

## The Joker Club.

### "The Pun is mightier than the Sword."

#### THE INSPIRATION THEORY.

The following is a verbatim report of a discussion of the theological aspect of the late State tragedy, overheard last winter in Washington, while the trial of the assassin was in progress. I thought it was excellent at the time, and think so still:

First theologian (colored)—"De Lord mout a 'spired Guiteau. He mout a done it of 'E'd bin a mine ter."

Second theologian (colored)—"Ob kose He mout. De Lord mout of done it. Kase de Lord kin do anything He's a mine ter. But dat's de very reason why He didn't do it. What for d'you 'spose the Lord's gwine to 'spire a man to break His own commandment, 'Thou shalt not kill?' 'Spouse de Lord did want to 'move the President. He don't want no pistol! Ef the Lord want to kill a man all he's got ter do is jes ter wink at him, and dar he is! (indicating with an appropriate gesture the prostration of the victim.) He don't want no pistol to kill a man—de Lord don't. And dat's de reason why I don't b'lieve He 'spired Guiteau.

#### JOSH BILLINGS ON COURTING.

Courting iz a luxury, it iz salad, it iz ise water, it iz a beveridge, it iz a pla spell of the soul. The man who haz never courted hez lived in vain; he haz bin a blind man among landskapes and waterskapes: he haz bin a deff man in the land ov hand organs, and by the side of murmuring canals. Courting iz like 2 little springs of soft water that steal out from under a rock at the fut ov a mountain, and run down the hill side by side, singing and dancing and spattering each other, ealdying and frothing and kaskading, now hiding under a bank, now full ov sun, and now full ov shadder, till himchy tha jinc and then tha go slow. I am in favor ov long courting; it gives the parties a chance to find out each uthers' trump cards, it iz good exercise, and iz jist az immer-sent as 2 merino lambs. Courting iz like strawberries and cream, wants to be did slow, then yu git the flavor. I have saw folks git acquainted, fall in luv, git married, settle down, and git tew work in three wreks from date. This iz jist the wa sum folks larn a trade, and akounts for the great number ov almighty mean mechanicks we hav, and the poor jobs tha turn out.

Perhaps it iz best i shud state some good advice to yung men who are about tew court with a final view to matrimony, az it waz. In the first plase, yung man, yu want to get yure system all rite, and then find a yung woman who is willing to be courted on the square. The next thing is tew find out how old she iz, which yu kan du bi asking her, and she will sa that she is 19 years old, and this yu will find won't be far from out ov the wa. The next best thing is tew begin moderate; say onse every nite in the week for the fust six months, increasing the dose az the patient seems to require it. It is a fust rate wa tew court the girl's mother a lectle on the start, for there iz one thing a woman never despizes, and that iz a lectle good courting, if it iz dun strickly on the square. After the fust year yu will begin tew like the bizness. Thar iz one thing I always advise, and that is not to swop fotograffs oftener than onse in 10 daze, unless yu forget how the gal looks.

Okasionally yu want tew look sorry, and draw in yure wind as tho yu had pain, this will set the gal tew teasing yu to find out what ails yu. Evening meetings are a good thing tu tend, it will keep yure religgion in tune, and then if the gal happens to be thare, bi accident, she can ask yu tu go hum with her. As a general thing i wouldn't brag on

uther gals much when i waz courting, it mite look as tho yu knu tew much. If yu will court 3 years in this wa awl the time on the square, if yu don't sa it iz a lecttle the sliskest time in your life, yu kan git measured for a hat at my expenso, and pa for it. Don't court for munny, nor buty, nor relashuns, these things are jist about as onsartin as the kerosene ile refining bizness, liable tew get out ov repair and bust at any munit.

There has been a marked revival of late in prize fighting. It must be due to the example ov Congress.—*Philadelphia Chronicle-Herald.*

There ought to be a great many red ears in the corn crop this season, it has been talked about so much.—*Boston Commercial Bulletin.* Miss Smith, the great artist attended a ball, Where, when it was known, she was stared at by all; And some one said with a very bad grace, That she knew she could paint by the look of her face.

The paragrappers tell of a countryman who, on seeing the yacht Psyche, exclaimed: "P-s-y-c-h-e! Cosh! What a way to spell fish!"

A man may owe 1,000 bills, yet have no bill to spare; but when he has a creditor he meets him everywhere.—*New York Commercial Advertiser.*

A conceited man is like a boot minus the sole—he is uppermost in his own mind without understanding.—*New York Commercial Advertiser.*

Old lady to druggist—"Are you quite sure this is carbonate of soda, not arsenic?" Druggist—"Quite, ma'am: try it, and judge for yourself."

When Arabi Pasha left Alexandria, he probably went to Damanhour—or longer. He evidently felt like it, anyhow.—*Norristown Herald.*

New York's hop crop will be small. This would be a sad blow to the country if the brewers hadn't learned years ago how to make beer without hops.—*Philadelphia Chronicle.*

When her piano 40 she did press,  
Such heavenly sounds did MNS, that she  
Knowing her Q, soon I U z confess  
Her XLNC in an XTC.

—*Music and Drama.*

Attorney-General Brewster is going to Rome. We remember "going to Rome" a good many times in our younger days, when a part of our journey was exceedingly pleasant.—*Lowell Courier.*

The soldiers sent to assassinate the Khedive consented, for shekels, to act as his body guard. What splendid delegates they would make to a nominating convention.—*Buffalo Courier.*

"What bird does that gin fizz remind you of?" queried Alonecagin. "Give it up," says Devvy. "A white swallow," says the conundrum constructor.—*New York Commercial Advertiser.*

"A good line of clothing," said the thief, as he prepared to absorb the family washing. "A good line shot," said the man of the house as he picked up the thief with his legs riddled with buckshot.

Friend—"Hello, Jim, you ain't out of work again, are you?" Unfaithful employee—"Well, yes; fact is, I'm not able to work; been injured by a premature discharge."—*Louisville Courier-Journal.*

A woman does not care so much whether her costume is warm in winter or cool in summer. All that she requires is that it shall look warm in the one case and look cool in the other.—*Boston Transcript.*

#### TWO DEPARTMENTS WELL REPRESENTED.

In lately walking through the Government buildings at Ottawa, a representative of one of Ottawa's ablest journals, in the course of

conversation gleaned some items of interest. Speaking with Mr. A. J. Cambie, Chief Clerk of the Agricultural Department, that gentleman replied to a certain question: "I have used St. Jacob's Oil in my family, and found it to be an excellent article indeed. It is the remedy to banish pain, and has a pleasant and soothing way of doing so that makes it valuable. I consider it a great medicine." Calling upon Mr. Sherwood, of the Militia Department, that gentleman thus answered the usual inquiry: "I have found St. Jacobs Oil a great medicine; a splendid remedy, indeed, for rheumatism. I have recommended it to very many. When I commenced its use I had not much faith, but now my faith could not be easily shaken. I consider it by all odds the best medicine I ever tried."

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By order of the Board,

CHARLES DRINKWATER.

Montreal, May 19, 1882.

Secretary.

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