A Thousand & One RIDDLES AND JOKES

F. A. N. Pessôa.

A THOUSAND AND ONE RIDDLES

THE OLDEST ON RECORD.

—o—

This is the ancient chestnut that the Sphinx tried upon Œdipus:

What animal in the morning walks upon four feet, at noon upon two, and in the evening upon three?

And Œdipus, "smiling derisive," answered,—

Man: because in the morning of life, or infancy, he crawls upon his hands and feet; at noon, or manhood, he walks upon his two legs; and in the evening, or old age, he supports himself with a stick.

Whereupon the monster dashed out its brains (such as they were) against a rock, and never asked another.

THE BEST COLLECTION OF RIDDLES

A THOUSAND AND ONE RIDDLES

WITH A FEW THROWN IN

LONDON
GEORGE ROUTLEDGE AND SONS, LIMITED
BROADWAY HOUSE, LUDGATE HILL

A THOUSAND AND ONE RIDDLES.

1. If the Forth Bridge were to collapse, what would they do?

   Construct a fifth.

2. Why is a good meerschaum like a water-colour artist?

   Because it draws and colours beautifully.

3. Whom do the mermaids mash?

   The swells of the ocean.

4. What root are policemen most familiar with? ("*Ask* a policeman.")

   The beat route (beet-root).

5. Why is a psychological romance like the train of a celebrated actress's dress?

   Because it's a tale (tail) of mystery (Miss Terry).

6. Why did Mr. Livesey get the best of the gas dispute?

   Because his retorts never failed.

7. What is the difference between Mr. Beecham and Mr. Willing?

   One is a pill-boaster, the other a bill-poster.

8. Why is a person reading these conundrums like a man condemned to undergo a military execution?

Because he is pretty sure to be riddled to death.

9. Why does the Russian nation resemble the sea?

Because her nobles are tremendous swells, and her people serfs.

10. Why are riddles which cannot be answered, like a man disappointed by his visitors?

Because there is a host put out and not one guest (guessed).

11. What is the difference between a bottle of medicine and a troublesome boy?

One is to be well shaken before taken, the other to be taken and then shaken.

12. Which is one of the longest words in the English language?

Smiles; because there is a mile between the first and the last letters.

13. Why is a loaf of bread on the top of the Eiffel Tower like a racehorse?

Because it is high bread.

14. Why is an acquitted prisoner like a gun?

Because he is charged, taken up, and then let off.

15. Why are horses little needed in the Isle of Wight?

Because visitors prefer Cowes to Ryde (cows to ride).

16. Why can negroes be safely trusted with secrets?

Because they always keep dark.

17. Why is a popular comedian like an iron handcuff?

Because he is a jail tool (J. L. Toole).

18. Why was "Uncle Tom's Cabin" not written by a female hand?

Because it was written by Mrs. Beecher Stowe (Beecher's toe).

19. Why is a bridegroom often more expensive than a bride?

Because the bride is given away, but the groom is often sold.

20. How do we know that Lord Byron was good-tempered?

Because he always kept his collar (choler) down.

21. What is the difference between a person late for the train and a school-mistress?

One misses the train, the other trains the misses.

22. When is the moon like a load of hay?

When it's on the wane (wain).

23. Why may carpenters reasonably believe there is no such thing as stone?

Because they never saw it.

24. Why is an elephant like a wheelbarrow?

Because he can't climb up a tree.

25. Why is the volunteer movement like a basket of apples?

Because every corps (core) has its colonel (kernel).

26. When is it dangerous to enter a church.

When there is a canon in the reading-desk or a great gun in the pulpit.

27. Would you rather an elephant killed you, or a gorilla?

Rather the elephant killed the gorilla.

28. What is the difference between donkeys and postage-stamps?

One you lick with a stick, the other you stick with a lick.

29. Why are doctors always bad characters?

Because the worse people are the more they are with them.

30. Why is a camel a most irascible animal?

Because he always has his back up.

31. Why is the world like music?

Because it is full of sharps and flats.

32. What is the difference between a surgeon and a conjuror?

One is a cupper, the other a sorcerer.

33. Why have poultry no future state of existence?

Because they have their necks twirled (next world) in this.

34. How do we know that a dove is very cautious?

Because he minds his peas, and coos (p's and q's).

35. Why should a man troubled with the gout make his will?

Because he will then have his legatees (leg at ease).

36. When is a schoolboy like a postage stamp?

When he is licked and put in a corner to make him stick to his letters.

37. Why is a kiss like a properly divided sermon?

Because it requires an introduction, two heads, and an application.

38. When is a chair treated spitefully?

When you have it caned simply because it cannot bear you.

39. What three notes in Hullah's musical notation would brighten up a drawing-room?

So, la, re (solar ray).

40. What is the difference between a land surveyor and a scarf?

One is agent for property, the other a proper tie for a gent.

41. What writer would have been the best angler?

The judicious Hooker.

42. What is the difference between a light in a cave and a dance in an inn?

One is a taper in a cavern, the other a caper in a tavern.

43. What is the difference between a man going upstairs and one looking up?

One is stepping up the stairs, the other staring up the steps.

44. Why is a coach going down a steep hill like St. George?

Because it's always drawn with the drag-on.

45. Why is a sporting clergyman like a soldier who runs from a fight?

Because he departs from his sphere of action (fear of action).

46. Who killed the greatest number of chickens?

Hamlet's uncle "did murder most foul."

47. When does a man impose on himself?

When he taxes his memory.

48. Why are two young ladies kissing each other like an emblem of Christianity?

Because they are doing unto each other as they would men should do unto them.

49. Why is a lover's heart like the sea-serpent?

Because it is a secreter (sea creeter) of great sighs (size).

50. Why cannot a thief easily steal a watch?

Because he must take it off its guard.

51. Why are horsemen, dairymen, sempstresses, dressmakers and topers found at the Isle of Wight?

Because the first may have a Ryde there; the second, Cowes; the third, Needles; the fourth, Brading; and the last, New-port.

52. Why should a man named Ben marry a girl called Anne?

Because he would be Benny-fitted, and she Annie-mated.

53. Why is a cautious, prudent man like a pin?

Because his head prevents him from going too far.

54. Why are chemists and alchemists both of the feminine gender?

Because one is an analyser (Ann Eliza), the other a charlatan (Charlotte Ann).

55. Why is an omnibus strap like conscience?

Because it's an inner check to the outer man.

56. What was Louis Napoleon's great cabbage?

Savoy (and Nice!)

57. Why is it dangerous to take a nap in a railway carriage?

Because the train always runs over sleepers.

58. Why is a locomotive steam-engine like a drunkard?

Because it often wets its whistle, and is always taking draughts.

59. What are the requisites for a lady who desires to enter the cigar trade?

She ought to have capital to back her, be up to snuff, always looking for a quid pro quo, and then she will succeed if she chews.

60. When are brokers in a panic like Pharaoh's daughter?

When they save a little prophet from the rushes on the banks.

61. Why is the last horse of a string like the accepter of a bill?

Because it is the endorser (end horse, sir).

62. What should you do if you split your sides with laughter?

Run till you get a stitch in them.

63. Which of the feathered tribe would be supposed to lift the heaviest weight?

The Crane.

64. Why is a field of grass like a person older than yourself?

Because it's past your age (pasturage).

65. Who was Jonah's tutor?

The whale that brought him up.

66. Why is a dirty child like flannel?

Because it shrinks from washing.

67. What is the only pain of which every one makes light?

A window-pane.

68. What man had no father?
Joshua, the son of Nun.

69. When is a young man of the greatest use at a supper party?
When he's a spoon.

70. Why does a miller wear a white hat?
To keep his head warm.

71. Part of a foot with judgment transpose,
And the answer you'll find just under your nose.
Inch—chin.

72. Why is avarice like a bad memory?
Because it is always for getting.

73. Why is it vulgar to sing and play by yourself?
Because it is so-lo (so low).

74. What is that which touches one but unites two?
A wedding ring.

75. Why is it better to be burnt than to have your head cut off?
Because a hot steak is better than a cold chop.

76. Why is an opera-singer like a confectioner?
Because she deals in nigh screams (ice creams).

77. A feeling all persons detest,
Altho' 'tis by every one felt,
By two letters fully express'd,
By twice two invariably spelt.
Envy (N.V.).

78. Why is education like a tailor?

Because it forms our habits.

79. Why is a nobleman like a book?

Because he has a title and several pages.

80. Why are the legs of an ill-bred fellow like an organ-grinder?

Because they carry a monkey about the streets.

81. Why is a blacksmith like a safe steed?

Because one is a horse-shoer and the other is a sure horse.

82. Why is a pawnbroker like a drunkard?

Because he takes the pledge but cannot always keep it.

