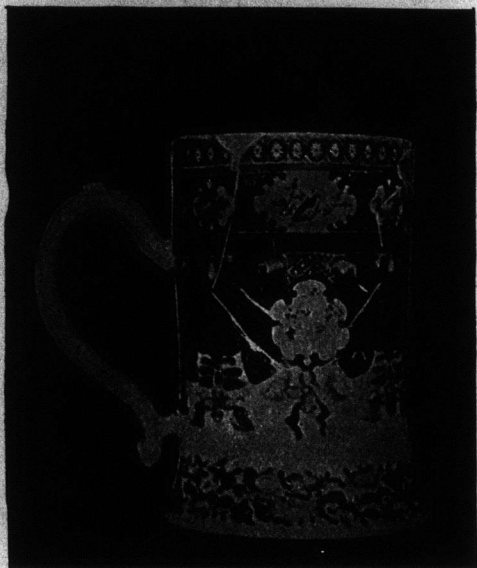


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the best and most nutritious beverage in the world—Cowan's Perfection Cocoa.

It assimilates with food—helps digestion—and makes children grow strong and healthy.

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Mothers know the economy of Cowan's Cocoa. It goes so much further than any other. . . .

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completed all the summer people agreed that he should be asked to speak after the luncheon which was to follow the dedication exercises.

The day and the carpenter's turn came duly.

"Ladies and gentlemen—dear friends—" he began, his good, brown face very red indeed. "I am a good deal better fitted for the scaffold than for public speaking."

Then he realized what he said, and sat down amid roars of laughter.

SUSPENDERS AND SUSPENSE.

A certain congressman from a mountain district, says the New York Sun, is troubled with a weak, squeaky little voice which sometimes fails in the midst of what might otherwise be an eloquent peroration.

Recently in addressing the House on a matter connected with the tariff, he exclaimed:

"Why, tariffs are like a pair of suspenders, sometimes tight and sometimes loose; but Uncle Sam needs them just the same, to keep up his—"

Here the Congressman's voice struck a high treble note, flared and stopped.

The House held its breath while he cleared his throat. The suspense, which seemed to last for fully a minute, was more painful to the auditors than to the orator, for everyone was wondering whether he would say "trousers" or "pants," and some were even hoping that he might say "pantaloon." Even "overalls" would be better than "pants," for "pants" is most unparliamentary.

But all fears were without foundation. He cleared his throat with the greatest care, and in a death-like stillness resumed his oration where he had dropped it: "to keep up his running expenses—"

The words which followed were lost forever in a gale of laughter.

A BASHFUL SUITOR.

"There is a lady of my acquaintance," says Marshall P. Wilder, "who has in her establishment as cook a most prepossessing Irish girl. It follows, as a matter of course, that the cook has many admirers. In fact, her mistress asserts that the kitchen is seldom, of an evening, without a caller.

"Recently, the lady of the house, who, though she utterly disapproves of the idea of cooks having so many callers yet hesitates to rebuke her for fear of losing her valuable services, referred to the advent of a new admirer.

"How is it, Maggie," queried the mistress, "that when this latest beau of yours is in the kitchen with you of an evening that one never hears a sound?"

"Oh, mum," responded the girl with a broad grin, "as yit the poor fellow is that bashful he does nawthin' but ate."

NOT WHAT WAS INTENDED.

When the late Li Hung Chang was visiting London, a leading light of the Stock Exchange determined to send a present to the great Chinese diplomat. After careful consideration he decided that he could not do better than send him two of his most valuable toy dogs. They were selected with great care, and sent to Li Hung Chang, from whom a letter of thanks was received a few days later. "Your gift is much appreciated," wrote the celebrated Chinese Envoy, "but unfortunately my age and health compel me to adopt a very rigid diet. Under these circumstances I directed that the dogs should be prepared for some members of my staff, who have enjoyed them very much."—"The Epicure."

AN EXPLANATION.

A badgering lawyer once caught a tartar in the person of a physician of considerable local repute. The solicitor represented the defence, and the doctor testified that he had treated the prosecutor for a black eye.

"What do you mean by a 'black eye'?" queried the legal gentleman.

"I mean," said the doctor, without a smile, "that the prosecutor had received a severe contusion over the lower portion of the frontal bone, producing extensive ecchymosis around the eye, together with considerable infiltration of the subjacent areolar tissue."

The medical witness was relieved from further cross-examination.

A TONGUE-TWISTER.

When a twister a-twisting will twist him a twist,
For the twisting of his twist he three times doth entwine;
But if one of the twines of the twist do untwine,
The twine that untwisteth untwisted the twist.
Untwirling the twine that untwisteth between,
He twirls, with a twister, the two in a twine;
Then twice having twisted the twines of the twine,
He twisted the twine he had twisted in twain.
The twain that, intertwining, before in the twine,
As twines were entwisted, he now doth untwine,
"Twist the twain intertwisting a twine more between,
He, twirling his twister, makes a twist of the twine.
There now, can any of you clever folks beat that one?"

A PROPORTION SUM.

A ton of dreams will never weigh
Up to an ounce of fact;
A thousand aims fade quite away
Before a single act;
A million castles in the air,
When set upon the scale,
One small, plain deed to balance there,
Will always, always fail!
—Priscilla Leonard, in "The Youth's Companion."

HER GRATITUDE.

The Lady (to hero who had risked his life to save her dog from a watery grave, and looks for some reward):
"Poor fellow, how wet and cold you are! You must be soaked through to the skin. Here—I'll give you some quinine pills; take a couple now, and two more in an hour's time."—"Throne and Country."

LOGICAL ENGLISH.

I said, "This horse, sir, will you shoe?"
And soon the horse was shod.
I said, "This deed, sir, will you do?"
And soon the deed was dod!
I said, "This stick, sir, will you break?"
At once the stick he broke.
I said, "This coat, sir, will you make?"
And soon the coat he moke!

KEEPING HIS WORD.

Sandy is the resident janitor at one of the smaller colleges. He is a bit of a character in his way, and makes an effort not to be outdone by the students. The success is sometimes on one side, sometimes on the other. Sandy owned a little mean-looking dog of which he was fond. He was treated to much good-humored chaff about the dog, but always replied in kind, frequently asserting, "I widna tak twinty dulthers for ma wee doggy."

A few of the more waggish freshmen made up their minds to test Sandy's assertion. Between them they made up twenty dollars, and one of their number was authorized on the first favorable opportunity to make Sandy an offer.

As was quite common with him, Sandy happened in the cloak-room between lectures. The dog soon became a subject of debate, and out came Sandy's statement, "I widna tak twinty dulthers for ma wee doggy."

"Well, Sandy," said a young freshman, "I would like to have that dog, and here's twenty dollars if you'll sell him." He counted the money out on the table near Sandy.

Without a smile Sandy gravely put his hand in his pocket, drew out a fifty-cent piece, and laid it on the table, at the same time pocketing the twenty dollars. "I didna say I widna tak nine-teen fuffy. The wee doggy's journe."

TOO FAR FROM THE MARKET.

Soon after the Civil War, General Rufus Ingalls, U.S.A., visited a friend in the South. Taking a walk one morning, he met a boy coming up from the river with a fine string of fish.

"What will you take for your fish?" asked the General.

"Thirty cents," was the reply.

"Thirty cents!" repeated the General.