

## SOME ADVANTAGES OF NONSENSE.

Nonsense is neither chargeable with being true or false. Two great properties of nonsense which are always essential to it, give it such peculiar advantage that it is incapable of being contradicted. It stands on its own basis like a rock secure against all attacks of would-be assailants. The major and minor are of equal strength. Its assertions are not to be invalidated. Its questions admit of no reply. You cannot find out what to approve or particularly disapprove. If it affirms, you cannot lay hold. If it denies you cannot refute. There are greater depths, obscurities, intricacies and perplexities in a real elaborate utterance of nonsense than in the most abstruse and profound statements of any theological essay of any school of divinity. Imagination, too, has great domain for play in the sphere of nonsense.

Both the subject and the object being evidently the same in substance, *nonsense*; the critic must find his art utterly at fault; and even evil-eyed envy fails to formulate a feasible charge of any failure of purpose in the production.

The absurd as such, exists, not in the true nature of nonsense, while the incongruous is really the strictly consistent, and the more discordant, the more correctly harmonious may it be accounted.

In real nonsense even the rules of grammar may be set at naught, yet the precepts of nonsense not at all transgressed.—Nay! rather *so* doth the composition approximate to perfection.

The short step said to intervene between the sublime and ridiculous even here appears to *dis*-appear! In the most deliberate assertions of nonsense—mist and mistify assert the place of lucid statement and unimpeachable perspicuity, while ahead of the very wise exultingly dashes the otherwise.

The resolute reviewer profoundly puts down his glasses and majestically pronounces "the whole production a tissue of pure unadulterated *unmitigated*, sheer *nonsense*" and the over-delighted author, still *admiringly* and exultant, answers, "*just so.*"