83. Why are photographers the most uncivil of all tradesmen?

Because when we make application for our photographs they begin with a negative.

84. Where does charity begin?

At C (Sea).

85. Which is the strongest day in the week?

Sunday, because all the rest are week-days.

86. Which is easier to spell—fiddle-de-dee or fiddle-de-dum?

The former, because it is spelt with more e's.

87. What is the difference between a photographer and the hooping-cough?

The one makes fac-similes, the other sick families.

88. When is the soup likely to run out of the saucepan?

When there's a leek in it.

89. What French word contains every vowel and but one consonant?

Oiseau.

90. When is an altered dress like a secret?

When it's let out.

91. How do eggs show their anger on being called leggs?

By becoming eggs-aspirated.

92. What part of speech are shopkeepers most anxious to dispose of?

Articles.

93. Why are weary persons like carriage-wheels?

Because they are tired.

94. When is a silver cup most likely to run?

When it is chased.

95. When did Ruth treat Boaz badly?

When she pulled his ears and trod on his corn.

96. Why is a convivial man like a Quaker?

Because he is fond of the Society of Friends.

97. Of what part of London does a lame man remind us?

Of Cripplegate (cripple gait).

98. What is that which we all eat and drink, though it is sometimes a woman and sometimes a man?

A toast.

99. Why would a tanner make a good chemist?

Because he understands ox(h)ides.

100. Who are the most wicked people in the world, and why?

Pen makers: because they make people steel pens and tell them they do write (right).

101. Why are you better-looking than a carpenter?

Because he is a deal plainer (planer).

102. Why is a pretty woman like a lock?

Because she is a thing to a door (adore).

103. Why is a short man attempting to kiss a tall woman like an Irishman going up Vesuvius?

Because he is trying to get to the mouth of the cratur (creature).

104. Why are there three objections to taking a glass of brandy?

Because there are three scruples to a dram.

105. Why is a pretty girl like a locomotive?

Because she sends off the sparks, transports the mails, and has a train following her.

106. What are the most unsociable things in the world?

Mile stones, for you never see two of them together.

107. Why is the letter F like death?

Because it makes all fall.

108. When may a man be considered to be really over head and ears in debt?

When he owes for his wig.

109. Why is the port of Plymouth like a very wonderful phenomenon in accoustics?

Because it includes a part of the sea called the Sound; and that is the only sound that you can see.

110. Why is love like a potato?

Because it springs from the eyes.

111. What is that a gentleman has not, never can have, and yet can give to a lady?

A husband.

112. Why are young ladies so partial to sunset and twilight?

Because they are daughters of Eve.

113. When is a schoolmaster like a man with one eye?

When he has a vacancy for a pupil.

114. What is the difference between last week's *Punch* and the brewings of Guinness and Allsopp?

One is out and stale, the others stout and ale.

115. What kind of robbery may be said to be not dangerous?

A safe robbery.

116. What is the difference between 100 and 1,000?

0 (naught).

117. Those who have me not, do not wish for me; those who have me, do not wish to lose me; those who gain me, have me no longer.

A Law-suit.

118. Why is a horse a curious feeder?

Because he eats best when he has not a bit in his mouth.

119. What is Majesty robbed of its externals?

A jest (M) a jest (y).

120. What do we do when, to increase the effect, we diminish the cause?

Snuff the candle.

121. What word will, if you take away the first letter, make you sick?

Music.

122. Why is a Greek fable like a garret?

Because it is an Attic Story.

123. What chins are never shaved?

Ur-chins.

124. Why are gloves unsaleable articles?

Because they are made to be kept on hand.

125. What fruit does a newly-married couple resemble?

A green pair (pear).

126. Why do sheep resemble fast young men?

Because they gamble (gambol) in their youth, are always on the turf, are very frequently black-legs, and are universally fleeced.

127. Why may the Emperor of Russia be considered a flirt?

Because, not content with Mol-davia, he went after Bess-Arabia, and that Gal-icia.

128. What flower most resembles a bull's mouth?

A cowslip (cow's lip).

129. What part of a locomotive requires the most attention?

The "tender" part.

130. Why should a ship's officer never put his chronometer under his pillow?

Because he should never sleep upon his watch.

131. If 32 is freezing point what is squeezing point?

Two in the shade.

132. What is that which makes every one sick but those that swallow it?

Flattery.

133. What wig cannot a barber make?

An ear-wig.

134. In what respects were the governments of Algiers and Malta as different as light is to darkness?

One was governed by deys (days), the other by Knights (nights).

135. Why is an amiable and charming girl like one letter in deep thought, another on its way towards you, another bearing a torch, and another singing psalms?

Because she is A-musing, B-coming, D-lighting, and N-chanting.

136. Like what month is a falsehood spoken by a Jew?

Jew-lie (July).

137. Why is a very plain lady a wonderful woman?

She is an extra-ordinary one.

138. Why should a timber merchant not be allowed to saw his own timber?

Because no one is allowed to cut when it is his own deal.

139. What is the difference between a bell and an organ?

One rings when it's told (tolled), but the other will be blowed first.

140. Why are some women like facts?

Because they are stubborn things.

141. What is the difference between a mouse and a young lady?

One harms the cheese, the other charms the hes.

142. What is the difference between a butcher and a flirt?

The former kills to dress, the latter dresses to kill.

143. When are two apples alike?

When pared.

144. Why is a bed cover like a blister?

Because it is a counter-pane.

145. Why is riding fast up a steep ascent like a female dog suffering pain?

Because it's a gal pup ill (gallop up hill).

146. What instrument of war does the earth resemble?

A revolver.

147. When is a lawyer like a donkey?

When he is drawing a conveyance.

148. When should a publican go to an iron-foundry?

When he wants a barmaid (bar made).

149. What is the most warlike nation?

Vacci-nation, because it is always in arms.

150. What musical instrument should we never believe?

A lyre.

151. Why is a retired carpenter like a lecturer?

Because he is an ex-planer.

152. When are soldiers like good flannels?

When they don't shrink.

153. Why is a bad picture like weak tea?

Because it is not well drawn.

154. Why is a fast young lady like a steam-boat?

Because she never goes ahead without drawing a swell after her.

155. When do young ladies eat a musical instrument?

When they have a piano for tea (forte).

156. Why is a defeated army like wool?

Because it's worsted.

157. What is the hardest money to change or get rid of?

Matri-mony.

158. What is a kiss?

A receipt given by a lady on your paying your addresses.

159. Why is a violin like a bank of issue?

Because it gives out notes.

160. Why is a violin unlike a bank?

Because it never takes back its notes.

161. What is the difference between a mare and an egg?

A mare is a she gee-gee, and an egg is an 'e-g-g.

162. Why is a treadmill like a member of the Salvation Army?

Because its turning is the result of conviction.

163. What does man love more than life,
Hate more than death or mortal strife;
That which contented men desire,
The poor have, and the rich require;
The miser spends, the spendthrift saves,
And all men carry to their graves?

Nothing.

164. What fish is most valued by a loving wife?

Her-ring.

165. What is that which goes from London to York without moving?

The road.

166. What man *must* have his glass before he can do a day's work?

A glazier.

167. When is a pie like a poet?

When it's Browning.

168. Why will an insolent fishmonger get more business than a civil one?

Because when he sells fish, he gives sauce with it.

169. What are the greatest obstacles to a Russian invasion of Turkey?

The baulkin' (Balkan) mountains.

170. From a number that's odd cut off the head,
It then will even be;
Its tail, I pray, take next away:
Your mother then you'll see.

Seven.

171. In what does a lawyer resemble a woodcock?

In the length of his bill.

172. Why is a blush like a young lady?

Because it becomes a woman.

173. What is that which you and every living person have seen, but can never see again?

Yesterday.

174. What piece of coin is double its value by deducting its half?

A half-penny.

175. What did Adam first set in the garden of Eden?

His foot.

176. Why is a fretful man like a hard-baked loaf?

Because he is crusty.

177. Why is a new-born babe like a donkey's tail?

Because it was never seen before.

178. What is the difference between a sweep and a poor man in a new suit of mourning?

One is blacked with soot, the other suited with black.

179. Which is the best sea for a sailor to be in when there is a gale?

A-dri-atic.

180. Why cannot a deaf man be legally convicted?

Because it is not lawful to condemn a man without a hearing.

181. Why are the pages of a book like the days of man?

Because they are numbered.

182. How would you speak of a tailor when you did not remember his name?

As Mr. So-and-So (sew and sew).

183. Why is a leaf of a tree like the human body?

Because it has veins in it.

184. What is that which is lengthened by being cut at both ends?

A ditch.

185. Why is a hive like a spectator at a show?

Because it is a bee-holder.

186. What kind of essence does a young man like when he pops the question?

Acqui-escence.

