

"Rastus, do you drink?" "Not to-day, sah, thank you, Mr. Ballingal," came the darkey's unexpected reply.—*Central Law Journal*.

It is said that on one occasion the late B. B. Osler, Q. C., a prince among cross-examiners, had a witness in charge who made what the learned counsel thought an extravagant statement as to figures. The conversation then ran somewhat as follows: Q:—"Now, you say that there were twenty, don't you think there might have been thirty? Ans:—Well there might have been. Q:—What would you say to forty? Ans:—Can't say as to forty. Q:—Come now couldn't you stretch a point and make it fifty?" The unexpected answer to this question closed the examination:—"Look here, guvner, this here business ain't no bloomin' auction, is it?"

TRIAL BY JURY.—The following is well worth reproducing and none the less because it appeared in *Punch* in its spicy days in 1877:—

The jury then retired to consider their verdict.

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*Foreman*. Well, gentlemen, what shall it be? For the defendant or for the plaintiff? I say for the plaintiff—damages £1000.

*Number Two*. Nonsense! you mean the defendant. He was in the right, and nothing shall make me give in if I stay here all night.

*Number Three*. Don't say that. Because I have a dinner party at seven.

*Number Four*. And I promised my wife to be back by six.

*Number Five*. I say ditto to mister foreman. Only make it a farthing damages. Nothing shall move me from that!

*Number Six*. Which was the plaintiff?

*Number Seven*. Why the man who refused to pay the bill, don't you know.

*Number Eight*. Lor, bless me, I thought he was the defendant!

*Number Nine*. Come, gentlemen, it's getting late. Make up your minds. I don't care which you give it for; in fact I thought both sides in the wrong.

*Number Ten*. Did you? I thought both sides in the right.

*Number Eleven*. It's no use talking. I tell you I mean to stick to the defendant.

*Number Twelve*. And I to the plaintiff. Damages £1000. Not a penny less, mind you, not a penny less!

*Foreman*. I see, Gentlemen, we must decide it in the usual way. I will toss the shilling, if you will be good enough to cry heads or tails.

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The jury returned after a few minutes' absence. Verdict for the plaintiff—damages forty shillings.