



GEN. MARINAS, COMMANDER OF SPAIN'S FIGHTING TROOPS IN MOROCCO, CONFERRING WITH NATIVE CHIEF IN CAMP UNDER FLAG OF TRUCE.

HOW THE JOKES ARE MADE RULES FOR THE HUMORIST

For a minor humorist—one who seeks out his livelihood by the manufacture of comic miscellany—to reveal his mental processes is a serious matter. The occupation consists of a large number of unsuspected persons. Although, joke for joke, these amateurs stand little show with the professional who sits down and holds himself to his task until he has solemnly produced a certain predetermined number of more or less promising witticisms, there are so many of them that their occupation is nothing to joke about. But perhaps this competition would lessen if the amateurs realized a few fundamental truths about the occupation—that editors, for example, look with no more favor on a joke because it is accompanied with an affidavit to the effect that it actually happened. No; a joke is not funny merely because it is true any more than truth is necessarily funny because it is spoken in joke.

There Are New Jokes After All.

It has been said by experts that there is no such thing as a new joke, but this theory is a quibble and the newer is safer in arguing that for practical purposes there is no such thing as an old one. In every old joke there is concealed a new one provided the searcher examines it with sufficient patience and earnestness. Quite recently an entirely new joke has been made on "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Adam is still a favorite subject for original humor and the jokes that have come out of the ark perpetuate themselves as successfully as the animals that went into it. The more familiar an idea the more amusing it is to see an unexpected touch given to it and for that reason the subject matter of a large percentage of up-to-date popular humor is bound to be as old as human history. But the newspaper is also a great aid to the humorist in that with which it makes current tendencies of thought familiar to a wide audience. Contrary to current belief, however, the jokesmith gains little by listening to the accidental and fugitive humor of his friends and acquaintances. Sometimes he gets a joke in this fashion, but more often the spoken witticism will not stand the test of cold print and must be made marketable by skillful elaboration.

Often Lifted.

But nature imitates art and the carefully prepared joke of the conscientious humorist is often enough "lifted" by the social raconteur and reappears as his own personal experience. Or the joke may be stolen professionally from Germany to England and back again—a practice much followed by the cheaper publications. The wise jokesmith goes not to nature or the foreign press, but sticks to his own familiar puppets and the daily newspapers.

Or again, one may begin a series of jokes, say with the word man; which suggests man and wife, say at breakfast; which suggests the same man running for his train to town; which suggests a railroad; which suggests a railroad magnate; which suggests the President of the United States. We have therefore a skeleton list to work on:

Man
Man and wife at breakfast
Man running for train
Railway
Railway magnate
President Roosevelt.

A Jokesmith Bent to His Work.

We gaze at this list thoughtfully until something happens—in a higher art it would be called inspiration—and we evolve not necessarily an epigram but something that has the look of one. "A wise man is never sure of his own mind until he has changed it." This will do for a starter, although not yet in marketable condition. We leave it and pass on to the next item. "John," says the wife over the coffee cups. "Are you going to motor to the station this morning?" John considers the matter. "No," he replied thoughtfully. "Not this morning. I have just had my trousers pressed." But John has evidently been in the habit of motor to the station. We see him half an hour later standing disgustedly on the platform. A friend approaches. "Hello, old man," says the friend. "You look as if you had lost something."

"I have," replied John. "Just lost the 8.40 train."

Hunt For Something Better.

This is pretty bad, but it may serve as a hint for something better. And now imagination carries us along the line to where two weary wanderers are footing it over the track from one town to another. They look familiar—yes, they are stranded actors.

What now, Horatio," says the first

wanderer. "Methinks the tale hath reached me that these railway barons scheme together to plant their own forests and raise their own railway ties."

"A noble scheme, Polonius," says the second. "In the name of Theopias, may they plant nothing but soft pine!"

And so on to the next easy steps. Some minor humorists find a great deal of material in the dictionary, taking that volume page by page and examining each word for its humorous possibilities. One may make as high as twenty jokes an hour from a single page of the dictionary if one has a practical working knowledge of the characteristics of marketable humor.

In a Quandary.

But these twenty jokes, even under the best of circumstances, are far from meaning twenty acceptances and the humorist is himself in a quandary to decide which of them is most worth the risk of postage. It is a common experience of the minor humorist to put in his envelope what he considers a hopelessly unhumorous effort merely because his postage stamp will carry that much more weight, and to find that this unhumorous effort is the joke that makes good with the editor who examines the whole collection. His own favorite joke, the happy anecdote that makes him smile to himself whenever he thinks of it, is often likely to go long, and perhaps forever unappreciated; he works it over in various forms, puts it away in his desk for months, takes it out again, yields once more to its charm, and tries to find a market for it—but the years pass and apparently nobody but himself can see the point of it. Yet it has also happened that a skilful jokesmith has made a joke that had no point whatever—and sold it to a mildly enthusiastic editor. Whether or not it had a point, the editor believed that he saw one and so undoubtedly did many of his readers.—J. Brown Trout, in the Boston Transcript.

