

STRING OF COMICALITIES.

A NOVEL POST OFFICE.—The other day a laughable circumstance occurred at Barnesley, at the cottage of a laboring man named Gibbins. The story ran thus: A relation of Gibbins, who lives in Manchester, sent him a goose; its appearance led Gibbins to believe that goosy was ready for the spit. After it had hung before the fire for about twenty minutes, a neighbor of Gibbins popped in to have a peep at his present, who soon discovered by the appearance of the gravy that all was not right. Gibbins, who had not previously observed it, was struck with the same impression, and had it taken away from the fire and opened, when the following list of articles were found inside of the goose, which had been put there with a view to save expense; the first article met with was a letter directed to Gibbins, one for his sister, and one for a distant relation, thirty shillings for a half year's rent, a set of knitting needles, a print of her Majesty going to Guildhall, two Godfrey bottles, six hanks of white-brown thread, a receipt for making ginger beer, a set of Christmas hymns, and some confectionary. English paper.

CURRAN AND THE MILLER'S DOG.—Curran told me, with infinite humour, of an adventure between him and a mastiff, when he was a boy. He had heard somebody say that any person throwing the skirts of his coat over his head, stooping low, holding out his arms, and creeping along backward, might frighten the fiercest dog and put him to flight. He accordingly made the attempt on a miller's animal in the neighborhood, who would never let the boys rob the orchard, but found to his sorrow that he had a dog to deal with who did not care which end of a boy went foremost, so as he could get a bite out of it. 'I pursued the instructions,' said Curran, 'and, as I had no eyes save those in front, fancied the mastiff was in full retreat; but I was confoundedly mistaken, for at the very moment I thought myself victorious, the enemy attacked my rear, and, having got a reasonable good mouthful out of it, was fully prepared to take another before I was rescued.'

AMERICAN SERVANTS.—A young man from Vermont was hired by a family, who were in extreme want of a footman. He was a most friendly personage, as willing as he was free and easy; but he knew nothing of life out of a small farm-house. An evening or two after his arrival, there was a large party at the house. His mistress strove to impress upon him that all he had to do at tea-time was to follow, with the sugar and cream, the waiter who carried the tea—to see that every one had cream and sugar, and to hold his tongue. He did his part with an earnest face, stepping industriously from guest to guest. When he made the circuit and reached the door, a doubt struck him, whether a group in the farthest part of the room had had the benefit of his attentions. He raised himself on his toes, with, 'I'll ask,' and shouted over the heads of the company, 'I say, how are ye off for sweetmin' in that ere corner?'

NEW WAY OF APPLYING LEECHES.—'Well, my good woman,' said the doctor, 'how is your husband to-day? Better no doubt.'

'O yes, surely,' said the woman. 'He is as well as ever, and gone to the field.'

'I thought so,' continued the doctor. 'The leeches have cured him. Wonderful effect they have. You got the leeches of course.'

'O yes, they did him a great deal of good, though he could not take them all.'

'Take them all! Why my good woman, how did you apply them?'

'O, I managed nicely,' said the wife, looking quite contented with herself. 'For variety's sake, I boiled one half, and made a fry of the other. The first he got down very well, but the second made him very sick. But what he took was quite enough,' continued she, seeing some horror in the doctor's countenance, 'for he was better the next morning, and to-day he is quite well.'

'Umph!' said the doctor, with a sapient shake of the head, 'if they have cured him, that is sufficient, but they would have been better applied externally.'

The woman replied that she would do so the next time; and I doubt not that if ever fate throws a score of unfortunate leeches into her power again she will make a poultice of them.'

A little boy, just returned from a long visit, was asked by his mother how he had enjoyed himself when absent from home. He answered, with a boyish simplicity, that he liked his visit very well, but he wouldn't—that's what he wouldn't—never ride home between Cousin George and Sarah again; for they kept hugging and kissing each other so much, that they squeezed him all the time, and almost spoiled his new hat.

BEAUTY IN A WIFE.—A young man married a wife, whose only claim upon his regard was her personal beauty. She said to him, at the end of one of their quarrels—'You don't love me: you cannot look me in the face and say that you love me.' 'You mistake me, my dear,' cried he, 'for it is only when I look you in the face, that I can say that I love you.'

