

A Surprise.

Mamma—"My gracious! What on earth has happened to you, Willie?" Willie—"Boo, hoo! It's all your fault. I've been playing with that new boy." Mamma—"What, that little Quaker boy?" Willie—"Yes, and—boo, hoo—you said Quakers never fight."

Hypnotism Again.

"A little lad in Limington," said F. S. Black, ex-Governor of New York, "must have studied the records of the criminal courts, and noticed a certain rather absurd plea that for some years has been advanced in extenuation of all sorts of crimes.

"This lad was absent from school one fine spring day, and on his reappearance the next morning he brought no excuse.

"James," said the teacher, "where were you yesterday?"

"The boy began to cry.

"It was Joe Mullen's fault," he said. "He hypnotized me, and made me go fishin' with him."

A Fairly Good Pun.

Owen Wister, the novelist, was talking about puns.

"I detest puns," he said, "but Fanny Kemble, who was my grandmother, used to tell me made by a certain Baron Rothschild that was good of its kind.

"The baron was 'fining out, and some one spoke of venison.

"I," said the baron, "nevr eat venishon. I think it ish not so coot ash mutton."

"Oh, absurd!" some one exclaimed.

"If mutton is better than venishon, why isn't it more expensive?"

"The Baron laughed, overcome by the brilliancy of the pun that had just come to him. Then he said, and his dialect came in very handy.

"The reason why venishon ish more expensive than mutton ish that the peoples always prefer vat ish deer to vat is sheep."

A Little Confused.

George Kennan, the writer, was talking about the naive and childlike minds of sailors. "Two sailors," he said, "once attracted my attention in London. They were lunching in a restaurant and I took a table near them, so as to hear their talk. It was plain that they had just returned from a long voyage.

"Hark! Hear that? One of them suddenly exclaimed. All I could hear myself was a very harsh voice raised above the traffic of the street in a hideous below; but the sailor said: 'Ah, Jack, it's many a day since we've heard that song.'

"What song?" said the other. "The one that chap is singing in the street—'The Banks o' Doon.'"

"Go on," returned the second sailor. "That ain't 'The Banks o' Doon.'" I been a-listening to it for some time. It's 'Darling, I Am Growing Old.'"

They argued the matter a while. Then they told the waiter to go out and ask the man in the street what it was that he was singing. That waiter hurried forth, and on his return said: "The feller ain't singin' at all, gents. He's hawkin' 'ty paper.'"

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