### THE SPICE OF LIFE.

A Belfast man went fishing with a boatman named Dan Murphy.
"Don't you think, sur," said Dan,

looking thoughtfully at a mackerel lying in the bottom of the boat, "that a mackerel that dies a natural death in the boat tastes far better than one that's dhrownded at sea?"

"No," said the village landlord with the sorry mug, "I don't believe in advertising.

"You don't !" exclaimed the hardware drummer. "Why not?"

"Because I advertised for a wife once; that is why."

"And failed to get one, eh?" "No, I got one. That's the trouble."

THE UNEXPECTED HAPPENED.

The late Col. J. H. Brigham, assistant secretary of agriculture, was noted for his frank and honorable ways. "Col. Brigham," said a member of the

agricultural bureau, "despised sneaks, and would have none of them. He was a farmer in Illimois after the

civil war, and a sneak among his hands learned to his cost one day that mean and underhand methods would not go with the colonel.

This chap sought out his employer in private.

'Col. Brigham,' he said, 'you are workin' five men on this farm o' your'n.'

" Well, sir, there's consider'ble loafin' goin' on when your back's turned. I want to say to you that four men could do your work here jest as well as five.' Is that so?' said Col. Brigham.

"' It certainly is, sir." " 'Then,' said the colonel, 'I shall not want you after to-day.' "

## TAKING THE FARMER DOWN.

A couple of individuals were recently gazing with admiration at a fine fat beast at a cattle show.

"I wonder what his weight might be?" observed one of them, who, as it happened, was a cockney without any special knowledge.

"It's easy enough to guess pretty nigh it," said the other man, a stalwart farmer, looking with some contempt at his companion.

"Oh, well," said the cockney, "I think I could guess as near as you can."

"Could ye, now?" roared the farmer. "Well, I'll bet ye a sovereign ye can't."
"Done!" returned the cockney. "How much do you say?"

After a critical survey the farmer replied:

"A hundred and seventeen stone." "Well," said the cockney, "I'll say a hundred and seventeen stone, too, Now the money

"What d'ye mean?" "Well, I said I'd guess as near as you, and I've done so. I've guessed exactly the same.

And the bystanders taking his part, the bumptious farmer had to give him the money.

## WHAT "P. C." MEANT.

Booker T. Washington's sense of humor is keen and some of his best stories are at the expense of the sons of Ham.

As bearing upon the fondness of the American black man for ecclesiastical honors and religious functions, Mr. Washington tells with new point a yarn that dates back, I think, to Peter Cartwright. One day-it was during the slavery epoch—a negro went to the famous Virginia circuit rider, the bluntest, wittiest, oddest preacher American Methodism has developed, and mid he felt heaven had called him to preach the Gospel.

"Is that so?" answered Cartwright. "When did you hear the call?"

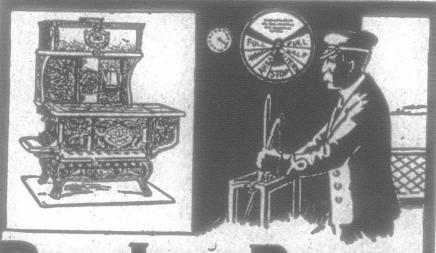
"Didn't hear it, Massa Cartwright. I

"When did it happen?"

"Last night, Massa Cartwright. I was prayin' in the cotton field, and I saw the heavens open and on a white cloud I saw the letters 'P. C.'

" And what did you believe those letters meant?"

"They meant 'Preach Christ." "Sambo," said Cartwright, resting his hand on the negro's shoulder. were mistaken. They meant 'Pick cot-



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THE SPICE OF LIFE.

Once, in the country, and walking through a field, Whistler, the artist, suddenly found that a huge bull was making straight towards him. He ran as he had never run before, and succeeded in getting to the other side of the fence before the bull got to him. When he reached the other side he saw a farmer, the owner of the field, coolly watching the proceedings. Mr. Whistler was furious, and, shaking his fist at the Mr. Whistler was farmer, said :

"What do you mean, sir, by letting a savage bull like that roam at large? Do you know who I am, sir? I'm Whistler."

"Are you?" replied the farmer.
"What's the good of telling me. Why didn't you tell the bull ? "

A Brooklyn school teacher sends some answers given by boys in her class in a recent examination: "What are zones?"

"Zones are belts running around the earth giving out heat as they run."

"What do we import from Italy?" " Italians."

"Of what is the earth composed?" "Sand, water, air and human beans."

"What causes a fog?"

"The night before." "Name two things we import from Africa ? "

"Ivory and ivory soap."

A short time since a number of amateur musicians in a town of western Pennsylvanta made an effort to organize an orchestra. They were successful in procuring all the performers they desired, except a charinet player. One of the number finally volunteered to take up the instrument and try to learn to play it. He had no clarinet, but, hearing that he could probably borrow one from a young man in the place who was thought to own one, he met him on the street one day and accosted him with: "How are you, Brown? I heard you

had a clarinet." The fellow looked at him in amazement, and stammered out:

"Well, I-I-was sick about two weeks ago, but I don't think I had that ! "

A man who was too old by ten years to be appointed a fireman, but who put his conscience to sleep and dreamed he was young in applying for appointment, was undergoing the physical examination. The doctor finished, and then announced that the man should not pass. "Why?" asked the applicant.

"You have a varicose vein," replied the

"An' is that all that's wrong ?" said the would-be fireman, forgetting all cau-tion in his indignation. "Why, I've earned my living for forty years with that vein in my leg."

"I'm glad you told me so," said the doctor, "now I can reject you also as being over the age limit."

FUN IN THE POST OFFICE.

A very funny story is told of an Oxford man, now a distinguished cleric, who had a passion for practical joking. He was, and is, a large man, of solemn aspect, and he went into a post office and asked the clerk if they kept stamps. The clerk, with a tolerant smile, admitted that they did, but was a little taken aback by the next question: "What sort do you keep?"

"All the values, sir, that are issued, from a halfpenny to a pound," he replied.

Whereupon his would-be customer shyly intimated that he "would like to look at some penny ones."

The clerk, with something of an air, produced one of the huge sheets which hold some twenty shillings' worth of stamps, and spread it on the counter. "There you are, sir," he said; "if you

want penny stamps, there are some." The customer appeared dazzled with the display, and seemed unable to take his eyes off the stamps. He looked and looked, and at last, after a careful examination, which had comprehended every part of the sheet, he pointed to a stamp in the middle, and murmured:

"I think I'll have that one, please."

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