THEPOWEROFHUMOR

ATS EFFECT IN CHANGING THE MOOD OF AN AUDIENCE.

M Hard Won Laugh Which, Chaus cey M. Depew Once Said, Might Have Been the Cause of Staying the Hand of a Would Be Assassin.

Chauncey M. Depew once told of an in eldent which strikingly showed the effect of humor on a crowd. The story as he marrated it is as follows:

"It was at the strangest dinner that ! ever attended, and I've attended a great many," he said. "A woman well known for her philanthropic work in New York was the hostess, and she had as her guests the hungry and homeless men who mightly form a line outside of a bakery on Broadway waiting for the bread tha is there distributed. The dinner was on Christmas day, and the woman who got it up came to me and asked me to make a speech to those who partook of it. It was her idea that a little after dinner speech would make the dinner more of a success, and she described the good that might be done in this way so strongly that I agreed to attend.

"Like a good many other people of New York, I was pretty familiar with the nightly scene outside of this bakery and the character of the men who waited for the charity dispensed there. The mind to be as punctilious about my dress as though I was going to a dinner at the Mansion House in London. I put on my dress clothes, embellished with a boutonmiere, and, arrayed in this style, I went to the dinner. I don't think anything, ever made quite such an impression on time as the sight of those men as they are what dinner. In the row of faces about the table it did not take a student of criminology to pick out those whose crim-tinal instincts had for years been domimant, and in their hardened features it was almost impossible to read what feeling that dinner or my appearance produced. All ate ravenously, and what struck me very forcibly was the lack of conversation. In fact, a great majority of the men seemed to prefer to eat in si-lence. Now and then a word would be passed, but it was generally in an under-

"After awhile it came time for me to uspeak. While they were eating it had begun to dawn upon me that the task was a pretty hard one, and when I got tup to speak I felt that this was only too true. Although they had eaten well and their inner man had been satisfied in a measure they had not known for years if at any time before, yet the look given me by every man at that dinner appeared to be one of resentment and defiance. My fürst words failed to change in any face the sullen look which it wore, and as my eyes swept over that strange assemblage absolutely no sign of animation was visiable on any countenance before me. I "don't think ever in my life have I felt as I did as I looked into those faces and awondered how I could interest those men who sat looking at me silently and sul-

"I don't remember now what I said at first, but I do remember that it fell abso-Intely flat. Then I tried some humorous stead in times far less trying than this. The first story I told I noticed produced There was still the same spilen look on the faces, which seemed to postend danger should the owners of them meet me under different circum-By the time I reached the end of the second story I saw that some were distening to me in a way that really deenoted interest. One or two smiled, yet where were still some on whose faces there was absolutely no sign of interest, but instead the defiant look of the anarchist or socialist for one whom they regarded as a traditional enemy.

"I told a third story. Like the two others, it was a humorous one, but I had known it sometimes not to take. When I finished it, some of those before me were laughing outright and others were smiling. I only saw a few who were still silent, one of them in particular because he had had his eyes continually on me since I had entered. After that I went on feeling a little more at ease myself. I talked on subjects suggested by the season we were in, and I found all of them were listening attentively, and the next story I told was followed by a laugh that sounded like music after the somewhat ominous silence that had seemed to lin-ger over that strange feast. Even the man I had noticed laughed this time with the rest, a loud, rasping laugh that I heard above the others. Hard as it was,

"I think I talked an hour in all to those smen, the strangest and the hardest audience I ever had in 44 years of speech-making. When I finished, I made up my mind I would shake hands with them as they passed out. I stationed myself near the door, and each man took the hand I proffered and we shook hands. If the faces in which I looked were strange, the feeling of their hands was even more so. Some of them grasped my hand firmly and spoke their thanks, while others had a hesitancy about it.

at betrayed unmistakable enjoyment.

"Finally along came the man whom shad noticed. He had lingered behind, and I had felt that his eyes were on me all the time. He was the typical anarchshowed plainly, had so long been the rul-ing passion that it had almost obliterated all the others. I put out my hand, all the time looking in his eyes, for somehow I delt it was this man who would do me mine in a way that made me think it was sman hesitated while I stood there pre-

*Chauncey Depew, I made up my mind when I saw you here tonight to kill

you, but you've captured me.'
"He shook my hand and passed out
with the others, and I have never seen him since. From his appearance, from the way his eyes had rested on me while I was speaking up till the last, when I made him laugh. I have had no hesitancy in believing that that man meant what the said and that by making him laugh I had perhaps saved my life. I shall never forget that incident or the man whose chand I clasped as he spoke those words."

"Does your latest novel enjoy a large

nle?" he inquired.
"I don't know whether the novel enjoys
or hot," replied the author, "but I do."

