

In Lighter Vein

Of Two Evils . . .—The little boy was evidently a firm believer in the old adage, "Of two evils choose the least." Turning a corner at full speed he collided with the minister.

"Where are you running to, my little man?" asked the minister, when he had regained his breath.

"Home!" panted the boy. "Ma's going to spank me."

"What!" gasped the astonished minister. "Are you eager to have your mother spank you that you run home so fast?"

"No," shouted the boy over his shoulder as he resumed his homeward flight, "but if I don't get there before pa he'll do it!"—*Minneapolis Journal.*



No Cause for Excitement.—Bishop Boyd Carpenter, formerly of Ripon, and now Canon of Westminster, on one occasion was to officiate at a fashionable West End wedding. As usual, a great crowd of people stood outside the church doors. Magnificent carriages and motor-cars rushed up with the splendidly dressed guests, and at the end of a long string of fine equipages came a ramshackle old four-wheeler. A couple of policemen dashed at the cabby. "Here, hi!" they shouted, "you can't stop here. The bishop's just coming." "Keep your 'air on," retorted cabby; "I've got the old duffer inside."



Elusive.

Some things on earth are very strange: The mysteries thereof are many. They say this is a world of change, And yet I cannot borrow any! —*Judge.*



A Weighty Reason.—The old gentleman's wife was getting into a carriage, and he neglected to assist her.

"You are not so gallant, John, as when you were a boy," she exclaimed, in gentle rebuke.

"No," was his ready response, "and you are not so buoyant as when you were a gal!"—*Sacred Heart Review.*



Mebbe.—There was a certain bishop who had a pleasant habit of chatting with anybody he might meet during his country walks. One day he came across a lad who was looking after some pigs by the roadside, and the bishop paused to ask him what he was doing, that being his usual opening to conversation.

"Moindin' swoine," the lad replied, stolidly.

The bishop nodded his head thoughtfully.

"Ah, is that so?" he commented.

"And how much do you earn a week?"

"Two shillin's," was the reply.

"Only two shillings?" remarked the bishop. Then he continued, pleasantly, "I, too, am a shepherd, but I get more than two shillings."

The lad looked at him suspiciously for a minute, then he said, slowly:

"Mebbe you gets more swoine nor me to moind."—*Tit-Bits.*



Easy.—Georgia Lawyer (to coloured prisoner)—"Well, Ras, as you want me to defend you, have you any money?"

Rastus—"No; but I've got a mule and a few chickens, and a hog or two."

Lawyer—"Those will do very nicely. Now, let's see—what do they accuse you of stealing?"

Rastus—"Oh, a mule and a few chickens, and a hog or two."—*Kansas City Star.*



Forestalled.—Grace—"If it was a secret why in the world did you tell that girl?" Gwendolyn—"It won't do her any good, my dear. I'd already telephoned it to all the girls she knew."—*Puck.*



How It Works.

A boat and a beach and a summer resort, A man and a maid and a moon; Soft and sweet nothings, and then at the real Psychological moment a spoon.

A whisper, a promise, and summer is o'er,

And they part in hysteric despair— (But neither returns in the following June

For fear that the other is there.) —*Exchange.*



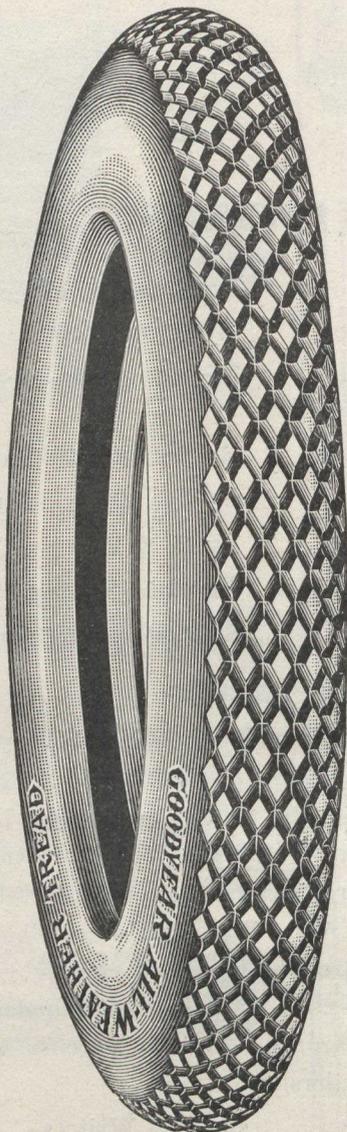
Might Be Worse.—Diogenes was looking for an honest man.

"What luck?" asked the wayfarer.

"Oh, pretty fair," replied Diogenes. "I still have my lantern."—*Life.*

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