

# WITH THE WITS

## REPARTEE.

Tommy: 'Father, what is repartee?'

Tommy's father: 'Repartee, my boy, is a very clever answer when you say it to anybody, but a very impertinent one when anybody says it to you.'

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## WILLING TO RISK IT.

A country bridegroom, when the bride hesitated to pronounce the word, 'obey,' remarked to the officiating clergyman. 'Go on, mester—it don't matter; I can make her.'—'Fater.'

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## TAYLOR, THE SAILOR.

A sailor named Taylor was wrecked on a whaler—the sea was about to prevail. When lucky for Taylor the foundering whaler caught up with a slumbering whale. 'In order to sail her to harbor,' said Taylor, 'myself I'll avail o' this gale.' So Taylor, the sailor, the sail o' the whaler did nail o'er the tail o' the whale. —'Life.'

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## ACCOMMODATING BOTH.

'Porter,' said the fussy lady in the parlor car, 'I wish you would open this window.'

The lady in the seat directly across the car heard the request and drew a cloak about her. 'Porter, if that window is opened,' she snapped testily, 'I shall freeze to death.'

'And if the window is kept closed,' returned the other, 'I shall surely suffocate.'

The porter stood timidly between the two fires.

'Porter,' remarked the commercial traveller, 'your duty is very plain. Open the window and freeze one lady; then close it and suffocate the other.'

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## FAMILIAR WITH TURNIPS.

Once a school commissioner visited a school; upon arriving he began to question an arithmetic class. 'Now, my young friends,' he said. 'Suppose twelve men buy twenty-four bushels of wheat to be divided equally among them, how many bushels are there for each?'

The largest boy in class at once replied, 'Please, sir, we have not got that far.'

The school commissioner then replied, 'How is that? Your teacher told me you had learned the first four rules.'

The largest boy then replied, 'Yes, sir, but we have always done our sums in potatoes or turnips; we had not had wheat.'

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## LORD ROBERTS' PROMPT REPLY.

Lord Roberts once found himself among new friends in a London club. There was a very tall man present, who, evidently believing himself to shine as a wit, seized every opportunity of raising a laugh at other people's expense.

On being introduced to Lord Roberts, the wit bent down patronizingly to his lordship and remarked:

'I have often heard of you, but,—shading his eyes with one hand as if the famous general, being so small, could be seen only with difficulty—I have never seen you.'

To this Lord Roberts promptly replied:

'I have often seen you, sir, but I have never heard of you.'



## Proverbs Reversed "One man's poison is another man's meat."

Voice from the other side. "Thank Goodness! I was afraid he'd jump it without breaking the top bar!"

—Punch

## LEGAL ADVICE.

'It's this way,' explains the client. 'The fence runs between Brown's place and mine. He claims that I encroach on his land, and I insist that he is trespassing on mine. Now, what would you do if you were in my place?'

'If I were in your place,' replied the lawyer, 'I'd go over and give Brown a cigar, have a chat with him and settle the controversy in ten minutes. But as things stand, I advise you to sue him by all means. Let no arrogant, domineering, insolent pirate like Brown trample on your sacred rights. Assert your manhood and courage. I need the money.'

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## IN SEMBLANCE AT LEAST.

Once while we were journeying in England the guard put into our compartment a little girl who was traveling alone. She was 8 years old and French, she told us in the animated conversation she at once entered upon, so unlike the demure little English child. 'I have let my house in Paris,' she said, 'and come to live in England, where I like it very much. There is the loveliest old gentleman where I live now—oh, how I love him!' and she dramatically held her hand to her heart. 'I call him grandfather, my dear grandfather.'

'And is he a grandfather?' we queried. 'I do not know,' she replied, 'but he is made just like one.'—Lippincotts.

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## FOREIGN OR DOMESTIC.

The clerks in the foreign branch of the postoffice in New York have many amusing episodes to tell. One day a modest young man, after inspecting the mail-slots marked, 'foreign,' 'city,' and 'domestic,' approached the clerk at the window. 'Where do you mail letters?' he asked. Ascertaining that the letter was for city delivery, the clerk told the man to drop it in the slot marked 'city.' The modest man went over, read the inscriptions, and came back to the window with the letter still in his hand. 'Well, did you mail it?' inquired the clerk. 'No,' replied the man. 'I don't know what to do. You see, it's this way: She lives in the city, but she is a foreigner, and a domestic.' On the same day a man approached the window, and thrusting in a money order asked for the cash. The clerk, after inspecting it, handed it back, remarking: 'We don't cash these here. This is a foreign branch.' The man leaned over and said, confidentially, 'I know this is the foreign branch. That's why I came here. That order is from my father-in-law in Cincinnati, and,' lowering his voice, 'he is a foreigner.'—'Epworth Herald.'

## NO INFLUENCE OVER HIM.

During a municipal election in a town in the west of Scotland a young lady who was canvassing on behalf of one of the candidates called at a house, the door of which was opened by the good wife. 'I have called to solicit your vote on behalf of Mr. —,' said the young lady.

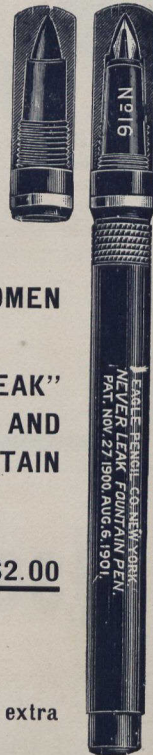
'But it's not me that's got the vote. It's me man,' replied the woman.

'Yes,' said the young lady, 'but I thought you might perhaps use your influence with him.'

'Me infloence him?' said the good wife. 'I hiv nae infloence wi' him. Only this morning I asked him to wash the floor afore he went out, and he wadna dae it.'



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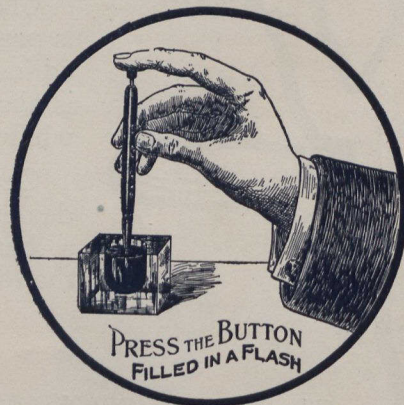
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