187. What is the difference between an auction and sea-sickness?

One is the sale of effects, the other the effects of a sail.

188. Why should buying trousers on credit be considered dishonourable?

Because they are breeches of trust.

189. Why is a lollypop like a horse?

Because the more you lick it, the faster it goes.

190. When is an alderman like a ghost?

When he's a-gobblin' (goblin).

191. On what day in the year do women talk the least?

The shortest day.

192. What three letters turn a girl into a woman.

A-g-e.

193. What is that which the dead and living do at the same time?

They go round with the world.

194. When is a soldier not half a soldier?

When he's in quarters.

195. When does a man cease to become a man?

When he turns into a lane.

196. Why is one of the rank and file of our victorious army who has not been promoted for his bravery like an illicit machine?

Because he is a private still.

197. Why is a clock the most humble thing in existence?

Because it always holds its hands before its face, and however good its works may be it is always running itself down.

198. Why is a person bathing in the river at Paris like a madman?

Because he's in Seine (insane).

199. Why should Africa rightly be considered to rank first of the continents?

Because it bears the palm.

200. Where did the witch of Endor live?

At Endor.

201. How many sides are there to a tree?

Two, the inside and outside.

202. Why is chicken-pie like a gunsmith's shop.

Because it contains fowl-in pieces.

203. Why should a man never tell his secrets in a corn-field?

Because so many ears are there, and they would be shocked.

204. Why was Noah in the ark like a disappointed rat-catcher?

Because it was forty days before he saw ere-a-rat (Ararat).

205. Why are three couples going to church like a child's penny trumpet?

Because they go too, too, too (two and two and two).

206. Why is your nose like St. Paul's?

Because it is flesh and blood.

207. When is it most dangerous to go into the country?

When the hedges are shooting, the cowslips about, and the bulrushes out.

208. What is the difference between a blind man and a sailor in prison?

One cannot see to go and the other can't go to sea.

209. When do your teeth usurp the functions of the tongue?

When they are chattering.

210. Why is Buckingham Palace the cheapest palace ever built?

Because it was built for one sovereign and furnished for another.

211. Why is a plum cake like the ocean?

Because it contains many currants.

212. What street in London puts you in mind of a tooth which has pained you for a long time?

Long Acre.

213. Why does an aching tooth impose silence on the sufferer?

Because it makes him hold his jaw.

214. How many young ladies would it take to reach from London to Brighton?

About fifty-two; because a miss is as good as a mile.

215. Which of your teeth are like a dressmaker's finger and thumb when she is cutting out a dress?

Those in-cisors (scissors).

216. When is a Scotchman like a donkey?

When he strolls along his banks and braes.

217. When are secrets like the sails of a ship?

When they get wind.

218. Why is the horse the most humane of all animals?

Because he gladly gives the bit out of his mouth, and listens to every woe.

219. What is that which by losing an eye has nothing left but a nose?

A noise.

220. Why is a pack of cards of only fifty-one in the pack, sent home, like a pack of cards of fifty-two?

Because they are sent in-complete.

221. Which tree commands the most respect from its fellows?

The elder.

222. Why are the makers of the Armstrong gun the most dishonest persons in Her Majesty's service?

Because they rifle all the guns, forge all the materials, and steel all the gun breeches.

223. Why are feet like olden tales?

Because they are leg-ends (legends).

224. Where was Adam going when he was in his thirty-ninth year?

Into his fortieth.

225. When is a disengaged cab like a Yankee witness?

When it is on the stand.

226. Why does a spoon reclining in a cup of tea resemble a handsome young lady?

Because it's in-tea-resting.

227. What pudding makes the best cricketer?

A good batter.

228. Who may marry many a wife, and yet live single all his life?

A clergyman.

229. Why are fish in a thriving state like fish made to imitate them?

Because they are hearty-fish-all (artificial).

230. Tom went out, his dog with him; he went not before, behind, nor on one side of him, then where did he go?

On the other side.

231. What question is that to which you must answer yes?

What does y-e-s spell?

232. Why is the July sun like sixpence?

Because it's a tanner.

233. Why is a coal charity the best of all charities?

Because it makes the receivers' grate full (grateful).

234. What island is nearest Heaven?

The Isle of Skye (sky).

235. What is the hardest thing to deal with?

An old pack of cards.

236. Why are lovers' sighs like long stockings?

Because they are high hose (heigh ho's).

237. Why is a nail fast in the wall like an old man?

Because it is in firm.

238. Why is a man standing on a fishmonger's shop like a busy meddling fellow?

Because he is over a fish-house (officious).

239. Why was Moses the most wicked man that ever lived?

Because he broke all the commandments at once.

240. Why is a banker's clerk necessarily well informed?

Because he is continually taking notes.

241. What motive had the inventor of railroads in view?

A loco-motive.

242. Why would a compliment from a chicken be an insult?

Because it would be fowl language.

243. Why are some great men like glow-worms?

Because it must be dark when they shine.

244. What smells most in a perfumer's shop?

The Nose.

245. Why is an orange like a church steeple?

Because we have a peel from it.

246. What word is that, to which if you add a syllable, it will be shorter?

Short (short-er).

247. What is that which Adam never saw, never possessed, and yet he gave two to each of his children?

Parents

248. Why are crockery-ware dealers unlike all other shop-keepers?

Because it won't do for them to crack up their goods.

249. What is the difference between a cat and a document?

One has claws at the end of its paws, and the other has pauses at the end of its clauses.

250. Why is life like a chess-board?

Because it is chequered.

251. Why are prevaricating witnesses like a garden railing?

Because they're fencing.

252. Why is swearing like an ill-fitting coat?

Because it's a bad habit.

253. Why is a baby like wheat?

Because it is first cradled, then thrashed, and finally becomes the flower of the family.

254. What is the difference between a made-up belle and a burglar?

One wears false locks, the other false keys.

255. Why is a watch like a river?

Because it doesn't run long without winding.

256. Why are fixed stars like pens, ink, and paper?

Because they are stationary (stationery).

257. Why is a jest like a fowl?

Because it contains a merry-thought.

258. Why is the sun like a man of fashion?

Because it turns night into day.

259. On what toe does a corn never come?

The mistletoe.

260. Why is photography antagonistic to portrait-painting?

Because it is a foe-to-graphic art.

261. Why does a woman who gives her husband "a piece of her mind" usually take as much as she gives?

Because she generally manages to take away the peace of his.

262. What do we all do when we first get into bed?

Make an impression.

263. When is a nose not a nose?

When it is a little radish (reddish).

264. What is the difference between a hungry man and a glutton?

One longs to eat and the other eats too long.

265. Where lies the path of duty?

Through the Custom House.

266. Why should turtles be pitied?

Because theirs is a hard case.

267. Why is a disreputable alehouse like two of the chief performers in an orchestra?

Because it is a base and vile inn (bass and violin).

268. Why is a cherry like a book?
Because it is read (red).

269. Who was the first that bore arms?
Adam.

270. What river is that which runs between two seas?
The Thames, which flows between Chelsea and Battersea.

271. When is the river Thames good for the eyes?
When it is eye-water (high water).

272. Who was the fastest runner in the world?
Adam; because he was first in the human race.

273. Why should a man always wear a watch when he travels in a desert?
Because every watch has a spring in it.

274. Why is a young lady like a promissory note?
Because she ought to be settled when she arrives at maturity.

275. What place should a glutton be sent to?
To Eat-on (Eton).

276. Why is a milkman like a mill-horse?
Because he goes his rounds.

277. Why do railway men always speak of a locomotive as "she"?
Because it suggests tender thoughts and draws men after it.

278. What sort of young woman would you like to swallow on a cold day?

A little milk made (milkmaid) hot.

279. What is the difference between a special constable and an old hat?

One's sworn in; the other's worn out.

280. Why is a spendthrift's purse like a thunder-cloud?

Because it is continually lightning.

281. Which is the oldest piece of furniture in the world?

The multiplication table.

282. Why should young ladies set good examples?

Because young men are so apt to follow them.

283. What is the difference between a summer dress in winter and an extracted tooth?

One is too thin, the other tooth out.

284. When is a sailor not a sailor?

When he's a-board.

285. Which is the best land for young children?

Lapland.

286. What class of women are most apt to give tone to society?

The belles.

287. What is the difference between a pastrycook and a bill-sticker?

One puffs up paste, the other pastes up puffs.

288. Who was the first whistler and what was his tune?

The wind, when he whistled Over the hills and far away.

289. At what time of the day was Adam born?

A little before Eve.

290. Why do Gipsies never become insane?

Because they lead no-mad lives.

291. What tree stands number four anywhere?

Ivy (IV).

292. How many neck-ties had Job?

Three wretched comforters.

293. Which is the easiest of the three professions?

The church, because it is easier to preach than to practise.

