

THE READY ANSWER

He guessed and guessed in vain. Then, giving up in despair, he leaned against the barrel and confessed, "I guess you've got this coon this time;" when lo! to the man's great surprise, out pops the coon, and his championship was recognized on all hands.

There is no doubt that luck is a friend, indeed, to those who have no surer staff to lean upon, but an occasional hit does not stipulate that this guesswork can be depended upon to sustain ill-fed and ill-founded pretensions. The surest plan for success in giving ready answers is to inform yourself upon questions which may reasonably be anticipated. Of course, questions will come up which will prove "puzzlers" to the best of well-equipped minds.

Someone has well said: "A man must have the courage to be ignorant of a great many things that he may know some things well." It is equally true that the man who knows some things well is the man who can afford to say "I don't know," when asked for information he is unable to give.

A man cannot always be expected to answer questions that are out of his sphere, but every-