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Mrs. Martin's Opportunity.

Mr. Martin was talking at the dinner table, in his usual clever manner, about the inconsistency of women.

"These young women who protest that they are never going to marry!" he broke out. "Everybody knows they will belie their own words at the very first opportunity."

He paused, and evidently hoped that Mrs. Martin would come to the rescue of her sex; but that discreet woman held her tongue.

"Why, Mary," he continued, "you remember how it was with yourself. I have heard you say more than once that you wouldn't marry the best man alive."

"Well, I didn't," said Mrs. Martin.—
TIT-BITS.

Why He Waited.

Quick wit has gotten more than one person out of a tight place. One of our exchanges relates that a schoolmaster, giving his pupils instruction in physiology, told them that whenever they moved an arm or a leg it was in response to a message from the brain.

"The brain always sends a message down your arm or leg whenever you wish to move the particular member," he explained.

At length a mischievous boy roused his fire by his apparent inattention to the lesson.

"Hold out your hand," he exclaimed. The boy did not move.

"Why don't you hold out your hand, sir?" cried the irate pedagogue.

"Please, sir, I'm waiting for the message from my brain," said the lad, coolly.

The Shortest Cut.

The man who turns to his advantage every happening, is the one, the wise-acre declares, who will succeed in what he undertakes. Then Terence Murphy, the carpenter, is on the road to high fortune. An incident related in the Boston Budget prophesies this.

One Saturday, toward the tired end of the day, Terence was shingling the roof of a new house. Suddenly his foot slipped and he fell to the ground. As the house was low, the fall was not long, yet he lay so motionless that the other men ran to him quickly, believing that the worst had happened.

"Are you much hurt, my boy?" asked one of the men, tenderly.

Terence grunted.
"That was a bad fall, Terence."

The unfortunate fellow drew a breath. "Och, never mind," he said. "O' was coming down after nails, anyway."

Expecting Too Much.

It is not always possible to feign grief when the heart is cheerful. Yet frankness is occasionally impolitic. The Youth's Companion tells of a drill sergeant who was unpopular among his men. They found him too particular. One day he had on hand a party of recruits whom he was putting through the funeral exercise.

Opening the ranks so as to admit the passage of the supposed funeral cortege among them, the instructor, by way of practical explanation, walked slowly down the lane formed by the two ranks, saying, as he did so:

"Now, I'm the corpse. Pay attention!"

Having reached the end of the line, he turned, regarded the men with a scrutinizing eye for a minute, and then remarked:

"Your 'ands is right, and your 'eads is right, but you 'aven't got that look of regret you ought to 'ave."

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