294. What kind of vice is that which people dislike if they are ever so bad?

Ad-vice.

295. Why is a lazy young dog like an inclined plane?

Because it's a slow pup (slope up).

296. Why is a thief in a garret like an honest man?

Because he's above doing a wrong action.

297. When are tailors and house-agents both following the same business?

When they gather in the rents.

298. Why is a selfish friend like the letter "P"?

It is the first in pity and the last in help.

299. What is that which every one wishes for and yet tries to get rid of?

A good appetite.

300. What kind of sweetmeats did they have in the ark?

Preserved pears (pairs).

301. Why are potatoes and corn like certain sinners of old?

Because having eyes they see not, and ears they hear not.

302. Why is wit like a Chinese lady's foot?

Because brevity is the sole of it.

303. When are the streets of a town most greasy?

When the rain is dripping.

304. Why is snow more easy to understand than any other sort of weather?

Because it is the only one of which you can see the drift.

305. Why does a chicken three weeks and two days old walk across the road?

To get to the other side.

306. Which travels at greater speed, heat or cold?

Heat, because you can catch cold.

307. Why is a spider a good correspondent?

Because he drops a line by every post.

308 If you suddenly saw a house on fire, what three celebrated authors would you feel inclined to name?

Great Scott, Howitt, Burns (Great Scott! how it burns!).

309. Why should the male sex avoid the letter A?

Because it makes men mean.

310. What insect does a blacksmith manufacture?

He makes the fire-fly.

311. How many of your relations live on your property?

Ten-aunts (tenants).

312. What three acts comprise the chief business of a woman's life?

Attract, contract, detract.

313. What kind of wine is both victuals and drink?

Old port, with a crust.

314. Why is the interior of a theatre ever a sorry sight?

Because the boxes are always in tiers.

315. Why is a game of cards like a timber-yard.

Because there are always a great many deals in it.

316. What is the difference between forms and ceremonies?

You sit upon one, and stand upon the other.

317. Why must chimney-sweeping be a very agreeable business?

Because it suits (soots) every one who tries it.

318. Why was Lord Nelson like a coward?

Because the last thing Nelson did was to die for his country, and that's about the last thing a coward will do.

319. In what colour should a secret be kept?

Inviolate (in violet).

320. Perfect with a head, perfect without a head; perfect with a tail, perfect without a tail; perfect with either, neither, or both?

A wig.

321. Why is the Hebrew persuasion the best of all persuasions?

Because it is one that admits of no gammon.

322. How can you make a tall man short?

Borrow five pounds of him.

323. What is the difference between reckless speculation and a slice of bacon?

One is a rash thing—the other a rasher.

324. What islands are the most prosperous?

The Fortunate Islands.

325. Why is a joke less durable than a church bell?

Because after it has been told (toll'd) a few times it is worn out.

326. Why are ladies the biggest thieves in existence?

Because they steel petticoats, bone their stays, crib their babies, and hook their eyes.

327. Why are the fixed stars like wicked old men?

Because they sin-till-late (scintillate).

328. What is always behind time?

The back of a watch.

329. Why is it impossible for a person who lisps to believe in the existence of young ladies?

Because with him every miss is a myth.

330. Why is an old chair that has a new bottom put to it like a paid bill?

Because it has been re-seated (receipted).

331. What grows less tired the more it is worked?

A carriage wheel.

332. When does a man sit down to a melancholy dessert?

When he sits down to wine and to pine.

333. Why is Canada like courtship?

Because it borders on the United States.

334. With what song would you advertise a cure for deafness?

"Come back to Erin" ('earin).

335. How did the whale that swallowed Jonah obey the divine law?

Jonah was a stranger, and he took him in.

336. Why is a vain young lady like a confirmed drunkard?

Because neither of them is satisfied with a moderate use of the glass.

337. If an egg could speak what preserve would it name?

Ma-me-laid (marmalade).

338. In case of an accident, what is better than presence of mind?

Absence of body.

339. Why is the North Pole like a place where whisky is illegally made?

Because it is a secret still.

340. What did the spider do when he left the ark?

He took a fly and went home.

341. When do we first hear of the use of paper currency?

When the dove brought the green back into the ark.

342. Why is a street-door like a beer-barrel?

Because it is often tapped.

343. When walking through a field of wheat
I pick'd up something good to eat,
'Twas neither fish, flesh, fowl, or bone;
I kept it till it ran alone.

An egg.

344. When is a horse a victim of the Inquisition?

When he is fastened to the rack.

345. Why are printers liable to bad colds?

Because they always use damp sheets.

346. What disease do reapers often get on hot days?

A drop-sickle affection.

347. Why is a dainty lap-dog like a galloping hyena?

Because he is a fastidious (fast, hideous) beast.

348. What is that which no man ever yet did see?
Which never was, but always is to be?

To-morrow.

349. When does a dead ruler violate the truth?

When he lies in state.

350. Where would you send a man to get an appetite?

To Hungary.

351. Why are real friends like ghosts?

They are often heard of, but seldom seen.

352. What kind of medicine does a man take for a scolding wife?

He takes an elixir (he takes and he licks her).

353. When may a man be said to breakfast before he gets up?

When he takes a roll in bed.

354. Of what profession is an Armstrong gun?

A breeches maker.

355. When is a sailor like a corpse?

When he is in the shrouds.

356. Make five less by adding to it?

IV.

357. Why is a widow like a gardener?

Because she tries to get rid of her weeds.

358. Why is a good landing-stage indispensable to a port?
Because it's a case of sine quay non.

359. When is a sick man a contradiction?
When he is an impatient patient.

360. When is coffee like the earth?
When it is ground.

361. Why should yellow peas be sent to Hammersmith?
Because that is the way to Turnham Green.

362. What is that which is often found where it is not?
Fault.

363. What does an artist like to draw best?
His salary.

364. What two letters of the alphabet make a philosopher?
Y. Z. (Wisehead).

365. Why are your nose and chin always at variance?
Because words are constantly passing between them.

366. When you go to bed, why are your slippers like a deferred resolution?
Because they are put off till the next day.

367. Why were the Russian accounts of the Crimean battles like the English and French?
Because they were al-lies.

368. Why is a man in front of a crowd well supported?

Because he has the press at his back.

369. What is the difference between a drinker and a smoker?

One is a bacchanalian and the other a tobacconalian.

370. Why is an engraver fearless of drowning?

Because he is accustomed to die sinking.

371. What kind of business never makes progress?

The stationery (ary) business.

372. Why is Ireland likely to become the richest country in the world?

Because its capital is always doubling (Dublin).

373. Why is a bad epigram like a poor pencil?

Because it has no point.

374. Why should you never tell a man to take a back seat?

Because, if you do, he'll be likely to take af-front.

375. How do you swallow a door?

Bolt it.

376. Why is a fruit pie like old port?

Because it is crusted.

377. Why is a thump like a hat?

Because it is felt.

378. Why ought a fisherman to be very wealthy?

Because his is all net profit.

379. What is the difference between a mother and a barber?

The latter has razors to shave, and the former has shavers to raise.

380. What is the military definition of a kiss?

A report at headquarters. The naval definition? Pleasure smack.

381. When is a theatrical manager like an astronomer?

When he discovers a new "star."

382. If a fender and fire-irons cost three pounds, what will a ton of coals come to?

To ashes.

383. Why do so many of the Chinese travel on foot?

Because there is only one Cochin China (coach in China).

384. What are stocks?

What a great many of the rogues who deal in them ought to be put into.

385. How do you know that the Queen approves of the penny postage?

Because she gives her countenance to it.

386. Why is the letter Y like a young spendthrift?

Because it makes pa pay.

387. Why is a key like a hospital?

Because it has wards in it.

388. Why is a drawn tooth like a thing forgotten?

Because it is out of the head.

389. Why do pianos bear the noblest characters?

Because they are grand, upright, and square.

390. Why is a young lady like a very bad batsman?

Because she comes out at her first ball.

391. What was the first bet ever made?

The alphabet.

392. Why is a large kingdom like a brown study?

Because it's a roomy nation.

393. Why would it demoralize you to sit in the free seats in church?

Because you would be getting good for nothing (good-for-nothing).

394. What is that which is often brought to table, often cut but never eaten?

A pack of cards.

395. Why is a gaoler like a musician?

Because he fingers the keys.

396. What is that which lives in winter, dies in summer, and grows with its root upwards?

An icicle.

397. In what place did the cock crow when all the world could hear him?

In Noah's ark.

398. When does a caterpillar improve in morals?

When he turns over a new leaf.

399. When is a boy in a pantry like a poacher?

When he walks into the preserves.

400. What is the lightest of all garments?

A shift of the wind.

401. Why is a rifleman firing wide from his target like a man who blacks his wife's eye?

Because one misses his mark, and the other marks his missus.

