

WITH THE WITS

SURE TO BE POPULAR.

Mrs. Jims—"Madame Snipper has perfected a wonderful invention. Mrs. Tims—"What is it?" Mrs. Jims—"A revolving hat, it works so that the congregation can see all sides of it."

A ROLAND FOR AN OLIVER.

A magazine editor to whom a famous author had promised a story, but had failed to deliver the manuscript at the proper time, sat down and wrote him thus—"My dear sir,—If I do not receive that story from you by noon to-day I am going to put on my number eleven shoes and come and kick you down your own stairs. I never fail to keep my promises." Thereupon the author replied, "I, too, would keep my promises if I could do all my work with my feet!"

QUITE DISTANT.

"Do the new neighbors annoy you as much by borrowing as your predecessors did?" asked Mr. Blykins. "No," answered his wife. "They haven't run over to borrow a thing. I never saw anybody quite so haughty and unsociable."

A SENSIBLE SUGGESTION.

It was at a theatre in Manchester. The king, aged and infirm, was blessed with two sons. He was pacing up and down the stage with a wearied, troubled look, exclaiming aloud: "On which of these my sons shall I bestow the crown?" Immediately came a voice from the gallery. "Why not 'arf-a-crown apiece, gov'nor?"

MORAL SUASION.

A negro, being asked what he was in jail for, said it was for borrowing money. "But," said the questioner, "they don't put people in jail for borrowing money." "Yes," said the darkey, "but I had to knock de man down free or fo' times before he would lend it to me."

BROTHERLY LOVE.

It was Bilkin's wedding day, and he was teasing his young brother-in-law. "Well, Johnnie," he said solemnly, "I'm going to take your sister a long way off and have her all to myself, where you won't see her any more." "No, really, are you?" said the lad, curiously. "Yes, I am. What do you think of it?" "Nothin'. I can stand it if you can."

ONLY THE BEGINNING.

Both father and mother struggled valiantly to teach little Effie to repeat the letter "A." The child emphatically refused to pronounce the first letter of the alphabet, and after many vain efforts the father retired from the fight discouraged. The mother took the little girl on her lap and pleaded with her affectionately. "Dearie, why don't you learn to say 'A'?" she asked. "Because, mamma," explained Effie, "des as soon as I say 'A' you an' papa will want me to say 'B.'"

NOT EASILY IDENTIFIED.

It is an army condition that the soldier shall grumble at the commissariat; but this particular complaint seems to have had a fair case. "Any complaints, corporal?" said the colonel, making one morning a personal inspection. "Yes, sir. Taste that sir," said the corporal promptly. The colonel put the liquid to his lips. "Why," he said, "that's the best soup I ever tasted." "Yes, sir," said the corporal, "but the cook calls it coffee."

CURRAN'S WIT.

Curran, the great Irish advocate, was a wit of the first water. The story is told of him that he was smiling to himself in court one day, until he goaded the judge into the indiscretion of asking—"Do you see anything particularly ridiculous in my wig, Mr. Curran?" "Only the head, my Lord," he retorted. He was riding one day with Norbury, known, not unjustly, to fame as "the hanging judge," and the pair passed close to a gallows. Lord Norbury pointed to it and said, "Curran, if the gallows had its due, where would you be?" "Riding alone, my Lord," was the immediate reply.

UNKIND.

"A couple," said Mrs. Simpkins, "got married a few days ago, after a courtship which had lasted fifty years." "I suppose," replied Mr. Simpkins, "the poor old man had become too feeble to hold out any longer."

A MONEY-MAKER.

"Look here," said a facetious gentleman to his neighbor, "here is half a dollar. If you will put another on top of it I will show you a splendid trick. Thank you! Now I am going to put a very simple question to you. If you reply to it in the affirmative you will have the two coins. If, on the contrary, you answer in the negative, it is I who will take them. Do you know the trick in question?" "No," replied the victim. Thanks; I pocket the dollar!"

HIS NEED.

A parvenu subject of Louis XV, laid himself open to a severe snub from a well-born but poverty-stricken officer in the Swiss Guards. "I," said he, pompously, "serve for honor; you, for money." "Each for what he most needs," replied the guardsman, quietly.

OPPRESSION.

An Irish school inspector was examining a class in geography. He had propounded a question regarding longitude, and received a correct answer from the lad undergoing the ordeal. "And now," he said, "what is latitude?" After a brief silence a bright youngster, with a merry twinkle in his eye, said, "Please, sir, we have no latitude in Ireland. Father says the British Government won't allow us any!"

FOLLOWED INSTRUCTIONS.