WHISKERS.—It is worthy of remark, that when cold weather approaches and other vegetables begin to fade, whiskers sprout up and flourish with the utmost vigour. Many a face, which, in summer, appeared barren as the deserts of Arabia, in winter is in most luxuriant crop. Every thing in its proper season—cucumbers in spring, cucumbers in summer, cantelopes in autumn, and whiskers in winter.

ANECDOTE.—A schoolmaster, while correcting an urchin for using bad language, told him to go to the other end of the room and speak to one of the scholars, and that *grammatically*, or he should be punished. On going, he thus addressed himself to the scholar: 'Thomas, there is a common substantive, of the masculine gender, third person, singular number, *angry mood*, who sits perched on an eminence at the other end of the room, and wishes to articulate a few sentences with you in the present tense.'

JOHN QUILL.

BY T. H. BAXLEY ESQ.

John Quill was clerk to Robert Shark, a legal man was he,
As dull, obscure, and technical, as legal man could be;
And, perch'd before his legal desk, Quill learnt the legal rules
That give high principles to all who sit upon high stools!
John Quill with skill could doubt distil where all before was clear,
One would suppose that he was born with a pen behind his ear!
Though merely clerk to Robert Shark, so great was his address,
That many really thought J. Q. as knowing as R. S.

John Quill, however small the job, huge drafts of deeds could draw,
A puzzle quite to common sense, according to the law;
With vulgar, vile tautology to indicate his skill,
He did 'enlarge, prolong, extend, and add unto' the bill!
And thus he did 'possess, obtain, get, have, hold, and enjoy'
The confidence of Robert Shark, who called him worthy boy:
Birds of a feather were the pair, the aim of both their breasts
To pluck all others, plume themselves, and feather their own nests.

But 'tis a theme too dark for jest; oh! let him who embarks
Upon the troubled waters of the law—beware of Sharks;
And such my dread of legal Quills, I readily confess
That Quills of 'fretful porcupine' would terrify me less.
When poor men seek a legal friend, the truth the fable tells,
The lawyer eats the oyster up, the client has the shells;
And could the shells be pounded to a palatable dinner,
The legal friend would swallow that, and clients might grow thinner.'

BEGGING AT A HOTEL.—'Have you got no cold wittles to-day for us? Mammy says as how them last bones had no meat on um, and the taters was cold, and the bread want good.' 'Well here, give us your basket.' The basket was filled and returned, when after a close scrutiny of its contents the beggar broke out, 'Well, I'm blessed if this ant an impression. We haint had no pie this week. If you don't give us summat better nor cold beef and bits of chicken and such like, I'm hanged if I patronize you any longer.' Exit beggar girl in a huff.

Look here, my good fellow—do you subscribe to the Eglantine? If so, you could not have done a wiser thing; but if you are one of those chaps who have let pay day run by, or, what amounts to the same thing, have run off yourself, it behooves you to read this article to the end before you put the paper in your hat. What would you think of seeing your name paraded in a conspicuous place in this paper, like a wet blanket triced up in the weather rigging to dry? Would you not wish you were a corkscrew, that you might hide the crookedness of your ways in a stopple? Nevertheless, you are within a hair's breadth of gaining this species of immortality, and it will avail you nothing to prate about your feelings, until you have 'felt in your pocket.'

SQUARE GIMBLETS.—'I want to see some of your gimblets,' said a greenhorn one day, as he entered a hardware-store. The dealer took down several parcels, neither of which suited. 'Well, then, what kind do you want? here is almost every variety.' 'Why, darn it, I want them what bores square holes.'

AN ENIGMA.—At a banquet, when solving enigmas was one of the diversions, Alexander said to one of his courtiers, 'What is that which did not come last year, and will not come next year?' A distressed officer, starting up, said, 'It certainly must be our arrears of pay.' The king was so diverted that he commanded him to be paid up, and also increased his salary.

CARRIAGE WITHOUT HORSES.—Such a one was advertised in 1790, in London, and stated to have only one wheel. The curious in mechanics were invited to see it. Many of the members of the Society of Arts attended, and in ardour of expectation, were shown a *wheelbarrow*.

At a crowded lecture, a young lady standing at the door of the church asked the sexton, an honest son of Erin, for a seat. He cast a look into the church and replied, 'Indade, miss, I should be glad to give you a sate, but the empty ones are all full.'

A gentleman asked a wag the reason why so many of the tall gentlemen were bachelors. The reply was that they were obliged to lie cornerwise in bed to keep their feet warm, and a wife would be in the way.