402. What word of eight letters is there from which you can subtract five and leave ten?

Tendency.

403. What word of fifteen letters is there from which you can subtract twelve and leave ten?

Pretentiousness.

404. Why is the soul like a thing of no consequence?

Because it is immaterial.

405. If you throw a man out of a window, what does he fall against?

His inclination.

406. Why is ambition like a weathercock?

Because it is a vain thing to a-spire.

407. What is the difference between a brewer and a flea?

The one buys hops and the other takes them.

408. Why is a thief your only philosopher?

Because he regards anything from an abstract point of view, is opposed to all notions of protection, and is open to conviction.

409. Why are some girls like old muskets?

Because they use a good deal of powder, but won't go off.

410. Why is a vote in Parliament like a cold?

Because sometimes the ayes (eyes) have it, and sometimes the noes (nose).

411. Why are dogs and cats like schoolmasters and their pupils?

Because they are a canine and a feline species.

412. What is the difference between a schoolmaster and an engine-driver?

One trains the mind, the other minds the train.

413. Why are railways like laundresses?

Because they have ironed all England and have occasionally done a little mangling.

414. Why is a dog biting his own tail like a good manager?

Because he makes both ends meet.

415. Why is an empty discourse like a solid one?

Because it is all sound.

416. What nation does a criminal most dread?

Condem-nation.

417. What trees flourish best upon the hearth?

Ashes.

418. Which is the most difficult train to catch?

They are all much about the same to you if you let them start first.

419. What is the difference between an organist and his influenza?

One knows his stops, and the other stops his nose.

420. What is the difference between a lover and his rival?

One kisses the miss, and the other misses the kiss.

421. How can it be proved that a horse has six legs?

Because he has forelegs in front and two behind.

422. When may two people be said to be half-witted?

When they have an understanding between them.

423. Which is the queen of the roses, and why?

The rose of the watering-pot, because it rains over them all.

424. Why does "the British Matron" prefer old songs?

Because she greatly objects to new-ditties.

425. Which islands are the most social?

The Society Islands.

426. Why is sneezing like a waterfall?

Because it is a catar(rh)act.

427. Why is a beggar like an attorney?

Because he is a solicitor.

428. What cannot be called a disinterested act of hospitality?

Entertaining a hope.

429. Why are stars the best astronomers?

Because they have studded (studied) the heavens since the Creation.

430. Why is a schoolmistress like the letter C?

Because she forms lasses into classes.

431. What difference is there between live fish and fish alive?

There is a difference.

432. What two words contain all the vowels, and in their proper order?

Facetious, abstemious.

433. An old woman in a red cloak was crossing a field in which a goat was feeding; what strange transformation suddenly took place?

The goat turned to butter, and the woman became a "scarlet runner."

434. What word of three syllables specifies the time at which we should dance?

At-ten-dance.

435. What did Adam and Eve live on?

On *Terra firma.*

436. Why is a man just imprisoned like a boat full of water?

Because he requires bailing out.

437. Why are fishermen and shepherds like beggars?

Because they live by hook or by crook.

438. Why, in case of a revolution, would the people be the greatest losers?

Because they would each lose a sovereign, and the Queen only a crown.

439. Why is a thief picking a coiner's pocket reminded of a line in Othello?

Because "who steals his purse steals trash."

440. When were salt provisions first introduced into the navy?

When Noah took Ham into the Ark.

441. Why are some singers like cheese-curd?

Because they require to be well pressed before you can get anything out of them.

442. What magazine would be likely to give the best report of a fire?

A powder magazine.

443. Why is Berlin the most dissipated city in Europe?

Because it is always on the Spree.

444. Why are clergymen like railway porters?

Because they do a deal of coupling.

445. When is an umbrella like a person convalescent?

When it is re-covered.

446. At what season did Eve eat the apple?

Just before the Fall.

447. Why is a great bore like a tree?

Because both appear best when leaving.

448. Why is a bald head like heaven?

Because it is a bright and shining spot, and there's no parting there.

449. Which is the hardest tree in Hyde Park?

The Marble Arch (the marble larch).

450. Why is a new-born baby like a gale of wind?

Because it begins with a squall.

451. What constitutes the genuine frontier costume?

The outskirts of civilization.

452. Why are quinine and gentian like the Germans?

Because they are two tonics (Teutonics).

453. What was Joan of Arc made of?

She was Maid of Orleans.

454. When are you nearly related to a fish?

When your grandmother is a good old soul.

455. When is a man thinner than a lath?

When he's a shaving.

456. Why are cowardly soldiers like butter?

Because when exposed to fire they run.

457. Why do we jealously watch Russia's advance towards Afghanistan?

Because it would be a nice thing to catch Her-at.

458. Why is my cup of tea stronger than yours?

Because it is all my tea (almighty).

459. Why is a steam engine at a fire an anomaly?

Because it works and plays at the same time.

460. What word is it of five letters, of which two being removed, only one will remain?

St-one.

461. Why are little children like cherubim?

Because they "continually do cry."

462. Why is a whisper like a forged bank-note?

Because it is uttered but not aloud (allowed).

463. Why has Blondin the most wonderful digestion?

Because he lives on a rope, and thrives.

464. When is a sheep like ink?

When you take it up into the pen.

465. What is the best way to keep a man's love?

Not to return it.

466. What are the most difficult ships to conquer?

Hard-ships.

467. What is the difference between a goose and an author?

A goose has many quills, but an author can make a goose of himself with one quill.

468. Why is a wedding ring like eternity?

Because it has neither beginning nor end.

469. What man do most men admire?

Wo-man.

470. Why is a person in bed like a book unbound?

Because he is in sheets.

471. When may a man be said to be as hard up as a man can be?

When he cannot get credit for good intentions.

472. Which loom does a weaver like best?

An heir-loom.

473. What sea reminds one of a pudding?

Battersea.

474. Why is the letter W like scandal?

Because it makes ill will.

475. What is that which is invisible yet never out of sight?

The letter S.

476. Why is a comprehensive action an affectionate one?

Because it embraces everything.

477. Why are Æsop's speaking animals not so very improbable?

Because we still hear of deers talking (deer-stalking) in the Highlands.

478. Why does Blondin on the high rope stand to his audience in the sense of one who is outstripping his fellows?

Because he is stepping over their heads.

479. If a man saw his sister fall into a well, why could he not rescue her?

Because he could not be a brother and assist her too.

480. Why is a fly taller than most men?

Because he stands over six feet without shoes or stockings.

481. How is it that summer goes so quickly?

Because there is so often an evening mist.

482. Why should we avoid mingling with the multitude?

Because if you are hemmed in by a crowd you are likely to get a stitch in your side.

483. Why are undergraduates like geese?

Because they often live upon the commons, they are crammed, they are plucked, and when plucked are regularly sold.

484. Why is an umbrella like a pancake?

Because it is seldom seen after lent.

485. Why do knapsacks resemble handcuffs?

Because both are made for tourists (two wrists).

486. Why is a man with a cold on his chest not a man?

Because he is a little horse (hoarse).

487. When has a man brown hands?

When he's tann'd 'em (tandem) driving.

488. What animal would you like to be on a cold day?

A little 'otter.

489. Why are strawberries like the letter "n"?

Because they make ice nice.

490. When is a wall like a fish?

When it is scaled.

491. Why have we reason to doubt the existence of the Giant's Causeway?

Because Ireland abounds with sham-rocks.

492. We travel much, yet pris'ners are,
And close confined to boot,
We with the swiftest horse keep pace,
Yet always go on foot?

A pair of spurs.

493. What is a button?

A small event that is always coming off.

494. Why is a shoeblack like an editor?

Because he polishes the understanding of his patrons.

495. When is a blow from a lady welcome?

When she strikes you agreeably.

496. What snuff-taker is that whose box gets fuller the more snuff he takes?

A pair of snuffers.

497. Formed long ago, yet made to-day,
I'm most in use when others sleep;
What few would like to give away,
And none would like to keep?

A bed.

498. Where did Noah strike the first nail in the ark?

On the head.

499. Which would you rather have, five sovereigns, or a five pound note?

The latter, because you double it when you put it in your pocket, and find it in creases when you take it out.

500. Why is a Divinity student like a merchant?

Because he studies the prophets (profits).

501. Why is a young lady like an arrow?

Because she's in a quiver till she gets a beau (bow), and can't be got off without one.

502. Why ought an omnibus to be considered secure from lightning?

Because it has a conductor.

503. In what part of the church do they ring the bell(e)s?

At the altar.

504. Why is an ass the most unfortunate creditor?

Because he gets nothing in the pound.

505. What is that of which the common sort is the best?

Sense.

506. When do husband and wife change places?

When she comes down and blows him up.

507. Why is a cook like a student of philosophy?

Because she is accustomed to fry her (Friar) Bacon.