A nervous man on his lonely homeward way heard the echoing of footsteps behind him, and dim visions of hooligans and robbery with violence coursed through his brain. The faster he walked, the more the man behind increased his speed, and although the nervous one took the most roundabout and devious course he could devise, still his tracker followed. At last he turned into a churchyard. "If he follows me here," he decided, "there can be no doubt about his intentions." The man behind did follow, and, quivering with fear and rage, the nervous one turned and confronted him. "What do you want?" he demanded. "Why are you following me?" "Do you always go home like this?" asked the stranger, "or are you giving yourself a treat to-night? I am going up to Brown's, and the porter at the station told me to follow you, as you lived next door. Excuse my asking, but are you going home at all to-night?"

LEARNED HIS LESSON.

A well-known lawyer, whom we may call John Jackson, recently engaged a new office-boy. Said Mr. Jackson to the boy the other morning: "Who took away my waste paper basket?" "It was Mr. Reilly," said the boy. "Who is Mr. Reilly?" asked Mr. Jackson. "The porter, sir." An hour later Mr. Jackson asked: "Jimmy, who opened the window?" "Mr. Peters, sir." "And who is Mr. Peters?" "The window-cleaner, sir." "Look here, James," he said, "we call men by their first names here. We don't 'mister' them in this office. Do you understand?" "Yes, sir." In ten minutes the door opened and a small, shrill voice said: "There's a man here as wants to see you, John."

TABLE IMPLEMENTS.

The waitress knew a thing or two about table etiquette, so she sniffed scornfully as she said: "It's not our custom to serve a knife with pie." "Then bring me an axe," was the man's reply.

WHAT HE WANTED.

"My brother bought a motor-car here last week," said an angry man to a salesman who stepped forward to greet him, "and he says if anything broke you would supply a new part." "Certainly," said the assistant. "What does he want?" "He wants two deltoid muscles, a couple of knee-caps, one elbow, and about half a yard of cuticle, and a left ear," said the man, "and he wants 'em at once."

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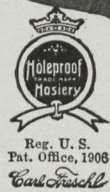
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A SOFT ANSWER.

With a sigh she laid down the magazine article upon Daniel O'Connell. "The day of great men," she said, "is gone for ever." "But the day of beautiful women is not," he responded. She smiled and blushed. "I was only joking," she explained hurriedly.

TESTED.

Wife—"Did you post that letter I gave you?" Hubby—"Yes, dear, I carried it in my hand, so I couldn't forget it, and I dropped it in the first box. I remember because—" Wife—"There, dear, don't say any more. I didn't give you any letter to post."

FEELING WAS MUTUAL.

A woman entered an omnibus with an empty basket smelling strongly of fish. She sat down next to an immaculately attired young man, and the latter hastily grabbed at his coat-tails and drew them away from her. The woman looked curiously at him for a moment. Then she said: "I suppose you'd sooner have a gentleman sitting next to you." "Yes," replied the youth sharply, "I would." "Ah," said the old woman, "I thought so. So would I!"

THE DIFFERENCE.

A man went into a hotel and left his umbrella in the stand, with a card bearing this inscription attached to it. "This umbrella belongs to a man who can deal a blow of two hundred and fifty pounds weight. I will be back in ten minutes." On returning to seek his property, he found in its place a card thus inscribed: "This card was left by a man who can run ten miles an hour. I shall not return."

PESSIMISM.

A certain country visitor was one day visiting some of his church members, among whom was an old gossiping woman, who was always complaining of something. No sooner had he sat down than she began with her grumbling. "But," said the minister, "I don't see what you are always grumbling at. For instance, your potatoes are the best I have seen in the village." "Ah," replied the woman, "but whar's the bad ones for the pigs?"

BOOM IN THE LUMBER TRADE.

A timber merchant was sitting in his office one day musing sadly over the general depression in the wood trade, when a young man entered. "Do you sell beechwood?" asked the stranger. "Yes, sir," said the merchant, rising with alacrity and hoping to book a large order; "we can supply any quantity on the shortest notice, either in the log or the plank." "Oh, I don't want as much as that," said the youth—"I just want a bit for a fiddle bridge!"

OVERSHOT THE MARK.

There is a proprietor of a shop who is forever scolding his employees for their indifference in the matter of possible sales. One day, hearing an assistant say to a customer: "No; we have not had any for a long time," the proprietor, unable to countenance such an admission began to work himself in the usual rage. Fixing his glassy eye on his clerk, he said to the customer: "We have plenty in reserve, ma'am—plenty down stairs!" Whereupon the customer looked dazed; and then to the amazement of the proprietor, burst into hysterical laughter and quitted the shop. "What did she say to you?" demanded the proprietor of the clerk. "We haven't had any rain lately," he answered.