

HUMOROUS.

An Irish porter, closing a shop one rainy evening, took off his coat while putting up the shutters. When asked why he went out in his shirt-sleeves in the rain, "sure," said he, "didn't I want a dry coat to go home in?"

"I understand," said the Galveston Recorder, "that you are a confirmed drunkard." "Dat's what you is too soon, Judge, I ain't been confirmed in no church yet, but de Blue Light Baptists is gibbing Satan a heap ob worry about me."

For many years Moses, a negro, was a servant at the University of Alabama, and waited on the students very faithfully; but he was a most notorious hypocrite. He was on that account commonly called "Preech," among the boys. One day he was passing a crowd of students, when one of them called to him: "say, 'Preech, what are you going to do when Satan gets you?" "Wait on students," was the reply.

"Your little birdie has been very, very sick," she wrote to the young man. "It was some sort of nervous trouble, and the doctors said I should have perfect rest and quiet, and that I must think of nothing—absolutely nothing. And all the time, dear George, I thought constantly of you."

The young man read it over, and then read it through again very slowly, and put it in his pocket and went under the silent stars, and kept thinking, and thinking, and thinking. But he didn't say anything. He only kept thinking.—Rockland Courier.

"Do I think of you?" you ask, dear-est," wrote a husband to his wife. "Do I think of you? Yes, I do, especially when a button comes off, or I find a hole in my stocking." "I am glad you think of me, darling," she wrote in reply. "I used to think a great deal of you when I wanted to go to the concert or the theatre, or when I felt like having a drive; but since I have found a gentleman friend who was willing to take your place I have not been troubled so much."

He took the next train for home, nursing a volcano of wrath in his bosom the whole distance. It is needless to say that the conflict was a short one; a man couldn't stay angry long in the presence of her sparkling eyes and merry laughter. But he felt that she had served him right, and his future letters will doubtless show more appreciation of her wifely attributes.

"A Summer Horse."

The blacksmith shops at the head of Griswold street had scarcely opened their doors yesterday morning, when a colored man appeared at one of them leading an equine which slobbered and walked and hobbled by turns on the slippery snow. If horses ever live over one hundred years, this one had passed that figure. His hair was long, one eye was closed, and he had so many limps that it seemed useless to look for a sound leg.

"What I want to know," began the owner after he had taken four turns around a hitching post with the inch rope used as a halter, "am about what it will cost to shoe this hoss."

"Two dollars," was the prompt reply. "For de land's sake! but has iron riz up to dat pitch I'll have to dwell on dat for a few minits."

He dwelt. He walked around his steed, looked him over carefully, and then said to the smith: "Now, see hyar. If you war' me, wouldn't you sort of keep dis beast for a summer hoss, an' do your winter baulin' on a hand sled?"

"I would."

"Dat's what I war'inkin' bout, an' I guess I'll save him over till April, and call myself a boss frow de winter. Seems like 'travangine to get booties for me and shoes for him all to once. Hold up, dar', Philander—none of your pullin' up bech'thin' posts 'round yere!"—Detroit Free Press.

Swift's Way of Teaching a Lesson.

Everybody knows that the eccentric Dean of St. Patrick's was a model of a certain style of writing whose characteristics are vigor and force, but he was no less remarkable for his witticisms, and for the eccentricity of his character. I have heard of two instances of the latter, where the dean teaches a lesson in a way likely to remain impressive on the memory.

Swift and a servant of his were once traveling on horseback. They put up at an inn, and all went on well enough till next morning. The dean found that his boots were left dirty, all splashed with mud, just as they were when he had taken them off the night before. He called his servant to account for this; but the latter, with the most philosophical coolness, answered that the boots would be dirty again after a few miles of road, so there was no use of cleaning them. The dean seemed satisfied with the answer, but on arriving at the next inn he spoke privately to the landlord, and gave orders that his servant should not get his breakfast next morning. And so it was done. They pretended to be getting his breakfast ready, and delayed until it was time to start. The dean stormed about the horses not being ready. The man explained he was without breakfast. To this his master answered that he would be hungry again when he would be a few miles on the road, so there was no use in his losing his time eating them. "It is just like my boots, you know," concluded the dean, and he had to set out without breaking his fast. Swift's boots were very well cleaned from that out.

There is another instance of the same kind. A servant-maid of his asked permission to go to her cousin's wedding. Her request was granted; but when she was some two or three miles on her road she heard one on horseback coming after her. It was her fellow-servant. All in a flutter she inquired what was the matter. The man said he knew nothing at all about it. His master ordered she should come back directly, that was all. It was quite enough for her. She made all sorts of conjectures, but only to find herself more and more bewildered. At last in a state of palpitation she arrived and presented herself before her master. The mystery was solved when she heard her master quietly saying to her: "How often have I told you to shut the door after you go out? You may go now, only mind and shut the door after you."

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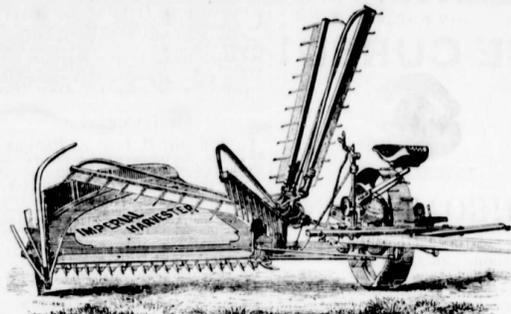
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