508. Why is I the luckiest of the vowels?

Because it is the centre of bliss, while E is in hell and all the others are in purgatory.

509. Why does an onion resemble a ringing bell?

Because peel follows peel in an onion, and peal follows peal in a ringing bell.

510. Why is a sheet of postage stamps like distant relatives?

Because they are but slightly connected.

511. How do young ladies show their dislike to moustaches?

By setting their faces against them.

512. Why should a perfumer be a good editor?

Because he is accustomed to make elegant extracts.

513. What is the colour of a grass plot covered with snow?

Invisible green.

514. Why ought a greedy man to wear a plaid waistcoat?

To keep a check upon his stomach.

515. When does a son not take after his father?

When his father leaves him nothing to take.

516. Why is a coward in a regiment like a good knife.

Because he cuts when brought into action.

517. Why were the early rulers of Israel called judges?

Because they presided over a Jewry.

518. Why is a fishmonger never generous?

Because his business makes him sell-fish.

519. Why is an accepted suitor like a person guilty of a crime?

Because he ought to be transported.

520. Why are religious communities like bees?

Because they are in-sects.

521. What tree pinches the Jews?

The Jew-nipper.

522. What wood makes the best piano?

Broadwood.

523. Enough for one, too much for two, and nothing for three; takes one to make and two to keep?

A secret.

524. What game does a lady's "dress improver" resemble?

Back-gammon.

525. Why is a girl not a noun?

Because a lass (alas) is an interjection.

526. Why are indolent persons' beds too short for them?

Because they lie too long in them.

527. Why is a kiss like a rumour?

Because it goes from mouth to mouth.

528. Why is an absconding bank cashier like an air gun?

Because he goes off loaded and makes no report.

529. If Old Nick were to lose his tail, where should he go to supply the deficiency?

To a gin-palace, for there bad spirits are retailed.

530. Why should the number 288 never be named before ladies?

Because it is too (two) gross.

531. When is a window like a star?

When it is a skylight.

532. Why is a widower like a house in a state of dilapidation?

Because he wants re-pairing.

533. What part of their infant tuition have old bachelors and old maids most profited by?

Learning to go alone.

534. When is a wine-glass like an accomplished prediction?

When it is full filled.

535. What is that which you cannot hold ten minutes, although it is as light as a feather?

Your breath.

536. When is the worst weather for rats and mice?

When it rains cats and dogs.

537. When does the rain become too familiar with a lady?

When it begins to pat her (patter) on her back

538. When does a tailor serve his customers both well and ill?

When he gives them fits.

539. What is that which never uses it teeth for eating purposes?

A comb.

540. Why is the letter E like death?

Because it is the end of life.

541. Why is a lady in a cotton dress like anything published?

Because she appears in print.

542. What herb is most injurious to a lady's beauty?

Thyme.

543. Why are ladies' eyes like persons remote from one another?

Because although they may correspond, they never meet.

544. Why is a school-boy being flogged like your eye?

Because he is a pupil under the lash.

545. By what paradox would you make an army fly?

By breaking its wings.

546. Why is a boaster like an india-rubber ball?

Because he is empty and full of bounce.

547. Ethel, why is Rover like a positive creed?

Because he's a dog, Ma!

548. When is a man like the letter B?

When he is in bed.

549. Which is the longest letter in the alphabet?

An l (ell).

550. What requires more philosophy than taking things as they come?

Parting with things as they go.

551. What roof covers the most noisy tenant?

The roof of the mouth.

552. When is a sermon like a round shot?

When it comes from a canon's mouth.

553. What is the right kind of timber for castles in the air?

A sunbeam.

554. What is that which never asks any questions, and yet requires many answers?

The door-bell.

555. Why is my servant, when she travels to Kew by a public conveyance, likely to prove a burthen to her friends?

Because she is Ann in Kew bus (incubus).

556. Why is the mark known as cedilla in the French alphabet like a pearl.

Because it is found at the bottom of the c (sea).

557. Why is the Bank of England during a shower like a civic feast?

Because it is a bank wet (banquet).

558. Why are books your best friends?

Because, when they bore you, you can shut them up without giving offence.

559. Why does a fat man, when squeezed, compliment the ladies?

Because the pressure makes him flatter.

560. Why is a woman's beauty like a bank note?

Because when once changed it soon goes.

561. What quadrupeds are admitted to balls, operas, and dinner-parties?

White-kids.

562. What flower would remind you of a lion that took a great deal of care about his personal appearance?

Dandelion (Dandylion).

563. Why does an orator resemble a pawnbroker?

Because he lives by spouting.

564. Why does a sculptor resemble a tippler?

Because he is everlastingly soaking his clay.

565. When are balls and routs supplied gratis?

On the field of battle.

566. What kind of paper tells you who you are?

Tissue ('tis you).

567. What instrument of war does an angry lover resemble?

A cross bow (beau).

568. Why are cats like unskilful surgeons?

Because they mew-till-late, and destroy patients (patience).

569. What does an iron-clad vessel of war, with four inches of steel plating and all her guns on board, weigh just before starting on a cruise?

She weighs anchor.

570. What's the difference between an Irishman frozen to death and a Highlander on a mountain-peak in January?

One is kilt with the cold, the other cold with the kilt.

571. Why is a horse cleverer than a fox?

Because a horse can run when he is in a trap and a fox can't.

572. Why don't fowls lay in the winter?

Because there are no races on.

573. Which is the largest room in the world?

The room for improvement.

574. When can you drink out of a flagstaff?

When it holds a flagon.

575. How high ought a lady to wear her dress?

A little higher than two feet.

576. Which of the English monarchs had most reason to complain of his laundress?

John, when he lost his baggage in the Wash.

577. Why is a pretty young lady like a wagon-wheel?

Because she is surrounded by felloes (fellows).

578. Why is S like a smart repartee?

Because it begins and ends in sauciness.

579. Can you tell me why
A hypocrite's eye
Can better descry
Than you or I
On how many toes
A pussy cat goes?

A man of deceit
Can best counterfeit,
And so, I suppose,
He can best count her toes.

580. When is a baby like a breakfast cup?

When it's a tea thing (teething).

581. What remedy would cure insomnia?

A gentle dose (doze), to be sure!

582. Why is D like a squalling child?

Because it makes ma mad.

583. Why is L like giving a sweetheart away?

Because it makes over a lover.

584. When is a carpenter like circumstances?

When he alters cases.

585. Why is a fee to a barrister like an agreement?

Because it is a bar-gain.

586. When is a bill like a gun?

When it is presented and discharged.

587. If a bear were to go in a linendraper's shop, what would he want?

He would want muzzlin.

588. When is the best time to buy cider?

When it is not very clear, as it will settle for itself.

589. Why does a baby boy always receive a hearty welcome in a family?

Because it never comes a-miss.

590. How may a man lose half his understanding and yet retain all his wits?

By having a leg cut off.

591. Why is a pig with a curly continuation like the ghost of Hamlet's father?

Because it can a tale unfold.

592. Why are ladies who lace tightly bad economists?

Because the increased consumption is out of all proportion to the diminished waist.

593. Who had the first entrance into a theatre?

Joseph, when he was taken from the family circle and put into the pit.

594. What is the best word of command to give a lady who is crossing a muddy road?

Dress up in front, close (clothes) up behind.

595. Why is a postman in danger of losing his way?

Because he is guided by the direction of strangers.

596. What fruit is like a statue?

Fig (ef-fi-gy).

597. Why should Denmark be an eminently religious country?

Because it has had so many Christians kings.

598. Upon what musical instrument are most High Church people skilful performers?

The cymbals (Symbols).

599. If a rogue were engaged to sing a chorus, what part would be the most suitable to assign to him?

The bass (base).

600. How were Adam and Eve kept from gambling?

Their pair o' dice was taken away from them.

601. What fish may be said to be out of place?

A perch in a bird's cage; a skate in a cutler's shop; a plaice on the top of an omnibus; a sole at the bottom of your boot; whiting cleaning plate; a mussel in a lady's neck; and a cockle making antibilious pills.

602. When are kisses sweetest?

When sirup-titiously obtained.

603. What would Neptune say if the sea were dried up?

I haven't a notion (an ocean).

604. Why is a Zulu lady like a prophet?

Because she has very little on her (honour) in her own country.

605. When does Truth cease to be Truth?

When she lies at the bottom of a well.

606. Why is geology considered a deep science?

Because it penetrates into the earth.

607. Why is China a desirable country for a lady to select a husband in?

Because she can go from Pekin (picking) to Chusan (choosing).

608. Why is a drunkard like a bad politician?

Because he is always poking his nose into the measures that will spoil his constitution.

609. What is the difference between an angler and a dunce?

One baits his hook; the other hates his book.

