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Smiles

An American was being shown over
an old English church, beneath which
hundreds of people were interred. "A
great many people sleep beneath this
roof," said the guide. "Is that so?"
exclaimed the tourist. "Same way over
in our country. Why don't you get a
more interesting preacher?"

A farm labourer once espied an es-
caped parrot sitting on a cottage roof.
It was the first time he had ever seen
such a bird, and, getting a ladder, he
proceeded to climb up after the un-
known treasure. But when he reached
the roof the parrot flapped its wings
at him and sternly demanded, "What
d'ye want?" There was a pause; then
the labourer touched his cap and stam-
mered, "I beg your pardon, sir, I
thought you was a bird!" The parrot's
answer is not recorded.

At a marriage service performed some
time ago in a little country church in
Berkshire, when the minister said in a
solemn tone, "Will thou have this man
to be thy wedded husband?" instead of
the woman answering for herself, a
gruff man's voice answered:

"O! will."

The minister looked up, very much
perplexed, and paused. He repeated the
sentence, and again the same gruff voice
answered:

"O! will."

Again the minister looked up, sur-
prised, not knowing what to make of it,
when one of the groomsmen at the end
of the row said:

"'Er be deaf. O! be answerin' for
'er."

It is singular how often a smile is
raised by the words engraved on tomb-
stones by those who wish to do honour
to their departed ones. In one church-
yard the legend runs: "Here lies the
body of Obadiah Wilkinson, and Ruth
his wife. Their warfare is accom-
plished." Another epitaph seems to be
answering the question, "Is marriage a
failure?" "She lived with her husband
fifty years and died in the confident hope
of a better life." In Wayland there are
some who believe there are no political
struggles after death: "Here lies the
Lady of Dr. Hayward, a man who never
voted. Of such is the kingdom of heav-
en." The following is very brief and
suggestive: "A bird, a man, a loaded
gun. No bird—dead man—Thy will be
done." Of course, we expect quaint say-
ings from Ireland, and here is one:
"Here lies William Green, who died in
Manchester, Sept. 18, 18—." Had he
lived, he would not have been buried
here."

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COULDN'T HEAR THEM COMING



When Blind Pete lectured on tem-
perance in Silenceville Town Hall, he
thought the women terribly frosty.
"Guess this meeting is a joke,"
whispered he to the Chairman. "I
haven't heard a single soul come into
the hall."

"Hush," replied the chairman. "The
hall is jammed; I forgot to tell you,
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