RABBIT SHOOTING.—An Irishman, who recently went out rabbit-shooting, observing a jackass peeping over a hedge, immediately levelled his piece, exclaiming, 'Och, by the powers! that must be the father of all rabbits.'

A WESTERN STORY.—Last winter, it is said, a cow floated down the Mississippi on a piece of ice, and became so cold that she has milked nothing but ice creams ever since!

CLERICAL PREFERMENT.—At the storming of Baziers, a Cistercian monk who led the victors, being asked how the Catholics were to be distinguished from heretics, replied, 'kill them all; God will know his own.'

A gentleman at table, in his eagerness to answer a call for some apple pie, owing to the knife sliding to the bottom of the dish, found his knuckles buried in the crust, when a wag who was seated just opposite to him very gravely observed, while he held his plate, 'Sir, may I trouble you for a bit while your hand is in?'

DREADFUL CONFLAGGERATION.—A young lady intending to sue for breach of promise, put her lover's letters into a bag for the purpose of producing them in court, when sad to tell, their own natural warmth produced spontaneous combustion, and ashes alone remained.

A large assortment of chairs have been received at the furniture store of Mr. Chambers, which will be sold cheap. They only need legs and backs, which may be appended to them at a trifling expense; or, if the purchaser live near a shop, and understand the use of tools, he may add the backs and legs himself by paying for the stuff. We have received one of the chairs at this office, which, being placed on a stool and stood against the wall, answers every purpose of a complete chair.

MONUMENT.—The old maids of Wiscasset are about erecting a monument to an old bachelor who died lately with a nose six inches long. It is said that he would have married one of them if his nose would have permitted him to get near enough to kiss her.

NEW PERIODICAL.

Just Issued,—

THE FIRST NUMBER OF A PAPER ENTITLED
THE WESLEYAN :

WHICH is designed to advocate the doctrines etc. of Wesleyan Methodism and diffuse interesting and profitable information on various subjects. The Wesleyan (each number containing 8 pages imperial octavo) is published every other Wednesday (Morning) by William Cunnabell, at his Office, south end of Bedford Row; Terms—seven shillings and six pence per annum; one half always in advance. Subscribers' names will be received, in Town, by the Wesleyan Ministers; Mr. J. H. Anderson, and by the Printer; also, in all parts of the Provinces, by the Wesleyan Ministers and the properly authorized Agents. The general heads under which articles will be arranged, are, Biography, Divinity, Biblical Illustrations, Biblical Criticism, Poetry, Literature, History, Science, Missionary Intelligence, General Intelligence, Local Intelligence. The Christian Cabinet, the Wesleyan, The Explorer, Ladies' Department, The Youth's Department, The Child's Department, &c. No effort will be spared to render the WESLEYAN worthy of Public Patronage; persons intending to subscribe will please send their names with as little delay as possible. Halifax, Feb. 28, 1838.

LAND FOR SALE.

THE Subscriber offers for sale at Tangier Harbour, about 40 miles Eastward of Halifax, 6666 acres of LAND, part of which is under cultivation. It will be sold altogether or in Lots to suit purchasers, and possession will be given in the spring. A River runs through the premises noted as the best in this Province for the Gaspereau fishery. A plan of the same can be seen at the subscriber's.

He also cautions any person or persons from cutting Wood or otherwise trespassing on the above mentioned Premises, as he will prosecute any such to the utmost rigour of the Law.

Halifax, Dec. 23, 1837.

ROBERT H. SKIMMINGS.

COMMERCIAL AGENT, BILL BROKER, & C.

THE SUBSCRIBER has opened an office at his house, opposite the Province Building, for the transaction of business as above. Funds remitted with orders for investment either in purchase of Merchandise or otherwise, will be faithfully applied, and the discounts obtained for ready money in all cases allowed those who may employ him. The advantages which will accrue to persons who have Exchange for sale, as also of those who are desirous of purchasing, will be found more than adequate to the trifling commission that will be charged. Persons not residing in Town who may forward Bills for Sale, may have their Funds placed in either of the Banks at their disposal, or remitted by Post as directed.

A Record will be kept of Bills lodged for Sale as well as of those required, so as to afford immediate information to applicants. The patronage and support of his Friends and the Public, is respectfully solicited in favour of the undertaking.

March, 3.

G. N. RUSSELL.

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