610. What is the difference between a tenant and the son of a widow?

The tenant has to pay rents, but the son of a widow has not two parents.

611. Why is an air played by an orchestra like Italian robbers?

Because it is a band ditty.

612. Why is a red herring like an overcoat?

Because it keeps you dry.

613. Why can you never buy a new chronometer?

Because it must always be a second-hand one.

614. What is the most difficult river on which to get a boat?

Arno, because they're Arno boats there.

615. What game do the waves play at?

At pitch and toss.

616. When does a waterman resemble an Indian?

When he feathers his scull.

617. When do we first read of a walking-stick?

When Eve presented Adam with a little Cain (cane).

618. What sweetens the cup of life, yet, divested of its end, embitters the most grateful draught?

Hope—Hop.

619. My first implies equality, my second the title of a foreign nobleman, and my whole is asked and given a hundred times a day with equal indifference, and yet is of so much importance that it has saved the lives of thousands.

Pardon.

620. When is a clock on the stairs dangerous?

When it runs down and strikes one.

621. Why is a little dog's tail like the heart of a tree?

Because it is farthest from the bark.

622. What do we often catch yet never see?

A passing remark.

623. Why ought meat to be only half cooked?

Because what is done cannot be helped.

624. Why are all duels very short affairs?

Because it only requires two seconds to arrange them.

625. Why is a beggar mending his clothes like a rich man?

Because he is making up his rents.

626. Why is love like a duck's foot?

Because it often lies hidden in the breast.

627. What is the difference between a boy "over whose head twelve summers have passed," and a man taking a nap?

One is twelve, the other a dozing (dozen).

628. Why are tedious talkers like very old people?

Because they dilate (die late).

629. Why is a lawyer's mouth like a tollbar?

Because it is seldom opened but for money.

630. Why is an historical event like a parcel untied and tied again?

Because it is re-corded.

631. Why is matrimony like a besieged city?

Because those who are in it wish to be out, and those who are out wish to be in.

632. Why is a watchdog bigger by night than by day?

Because he is let out at night, and taken in in the morning.

633. How many foreigners make a man uncivil?

Forty Poles make one rude (rood).

634. What chief virtue does the North Pole remind you of?

Just-ice, that's all.

635. What is it which if you name it even you break it?

Silence.

636. When does a leopard change his spots?

When he moves from one spot to another.

637. When does a man have to keep his word?

When no one will take it.

638. When were there only two vowels?

In the days of No-a (Noah), before U and I were born.

639. Why is a cigar-loving man like a tallow candle?

Because he will smoke when he is going out.

640. When does a civilized man discard an essential article of attire?

When he "turns up" his trousers.

641. What sort of men are always above board in their movements?

Chessmen.

642. How many weeks belong to the year?

Forty-six; the other six are only lent (Lent).

643. Why would a woman lose her religion if she changed her sex?

Because she would be a he then (heathen).

644. What is the most ancient mention made of a banking transaction?

When Pharaoh got a check on the Red Sea Bank, which was crossed by Moses.

645. My first is a point, my second a span,
In my whole often ends the greatness of man.

Dotage.

646. Why is a wide-awake hat so called?

Because it never had a nap, and never wants any.

647. What is it which comes into the world at just a nice height from the ground for you to extract its sweetness, and yet is both a sign of treachery and amity?

A kiss.

648. Why is the lower part of a man's face shaved in January like a celebrated fur?

Because it's a chin-chilly.

649. What is mind?

No matter.

650. What is matter?

Never mind.

651. What tradesman is most inattentive to business?

A tailor, because he is always "cutting out."

652. Why are fast girls like gas lamps?

Because they are light-headed, and if they have anything in their heads it's a flame.

653. Why does a railway official cut a hole in your ticket?

To let you through.

654. What is more foolish than sending coals to Newcastle?

Sending milk to Cowes.

655. A man bought two fishes, but on taking them home found he had three; how was this?

He had two—and one smelt.

656. Why may fishmongers be called materialists?

Because their soles are always beneath their notice.

657. What chasm often separates friends?

Sar-casm.

658. How do bees dispose of their honey?

They cell it.

659. Why are pawnbrokers like pioneers of progress?

Because they are always ready to make an advance.

660. When is an old lady like a trout?

When she takes a fly that brings her to the bank.

661. Why is a butler like a mountain?

Because he looks down on the valley (valet).

662. Why is O the only vowel sounded?

Because all the rest are in-audible.

663. What belongs to yourself, but is used by your friends more than by yourself?

Your name.

664. Why is a gun like a jury?

Because it goes off when discharged.

665. Where can happiness always be found?

In the dictionary.

666. My first is equality, my second is inferiority, my whole is superiority?

Match-less.

667. What is the difference between a wound from an arrow in England, and a wound from an arrow in France?

In England the flesh is entered, but in France it is the flêche that enters.

668. Why does the cook make more noise than the bell?

Because one makes a din, but the other a dinner.

669. What regiment was Adam in?

The Buffs.

670. Why is coffee like an axe with a dull edge?

Because it must be ground before it is used.

671. Why are tobacco pipes "delusions and snares"?

Because the best of them are mere-shams.

672. When may funds be supposed to be unsteady?

When money is "tight."

673. What is the difference between a good and a bad oyster?

One is a native, the other is a "settler."

674. Why does the sun rise in the east?

Because the (y)east makes everything rise.

675. Why is a member of parliament like a shrimp?

Because he has M.P. at the end of his name.

676. What is worse than raining cats and dogs?

Hailing cabs and omnibuses.

677. When are you like a spider?

When you are walking into a fly.

678. When is a herring like a tired horse?

When it is hard rode.

679. What is the difference between Noah's ark and an archbishop?

One was a high ark, but the other is a hierarch.

680. Why is a good wife always worth five shillings?

Because she is a crown to her husband.

681. What is that which is bought by the yard and worn by the foot.

A carpet.

682. Why is a ship like a woman?

Because she is often tender to a man-of-war; sometimes attached to a great buoy; and frequently making up to a pier (peer).

683. What key is the hardest to turn?

A donkey.

684. Why is it impossible for a pretty girl to be candid?

Because she can't be plain.

685. Why are strawberries in winter like a pair of antlered bucks?

Because they are too dear (two deer).

686. What is the most indigestible supper you can take?

Bolt the door, and tuck in the sheets.

687. Why are teeth like verbs?

Because they are regular, irregular, and defective.

688. Why are true lovers' knots out of fashion?

Because they are not novel-ties.

689. When is money damp?

When it is due in the morning and mist at night.

690. Which is the favourite word with women?

The last one.

691. Why is a coachman like a lover?

Because he always desires to be remembered by his fare (fair).

692. Why is a canary like a collier?

Because he is caged up all day and has to peck for his living.

693. Why are pretty girls like fireworks?

Because they go off when touched by a spark.

694. How can you by a mere change of punctuation turn mirth into a crime?

By making man's laughter manslaughter.

695. Why is a water-lily like a whale?

Because it comes to the surface to blow.

696. Why is the prize-ring like a book of botanical preparations?

Because you see in it specimens of the British floorer (Flora).

697. How would you express in one word having encountered a doctor of medicine?

Met-a-physician.

698. Why is a person who never lays a wager as bad as a regular gambler?

Because he is no better.

699. Why is a vine like a soldier?

Because it is listed and trained, has ten drills and then shoots.

700. What key in music will make a good officer?

A sharp major.

701. Why is the river at Liverpool always thick?

Because "the quality of Mersey is not strained."

702. What bridge creates the most anxiety?

A suspension bridge.

703. Which of the West India islands does a confectioner resemble.

Jamaica (Jam-maker).

704. How would you increase the speed of a slow boat?

Make her fast.

705. When is a boxer's eye like a barrel?

When it's bunged up.

706. Why is credit not given at an auction?

Because all goods brought to the hammer must be paid for—on the nail!

707. How does a pitcher of water differ from a man throwing his wife over a bridge?

One is water in the pitcher, and the other is pitch her in the water.

708. When are weeds not weeds?

When they "become" widows.

709. Why are old bachelors bad grammarians?

Because when asked to conjugate they invariably decline.

710. Why are ladies like their own watches?

Because they are pretty to look at, have sweet faces and delicate hands, but are somewhat difficult to regulate when once set going.

711. Why is the flight of an eagle a most unpleasant sight to witness?

Because it is a high soar (eye-sore).

712. On what supposition could a house be built with a pocket-handkerchief?

If it became brick (cambric).

713. Why does the East wind never travel straight?

Because it blows so bleak (oblique).

714. Why is a bad shot like an amusing fellow?

Because he's the boy to keep the game alive.

715. Why is cold cream like a good chaperon?

Because it keeps off the chaps.

716. Three feet I have, but ne'er attempt to go,
And many nails thereon, but not one toe?

A yard measure.

