

RHYMES AND REASON.

(From London "Tit-Bits.")

When the English tongue we speak
Why is "break" not rhymed with
"freak?"

Will you tell me why it's true
We say "sew," but likewise "few;"
And the maker of verse

Cannot cap his "horse" with "worse?"
"Beard" sounds not the same as
"heard;"

"Cord" is different from "word;"

"Cow" is cow, but "low" is low!

"Shoe" is never rhymed with "foe."

Think of "hose" and "dose" and
"lose;"

And of "goose" and of "choose."

Think of "comb" and "tomb" and
"bomb;"

"Doll" and "roll" and "home" and
"some."

And since "pay" is rhymed with "say,"

Why not "paid" with "said," I pray?

We have "blood" and "food" and
"good;"

"Mould" is not pronounced like
"could."

Wherefore "done," but "gone" and
"lone?"

Is there any reason known?

And, in short, it seems to me,

Sounds and letters disagree.

TOO DELICATE.

A man travelling in Maine met a
middle-aged farmer, who said his father,
ninety years old, was still on the farm
where he was born.

"Ninety years old, eh?"

"Yes, pop is close to ninety."

"Is his health good?"

"'Tain't much now. He's been
complainin' for a few months back."

"What's the matter with him?"

"I dunno; sometimes I think farmin'
don't agree with him."—"Western
Christian Advocate."

HANK GOT INTERESTED.

Colonel Roosevelt was condemning a
nature faker at a luncheon in Oyster Bay.

"Why," said Colonel Roosevelt, his
eyes flashing with scorn behind his
glasses, "why, this nature faker is as
ignorant of animals as Hank Hurling-
ham was.

"Hank Hurlingham once visited the
Natural History Museum. The cura-
tor said to him:

"This collection of stuffed animals
that you see here is worth hundreds
of thousands of dollars."

"'Is that so?' said Hank. 'Why
what the dickens are they stuffed with?'

THE WISE HUSBAND.

Mr. Barton lived in a suburban town.
His wife asked him to purchase a shirt-
waist for her while in New York. After
telling the salesgirl what he was after,
she displayed a number.

'Here are some very pretty ones.
What color do you prefer?' she said.

'It doesn't make any difference,' re-
plied Mr. Barton.

'Doesn't make any difference!' ex-
claimed the salesgirl. 'Why, don't you
think your wife would like a certain col-
or?'

'No, it makes no difference what color
I get or what size. I shall have to come
back to-morrow to have it changed.—
New York 'Times.'

A PERFECT SAMPLE.

A farmer who was blessed with a
son with an engaging frankness of
speech sent him to the local miller's
one day. The lad got hold of the
miller and submitted for his inspec-
tion a handful of wheat. The miller
studied the wheat attentively, and then
said to the boy, "How much more has
your father got of this?" "He ain't
got no more like it," the boy answered.
"He's been all mornin' pickin' that out."