

ÆSOP TO DATE.

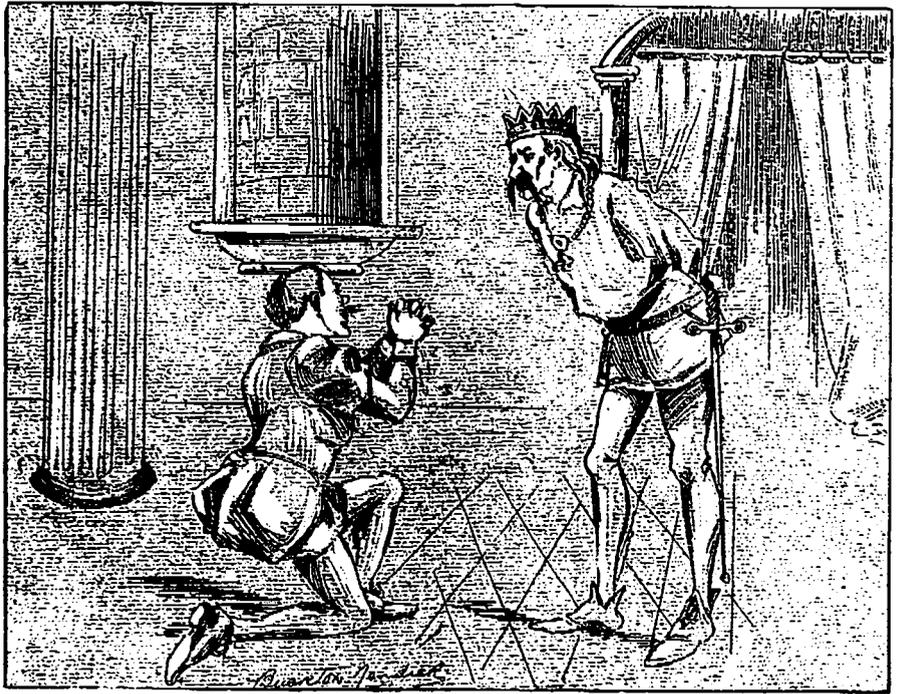
No. 14.

THE KING AND THE COURTIER.

A CERTAIN Courtier, in an Uncertain Age, being accused of a Heinous Offence, was condemned to Instant Execution by his King. In Despair, he fell at the Monarch's Feet, and prayed for every Torture rather than Death. Perceiving his Abject Misery, the King Relented, saying: "I will have Pity, unhappy Man, and will only keep you Immured from your Fellow Men; furthermore, I will Supply you with Books to wile away the Weary Hours." So he was Cast into Prison, and presently a Menial Arrived with an Armful of Books which he Deposited on the Table. Eagerly the Courtier sprang towards Them, but dashed them down with a Deep Curse when he Discovered they were only Tracts, Religious Magazines, etc. Day after Day fresh Armfuls of such Literature Arrived, till the Cell became Sulphurous with the Courtier's Curses; and when, one Fine Morning, the Warden started to tack Religious Mottoes on the Wall, he turned into a Gibbering Maniac. Years after, when they let him Loose as a Harmless Idiot, he went About the Country expatiating on the Benefits of Capital Punishment, in preference to all other Forms of Torture.

MORAL.

When a Man gets what he Wants he's sure to Kick; it's the Way of the Cuss.



VERY DISCOURAGING.

A YOUNG angel who had been trying his wings saw an older one leaning on the boundary wall looking over. He came behind and tried to see what he was looking at.

"What is that strange noise down there?"

"That is two men discussing the Sunday street car question."

"Why do they make such a noise?"

"Because each of them sees a different side of the question and thinks the other is not a good man."

"And are they both right?"

"They are both partly right."

"Then why do they fight?"

"Because each man thinks he is all right and the other is all wrong."

"Can a man see only one side of a question?"

"Most men can only see one side of a question, but a few can see two sides."

"What do they do then?"

"Oh, these men don't live long; everyone else thinks they are hypocrites. Any man that can see good on both sides they call a hypocrite."

"And so they fight all the time?"

"Most of the time."

"Isn't that very sad?"

"About as sad as most things are down there. You see they like to fight."

"Do they? I thought it was wrong to fight."

"It would be wrong for you to fight, but men are different. Perhaps it will be wrong for men to fight some day."

The young angel sighed; this was too much for him.

"I think I'll fly a little now. May I ask more questions some other day?"

"Whenever you like, my little dear," and the other angel looked over the wall again.

Penny.



UNCLE SAM'S NIGHTMARE

THE Canadian cheese trophy at Chicago is the mitiest ever seen.