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AMUSING SLIPS OF THE TONGUE.

Many people have said in mistake precisely the reverse of what was in their thought. A working man called on a well-known country clergyman, closely related to a ducal house. The applicant wanted a letter of recommendation to a neighbouring nobleman, from whom he hoped to obtain employment. "Why not go personally and see my lord?" the friend asked. "Well, you see," was the nervous answer, "I don't like speaking to Lord X-; he may be proud and not care to listen to the likes of me; it would be quite a different thing if it were yourself, for there's nothing of the gentleman in you." Mr. Bancroft has related, that during a holiday jaunt in Switzerland Sir Paul Hunter was lost. Bad news flies apace and gathers as it goes. It was soon said that guides were away up the mountain to find a missing man. Somebody had seen or heard signals of distress. Lady Hunter, safe in the hotel, began to tremble for her husband. But his predicament was not so desperate after all. He was discovered and given the necessary help and guidance in his descent. At dusk he re-entered the Alpine hamlet alone, as if nothing had happened. Wishing to avoid notice and curious questionings, he had sent his guides to their own haunts. But as he passed up through a little waiting English crowd, Lady Hunter darted to meet him. "Oh, Paul!" she cried, "I'm so glad to see you back! Where have you been? Some silly man has lost himself on one of the mountains, and I feared it might be you!" Considerate, kindly, but not quite-in its literal construction -a compliment. Some comical slips of the tongue are due to doubtful or insufficient information. There may be lack of important knowledge about the person addressed. Victor Hugo once met a garrulous notary, who talked with him on literary subjects. The lawyer belonged to the

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provinces, and he asked if his companion had heard anything before he left Paris about "Hernani"-one of Hugo's own plays. Hugo admitted that he had heard it mentioned. "It is a miserably stupid piece." "Very likely," said the poet. "The author must be an abominable person. One of my friends saw him in the street not long ago, and in such a state. The wretched creature is nearly always drunk." The two passed into the same hotel, and what was the consternation of the man of the libellous tongue when Hugo wrote his name in the arrival register beneath his traducer's eye.—Cassell's Saturday

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