

its sources in the emotions; Wit in the intellect. From Humor comes laughter, but Wit may fail to negotiate even a sickly smile.

Of one thing we are sure — a sudden contrast between the expected and the actual, will provoke laughter, unless a more serious emotion intervenes. Any departure from the line of expression or deportment sanctioned by common usage has everywhere and always been a fruitful source of laughter, of caricature, and of satire.

The classic Greeks are responsible for the following jokes. They told of the simpleton who resolved never to enter the water until he had learned to swim; of the curious person who stood before the mirror with his eyes shut in order to see how he looked when asleep. The ship-wrecked mariner, who clung to the anchor to keep from sinking, and the case of a man who demanded of an acquaintance whether it was he or his brother who had recently been buried, are also examples of ancient Greek humor.

The best characteristic of German jesting is its excellence. It was Heine who wrote to an author from whom he had received a book, "I shall lose no time in reading it." Often French wit is of the merely absurd type. Thus it was a French courtier who said of a man famous for obesity that he found him sitting all around a table by himself. That is really better than our now ancient American jest on the approaching fat man. "Here comes a whole crowd."

Dutch wit and humor are not of a sort to appeal to us often. It is ponderous and rarely sarcastic. A controversy is said to have taken place between Zealand and Holland, the thrilling question was: "Does the cod take the hook, or does the hook take the cod?" Let this illustration suffice.

As to the English, they are not dull, as we sometimes contend; they are merely different. To say that it is necessary to have "raised letters, a diagram and a club" before an Englishman can see a joke is far too severe a condemnation. As a rule, Humor rather than Wit is the British characteristic. The fun is bound in absurd situations that have no suggestion of malice towards anyone. Dickens tells of two men who were about to be hanged, and were together on a scaffold erected in a public place. All about them, below, an immense concourse waited. Suddenly a bull, which was being taken to market, ran amuck in the crowd, and began goring persons right and left. Bill, on the scaffold, turned to his companion, and said: "I say, Jim, it's good thing we're not in that crowd."

There is no occasion to study separately the Humor and Wit