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THE BREAD WAS TO BLAME.
 Frederick Locker-Lampson tells in *My Confidences* of an old sea captain who, when he had retired from active services, lived alone under the faithful care of an old servant named John. The captain was very methodical, and John provided him every morning with a penny roll for breakfast. What he ate one day was, as to kind and quantity, what he wished to eat the next.
 One morning the breakfast bell rang, and when John appeared his master groaned and said in an agitated voice: "John, I'm very ill, go for Dr. Dobson. This is probably the beginning of my last illness."
 "Oh, no, sir," said John, "I hope not. What is it, sir? What does it feel like?"
 "I've entirely lost my appetite," said the captain. "It never happened before. I can't get through my penny roll."
 "Bless you, sir, is that all?" cried John, relieved. "Why, when the baker came this morning all the penny rolls were gone, sir, so I gave you a tuppenny one!"
NOT HIS DAY FOR BEING WHIPPED.
 Little Johnny was eight years' old, therefore he could look back to several Christmas holidays with a lively remembrance of what they were like, and what had taken place on these festive occasions.
 One of Johnny's ideas (not original with Johnny by any means, as many a parent can testify), was that it is a boy's mission to make as much noise as possible in the world, and, in spite of frequent admonishing and more or less frequent whippings, he perseveringly carried out the idea on all occasions except when he was asleep.
 Johnny was fulfilling his mission with more vigor and enthusiasm than usual on Christmas morning, but nobody paid any attention to him except his aunt Jane, who was visiting Johnny's parents during the holidays, and she finally grew tired of the noise, and said:
 "Johnny, it is very naughty to keep up such a din and racket all the time; if you don't stop it I shall have to speak to your mother about it."
 "Huh! 'Wot good'll that do!" scornfully demanded Johnny.
 "Why, she will whip you if you don't stop," threatened the young man's aunt.
 "Guess not!" retorted Johnny with an air of triumph. "Christmas ain't my day for gettin' whipped. I ailers git whipped the day before Chris'mas and the day after, but I never do on Chris'mas."—"From the 'Editor's Drawer,' in *Harper's Magazine*.

THE ASTOUNDING ADVERBS.
 One evening a gentleman came home with a budget of news. An acquaintance had failed in business. He spoke of the incident as "deliciously sad." He had ridden up town in a car with a noted wit, whom he described as "horribly entertaining," and, to cap the climax, he spoke of the butter that had been set before him at a country hotel as "divinely rancid."
 The young people stared, and the oldest daughter said: "Why, papa, I should think that you were out of your head."
 "Not in the least, my dear," he said pleasantly, "I'm merely trying to follow the fashion. I worked out 'divinely rancid' with a good deal of labor. It seems to me rather more effective than 'awfully sweet.' I mean to keep up with the rest of you hereafter. And now," he continued, "let me help you to a piece of this exquisitely tough beef."
 Adverbs, he says, are not so fashionable as they were in his family.—*Boston Post*.

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