

tortions at the command of his master, but he never gives vent to a laugh. Will a dog laugh for joy, at seeing something funny, at hearing something ridiculous? Here is just where the difference lies between man's laughter and the dog's grin. The former is the act of a rational, soul-possessing being; the latter is an unintelligent, irrational effort, to be commanded by a master mind, just as the figure on the clock tells off the hours in its uncomprehending, brazen voice, when wound by the human hand.

The man who knows how to laugh at the right time, and in the right way is welcome everywhere. How we appreciate the man who can laugh at a joke, who does not grow sour and sullen when one is made at his expense. There is something attractive in the jolly man, as there is repulsive in the morose, sour-faced churl.

Laughter is like one of those instruments which may be put to varied uses, and unhappily, like them, often to perverse ones. It may be the instrument of sarcasm, ridicule, and opprobrium as well as of joy, humor and good-will.

The laugh is dependent upon the will, and this in turn, upon the knowledge received from the intellect, so that we may consider the different kinds, the different forms and modifications of laughter as resulting from the different light in which each individual intellect perceives an object. Thus there is something very expressive and individualistic in laughter. Each and every man has his own peculiar way of laughing, and we can pretty well judge his character from his laugh. There is the affected laugh, the effeminate act of an effeminate character, and there is the sneaking laugh which betrays the inward qualities which the possessor can at other times conceal. There is the loud, boisterous laugh which we hear so often, and the quiet, expressive laugh, which shows that beneath the exterior lies a world of power and force. There is the sarcastic laugh which so grates on the nerves, and the silly, meaningless laugh, which is so disgusting. There is the cold, forced laugh, the hearty, good-natured laugh, and a great many other varieties, all which express so clearly even to the unpracticed mind and eye the hidden traits and qualities of a man's character.

Yet is it not strange that this simple succession of short inspirations, this modification of the respiratory act, should be a sufficient criterion to judge a man's character? Nevertheless anyone who has given the question thought, must see the truth of it. Bismarck, the