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## In Lighter Vein

**A Pertinent Question.**—With the boundless enthusiasm of his kind, the food faddist harangued the mob on the marvellous results to be obtained from chewing soap and eating nut butter.

"Friends," he cried, swelling visibly and clapping his chest, "two years ago I was a walking skeleton—a haggard, miserable wreck. What do you suppose brought about this great change in me?"

He paused to see the effect of his words. Then a voice rose from among his listeners: "Wot change?"—Kansas City Star.

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**Came High.**—Lady Customer (pleasantly)—"I hear you are getting married to-day, Mr. Ribbs. Let me congratulate you."

Mr. Ribbs (the local butcher)—"Well, I dunno so much about congratulations, mum. It do be costing me a pretty penny, I can tell you. Mrs. Ribbs as is to be, what with her trousseau, you know, an' the furnishing, an' the license, an' the parson's fees, an' then I've to give 'er an' 'er sister a piece of jewelry each, and wot with one thing an' another she's a 'eavy woman, as you know, mum, thirteen stun odd, an' I reckon she'll cost me best part o' two shillings eleven pence a pound before I get her 'ome."—Punch.

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**Too Much.**—One day a Scottish boy and an English boy who were fighting were separated by their respective mothers with difficulty, the Scottish boy, though the smaller, being far the most pugnacious.

"What garred ye fight a big laddie like that for?" said the mother, as she wiped the blood from his nose.

"And I'll fight him again," said the boy, "if he says Scotsmen wear kilts because their feet are too big to get into their trousers."—Tit-Bits.

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**Can't Fool Him.**—"By the way, Jack, Mr. Sebrecht says you ought to cover this lawn with fertilizer this fall."

Jack (pushing the lawn mower)—"Oh, does he! I s'pose he thinks I want this grass to grow even faster than it does now."—Life.

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**Helping Him Out.**—Mischa Elman tells a story of his early youth. He was playing at a reception given by a Russian prince, and played Beethoven's "Kreutzer Sonata," which has several long and impressive rests in it. During one of these rests a motherly old lady leaned forward, patted him on the shoulder, and said:

"Play something you know, dear."—The Argonaut.

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**Nothing New.**—A reporter was interviewing Thomas A. Edison.

"And you, sir," he said to the inventor, "made the first talking machine?"

"No," Mr. Edison replied; "the first one was made long before my time—out of a rib."—Tit-Bits.

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**Impressed.**—A girl who saw the Atlantic Ocean for the first time was standing on the beach, gazing dreamily over the expanse of foaming water.

"So this is the first time you've ever seen the ocean?" said her escort.

"Yes, the very first time."

"And what do you think of it?"

"Ah!" she sighed in ecstasy, "it smells just like oysters."—The Argonaut.

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**Accounted For.**—"Is he a credit to his family?"

"No; a debit."—Concord Herald.

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**Sufficient Reason.**—Parson—"How is it I haven't seen you at church lately?"

Hodge—"I ain't been."—Printer's Pie.

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**Why Not?**—"My son, Hiram, is just crazy to go to college an' study pharmacy," said Mrs. Wheatley.

"It may be all right," replied Mrs. Cornrossel, "but I think th' place to study farmin' is right here on the farm, where ye git practical experience."—Livingston Lance.

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**Food for Thought.**—The cultured young woman from Boston was trying to make conversation.

"Do you care for Crabbe's Tales?" she asked.

"I never ate any," replied the breezy girl from Chicago; "but I'm just dead stuck on lobsters."—Judge.



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