



WITH THE WITS



OVER-SHREWD LAWYERS.

Over-shrewd lawyers often furnish their adversaries with weapons. 'Did you see this tree that has been mentioned by the roadside?' an advocate inquired.

'Yes, sir, I saw it very plainly.'

'It was conspicuous, then?'

The witness seemed puzzled by the new word. He repeated his former assertion.

'What is the difference,' sneered the lawyer, 'between plain and conspicuous?'

But he was hoist with his own petard. The witness innocently answered.

'I can see you plainly, sir, amongst the other lawyers, though you are not a bit conspicuous.'

In another instance, a blow directed against the character of a witness forcibly recoiled.

'You were in the company of these people?' he was asked.

'Of two friends, sir.'

'Friends? Two thieves, I suppose you mean.'

'That may be so,' was the dry retort; 'they are both lawyers.'

The blow that destroys the effect of an adverse examination is occasionally more the result of accident than of conscious effort. In a trial, not long ago, a very simple witness was in the box, and after going through his ordeal was ready to retire. One question remained:

Now, Mr. —, has not an attempt been made to induce you to tell the court a different story?'

'A different story to what I have told, sir?'

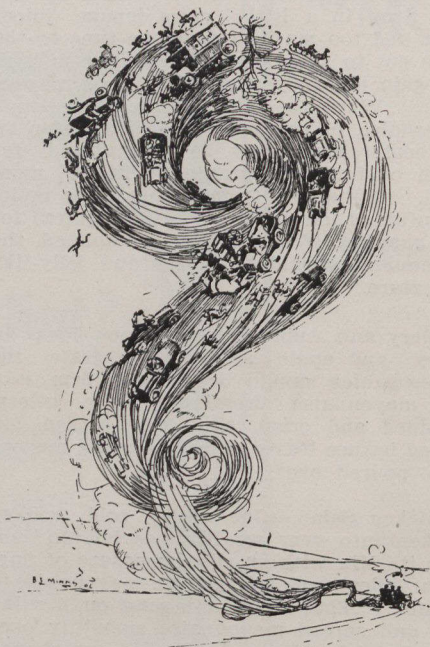
'Yes; is it not so?'

'Yes, sir.'

'Upon your oath, I demand to know who the persons are who have attempted this.'

'Well, sir, you've tried as hard as any of 'em,' was the unexpected answer.

It ended the examination. — Rochester 'Herald.'



The Question of the Day.

Should there be a speed (and dust) limit? — Punch

CLEVER, BUT—

One night at a dinner some one asked Mr. Bryan what he thought of a certain trust magnate.

'A remarkable man,' Mr. Bryan answered. 'A man of wonderful ability. But whenever I see him I am reminded of the Scottish judge, Lord Braxfield, who, leaning down from the bench, said:

'"Yer a vera clever chiel, mon; but I'm thinkin' ye wad be nane the waur o' a hangin.'" — Chicago 'Inter Ocean.'

SUCCESSFUL.

'Lazely told me he was going out every day this week,' said Goodley, 'to see if he couldn't find work.' 'Yes,' replied Newitt, 'and he was successful.' 'Really?' 'Yes; he couldn't find it.'—Philadelphia 'Press.'

Not to Blame.—There had been a railway accident near a country town, and a shrewd lawyer had hurried to the scene of the disaster. He noticed an old negro with a badly injured head, and hurried up to him where he lay moaning on the ground. 'How about damages?' he began. But the sufferer waved him off. 'G'way, boss, g'way,' he said. 'Ah nobber hit de train. Ah nebber done such a t'ing in all mah life! Yo' cyain't git no damages out ob me.' — 'Christian Endeavor World.'

Quite the Contrary.—'So Miss Passay has a real lover.'

'No.'

'Why, I heard she had.'

'No; she says he's her ideal.' — Philadelphia 'Press.'

The Dropt Letters.—The postmaster at Benson's Bend chuckled happily.

'Yep,' he remarked; 'this office is ther headquarters fur simplified spellin'. Leastwise, this air there place where folks drop their letters.'—Judge.'

Why the Mail was Lost.—A Glasgow business house has received this communication from Bagdad, Turkey, dated August 6:—'The European mail, due here on July 26 has not reached Bagdad, as the post carrier's camel is said to have escaped while he was sleeping, and it is supposed it perished in the desert. Consequently the mail is lost.'—London 'Globe.'

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Agents for the "Canadian Pictorial"

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