



EXPERT TESTIMONY.

MRS. YOU NOWIFE (admiringly) — It's perfectly wonderful, dear, how you think of so many new jokes.

MR. YOU NOWIFE — Oh, I just jot down all the funny things my friends say.

MRS. YOU NOWIFE — And use them afterward?

MR. YOU NOWIFE — No indeed, that's just the secret of my success. I avoid using them.

usual haunts; and, to the surprise of all, he offered for sale as many sealskins as would have served to furnish winter clothing for a regiment of Icelanders, and a revenue officer, who had occasion to search his establishment for the products of illicit distillation, was almost petrified to find that the young Highlander's barrels were overflowing with oil. Nobody could say that he had seen Rory out shooting seals; but, however he might have come by them, the fact remained that he had secured a far greater number than all the other men in the district together. But Rory kept his own counsel pretty well; although, from the knowing twinkle in Jennie's eye when she would frequently importune her father for information as to when that schooner was to be launched, it was evident that she was pretty well posted.

As for her father, he had treated his prospective son-in-law with constantly increasing respect from the day on which the latter had applied to him, accidentally, of course, for small bills for a fifty-pound note, to make change in a sale of merchandise. After awhile the seals became materially scarcer on that part of the coast, much to the satisfaction of the salmon fishers, who would rather any time see a school of sharks than a pack of seals among their nets.

"The Old Scratch is surely in the beasts," said a fisherman to his companions, as they were returning homeward, exceedingly incensed at the injury which they had just discovered to have been inflicted upon their nets by the seals. "I tell you what it is, you might have driven a bullock through the hole that was in my seine, and it's not my belief that it was done by any ordinary seal, for I have seen something going about lately that is not altogether canny."

"You may well say that," chimed in another, in a very mysterious undertone, "for no longer ago than last Saturday,

I saw, down on the skerries below there, a thing that was not like anything ever seen about here before, though it was something like a seal. What do you think it was doing? May I never taste victuals more, if it was'n't smoking a pipe!"

"I don't doubt it a bit, after what I've seen," said another. "I tell you what, boys, I'd a precious sight sooner run than face the beast that has been leaving its marks on the sand for two or three weeks; for I looked at them as I went by, and saw the prints of toe-nails, as plainly as I see any of you. But what, for heaven's sake, is that?"

"Pooh, you frightened fool!" exclaimed another, who had not been the least startled of the crew at first, "it's only a few seals on a mud-bank. But I'll make them get out in short order"; and, raising his voice, he tried the power of his lungs to the utmost.

Down rushed the seals precipitately to the water, as is their wont—all save one of giant size, which had been sidling around among the others. This one, to the consternation and terror of the fishermen, reared himself bolt upright upon his tail, shook his clenched flipper at the boat, and yelled in a terrific voice:

"May Satan fly away with you, you blundering, bothering chuckle-heads! If I catch you disturbing my game again, hang me if I don't send such a dose of small shot after you as will teach you to mind your own business in the future!"

But the fishermen were by this time a long way down the firth, making the boat spin through the water in the sheer ecstasy of panic.

After this encounter, notwithstanding the solemn asseverations of the fishermen, who declared themselves ready to testify, before a kirk sessions, that a seal had spoken to them, various opinions were expressed regarding the power of capture possessed by Rory, one party maintaining that he had made a compact with a demon in the form of a seal, while others merely winked, and looked knowing. All the particulars came out, however, on the night of the wedding, when Rory led off the dance in the character of a seal in full costume, with Jennie's arm tucked under his starboard foreflipper.

F. W. SAUNDERS.