

D deservedly severe was the reply of Descartes to a nobleman who, seeing that he enjoyed the pleasures of the table, remarked: "I see, sir, that philosophers can sometimes indulge in good cheer." "Why not?" asked Descartes. "Do you really imagine that Providence intended the good things of this earth only for the foolish and ignorant?"

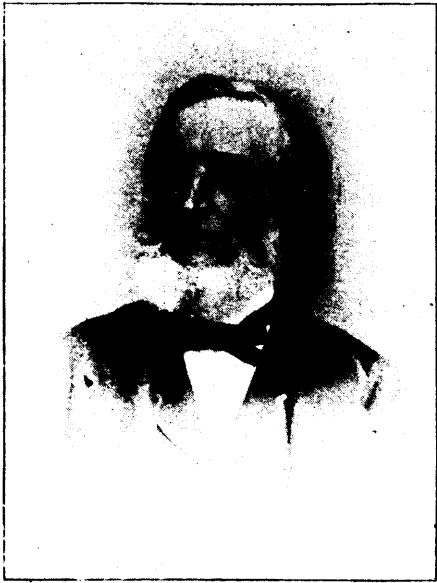
Sheridan's ready wit was equalled some years ago by another prominent politician on the occasion of the Derby being won by a French horse. The Frenchmen present, as was natural, cheered vociferously, and not content with that one of them shouted: "Waterloo avenged!" "Yes," said the statesman, who happened to hear the remark, "you ran well in both cases."

"Pa," enquired Bobby, "what's the meaning of E pluribus unum?" "Oh, it's a Latin phrase, Bobby. I used to know when I was at college, but a man is apt to forget most that he learned at college when he gets to be as old as I am." Just then a procession of college students passed the door shouting vociferously, "Rah, rah, rah!" "Tiger," yelled the old man, and he broke both suspenders before he reached the gate.

"Why, Jennie, what do you think?" she cried as she stopped a friend on the avenue the other morning. "You've gone to housekeeping, I bet." "Yes, we have! George only gets \$8 a week, you know, and mamma was doubtful, but it's all right. We can buy everything we want and have lots left. Why, what do you think turnips cost?" "I don't know." "Only a cent a pint, and I can get a small cabbage for three cents!"

Of wit bordering on the malicious there are many examples, and some of the repartees are fully deserved, while others are only calculated to give pain. Among the latter is one told at the expense of an elderly French widow, who had fallen in love with a young nobleman, whom she was never tired of praising to her friends as "handsome as one of Dumas' three musketeers." "Yes," said a lady who heard her and who was possibly jealous, "he is the musketeer, and you are 'Twenty Years After.'"

She forgot nothing. Mrs. Anglomaniac (to butler): Matthew, his Grace the Duke of Tweedledum dines and sleeps here to-night. I want everything in the most correct English way. Matthew: Ho, yes, hindeed, mum. Mrs. Anglomaniac: Serve tea in the drawing-room at five and dinner at eight and thirty o'clock. Have no napkins at breakfast to-morrow, and serve cold game patés from the sideboard. Matthew: Ho, yes, hindeed mum. Mrs. Anglomaniac: And, Matthew, see that the weather is foggy. I want his Grace to feel entirely at home. Matthew: Ho, yes, hindeed, mum.



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