

Some of the devices that wit employs are illustrated in the following sentences :

(a) The lady was carried home in a flood of tears and a sedan chair.

(b) Put not your trust in money, but put your money *in* trust.

(c) When you have nothing to say, *say it*.

(d) A man who has nothing to boast of but his noble ancestors is like the potato—all that is good of him is under ground.

(e) A man should not pray cream and live skim-milk.

(f) His cell had a ceiling so low that you couldn't stand up in it without lying down.

(g) Whether life is worth living or not depends on the liver.

(h) Man leads woman to the altar and there his leadership ends.

(i) The religion of the Mormons is singular, but their wives are plural.

(j) Two things I prize very highly, my husband and my lap-dog.

It will be seen, then, that wit employs the pun, the bull, the condensed sentence, the epigram, and, in short, various figures of speech.

The following extracts will serve as studies in Humour :

(A.)

"Women are armed with fans, as men with swords, and sometimes do more execution with them. To the end therefore that ladies may be entire mistresses of the weapon which they bear, I have created an academy for the training up of young women in the exercise of the fan, according to the most fashionable airs and motions that are now practised at court. The ladies who *carry* fans under me are drawn up twice a-day in my great hall, where they are instructed in the use of their arms, and *exercised* by the following words of command :