

CLERICAL CRACKS.

Many a good tale is told about the clergy of the various denominations in different parts of the world, but, for repartee, THE HORNET is of the opinion that the following reminiscence, related of the Rev. Dr. Kidd, the eminent Presbyterian divine of Aberdeen, captures the palm. The worthy doctor was a bitter anti-Romanist, and amongst his most cherished cranks was his abhorrence of anything approaching adoration of the Virgin. In going down the city one morning, he found himself face to face with the Rev. Father Gordon, and his old hobby immediately took the ascendant. "Priest Gordon," said the doctor, "can you tell me the difference between my mother and the Virgin Mary; can you see any appreciable difference?" "I cannot, my friend," replied the worthy priest. "but, oh! the enormous discrepancy between the sons." It is needless to say the conversation waned and they finally parted in silence. Another trait of the doctor's character was that of extreme abruptness, and a tendency to speak that which was uppermost in his mind, regardless of time or place. It is related that on one occasion his wife had asked for money to buy a new bonnet, and, having received it, she went out to make her purchase. On her way to the store she was greatly taken with a chest of drawers and bought them in place of the piece of headgear, for which the money was originally intended. The next day being the Sabbath the doctor appeared in the kirk alone, his wife having been detained by some household matters; however, having got over her difficulties earlier than originally expected, she appeared in the doorway of the place of worship just as her husband was about to commence his discourse. The reverend gentleman looked earnestly in her direction for a moment and then exclaimed, to the astonishment of the congregation: "Here comes Mistress Kidd with a chest of drawers on her head." Collapse of the wife of his bosom.

The clerical tales of the west would make instructive and amusing reading if collected and put in readable form. For instance, a well known priest of the Church of England was stationed near Donald, B. C., in the country's early days, when betting was "the thing" and jack-pots *dear*, in various senses, to the motley population of the mountain camps. Now, this gentleman was much troubled when, on counting out the coin collected during Divine Service, he found a large number of "poker chips" distributed amongst the silver. Nothing daunted, he made friends with the "boys" around town and at last got a pretty good idea of where those same chips came from. Then this wily parson labelled those chips with the name of the giver and when he found the transgressor playing the seductive game of "stud horse" or "draw" he would walk boldly forward and demand to have those chips cashed. The oracle worked like a charm and the coffers of the church were materially assisted thereby.

A remarkable feature in the celebration of "British Day," at Chicago, was the absence of the national emblem from the towers and houses of the Irish villages. Whether it is attributable to the Munro-Irish-Americanized set, who practically run the neighborhood; republic, and, no doubt, have a big say as officers of the fair, or to an oversight on the part of the management, it was certainly most regrettable, and appeared as a dark spot against the back-ground of harmony and brotherly love, shown by all the other members of the great empire, from every part of the world, who had met together to celebrate the event.

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