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COMEDY IN WELSH COURT

Town Crier Conducts His Own Case—"The Centre-piece of Ensanguined Encounter."

Laughter, loud and long, followed the appearance at Llanrwst police court on May 31, of Mr. William Williams, the gentleman who, in a recent county court action against a lady, described himself as the premier town crier and bill-poster-in-chief. He had summoned Ralph Kerzie Williams, the husband of the defendant, in the county court case, for assault.

The complainant's opening speech was eloquent: "I never expected," he said, "when settling down in this ancient and powerful town, that I would become the centre-piece for an ensanguined encounter. (Laughter.)

"Your worship, between the hours of noon and 10 o'clock p.m. on Thursday ultimo last, I was walking peacefully along Watling street, with thoughts soaring aloft when I was rudely and abruptly stopped by Kerzie hereinafter to be known and identified as the defendant in this case. (Laughter.)

"The defendant aforesaid detached my mind from its congenial pursuit by the use of such terrible language that the most godly man at Llanrwst, who was approaching, turned back shocked, and hastened away. (Laughter.) The defendant then challenged me to combat, but I am a man of peace, and averse to war, since my retirement from the force. (Laughter.) So I admonished him and told him to engage in battle with a younger man than I.

Seeking Sanctuary. "Seeing the savagery deepening in his eye, I took refuge in an adjoining shop, where I stopped for 20 minutes in fear and trembling. Thinking the defendant had sheered off, I emerged out of my shelter, when, before I could run for my life, the defendant struck me one in the eye and another on the temple, where you honor will observe a patch of stamp paper. (Laughter.)

"The blows sent me flying into a shop. Therein the defendant, in hustling me on the premises during closing hours, is guilty of misdemeanor within the meaning of the act, and should be punished accordingly. (Loud laughter.)

"When I was emitted (laughter) from the shop I leaned on the window-sill and bled profusely, leaving an ensanguined mark on the pavement, still observable." (More laughter.)

Mr. T. Latimer Jones (for the defendant)—You called the defendant's wife bad names that morning? Complainant (tragically)—Where is she? Product—produces the female, and let me cross-examine her. (Loud laughter.)

What was the conversation which led to the alleged assault?—He cast reflections. I fought an action recently against the defendant's wife for allowing her pen of mongrel poultry to trespass and assimilate my onion beds—four in number. The case, and the manner in which I conducted it, awoke considerable and national interest, and widespread publicity in the press. (Loud laughter.)

The Back Garden. Your backyard and that of the defendant's wife are near each other?—Our gardens adjoin. (Laughter.) It is a garden within the meaning of the act, and not a yard. It is covered with soil of a productive nature. (Laughter.) My onion beds, through the interference of Mary Jane's meddling poultry, had been converted into a potato patch. The county court action will end in a perjury case. It is a great pity that the whole nation is damned for a few perjuries. (Loud laughter.)

The complainant then called Police Constable Jones, and put the following question: "Did you, or did you not, officer, see any marks of assault of an ensanguined nature on the pavement where I stood? If so, inform the magistrates whether the visible patch was water or blood." (Loud laughter.)

P. C. Jones—I only saw you with your face bleeding. Defendant swore that the complainant threatened him, and that he hit him in self-defence, and Mr. Williams proceeded to cross-examine: "Now, Kerzie, known as the defendant in the present action," he remarked, severely, "on your oath, how many times have you been in the scales in this court and found wanting?" (Loud laughter.)

"That has nothing to do with you," was the defendant's prompt reply. The bench fined defendant 10s and costs.

U. S. Government Expects to Explore for New Fruits

Wild Cherries and Apricots Found in Siberia—The Chinese Peach.

Mr. Frank N. Meyer, the government agricultural explorer, has returned from a trip to Russia and Siberia, having discovered his intended explorations in China because of the disturbed conditions in that country. He was searching for any kind of plant that would add to the food products of this country, but he was especially anxious to find fruits that would stand the hard winters in the Dakotas and adjoining states. In this he feels that he has been successful, for in a part of Russia where the climate was quite as severe as he found the United States he found a cherry tree is highly prized by the people and is extremely profitable. It grows on a bush instead of on a tree, and is a rather small, red, acid fruit.

These hardy little bushes bear regularly and abundantly. Mr. Meyer has brought a quantity of them to this country, and they will be planted under government supervision in the localities where it is hoped to acclimatize them. It will take about four years to determine how practical it will be to grow the Russian cherry in America. In Siberia Mr. Meyer found a variety of apricot which will grow further north than any variety known in this country. The fruit is slightly smaller than our apricot, but in flavor and color it is similar. This will be tested also by the government in an attempt to add to the list of fruits in the scanty supplied districts of the country.

Mr. Meyer feels that he has made a highly valuable discovery in a new forage crop. In the wilds of Siberia he came upon an alfalfa growing wild, upon which the range cattle thrived. It has a yellow blossom instead of the purple blossom of the alfalfa grown in the United States, but otherwise it seemed to be the same, and under cultivation or by crossing could probably be made to produce as wonderfully as the alfalfa grown here. Judging from

not in the least astringent, and can even be eaten green like apples. Foreigners often eat them with a spoon as we do grape fruit. Chinese pile them in heaps and put them in a freezer, keeping them frozen until wanted. They are then put into cold water to be thawed slowly and are as good as when freshly picked, or they can be eaten when slightly frozen like sherbet and are said to be delicious in that form.

The trees grow to a height of from thirty to forty feet and often bear so heavily that the branches have to be propped to keep them from breaking under the weight of the fruit. It is believed that the Chinese Persimmon will grow in a number of the southwestern states, and it is being tested by the agricultural department.

Another fruit that Mr. Meyer has studied in China is the peach, and he believes that by using the peaches of Northern China in hybridization our peach belt may be extended considerably to the north. In the city of Kirin, in Manchuria, where the thermometer sometimes drops to 40 degrees below zero, he found a small fruited peach tree, growing in a temple garden. Peaches are particularly fine in China, both in flavor and size, and have excellent keeping qualities. Indeed, it is supposed that the peach originated in China.

The great difficulty in introducing some of the best varieties of peaches so far has been that the bud wood does not bear shipping very well. The wood remains green and healthy, but the buds become injured in the long journey over land and sea, but efforts are to be continued.

The kernels of wild peaches in China are used for a flavoring extract and the stones cleaned and polished are often made into rosaries. The fact that the hardy wild apricot has been found growing all over the mountains of Northern China has encouraged the belief that this fruit can be more generally grown in this country than has been supposed. There

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are even now isolated cases of trees that have flourished for years in the trying climate of Massachusetts, and even in Wisconsin.—New York Herald.

LITERATURE AND ART.

"Literature," writes Mr. Shorter in the Sphere, "is absent from the art of today. The artists of another age were great readers of literature—Sir Joshua Reynolds, for example, and Fuseli and Haydon and Turner—and literature was in evidence in their pictures. Romney's name is identified with the poet Cowper; Gainsborough was in constant touch with Burke and Sheridan. The glorious Constable, whose election to the academy was delayed too long and I cannot impart it, as he said pathetically recalling his much-loved wife, was a masterly lecturer full of 'fine observation.' We appreciate the fact that Mr.

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