



AN AFFAIR OF HONOR.

Dude.—See here, boy, if you give me any more impudence, bai Jove, I shall call the policeman.

Bad Boy.—O, peeler be jiggered! Come on yourself if you think you're man enough!

JEHOSAPHAT GOES TO SEE THE "MIKADO."



EAR EUNICE ANN:—

I arrived here all right and in good shape, and as the night was kinder rainy and I hadn't nothin' else to do, I thought I would go to the theatre so as I could tell our Mary Jane about it when I got back. When I got to the place I asked the gent who sold the tickets what the play was going to be, and he said it was called the Make-ado, and was all about Japan. Well, says I, that'll suit me to a tea, but he didn't kind of catch on.

I went in and set down, and pretty soon the curtain went up and here was a lot of fellows, which the man next to me said was the korus, all standing around and lookin' jest like the figures inside Mary Jane's sunshade. All of a suddint they commenced to yell, but I couldn't make out what they was yelling about, though they seemed to be real frantic, until they all begun to yell together "Money! Money! Money!" and one little fellow in a blue petticoat who was kneeling down on the floor in front, opened his mouth till it looked like a last year's ground-hog hole. They was ondoubtedly real excited. Then I began to think that these Japanese fellows hed gone out on strike, and they was wantin' to let the people know how the thing stood. But pretty soon they kinder quieted down and went off the stage and I didn't hear no more of them fur a while. Some other fellers made out fur to run the show while they was gone, but all at once they come crowdin' back agin, real turbulent an' noisy like, an' after them came a ugly little cuss in a big gown with an old scythe blade in his fist, an' he started to sing that he'd just got out o' the county jail. At this the korus fellers begun to act most obstriperous, and whenever he said anything about it they tossed up their dibs, as if they was kinder horrified, and yelled "Duffer! Duffer!" This seemed to make the little jail bird onearthly mad an' he capered up and down like a chicken on a hot slap-jack, a'wavin' his ole scythe before all their noses as if he was

oncertain which one to slice up first. They seemed to get kinder scared then an' quit.

Nextthing, in came three real nice looking Japanese girls, about as big as our Mary Jane, only they was all doubled up, and when they walked they wobbled around from side to side, an' I didn't know what ailed them at first till they all up an' sung out in a most audacious fashion that they was three little maids quite full, an' then they was brazen enough to snicker about it as if it was awful funny, and the people all laffed an' aploded them too. I tell you they was a fearful example. From the way the folks took it I'm real afear'd the Scott Act won't ever pass in Toronto.

Soon after that a snappy sort of a woman, somethin' like old Miss Perkins, come rushin' in and she seemed to be real vexed an' disagreeable about somethin' or other, an' she went up to one of the young girls what had been intockicated (but she was sobered up considerable by now) and who had pink cheeks, and she said she'd give her a black eye. But the little one was mighty spunky and not a bit scared of her, an' she walked right round and sass'd her there before the crowd, and when old Perkins went for to sass back the crowd started to yell most dreadful, an' when she seen they was all down on her she run out the back door an' got away.

Then a feller come in with a letter for the little jail-bird and it was writ on a big piece of cloth. He didn't go to work an' read it like we do, but he just put his nose down on it an' smelled out the informashing. After he hed smelled it his eyes bulged out most dreadful, and he told a fat man that the Make-ado was a'comin', and I guess he hadn't nothing good to eat in the house 'cause he said as he'd have to go and kill a ginny pig, and then he begun to cry. Then the korus all come on again an' I guess they had been squared, because pretty soon the Make-ado (which he is called because they make so much fuss about him) come along with a lot of fellers holding sunshades over him, an' then the korus fellers started to howl "He's the same 'un, He's the same 'un," though all the people around me said he was a different one to what had been there before. The korus couldn't fool them.

The Make-ado he started to sing but the old Perkins one, she broke in frightful rude, and said she was his mother-in-law, an' he musn't sing nothing but what his mother-in-law select. I was real sympathetic for the way she bossed him around an' abused him. But he soon got over it and made out for to say that his boys hed all gone blind, and then laughed about it like a derved fool. I was so disgusted that I didn't pay no more attention till the little jail-bird he come out an' begun sparking old Perkins, an' he sung her a song about a little bird what set up on a tree and yelled tit-willer, and the little jail-bird he remonstrated with it, but it got real indignant and chucked him into a billowy wave. I guess it didn't want folks to think it was a bird o' the same feather as him. Then old Perkins she allowed she'd marry him (so as she could make him quit singing like she done the old Make-ado) and she asked him if he minded her bein' a little bit bloodthirsty (on account of wantin' to black the young woman's eye, I reckon) and the little jail-bird he said "Don't mention it."

I hed been gettin' disgustfuller and disgustfuller all the time, an' when they got this far I jest up and went out.

Your loving, etc.,

JEHOSAPHAT JEFFERSON.