

"SHOES OF PRUSSIAN LEADER."

A TALE OF RUBE HOFFENSTEIN.

(From the New Orleans Times.)

If there is a merchant in New Orleans who can sell goods at any price he chooses to fix on them, Rube Heffenstein, who keeps a clothing and shoe store on Poydras street, is the man. A few days ago a customer entered his establishment and inquired:

'Have you got any low-quarter gaiters?'

'Certainly, my friend. I had any style you wish and something dot vos neat und vill last all de summer dime out. Now, here vas a pair uv gaiters vat is made uv Prussian leader, de best kind dot vas known, und I dinks dey vill suit you. Subbose you dry dem on.'

'All right,' replied the customer.

'Vait, my friend, und I'll put a leadle powder in. Now dry dem. Ah! vat better shoe you vant den dat. It vits shust as if somepody dake your measure.'

It's too tight across the instep, said the customer, rubbing the spot with his fingers.

'It vill stretch, my dear sir,' replied Heffenstein, persuasively. 'Dat leader vas made expressly for stretching.'

'But the shoe pinches my toes also.'

'Dot is nooding; it vill go vay de first dime it gets vet. You don't vant to puy a pair of shoes more as drei sises too big und go around the ladies mit your feet looking like a couple uv rail road scrapers. It would be a shame, you know.'

'What do you ask for the shoes?'

Only seex dollars.

Jerusalem! that's too much. Vell, my dear sir, you must regolect dat dem shoes vas made uv Prussian leader und ledde dere vas scarce. My uncle vat lids dere writes me last week und said dat ledde vas so scarce dey don't make harness mit it any longer. All the harness is now made uv wool.

'I'll tell you what I'll do, said the customer, examining the shoe closely, 'I'll give you four dollars.'

'My gr-r-racious, a Prussian leader shoe for four dollars ven it cost me more as five dollars and fifty cents laid at de depot down, und de profit on dem don't pay for de gas. My gr-r-racious, vat's de matter mit de people? Do you know, my friend, dat my own foder vas in de retail shoe business, and he sold de same kind uv shoes for four dollars, und vat you dink become of him?'

I don't know, replied the customer.

Vell, my dear sir, he kept on selling dem Prussian leader shoes for four dollars until he got so poor dat de dogs eat him.

'Well, I'm not going to give six dollars for these shoes,' said the customer, moving toward the door; they are not worth it. Vell, my friend, dake dem along for four dollars und call around again some oder day.

The customer paid for the shoes, and taking his parcel left the store.

'Herman,' inquired Heffenstein of his clerk, 'vat vas the cost price of dem split horse leader shoes I shust sold de shentleman?'

Von dollar und a half sir.

'My gr-r-racious, Herman! dink how small de brofit vas! If pism'ass, you know, Herman, don't get better by de vinter time it vill preak all de store up.'

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