

THE THREE JOLLY HUSBANDS.

Three jolly husbands, out in the country, by the names of Tim Watson, Joe Brown, and Bill Walker, sat late one evening drinking at a village tavern, until being pretty well corned, they agreed that each one, on returning home should do the first thing his wife told him, in default of which he should the next morning pay the bill. They then separated for the night, engaging to meet again the next morning, and give an honest account of their proceedings at home, so far as they related to the payment of the bill. The next morning, Walker and Brown, were early at their posts; but it was some time before Watson made his appearance. Walker began first.

"You see, when I entered my house the candle was out, and as the fire gave but a glimmering of light, I came near walking accidentally into a pot of batter that the pancakes were to be made of this morning. My wife, who was dreadfully out of humour at sitting up so long, said to me, sarcastically, '*Do put your foot into the batter!*'—'Just as you say, Maggy,' said I; and thereupon, without the least hesitation, I set my foot in the pot of batter, and then—went to bed."

Next Joe Brown told his story. "My wife, said he, had already retired to rest in our usual sleeping room, which adjoins the kitchen and the door of which was left ajar. Not being able to navigate perfectly well, you know, I made a dreadful clattering among the household furniture; and my wife, in no very pleasant tone, bawled out, '*Do break the porridge pot Joe!*' No sooner said than done. I seized hold of the bail of the pot, and striking it against the chimney jam, broke it in a hundred pieces.—After this exploit I retired to rest, and got a curtain lecture all night for my pains."

It was now Tim Watson's turn to give an account of himself; which he did with a very long face, as follows:—"My wife gave me the most unlucky command in the world; for as I was blundering up stairs in the dark, she cried out, '*Do break your rotten neck, do Tim!*'—'I'll be c—s—d if I do, Kate,' said I, as I gathered myself up, I'll sooner pay the bill. And so landlord, here's the cash for you. This is the last time I'll ever risk five dollars on the command of my wife."

Things I have never seen—I have never seen such hard times as the present in all my life. I have never seen an old maid decidedly opposed to matrimony. I have never seen a pretty girl that did not know it. I have never seen a lawyer refuse a fee on account of his client's poverty. I have never seen a woman that was tongue tied. I have never seen rich men prefer marrying poor girls. I have never seen but one lady use a bed wrench and pin to tighten her corsets. I have never seen a woman die with the lock jaw.