

In Lighter Vein

Regrettable Absence.—A world's congress of doctors is to be held in London in August. A fund has been suggested for compensating those doctors whose patients recover during their enforced absence.—London Opinion.

Too Sentimental.—Old Aunt (dependently).—"Well, I shall not be a nuisance to you much longer."

Nephew (reassuringly).—"Don't talk like that, aunt; you know you will."—Boston Transcript.

The Artist Agreed.—While James McNeill Whistler, the eccentric American painter, was trying on a hat in a London shop one day, a customer rushed in, and, mistaking Mr. Whistler for a clerk, exclaimed: "I say, this 'at doesn't fit." The artist eyed him for a minute, and then replied, scornfully: "Neither does your coat and I'll be hanged if I like the color of your trousers."—The Argonaut.

It's an Ill Wind.—A Scotsman was strolling through the market-place in Glasgow one day and close at his heels followed his faithful collie. Attracted by a fine display of shell and other fish, the Scot stopped to admire, perhaps to purchase. The dog stood by, gently wagging its tail, while its master engaged the fishmonger in conversation.

Unfortunately for the dog, its tail dropped for a moment over a big basketful of fine, live lobsters. Instantly one of the largest lobsters snapped its claws on the tail and the surprised collie dashed off through the market, yelping its pain, while the lobster hung on grimly, though dashed violently from side to side.

The fishmonger for a moment was speechless with indignation, then, turning to his prospective customer, he bawled—

"Mon! mon! whistle to yer dog; whistle to yer dog!"

"Hoots, mon," returned the other complacently, "whistle to yer lobster!"—The Weekly Scotsman.

Locating the Risk.—Old Lady (offering policeman a tract).—"I often think you poor policemen run such a risk of becoming bad, being so constantly mixed up with crime."

Policeman.—"You needn't fear, Mum. It's the criminals wot runs the risk o' becomin' saints, bein' mixed up with us!"—Punch.

Favorite Fiction.—"Old chap, you haven't changed a bit in thirty years!"

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"Mr. Chairman, I rise with the greatest reluctance, but—"

"I don't know whether you owe us anything or not, Mr. Smith, but I'll see."

"George, I wouldn't say a word to hurt your feelings for the world."

"I admire your nerve!"—Chicago Tribune.

Explaining.—A budding author who was making excursions into humour sent a paragraph to the editor of a daily paper. Not finding it printed within a reasonable time or hearing from the editorial department he wrote about its welfare. "I sent you a joke about ten days ago. I have heard nothing respecting its safe receipt, and should be glad to hear whether you have seen it." The editor's reply was as follows:—"Your joke arrived safely, but up to the present we have not seen it."—Daily Chronicle.

Diversion for Waiters.—Gloom (in restaurant, who has waited fifteen minutes for his soup)—"Waiter, have you ever been to the Zoo?"

Waiter—"No, sir."
Gloom—"Well, you ought to go. You'd enjoy watching the tortoises whiz past."—The Weekly Scotsman.

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