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The little girl paused in her task of disposing of the obnoxious article and regarded her interlocutor gravely.

"It's got to be eaten," said she solemnly. "The grocer gives mamma a coupon for every two packages she buys, and it's got to be eaten every morning."—Lippincott's.

The din of their wedding-bells still rang in their ears, for it was only the second day of their married bliss. Supremely happy, they were well satisfied with one another, and no cloud had obscured the vista of their little earthly paradise.

"Hubby," she remarked tremulously, "you love me dearly, don't you?"

"More than life itself," he declared passionately.

"And no personal defect in me would ever cause your love to lessen, would it, dearest?"

He agreed that such was the case. "Oh, sweet one," she cried demurely, "I have just one confession to make!"

"I—I—my teeth—my teeth—are false!"

"Thank goodness!" he responded fervently. "Now I can cool my burning brow."

And with that remark he doffed his wig.

PROPOSALS IN JAPAN.

Quaint Custom of Placing a Plant in an Empty Flowerpot.

In some of the Japanese islands, in houses wherein reside one or more daughters of a marriageable age, an empty flowerpot of an ornamental character is encircled by a ring and suspended from the window or veranda by three light chains.

The Julietts of Japan are, of course, as attractive to the Romeos as those of other lands. But instead of serenades by moonlight and other delicate ways of making an impression it is

etiquette for the Japanese lover to approach the dwelling of his lady bearing some choice plant in his hand, which he boldly proceeds to plant in the empty vase.

This takes place at a time when he is fully assured that both mother and daughter are at home, neither of whom, of course, is at all conscious that the young man is taking such a liberty with the flowerpot outside their window.

This act of placing a pretty plant in the empty flowerpot is equivalent to a formal proposal to the young lady who dwells within.

The youthful gardener, having settled his plant to his mind, retires, and the lady is free to act as she pleases.

If he is the right man she takes every care of the gift, waters it and tends it carefully with her own hands, that all the world may see the donor is accepted as a suitor.

But if he is not a favorite or if stern parents object the poor plant is torn from the vase and the next morning lies limp and withered on the veranda or on the path below.

The Oil in Cloves.

Cloves are simply the dried flower buds of a beautiful evergreen tree growing naturally on the Spice Islands. These flower buds are gathered when they have become of a bright red and are just on the point of opening. The name comes from the resemblance of the prepared spice to small nails, from the French word *clou*, for nail. Cloves are very heavily charged with a pungent, acid, volatile oil, as much as 20 per cent sometimes being extracted. This oil is valuable for flavoring and scenting purposes and has a limited field in medicine, but the habit of "eating cloves," in which young folks and too often old ones indulge, is very reprehensible, as the oil is a powerful drug, becoming in many cases an insidious poison.

Mitigating Circumstance.

A Scotch ballie recently advanced to the bench had a criminal placed before him accused of some very modest violation of the law. Of course the ballie knew the prisoner well. He heard the charge stated.

"John, man, I'm sorry to see you here. We'll just fine you half a crown." The clerk here intervened.

"But the charge is not yet proved. We have not heard the evidence."

Then the benignant ballie:

"Ah, well, John, my man, as the charge is not proved we'll just fine you an eightpence."—London Telegraph.

Facial Horticulture.

"A new milkman left our milk today," announced Dorothy.

"Did he have whiskers?" asked her mother, thinking perhaps it was the proprietor.

"No," said the four-year-old; "he didn't have whiskers, but he had the roots."—Harper's Weekly.

Animal Food.

Innocent Young Wife—The doctor said you were to have a little animal food today, John, so I've chopped you up a bit of nice clover hay and scalded it to make it go down softer!—London Telegraph.

It is more heroic to live on one's grief than to die on it.

Is there an asylum for people who are blind to their own interests?

Ideas of a Plain Man.

Great intellectual powers and great artistic genius are not at all inconsistent with gross immorality. A half dozen extraordinary famous men could be named off hand who were moral perverts, and another half-dozen who were victims of drug, to say nothing of those who never paid their debts.

Overstatement in moral teaching is fatal. Morality is not essential to the winning prizes of earth; it is essential to happiness and peace. A man may be mentally powerful and artistically creative and yet be a wretched, pitiable failure in himself.

Goldwin Smith records that when he held the Chair of History at Cornell, one of his colleagues was "Ruloff," who in a remarkable way combined criminal propensities with literary tastes, being a great philologist and engaged in the invention of a universal language.

Ruloff committed a series of robberies and murders, the latter beginning with his wife and daughter. On that occasion he escaped justice through the absence of a corpus delicti; Lake Carugo into which he had thrown the bodies being undredgable.

There is a hotter torment than that of incompetence; it is that of competence. The devil, from all accounts, is a very gifted and able person.

A Smile or Two.

A girl reading in a paper that fish was excellent brain food wrote to the editor:

Dear Sir—Seeing as you say how fish is good for the brains, what kind fish shall I eat?

To this the editor replied:

Dear Miss,—Judging by the composition of your letter I should advise you to eat a whale.

Shortly after the return of the Atlantic Fleet two naval officers were talking about their wives. Naturally, they used nautical terms.

"What a dear little craft your wife is!" said the first.

"Dear and little," did you say? She is dear all right, but there's nothing little about her. Why, she is the biggest revenue-cutter I have ever seen."

He was a gentler specimen of his class than one usually meets, and when he made his appeal for something to eat at the kitchen door he was asked by the good-natured cook to come in by the fire.

As he sat there, she said, "You don't look as though you had always been a tramp." "I haven't," he replied, without offense.

"I came from a very good family." She let him eat on without interruption, but after he had finished she said: "You say you came from a good family. May I ask the name?"

"It was Blankleigh," he responded. "Why," she said, in surprise, "that's the name of the occupier next door to us."

"Yes," he replied. "I noticed it on the door-plate. That's who I came from. He threw me down his steps just before I called here."

A Washington woman who was visiting some friends in Philadelphia noticed that the little girl in the family was eating some new sort of cereal at breakfast.

She evinced little enthusiasm for the stuff.

"Don't you like it, dearie," asked the visitor.

"I don't think much of it," replied the child.

"Then why do you eat it?"

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