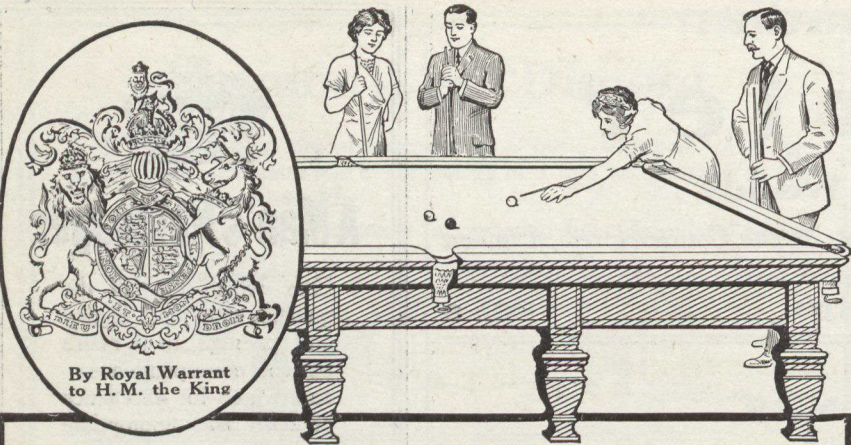




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In Lighter Vein

An Important Point.—Travel invariably adds charm to the conversation of an agreeable person, but sometimes renders a bore more tiresome than ever.

"And I stood there, Aunt Bessie," said the old lady's slow-speaking but long-winded nephew, who had been talking on incessantly for the past two hours about his summer in Switzerland, until the old lady's eyes began to droop in the lamplight—"and there I stood, Aunt Bessie, with the abyss yawning in front of me."

"Francis," said Aunt Bessie, speaking as one who has kept long silence, "was that abyss a-yawning before you got there, or did it begin to yawn afterward?"—Lippincott's.

Know Him?—"Pa, what is a near-humourist?"

"A near-humourist, son, is a person who says, when he finds an oyster in a stew, 'Well, well, little stranger, what are you doing here?'"—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Wasted Ammunition.—A man who had never been duck hunting shot at a duck in the air. The duck fell dead to the ground.

"Well, you got him!" exclaimed the amateur's friend.

"Yes," replied the amateur, "but I might as well have saved my ammunition—the fail would have killed him."—Boston Post.

It Wasn't Encouraging.—A tramp called at the house of a gentleman and obtained a hearing.

"I've walked many miles to see you, sir, because people told me that you was very kind to poor chaps like me."

"Oh, they said so, did they?"

"Yes, sir; that's why I came."

"And are you going back the same way?"

"Yes, sir."

"Then in that case, will you be good enough to contradict this rumour?"

Waiting for Rest.—A young woman who was visiting a friend in the South, and heard many stories of the way in which the darkies managed to excuse themselves or account for idleness, came one day upon Uncle Ike, stretched at full length under a tree.

"Taking a little rest, aren't you, uncle?" she said, pleasantly.

"Not prezackly, miss," said the old darky, with a solemn face. "I don't call it res' jes' yet. I's waiting fo' de sun to go down so's I can quit wuk wid a easy conscience."

Mark Twain's Hard Luck.—The number of anecdotes that foreign papers print about Mark Twain shows how world-wide is the famous humourist's popularity. In the course of one of his lecture trips, Mark Twain arrived at a small town. Before dinner he went to a barber shop to be shaved.

"You are a stranger?" asked the barber.

"Yes," Mark Twain replied. "This is the first time I've been here."

"You chose a good time to come," the barber continued. "Mark Twain is going to read and lecture to-night. You'll go, I suppose?"

"Oh, I guess so."

"Have you bought your ticket?"

"Not yet."

"But everything is sold out. You'll have to stand."

"How very annoying!" Mark Twain said with a sigh. "I never saw such luck! I always have to stand when that fellow lectures!"—Youth's Companion.

Our Young Scientists.—"Oh, dad, please speak to Bobby. He will put his feet my side of the bed, and his toes are below zero!"—Punch.

Enterprise.—"You have produced a play without a single suggestive line or situation in it!"

"Yes," replied the theatrical manager with pardonable pride. "The public wants novelty nowadays."—London Opinion.

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