage she upset the contents of the teapot in Mr. Lighthead's lap, making numerous Russian war maps over his new-lavender pantaloons.

"I was just goin' to say," the half-frightened boy pleaded, between a cry and an injured whine, "he had his arm—"

"You boy!" thundered his father, "away to the wood-shed."

And the boy made for the nearest exit, exclaimed as he waltzed, "I was only goin' to say Mr. Lighthead had his army clothes on, and I'll leave it to him if he didn't."

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Fun and Fancy.

A small boy was hoeing corn in a sterile field by the road-side, up near Bethel, Indiana, when a passer-by stopped and said: "Pears to me your corn is rather small." "Certainly," said the boy, "It's dwarf corn." "But it looks yaller." "Certainly. We planted the yaller kind." "But it looks as if you wouldn't get more than half a crop." "Of course not," said the boy. "We planted her on shares."

She said he had a flattering tongue, and to his arms she fondly clung, and love's sweet roundelay he sang.

For that, said he, my love, I guess you cannot, cannot love me less, Give me the little hand I press!

'Tis thine, she said, with glance oblique, While blushing roses dyed her cheek— The twin will be made one next wique.

TAKEN FOR A TRAMP.—A good story was passed around on Judge Grant, who stepped into the Santa Fe depot dressed in his mining suit. He walked up to the ticket office and in his usual short, gruff manner, asked the price of a ticket to San Francisco. The agent, who took him for a tramp, said: "The price of an emigrant ticket is \$12.35." The Judge, not fully satisfied with this reply, said: "By—sir, I want to know the price of a ticket to San Francisco." "I told you, sir, the price of an emigrant ticket is \$12.35. If you don't want one just get out of the way." Imagine the agent's surprise when the Judge drew from his pocket a roll of bills, the smallest of which was \$500, and told him he would like a state room. Just as he was getting ready to go to the bank and get the bill changed, the president of the road came along, and immediately recognized the Judge as an old acquaintance, and said to him: "Judge, my special car is going to Frisco this morning; will you enjoy a seat with me?" The agent slyly snatched up and slipped the bill into the "tramp's" hand, and crawled back to his desk, which was too high for him by about six inches.

Doing it in the Style.

A Washington correspondent relates the following of ex-Senator McCreery: Some days before the adjournment of Congress, as the story goes, good-natured and ponderous Senator McCreery, of Kentucky, was waddling down Pennsylvania Avenue when a dapper young gentleman, one of that class which delights "society girls" by exclaiming at intervals during a fashionable reception: "Have you been very gay this season?" approached him with the question: "Ah, Senator, how do you do? I called on you this morning. Did you get my card?"

"Yes," said the senator dryly, "I got the card; but what did you mean by writing 'E. P.' in the corner of it?"

"Oh, that," said the young gentleman, evidently delighted at being able to give information, "that, you know, means 'en personne'—in other words, 'left in person.'"

"Yes, yes," said the Senator, meditatively, "I see."

The next day Mr. McCreery again met the young man, and this time, going up to him, said: "Ah, by the way, I called on you this morning; did you get my card?"

"Yes, sir; yes," was the reply; "I got it; but, I say, Senator, what in the world did you mean by writing 'S. B. A. N.' in the corner of it?"

"What I didn't you understand that? I'm surprised. What should I mean but 'sent by a nigger'?"

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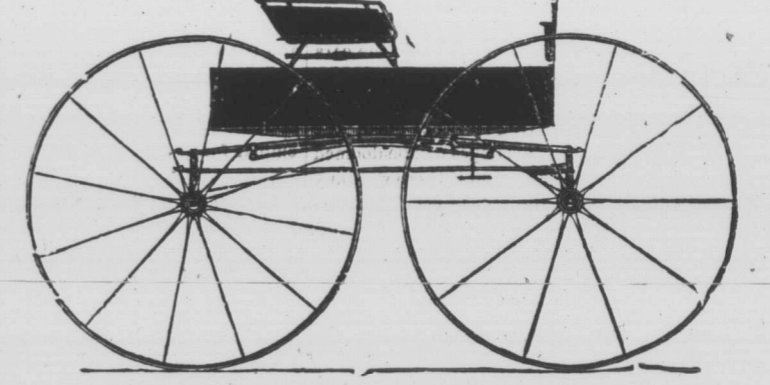
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