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His Dilemma.

"We'll some ways I'd like to an' some ways I wouldn't," said Farmer Bentover, when the saavy dispenser of encyclopaedias had paused in his siren song. "Ye see, if I was to sign for that 'ere cyclopedee in forty-seven parts, including the index and appendicitis, I'm sorter afraid I'd hev to work so hard to pay for it that I'd be too tired to enjoy readin' it; while if I read it at my leisure, as I'd ort to, in order to get the good of it, I wouldn't have time to earn the price. So, all things considered, I'll have to deny myself the privilege, as it were. Looks sorter like rain off to the south-east, don't it?"

Would Sound Well.

A Nottinghamshire clergyman, in baptizing a baby, paused in the midst of the service to inquire the name of the infant to which the mother, with a profound courtesy, replied, "Shady, sir, if you please." "Shady!" replied the minister. "Then it's a boy, and you mean Shadrach, eh?" "No, please your reverence, it's a girl." And pray," asked the inquisitive pastor, "how happened you to call the child by such a strange name?" "Why, sir," responded the woman, "if you must know, our name is Bower, and my husband said as how he should like her to be called Shady, because Shady Bower sounds so pretty!"

No Catch.

One of the best fish stories is told of a young man who applied for work to a well-known business man.

"So you want a situation?" said the business man.

"Yes, sir," replied the youthful applicant.

"Hum—you ever go fishing?"

"Occasionally."

"When were you fishing last?"

"Day before yesterday."

"Catch anything?"

"Not a thing."

"You can come to work next Monday, if you like. If you keep on telling the truth like that, you may be a partner in the firm one of these days."

Abraham Lincoln's Wit.

Whole books have been filled with anecdotes of the great martyr war president. None of them more strikingly illustrate his practical cuteness in a critical moment than that related by the late Bishop Simpson before the Yale theological students.

A committee from New York, composed of leading citizens, went to see Mr. Lincoln in reference to the conduct of the war.

After they had transacted their general business and the committee were making their way to the door—he was standing in the other part of the room—one of the gentlemen, who presumed on his acquaintance with Mr. Lincoln to ask particularly searching questions, stepped up to him and in the lowest tone of voice, said:

"Mr. President, I would like to know where Burnside's fleet is going."

"Burnside has just sailed with a fleet, but the destination was unknown."

"Well," said Mr. Lincoln, in a low tone of voice, "would you very much like to know?"

"Yes," he said he would.

"Well, now," said Mr. Lincoln, "if I would tell you perhaps you would tell some one else?"

"No," he said, "I would not."

"Then Mr. Lincoln, putting up his hand to his face and, as if to whisper, said loud enough for all to hear: "He's gone to sea!"

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