

THE ONTARIO WORKMAN.

beside, pay a fine for usurious dealings, of one hundred and fifty ducats, to be given as a dowry for the shoemaker's youngest daughter.

The meaning of this legend is, that a benevolent Providence watched over and took care of the poor who are honest, religious, and truthful. The tradition runs that, since that time St. Nicholas pays a visit, every Christ-night, to all who he thinks worthy of his favors. He is known altogether by the name—Santa Claus.

Sawdust and Chips.

"O, Miss, said a lovesick swain, "If I were a star, how bright I would shine for you!" "Well," said she, "you may be, for you can't shine here."

A shoemaker out West, with a literary turn of mind has the following poetical gem attached to his shingie:

"Here lives a man who never refuses,
To mend all sorts of boots and shoes."

"Can you tell me, Bill, how it is that a rooster always keeps his feathers slick and smooth?" "No," said Bill. "Well, he always carries his comb with him."

"Doctor," said a man to Abernethy, my daughter had a fit, and continued half an hour without sense or knowledge." "Oh," replied the doctor, "never mind that, many people continue so all their lives."

A spread eagle orator of New York wanted the wings of a bird to fly to every village and hamlet in the broad land; but he wifited when a naughty boy in the crowd sang out, "You'd be shot for a goose before you had flew a mile."

"Have we a Bourbon among us?" asked a public speaker of an Arkansas audience. "I can't speak for the rest," said a tall, long-haired individual drawing a glass utensil from his pocket; "but here's a bottle of the reg'lar old tickler, from which you can fortify your argument."

"Take a wing!" gushed a pompous upstart extending his bent arm to sensible young lady, at the close of the concert. "Not of a gender," she quickly replied, and walked home with her mother.

An urchin of six or seven years went into a barber shop and ordered to cut his hair as close as he could do it. He was asked if his mother ordered it that way. "No," said he, "but school commences next week, and we've got a school marm' that pulls hair, and I'm bound to fix her this term, you bet!"

"Hi! where did ye get them trousers?" asked an Irishman of a man who happened to be passing with a pair of remarkably short trousers on. "I got them where they grow," was the indignant reply. "Then by my conscience," said Pat, "you've pulled 'em a year too soon!"

Several Irishmen were disputing one day about the invincibility of their perspective persons, when one of them remarked, "Faith I'm a brick."—"And indade I'm a bricklayer," said another, giving the first speaker a blow that brought him to the ground.

A cobbler at Leyden, who used to attend the public disputations held at the University was asked if he understood Latin. "No," replied he, "but I know who is wrong in the argument." "How?" replied his friend, "Why, by seeing who is first angry."

The retort of a little boy to an attorney in a justice's court, not long ago created some amusement. The lad, being on the stand as a witness, was questioned concerning a certain dime novel alleged to have been stolen. "What was pictured on the cover?" asked the attorney. "Two Indians," was the reply. "What were the Indians doing?" "I didn't ask 'em," answered the boy. The attorney suddenly discovered that he had no further use for the young witness.

A wag went to the station on one of the railroads here one evening, and, finding the best car full, said in a low tone, "Why this car isn't going!" Of course this caused a general stampede, and the wag took the best seat. In the midst of the indignation the wag was asked: "Why did you say this car wasn't going?" "Well, it wasn't then," replied the wag, "but it is now."

A Chicago parson, who is also a school-teacher, handed a problem to his class in mathematics, the other day. The first boy took it, looked at it a while, and said, "I pass." Second boy took it, and said, "I turn it down." The third boy stared at it a while, and drawled out, "I can't make it." "Very good, boys," said the parson, "we will proceed to cut for a new deal;" and, with this remark, the leather strap danced like lightning over those depredated young mathematicians.

A man in Wisconsin has applied for a divorce, upon the ground that his wife married him under false pretences. He says she told him, while he was addressing her, that she could hoe an acre of potatoes and split two cords of wood between breakfast and dinner; and she has proved herself a fearful fraud because she could only split half a cord and hoe only three times across the field. It seems that men are continually to be made the victims of those designing women. Why will wives trifle in this manner with the tenderest affections of their husbands? Why will they thus shatter heart-strings?

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