

GOSSIP.

Elder Dippen-Brudder Smiff, what fo' yo' allas s-singin'?

Brother Smith—Ter keep mah mind I'm dwellin' on mah thoughts.

A little chap in a country school wrote the following composition on heads:

There are lots of heads, red heads, bawled heads, and so 4th. Pa he's got one—it's bawled. Ma she's long heded. Pa he's bull heded and I'm red heded and level too. The smart end of a boy is his hed except when he's spanked, but the smart end of a bee is not there—oh no. Pa says if a fellow has a hed he can get a hed in this world even if it is only a cabbage hed.

A man once berated his Hebrew debtor for not having included him among his preferred creditors.

"But I makes you a 'speshul creditor,'" was the answer.

"A special creditor? What's that?"

"Vy, a speshul creditor, mine friend, knows now that he gets nothings. The preferred, he von't know that for three years. Time ist money, ain't it?"

On April 15th, Messrs. D. C. Flatt & Son, of Millgrove, Ontario, shipped from Glasgow to Canada an extensive and valuable consignment of Large Yorkshire pigs. In all they numbered eighty head, forty being selected from the herds of the Earl of Rosebery, at Dalmeny Park; Sir Gilbert Grenall, Mr. Daybell, Mr. Armitage, the Earl of Ellesmere, and others. Two of the animals which came from Mr. Daybell were winners at the Royal Agricultural Society last year. These hogs will be in the great sale at Hamilton on June 15th, and are said to be the best lot ever imported by the Messrs. Flatt.

The school was celebrating Lincoln's birthday, and the principal had invited a distinguished citizen to speak to the pupils. He was one who had known the martyr President in his earlier life, and he talked freely of the struggles, the integrity and the high qualities of Abraham Lincoln, and especially of his sympathy with and fondness for the common people. Then, fearing that some of his young hearers might miss the force of his important point, he asked: "What do we mean by the 'common people'?"

Slowly a small hand was raised and a childish treble answered: "It's folks that ain't married."

Sir Archibald Geikie has just published his *Reminiscences*—a volume full of stories about the Scots. Here are some of them:

"Weel, Tam, are ye gaun hame wi' your wark?" was the invariable greeting of a doctor to a tailor of his acquaintance, when he met him carrying a bundle. Once the tailor saw the doctor walking in a funeral procession. "Weel, doctor, are ye gaun hame wi' your wark?" he asked.

Descanting on the changes in life and work brought by time, a farmer said: "When I was young, I used to think my father hadna muckle sense, but my sons look on mysel' as a born eediot."

At a funeral in Glasgow, a stranger who had taken his seat in one of the mourning coaches, excited the curiosity of the three other occupants, one of whom at last asked him:

"Ye'll be a brither o' the corp?"

"No, I'm no a brither o' the corp."

"Weel, then, ye'll be his cousin?"

"No, I'm no that!"

"Then ye'll be at least a frien' o' the corp?"

"No, that either. To tell the truth, I've no been weel mysel', and as my doctor has ordered me some carriage exercise, I thought this wad be the cheapest way to tak' it."

He tells, for instance, of the Highlander who had been to Glasgow and seen that wonderful invention, the telegraph.

"What is it like?" his neighbor asked him.

"If I trod on ma collie dog's tail in Oban," said Jack, "and it squeaked in Tombermory, that wad be a telegraph."

Then there is the story of the blacksmith who said to his minister:

"Ah, sir, if ye was ance richt drunk, ye wadna want ever to be sober again."

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GOSSIP.

Senator Depew, while acting as president of the New York Central road, was approached for a pass to Syracuse three years in succession by a man with the same pitiful tale of a mother's illness and the strong desire of the applicant to see her once again. Through his sympathetic nature, he had yielded each year, but upon the last occasion with the admonition that the application should never be renewed. Much to his surprise, upon entering his office one morning the following year, he found the applicant, with identically the same recital.

"How dare you come here again with that old story?" he exclaimed.

"Why, Mr. Depew," blandly replied the applicant, "I thought that you were fond of old stories."

The cloud fell from Chauncey's face, a smile overspread his features, which remained until the pass was signed and handed over to the applicant.

Back in the 70's, when Dewey had command of a ship of the old Hartford type, he was lying in the harbor at Genoa. Visitors were allowed on board at all times except Sunday morning, when inspection took place. One Sunday a well-known American millionaire steamed out with a party of friends in his private yacht and succeeded in getting on deck, where he was met by Captain Dewey, who asked him to leave. Mr. Money remonstrated, and finally exasperated by the cool firmness of the officer, he burst out:

"No, sir, I won't leave. I am an American citizen, and have a perfect right on this vessel. I pay taxes in America, I am on my own property; part of this ship belongs to me!"

Calmly Dewey opened his penknife, stooped down, split off a piece of the deck flooring. Handing it to the incensed American citizen, he replied:

"There's about what you own and there's the ladder—now git."

And he got.—Lippincott's

A story is told of an eminent New York lawyer receiving a severe reprimand from a witness whom he was trying to browbeat. It was an important issue, and in order to gain his case it was necessary, if possible, to diminish the value of the witness' evidence. The following was the dialogue that ensued:

"How old are you?"

"Seventy-two."

"Your memory, of course, is not as brilliant as it was twenty years ago, is it?"

"I do not know but it is."

"State some circumstance which occurred, say, twelve years ago, and we shall see."

"Well, sir, about twelve years ago, you studied in Judge B——'s office, did you not?"

"The lawyer said, 'Yes.'"

"Well, sir, I remember your father coming into my office and saying to me: 'Mr. D——, my son is to be examined to-morrow, and I wish you would lend me twenty dollars to buy him a suit of clothes.' I remember also, sir, that form that day to this the money has never been paid. Will that do, sir?"

It did.

People who take things literally are apt to tread on other people's toes, says Tit-Bits. The man who walked in where he saw a sign "walk in," and who was ordered out, was a literal man, and so was he who went into a pawnbroker's shop and demanded 40 shillings because there was a placard in the window that read:

"Look at this watch for 40 shillings."

"I looked at it," said he, "and now I want £2."

The most amusing incident we have heard is that of the countryman who, while sauntering along a city street, saw a sign:

"Please ring the bell for the caretaker."

After reflecting for a few minutes, he walked up and gave the bell such a pull that it nearly came out by the roots. In a few minutes an angry-faced man opened the door.

"Are you the caretaker?" asked the bell-puller.

"Yes; what do you want?"

"I saw that notice, so I rang the bell, and now I want to know why you can't ring the bell yourself?"



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