

SOME NOTABLE PUNS.

There is an old saying, often erroneously attributed to Dr. Johnson, to the effect that he who will make a pun will pick a pocket. In which case most of us must be guilty of criminal tendencies, for there are few who can resist the temptation, particularly in connection with a name which obviously lends itself to this form of fun.

It was scarcely surprising, for instance, when a German restaurant-keeper in New York city, whose name was Ulrich Egg, petitioned the Supreme Court to allow him to change it to Eck, on the ground that his friends and the newspapers chaffed him on the fact that his name seemed to be getting stale, while others asked him if he was scrambled or an omelet.

And there was another unfortunate man in Connecticut, named Henry Ratz, who, after telling a tale of woe regarding his neighbors who thought it funny to speak of him and his wife as the old rats or mice, was allowed to change his name to Raites. Life has not been altogether a pleasure to another New York resident bearing the unfortunate name of Julius Jackus, who people invariably referred to, either intentionally or otherwise, as Jackass.

It is, however, in connection with the names of celebrities that we get perhaps the most amusing examples of the pun personal. The late Mr. Justice Day must have got very tired of his name, for people were continually making fun of it. It will be remembered that he was one of the most severe judges who ever sat on the Bench, the consequence being that he was invariably referred to as "Judgment Day" and "Day of Reckoning" in criminal circles; while in the London court, where he had once nodded on the Bench, overcome by temporary fatigue, he was "Day of Rest." When he received his knighthood the jokers naturally did not lose the opportunity of saying that Day had been turned into Knight.

It was of an Irish judge of the same name that Lord Plunket once made the jest that if a case were tried before Day it would be tried in the dark, a joke which was revived when Mr. Justice Day sat on the Bench.

They are, however, rather fond of the pun personal in legal circles. When Lord Chancellor Campbell, then plain Campbell, married Miss Scarlett and departed on his wedding trip, Justice Abbott observed, when a cause was called on in the Bench:

"I thought, Mr. Brougham, that Mr. Campbell was in this case."

"Yes, my lord," replied Brougham; "but I understand he is suffering from Scarlett fever."

Lord Erskine rather prettily combined pun with compliment in an epigram he forwarded to Lady Payne, in answer to her vicarious inquiries as to his health:

"Tis true I am ill; but I need not complain, For he never knew pleasure who never knew Payne."

When John S. Wise was practising at the Virginia Bar he was once opposed by a lawyer named Bliss. Becoming impatient at his opponent's reluctance to see a point, Mr. Wise is said to have called him an ignoramus.

"That being the case," responded Mr. Bliss, "I submit that where ignorance is Bliss 'tis folly to be Wise, and I trust the court will agree with me."

Joseph Knight, long editor of delightful "Notes and Queries," was a famous punster. Meeting Sir Rider Haggard just after the publication of "Jess," he at once adapted the lines in "Othello": "If I do prove him haggard, Though that his jesses were my dear heart-strings, I'd whistle him off."

Mention of Sir Rider Haggard reminds one of a pun once made on the name of James Payn, the novelist, who often related the incident with glee. With Sir Leslie Stephen and another famous climber, he had attempted to scale some Alpine height, but had given up midway and found refuge in a comfortable hotel, while the others went on with their climb. Sir Leslie, condoling with his friend before leaving him,

quoted the Shakespearean line:

The labor we delight in physics pain. An article on this subject would scarcely be complete without mention of a couple of personal puns made by that irrepressible wit, Sydney Smith. One evening he was at a party, and, seeing Mrs. Grote, the historian's wife, enter the room in an eccentric costume crowned by a rose-colored turban, said, in an undertone, to his neighbor: "Now I know the meaning of the word 'grotesque.'"

The revered Sydney, however, could call in the aid of a pun for compliment as well as sarcasm. On meeting two pretty women, Mrs. Tighe and Mrs. Cuff, he gallantly exclaimed: "Ah, there you are—the cuff that everyone would wear, the tie that no one would lose."

Rear-Admiral Stephen B. Luce, of America, is credited with quite as good a joke upon his own name. As a young man he was extremely popular with the smart set at Newport. On the same ship with him was a stern disciplinarian, ever on the lookout for some dereliction of duty. One evening Luce, after a round of pleasure, met this martinet, who remarked, sharply:

"Mr. Luce, you're tight."

"Pardon me, sir," was the quick retort, "if Stephen B. Luce, how can he be tight?"

Jean de Reszke was once a guest at a large party given to a number of distinguished musicians. In the course of the evening one of the company put the somewhat tactless question:

"Who is the most popular artiste on the musical stage?"

"Pas de Reszke!" flashed back the famous singer, thus punningly denying his own claim, and in its stead asserting that of the great Paderewski.—Tit-Bits.

KNOWING THE BIBLE BY HEART.

Of the many examples of prodigious memories which have been recorded from time to time, none, perhaps, have been so remarkable as the case of the Rev. Thomas Threlkeld, who was a Presbyterian minister at Rochdale for twenty-eight years, and died there in April, 1896, at the age of sixty-seven. Threlkeld's memory first attracted attention when he attended the Grammar School at Daventry, where he began to make a close study of the Bible. When a passage was recited to him he could immediately give it chapter and verse, and, on the other hand, if a chapter and verse were given he could at once repeat the passage.

Both at Daventry and Warrington, where he went to finish his education, his fellow-students delighted in putting his memory to the test, and never once was it known to be at fault.

In later years, says Mr. Frank Hird, in "Lancashire Stories," "Threlkeld was looked upon as a living concordance to the Bible in Rochdale and the neighborhood, and was constantly asked the most puzzling questions by his brother-ministers, sometimes actually for information, but generally for mere amusement. He was never known to be wrong."

Threlkeld's powers of memory, however, were not solely concerned with theology. He was also a linguist, and knew nine or ten languages; while dates were a passion with him, no matter how unimportant. His knowledge of historical dates, of chronology, heraldry, and genealogy was encyclopaedic, and one of his favorite amusements was to go through the succession in the Episcopal Sees and trace the pedigrees of families.

"In only one direction," continues Mr. Hird, "would this wonderful memory seem to have been of direct service. Threlkeld was one of the managers of a fund for the benefit of the widows of Presbyterian ministers, and consequently was frequently appealed to on circumstances connected with the lives of dead ministers; and such was the opinion of his memory that if the books had been consulted, and had reported differently, the error would have been imputed to the secretary and not to Mr. T.'s memory. This was deemed infallible."—Tit-Bits.

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LAND ACT

FORM OF NOTICE

VICTORIA LAND DISTRICT
DISTRICT OF SAANICH

TAKE NOTICE that ROBERT GREIG KENNEDY, of Saanich, in the Province of British Columbia, a Civil Engineer, intends to apply for permission to lease the following described land:

Commencing at a post planted on the northwest corner of Lot Eight (8), of Block Seventy-three (73), as shown upon a plan of "Sections Seventeen (17) and Eighteen (18), Range Three (3) West, North Saanich, deposited in the Land Registry office at the City of Victoria, in the Province of British Columbia, and numbered 1151; thence southwesterly at right angles to the shore line ten chains; thence southeasterly two hundred feet parallel to the said shore line; thence northeasterly to the southwest corner post of Lot Five (5) shown on the said plan; thence northwesterly following the said shore line to the point of commencement and containing three acres more or less.

Dated the ninth day of May, A.D., 1913.

R. G. KENNEDY,
W. F. U. COPEMAN, Name of Applicant
212 Jones Bldg., Victoria.