The family grows, and some must go
Far from the sheltering roof,
Where high suns burn or cold winds blow
To hold the foe aloof,
But while the many forward run

And great ships go and come. Yet let us sometimes think of one— The one who stays at home. Stout hearts have they who cross the seas And distant perils face, Who wish to 'scape from deadening ease

scale to higher place, Or scale to higher place.
But valiant, too, is he whose heart,
Like theirs, would breast the foam,
Yet at the old hearth keeps his part—
The one who stays at home.

New countries have great fields to reap, Need young and vigorous brain,
But Motherland some sons must keep
To sow and bind her grain.
The old folk, too, need some one there;

Of all the flock there's one to spare-The one who stays at home.

—Joseph S. Dunn in Independent.

CHOOSING OFFICE BOYS.

Who Employs Two Hundred

Tells How He "Sizes Them Up." George Sexton, who has charge of 200 oys in a big department store, loves to "Boys are not a necessary evil at this establishment," he said. "They are the material out of which men are to be made."

"How do you choose your cash boys, Mr. Sexton?" I asked.

"My first question is, 'Where is the boy?' You see, it all depends upon the boy himself. You can judge the boy better from his appearance, his manner, his dress and the way he comes into an office than from any description of him. Char-acter shows forth in little things—you can't hide it. I take boys by what you might almost term first impressions. I have 'sized a boy up' before he asks me for a place. The removal or nonremoval of the hat on entering the office, the re-spectful and self respecting way in which a boy addresses me, the way in which he meets my look and questions, all give me an idea of his bringing up and the 'stuff' that is in him. As to appearance, I look at once for these things; polished shoes, clean clothes and clean face, hands and finger nails. Good clothes are not requisites. A boy's clothes may be ragged, his shoes have holes in them, yet his appearance may still give evidence of a desire to be neat. I will not employ a cigarette smoker if I know it. As for reference, a boy's teacher is the best reference he can have. The recommendation which a good boy in our employ gives a boy applying for a position always receives marked

"Good cash boys don't stay cash boys ong. Some lads who came here as cash boys in 1897 are now junior salesmen. Others have good positions throughout

"A cash boy's first advance is to stock bey, office boy or cadet. A stock boy attends to the boy work in whatever stock he is in. A cadet is a general utility boy An office boy works around some one of the offices of the house. We promote according to merit, length of service, or both combined. Wherever possible, we try to give our oldest employee the prefrence, but if one boy who has not been here as long as another shows greater fitthree months, \$3; or, if he has shown

marked ability, \$3.50. "The great trouble with the American boy is he doesn't stick. After he has worked hard at one place for six months or a year, just as he is in line of promotion, he throws up his prospects becasome other firm offers 50 cents a week more, and off he starts all over again it new house, whose ways and business

he must learn. "We like boyish boys-full of fun. The liveliest are generally the best workers The boy who lofters when sent or a mes sage, the boy who sneaks around the house avoiding work and the boy who is always late are the boys who lese posi-

An Involuntary Compliment. On the occasion of a reception to Henry Clay by his Baltimore admirers a trip down Chesapeake bay was given, and on the return trip a game of euchre was arranged. As Clay was a noted player at all games of cards, two of the most skillful players were selected to compete against him, and the local card champion Billy Bryson, who simply worshiped Clay, had the honor of being his partner. But poor Billy was so overcome that he be-came entirely bewildered and made the most absurd and unaccountable errors Clay's temper rose rapidly, and he railed

at Bryson in good set terms. Finally the unfortunate man, brought to bay, replied: "By jingo, sir, if you were old Billy Bryson and had the great Harry Clay for a partner, sir, I think you should be excused for failing to note the difference between a king of trumps

and the right bower." The involuntary compliment so-please Clay that he shouted with laughter and was ever afterward a warm friend of Bryson's .- Argonaut.

Serving the Dinner. It is not good style to pile the dinne plates before the carver's place and pass them from thence. A plate should be put at every place. The maid then takes the plate from the carver and hands it to the person, taking the plate at his place back to the carver. If there is no waitress, the full plate is passed and the place plate returned from hand to hand If soup is served, the soup plate is set upon the place plate. There is, however, no plate under the salad plate. Correct serving requires a plate at every place except where the table is being cleared for the dessert.

John Had Changed.

He (about five years after)-All this gush about love is extremely stupid Wherever did this silly book come from? I must say the person who selected it showed a very insinid taste.

She (quietly)—It's the book you gave me during our honeymoon, John. We read it 11 times the first week we had it.—

Ungrateful Man.

"I must get a new tailaw," said Goslin
"Your clothes seem to fit," commented Gurley.
"Oh, they fit, but the heggaw actually wants to be paid faw them."-Exchange.

Sleeping with the hair pinned up tight ly is not only bad for the circulation, but it is said to prevent the bair from grow

There are as many shades of face

A WOMAN OF POCKETBOOKS.

Discoveries and Reflections of a Theater Goer Who Lost Hers,

and on coming out after the performance one of them missed her pocketbook. She had been holding it in her lap and had become so excited over the play that she had forgot all about her money. As as she discovered her loss she rus tied of its audience, and made a

search for her missing property in and about the seat she had occupied. No pocketbook was found.

