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The Ready Answer

THE ready answer is so much appreciated by the masses that it is well to give it a short notice. The ready answer indicates a mind that is always on the alert, though not necessarily a well-employed mind. A ready answer may not be a right one; it may only be a smart subterfuge for any amount of ignorance. Some answer readily because they never have very hard questions to answer. The success which some odd geniuses have in satisfying their questioners without exposing their ignorance is remarkable.

Away down on the old plantation there was a colored man who had acquired quite a reputation for answering questions put to him; and some one, in recent years, seeking to get at the origin of a common expression, "You've got this coon, anyway," tells us that one day a coon was placed under a barrel and this dusky wizard was obliged to either tell what was in the barrel or take a flogging.