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The Travelling Men.

A story is told of a Boston travelling man who, one evening while in Hartford, Conn., and after lounging about the hotel in disconsolate loneliness for an hour or two, asked the clerk if there was anything going on in town. The clerk suggested taking in a masquerade ball that was in progress. The drummer thought the idea was a good one, but he hadn't any costume. The clerk suggested that he borrow the colored porter's overalls and jumper, black his face and hands, and go. The suggestion was promptly acted upon, and for an hour the bogus colored man talked African-English and had a high old time among the masked belles. Finally the signal to unmask was given, and when the masks came off a great wave of darkness swept over the hall. Every blessed man, woman and child in the place was a full-blooded negro. The drummer cast one panic-stricken look at the crowd, and then made for the door.

A SHABBY TRICK.

Some years ago a representative of a large shoe house made a tour of Southern Texas for the purpose of gaining a trade through that section of the country. He found that in nearly every town he visited, the merchants were awaiting the coming of another tourist representing a rival house. On one occasion he entered a town and called on the proprietor of one of the leading shoe stores, who told him that he needed a large invoice of good but that Mr. Wilson, the rival drummer, was expected every day, but that if he did not come that night they could wait no longer. Our friend immediately decided to prevent the appearance of Wilson, but the question was, how could he do it? At last an idea entered his head, he went down to the depot and awaited the evening train on which his rival was expected. When Mr. Wilson stepped out on the platform he was greeted by our friend who immediately commenced telling of his good luck in selling the firm Wilson had called to see, a large bill of goods, and that another merchant a few miles distant had written him to come up on the morrow. This firm, in truth, was one of Wilson's best customers and had refused to give his rival an order the day before. After a few moments more conversation Mr. Wilson was left alone and commenced to soliloquize. He at last, decided to go up to the next town that night thereby getting the order. This suited our friend exactly, leaving the field open for him. He sold the firm a large order and secured their custom. They say Wilson is looking for him yet.

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