

TIT-BITS.

A reader of the Savannah *News* sends to that paper two hitherto unpublished anecdotes of John Randolph, saying at the same time that he is no admirer of the "vain, overbearing, haughty, and petty-minded" Virginian.

Randolph's fastidiousness as to the use of pure English and the proper application of English words is a matter of history. It happened that at a social gathering a young gentleman, who had been attached to some legation abroad, made use of the word "classify" in a sense that excited the disapproval of Mr. Randolph. He was quick to resent it.

"It is extremely unpleasant," said he, "to hear careless or ignorant persons debasing the language by a wrong application of words or phrases. Now, sir, you have used the word classify in a connection that is entirely wrong."

The young attaché, dreadfully mortified, colored deeply and retired from the conversation. There chanced to be present a Mr. Harris, a member of the Richmond bar and a relative of the victim. He took up the cudgels of defence.

"Really, Mr. Randolph," he said, "You are too hard on my young kinsman. I think that his application of the word was perfectly correct and proper."

"You think," retorted Randolph, "I don't believe you know the meaning of the word. Pray, sir, what is the meaning of classify?"

"Well," returned Mr. Harris, good naturedly, "I don't know that I can give a technical definition of the word, but I can illustrate its meaning. For instance, I can classify the books of your library by the size of the volumes; or I can classify the members of the Richmond bar by the initial letter of their names."

"I thought so!" said Randolph. "You know nothing about it. Suppose I should classify, as you term it, the books of my library by the size of the volumes, a pretty mixture I should make. Or, suppose I should classify [here a sneer] the members of the Richmond bar by the initial letters of their names. Let us see! There's Mr. Boggs, he'd stand at the head of the list. God forbid! There's Mr. Wickham; he'd stand at the foot of it; a most improper place for him! There's yourself. Harris, H, H? The Greeks esteemed H no letter. We'd place you nowhere."

The other anecdote is even more unpleasant. One day Randolph was attacked with a sudden faintness, and immediately made up his mind that he was about to die. Accordingly he despatched his faithful attendant, Juba, with orders to bring him a clergyman. Juba, diligent though he was, succeeded only in finding an itinerant preacher, zealous enough, but very illiterate. Randolph received the reverend gentleman with great urbanity and offered him refreshments. After these had been partaken of he invited his guest to read the Bible to him. The preacher consented, and proceeded at once to suit the action to the word. Directly he mispronounced a word.

"I beg your pardon," exclaimed the sage of Roanoke, "you pronounce that word wrong. The proper pronunciation is—"

The parson corrected himself, apologized and proceeded with the lecture. Every one knows how frequently the same word is repeated in the Biblical text. Directly the unlucky word again occurred.

"I told you," said Randolph, with asperity, "that you mispronounced that word, and you have done it again."

The clerical gentleman again made due correction, apologized and proceeded. Randolph watched and again the unhappy word was about to turn up once more.

"Stop!" screamed he in his high treble, "stop? lay aside the book. I'd rather go to h—l and be d—d than to hear you mispronounce that word again!"

—School Teacher: "What! a boy of your age doesn't know the parts of speech?" Boy: "No'm." School Teacher: "Haven't you ever heard of a noun?" Boy: "Oh! yes'm." School Teacher: "Well, what comes next?" Boy: "Don't know." School Teacher: "A pronoun. Now please remember that. Then there's the verb. Now what follows that?" Boy: "A proverb."

Billkins (slightly overtaken, picked out of the gutter, brought home and handed over to the tender care of his own butler by a highly respected elderly gentleman—an entire stranger) to elderly Smaritan—"Thanks, old feller—d'lighted to reciprocate favor—first opportunity I get." Elderly stranger walks off indignant—Billkins wonders why.

Girls of a marriageable age do not like to tell how old they are, but you can find out by following the subjoined instructions, the young lady doing the figuring. Tell her to put down the number of the month in which she was born, then to multiply it by 2, then to add 5, then to multiply it by 50, then to add her age, then to subtract 365, then to add 115, then tell her to tell you the amount she has left. The two figures to the right will denote her age, and the remainder the month of her birth. For example, the amount is 822; she is 22 years old, and was borne in the eighth month (August). Try it.

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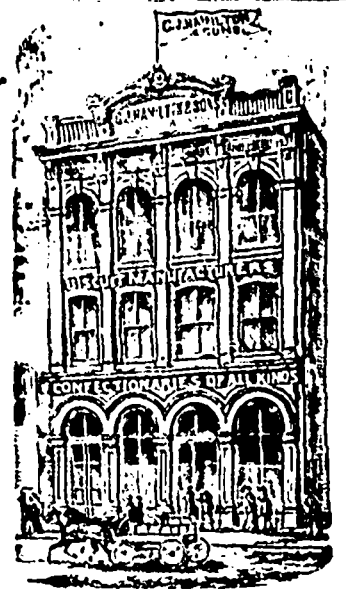
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