SHEFFIELD.

Sheffield, Aug. 28.—With regret we record the death of Mrs. Tapley, widow of the late J. C. Tapley, which occurred after a few days' illness from paralysis of the throat, at the age of 92 years. The funeral took place on Wednesday last week from the home of her son Robert Bruce, and interment was made in the family lot at Ripples, Rev. Jos. Ainsworth conducting the services. The deceased lived to see descendants to the fourth generation.

Dr. Cresswell of Gagetown has been called upon to pay visits to the sick in Sheffield this week.

Frederick Thompson, of Maquapit Lake, lost a cow by the name of getting choked with her own tether.

Alfred Bridges, the young son of Dr. Bridges, of Fredericton, is spending his holidays with his grandparents here.

Frank Vandine, from Carleton Co., and his little niece, who have been spending a few weeks at Sheffield, have now returned home.

Rev. Mr. Campbell, who is laboring in the interests of the Bible societies, spent last Sunday with the Sheffield Congregationalist and Methodist circuits.

Mrs. Annie Bailey and Miss Huestis, of Sussex, and Miss Bailey from Fredericton, spent last Sunday with friends in Sheffield.

Sheffield people are enjoying the advantage of good roads this season. Stumps and trees have been removed by dynamite for the purpose of widening and improving the roads, and a great improvement is apparent.

The hay in lower Sheffield is nearly all cut and housed in excellent condition.

The friends and congregation of the Episcopal church at Ripples held a picnic and tea meeting yesterday. The proceeds of the affair going towards repainting the church.

Harry A. Bridges of Concord, Mass. has arrived to spend a few days with friends.

Large shipments of new potatoes, beans, corn, cucumbers, cabbage and other green stuff are being sent daily from McGowan's wharf to the St. John market.

A man seldom has as big a bank account as he wants acquaintances to believe he has.

Instead of making a fool of a man a woman furnishes the opportunity—the man does the rest.

HAIR TELLS CHARACTER.

Color of Hair Said to Indicate a Person's Temperament.

Many people believe that blonde, or light hair denotes affection and dark hair constancy. A person without hair is not devoid of character, but from it. The disposition of the average bald-headed man is to show such solicitude for the welfare of others, that he neglects himself. A germ causes baldness. Prof. Sabouraud, of Paris, France, inoculated a rabbit with Dandruff germs, causing it to become totally bald in five weeks' time. To rid the scalp of these dangerous germs it is necessary to apply Newbro's Herpicide.

"Destroy the cause—you remove the effect."

Sold by leading druggists. Send 12c in stamps for sample to the Herpicide Co., Detroit, Mich.

Two sizes—50 cents and \$1.00.
Geo. Y. Diblee, Special Agent.

Cough Caution

Never, positively never poison your lungs. If you cough—even from a simple cold—your throat is always hot, swollen, and sore, and you are liable to get a bronchitis, a croup, or a pneumonia. Don't blindly suppress it with a stupifying poison. It's strange how many times we finally come about. For twenty years Dr. Shoop has constantly warned people not to take cough mixtures or prescriptions containing Opium, Chloroform, or similar poisons. And now—a little late though—Congress says "put them on the list of poisons." Don't do it. Buy a bottle of Dr. Shoop's Cough Cure. It's the only safe, reliable cough remedy. It's the only one that has been marked with a cross on the label. And it's not only safe, but it is sold by those who know it best, a truly remarkable cough remedy. Take no chance then, particularly with your children. Insist on having Dr. Shoop's Cough Cure. Compare carefully the Dr. Shoop package with others and note the difference. No poison marks that you can always be on the safe side by demanding.

Dr. Shoop's Cough Cure

"ALL DEALERS"

St. Isidore, P. Q., Aug. 18, 1904.
Minard's Liniment Co., Limited.
Gentlemen,—I have frequently used MINARD'S LINIMENT and also prescribe it for my patients always with the most gratifying results, and I consider it the best all round Liniment extant.

Yours truly,
DR. JOS. AUG. SIROIS.

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For sixty-five years "Dr. Fowler's Extract of Wild Strawberry" has been used in thousands of families for Diphtheria, Dysentery, Colic, Cramps, Summer Complaint, Cholera Morbus, Cholera Infantum and all Bowel Complaints.

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Yours truly,
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