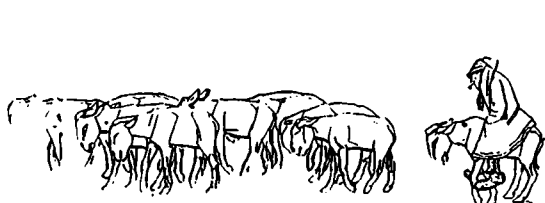




11. But he could learn no tidings of him



12. And so home he went, late at night, weary and worn, as big a fool as he set out.



13. The loss went to the heart of him;



14.—But his wife, giving him the hint, he found his beast again, and that the ass he rode upon was forgot in the reckoning.

J. A. Shepherd, in *The Strand*.

## Names to Conjure With



WHEN the City Directory has its humour, and as the cold flint may be made to emit a spark, so from such a source may be conjured facetious pleasantry. Among the five thousand names of boys on our books one would expect to find some very odd specimens of cognomens, susceptible of combinations most comical and amusing; but when we have opened our Noah's ark and paraded its occupants and denizens before the reader, he may haply feel surprised to see the number of curiosities it contained.

As all the names begin with a capital letter, the discerning reader will have no difficulty in picking them out. The first letter of a paragraph or of a new sentence necessarily begins with a capital, whether the first word be that of a proper name or otherwise.

First let us have an exhibition of natural history. Our collection contains, among the feathered tribe: A Bird with two Beaks near a Bush; a Polley Parrott; a Pigeon, to Pout and Preen; a Wren, Finch, two Robins, a Sparrow, Starling, Titmuss and a Rainbird; a Swift and a Martin; a Rooke and a Raven; a Woodcock, Brace of Partridge and a Warren; a Crane and other Waders; a Downy Chick with a Hatcher; a Duck, a Drake and a Duckett; a Gander and a Swan. And to prey on these we have an Owlett, a Hawke, a Condor and a Spread Eagle, Eagling.

Passing on to the next caravan, we behold first a Denman and Broom to keep it clean; a Bull, a Bullock, a Duncalf and Veales, and several Steers, on the Hoof, that can Low; a Palfrey and Foale that can Trott; a Beagle, Panting Colley and several other Barkers; a Kidd and a Lamb; a Buck, Hart and Hind; and, reposing in peace together, a curious mixture of Mole, Squirrel, Fox, Turtle, Howling Leopard and Griffin.

We have also a well stocked aquarium, in which, of course, there are real fish, with Finn and Gill, including Chub, Roach, Mullett, Pike, Gudgeon, Salmon, Sturgeon, Ling, a Codling, and a live Whale that doesn't rise to spout oftener than once a month. To represent the amphibia, we are obliged to nominate our Froggett. The Cocker, as everybody knows, belongs to the