"Oh, I know it's gone," she said despairingly to her companion as she walk-

ed up the aisle. mebody found it and stole it," said her friend sympathetically.

Standing in the rear of the theater was

a nicely dressed woman of about 30, had been watching the two girls in their useless search. "Did you lose anything?" the woman

asked as the girls came up.
"Yes, my pocketbook." said the victim of her own excitement. "Is this it?" inquired the woman, hold-

ing out a handsome pocketbook with a silver monogram. The young woman who had lost her purse replied in despairing tones that it

was not. "Well, I have two others," said the w "Describe the one you lost. Perhaps I have it.' The girl described her missing prop-

erty, whereupon the woman drew from

a muff the lost pocketbook and handed it to the girl. So surprised was the young woman at its unexpected return that she hurriedly took it and, with a "Thank you," left the theater with her friend. After the two were on the street again they began to wonder how that woman came to have three lost pocketbooks in her possession. They had been thinking it over ever since, and, with Sherlock Holmes ingenuity, they have decided that she is a professional pocketbook finder who goes to a matinee every Wednesday and every Saturday and as she comes out of the theater looks for pocketbooks on the floor. These young women say that there never was a matinee in the world where at least two women didn't lose their pocketbooks. They are firmly convinced that the woman of the three pocketbooks makes it her business to corral pocketbooks and other missing property as she comes out and then stand in the lobby awaiting the return of the losers. If the losers don't turn up, she keeps the property. If they do turn up, she may be lucky enough to get a reward. In any event she stands a chance of making something and losing nothing, not even

a moment's sleep from a bad conscience. After reaching all these conclusions it dawned on these young women that they had been very remiss in expressing their gratitude in their ovn case by a mere "Thank you."

DUMAS AND MARON.

A Suggestion That Put the Novelist In a Violent Temper.

I recently heard at an autograph sale a Dumas anecdote. It was new to me, though my friend seemed surprised that I here as long as another shows greater notes and the boy he gets it. A cash boy here gets \$2.50 a week; when he has been here three months. \$3: or, if he has shown great dead. Surely human nature can great dead. Surely human nature can be shown great dead. take on no more grotesque or unceason-ing aspect than that of the stamp fadist or the autograph hunter! Charles Maron had autograph fever of the most virulent type. He called one day to see Dumas found the author in cons pain and a prey to the most feverish anxiety. He had had his right hand se-verely bitten the day before by his dog Mouton, a dog he was particularly fond of and of whose affection and docility he had always felt quite assured. Maron bardly gave himself time to scramble through some words of introduction be

fore he said: "I have come to ask you for your auto "Diable, monsieur, you have hit on

very bad day! I was bitten by my dog yesterday. You see my bandaged band." "Oh, I heard of your accident. That is precisely why I was so anxious to secure your autograph, why it is absolutely necessary for me to get it today."

"I don't quite follow you, sir."
"Well, to be candid with you, M. Du mas," replied Charles Maron, "I heard that your dog was mad, and in that eas -well, you see-you understand-it might be difficult to get your autograph." Dumas got into a most violent passion "Do you want to destroy my pea mind forever?" he exclaimed, and, taking Maron by the shoulders, he very quickly and somewhat roughly put him outside the door. Good soul as he was, however, Dumas was himself the first to laugh at the adventure afterward. He and Maron became the best of friends, the latter, in fact, acting as his secretary for some

time.-London Free Lance.

Natural Question. Parts of the southern coast of New foundland near Cape Race and of the southwestern coast near Cape Ray have an unenviable reputation as the scene of many disasters. While the native of Newfoundland is keen about getting material benefit from wrecks, he is also dis tinguished for gallantry in saving life and for care of the dead. So says a writ-

er in the Newfoundland Magazine, Near Cape Ray about 1830 an old man, a young girl and a boy of 12 saved all the crew and passengers of a Canadian pack-

So common are wrecks that when men engage for fishery it is part of the agree-ment that the servant shall get his share of the "wrack." Houses in these neigh-borhoods are all furnished and ornament-

ed from lost ships. When the Rev. J. J. Curling first came

When the Rev. J. J. Curring first came to the colony, he was holding a service in one of these places. An old fisherman kept looking at his fine coat.

"That be a fine piece of cloth," said the old man at last, laying his hand on the minister's arm. "Never seed a better bit of cloth in my life. Get 'e out of a wrack, sir?"

Mr. Montague Terrace—The doctor has warned Schermerhorn that he will get the tobacco heart unless he stops smok-

Mr. Park Slope—From the brand of tobacco Schermerhorn smokes I should judge he runs greater risk of getting the

Some Cause For Joy. "Well, Dave, what did you do on your fiftieth birthday?"
"Oh, I passed resolutions that I was
glad I wasn't 100."—Indianapolis Jour

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