

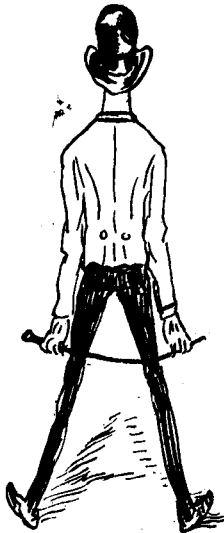


Something neat and natty,  
Full of wit and fun—  
Early in November  
You can purchase one.

**THE JUNIOR PICKWICKIANS ;**

AND THEIR MEMORABLE TRIP TO NORTH AMERICA.

CHAP. XVII.



ARRIVED at the bar, the stranger suggested a brandy smash all round, and that delectable beverage having been prepared and disposed of, the five took their departure in the direction of the Albion, the Junior Pickwickians being highly indignant at the treatment to which they had been subjected. As, however, their newly found friend assured them that their conduct throughout the affair had been admirable, and that Bramley had shewn himself to be "real downright smart," their feeling of annoyance was soon dissipated, and they chatted freely as they walked along.

The hotel was reached in due course, and much to the gratification of our friends, their "luggage" arrived there a few minutes after them.

During the walk between the two hotels, their guide had informed our friends that he was from "the other side," though whether that term meant the other side of the St. Lawrence or the Atlantic they were at first at a loss to divine. He was a most talkative individual, and displayed an amount of inquisitiveness that quite horrified the four Pickwickians, who, however, took his questions in good part, and answered them as fully as seemed to them necessary and advisable.

"Now," he said to Mr. Bramley, as the five sat down on the piazza of the house, after rooms of the four 'explorers' had been engaged *without* pay therefor being demanded in advance, "now, what business might you and your friends follow?"

"Oh! no particular business, sir," replied the gentleman addressed, "we are merely on a tour through the country, though we purpose combining business with pleasure."

"Not in the dry goods line, eh?" queried the other: "I thought it possible you might be introducing some new fabrics of English manufacture into this country: pretty well fixed, I reckon?" he continued after a pause.

"On the contrary," answered Bramley, "we are any thing but fixtures, we —"



"You don't understand me; I meant pretty well supplied financially. Intend to locate in this country?"

"At present our intentions are to see all that there is to be seen," said Bramley; "our future movements are not definitely settled."

"Ah! well, you should come to the other side, gentlemen, to see sights; ours is a glorious country, and, I venture to bet, it whips anything in the old world for sights. We are a great people, an enterprising people, and wherever the Stars and Stripes float, there you will find the American people going ahead."

"I am quite willing to accede that the Americans are an energetic and a shrewd race," returned Bramley, "but they seem to me to lack caution to an extraordinary degree; the American mercantile houses appear to have a habit of 'smashing' very often and very suddenly."

"Well, we do bust up pretty considerable frequent, that's a fact," said the other, "but that merely proves that we run things at high pressure, sir, and *must* get ahead *or* bust."

"Well, sir, I mean no offence," broke in Mr. Yubbits, "but, from what little I have read about commerce and business in your country it seems that some of your merchants 'bust,' as you express it, in order to go ahead."

"That's the 'cutest thing I've heard said to-day," exclaimed the American, laughing heartily. "Now, what line might *you* follow, sir?"

"I have no business or profession, sir," answered Yubbits, "though I entertain the greatest respect for those who have: I —"

"Been pretty well raised, I reckon," interrupted the other; "guess you went through Oxford college, now?"

"I never was at the university of Oxford, nor in fact at any other; when you speak of Oxford college, I presume you refer to some collegiate institution of that celebrated university which comprises some forty different colleges," replied Yubbits.

"Do tell!" exclaimed the American; "is that so? Well, I would'nt be surprised but what our Harvard or our Yale could whip 'em all in a right down *bona fide* intellectual set-to. There's some smart men, sir, to them places; reel right down, genuine smart men!"