717. Say in one word what Mr. Gladstone loves, what he dislikes, what he would be happy to do, and what some folks think he ought to be in.

Reform-a-tory.

718. Why is a bad cold a great humiliation?

Because it brings the proudest man to his sneeze (his knees).

719. Why did William Tell shudder when he shot the apple from his son's head?

Because it was an arrow escape for his child.

720. Why is a tumbler like a pugilist?

Because he can't get his living without some assaults (summersaults).

721. Why is ivy climbing a tree like a Waterbury watch?

Because it's a stem-winder.

722. When are roads like corpses?

When they are men-ded.

723. Why is a drunken Irishman like a sentinel going his rounds?

Because he is pat-rolling.

724. When is a woman not a woman?

When she is a little chili; when she is a belle; or when she is a dear.

725. What is both food for the body and food for the mind?

Bacon.

726. 'Tis true I have both face and hands,
And move before your eye;
Yet when I go my body stands,
And when I stand I lie?

A clock.

727. Why can a watchmaker never make his fortune?

Because his goods always go on tick.

728. Why does the butcher's wife always keep the books?

Because the business is a joint affair.

729. How does a cobbler warrant his boots?

By staking his little awl on the tread of each.

730. Why is a plausible but prosy man like an unrifled gun?

Because he's a smooth bore.

731. Why are clerks like the telegrams of the daily press?

Because they are Reuter's.

732. Why is a young lady like a violin?

Because she is often touched by a bow (beau).

733. Why do little birds in their nests agree?

Because if they did not they would fall out.

734. *O tell* us what kind of servants are best for hotels?

The inn-experienced.

735. Why are giants like the god of marriage?

Because they are high men (Hymen).

736. What is the difference between a young man struggling to get on and a convicted thief?

One has to put his shoulder to the wheel, the other his feet.

737. Which is the most dangerous bat that flies in the air?

A brickbat.

738. Why is a flirtation like plate powder?

Because it brightens up spoons.

739. What kind of anchor does a drunken sailor like best?

An anker of brandy.

740. Why should a false friend never leave his house?

Because you might look in and "find him out."

741. When is a man hospitable and a cheat at the same time?

When he takes you in.

742. If I encounter a man wheeling earth, why am I like a weather-glass?

Because I am a barometer (barrow meeter).

743. What is that which flies high, flies low, has no feet, and yet wears shoes?

Dust.

744. How long did Cain hate his brother?

As long as he was Abel.

745. Why is an egg too lightly boiled like one boiled too much?

Because it is hardly done.

746. Which is the smallest bridge in the world?

The bridge of the nose.

747. What is that which has neither flesh nor bone, and yet has four fingers and a thumb?

A glove.

748. Why is the sun like a good loaf?

Because it's light when it rises.

749. Why is a butcher's cart like his stockings?

Because he carries his calves there.

750. What is the best way to keep the water out of your house?

Don't pay the water-rate.

751. What is the difference between a watchmaker and a jailer?

The one sells watches, the other watches cells.

752. What sort of a day would be a good one on which to run for a cup?

A muggy one.

753. If a man bumped his head against the top of a room what article of stationery would he be supplied with?

Ceiling whacks (sealing wax).

754. Why, in moving from a house, ought you to leave the washhand basins behind?

Because they are not ewers (yours).

755. What is the difference between a chatterbox and a looking-glass?

One speaks without reflecting, the other reflects without speaking.

756. What great Scotchman would you name if you heard a footman's summons at the door?

John Knox (John knocks!).

757. Why is a ladder like a prize fight?

Because it is made up of rounds.

758. Why are the bars of a convent like a blacksmith's apron?

Because they keep the sparks off.

759. Why is a young lady's "dress-improver" like an historical tale?

Because it's a fiction founded on fact.

760. Why is an omnibus on a wet day like a medical student?

Because it is crammed, and allowed to pass.

761. Why had Eve no fear of the measles?

Because she'd Adam (had'em).

762. Why are good women like ivy?

Because the greater the ruin the closer they cling.

763. Why is ivy like bad women?

Because the closer it clings the greater the ruin.

764. What is the difference between a tunnel and an ear-trumpet?

One is hollowed out and the other is holloaed in.

765. Why is a woman deformed when she is mending her stockings?

Because her hands are where her feet should be.

766. Why is a collier the most degraded of men?

Because he is compelled to undermine, to be beneath his fellow-men to get a livelihood, and the work of his hands is only fit to be burnt.

767. What tree bears the most fruit for the market?

The axle-tree.

768. Why is E the most unfortunate of letters?

Because it is never in cash, always in debt, and never out of danger.

769. Why would you be justified in picking the pockets of a vender of engravings?

Because he has pict-ures (picked yours).

770. Why should a poor man drink coffee?

Because he has no proper-ty (tea).

771. Why is an old coat like an iron kettle?

Because it represents hard-ware.

772. What is the difference between a lady and a postage stamp?

One is a female, the other a mail-fee.

773. Why is a festive Israelite like a witticism?

Because he is a Jeu d'esprit (Jew de spree).

774. Why is it of no use to employ a barefooted messenger?

Because he goes on a bootless errand.

775. When is a worn-out shoe like ancient Greece?

Because it once had a Solon (sole on).

776. If I were to bite off the end of your nose what would the magistrate compel me to do?

Keep the peace (piece).

777. If a mercenary lover were to ask a rich widow to marry, what flower would he name?

Any money? (anemone).

778. What is often the most fashionable cap in Paris?

A mob cap without a crown.

779. Why is a man lifting a side of bacon off a hook to be pitied?

Because he is a poor creature (pork reacher).

780. When is an original idea like a clock?

When it strikes one.

781. Why is a lucky gambler an agreeable fellow?

Because he has such winning ways.

782. Why is a public dinner like a fir-tree?

Because you may get a deal board (bored) from it.

783. Why didn't the last dove return to the ark?

Because she had sufficient ground for remaining.

784. When is an author like spirit?

When he's at proof.

785. Why are authors who treat of physiognomy like soldiers?

Because they write about face.

786. What is the difference between the Czar and a beggar?

One issues manifestoes; the other manifests toes without 'is shoes.

787. Why is a pig a regular paradox?

Because he is killed first and cured afterwards.

788. Why are opera dancers like parricides?

Because they execute their pas.

789. Why is a policeman like a rainbow?

Because he generally appears after the storm is over.

790. Why are some married men like candles?

Because they occasionally go out at night when they oughtn't to.

791. Why does a sparrow resemble india-rubber?

Because he is a gutter percher (gutta percha).

792. Why was the elephant the last animal in the ark?

Because he stayed behind to pack up his trunk.

793. Why does a stingy German like mutton better than venison?

Because he prefers "zat vich is sheep to zat vich is deer!"

794. Why are the Queen's poultry quarrelsome?

Because they are Vic's hens (vixens).

795. Why is a clock the most persevering thing in creation?

Because it is never more inclined to go on with its business than when it is completely wound up.

796. Why do architects make excellent actors?

Because they are good at drawing houses.

797. When does a physician order a lady to become a cannibal?

When he says she must eat a little, orphan (often).

798. When are ladies like belfries?

When they have a loud clapper in their upper story.

799. Why is a child with a cold in its head like a winter's night?

Because it blows it snows (its nose).

800. Why is a dressmaker a most deceptive woman?

Because she is not what she seams.

801. What's the most difficult thing to be cooked for a Christmas dinner?

A tailor's goose.

802. Why are poets like children's toys?

Because they are given to a (muse) and indulge in fancy (infancy).

803. What old bird is like a musical instrument?

A peahen of forty (pianoforte).

804. If the eyes and nose were to run a race which would win?

The eyes: for the nose would be blown while the eyes would run till they dropped.

805. Why should the "evil one" make a good husband?

Because the deuce can never be-tray!

806. Why are the complaints of married people like the noise of the waves on the shore?

Because they are the murmurs of the tied (tide).

807. Why is the owner of a wine cellar a person of great self-control?

Because, however fiery his spirits may be he always keeps them in a-basement.

808. Why is Blondin a great favourite with the public?

Because his performance is always encored (on cord).

809. Whom do children dislike the most?

The women that bore them.

810. Why should a quill-pen never be used for inditing secrets?

Because it is apt to split.

811. What scent would a lady prefer who was going to marry a gentleman named Richard?

Eau de Cologne (oh Dick alone).

812. Why is an eclipse like a man whipping his boy?

Because it's a hiding of the sun (son).

813. Why would a sixth sense become a bore?

Because it would be a new sense (nuisance).

814. When do sheep become stationery?

When they are turned into pens.

815. Why should a teetotaler not have a wife?

Because he cannot sup-porter.

816. When does a farmer act with great rudeness to his corn?

When he pulls its ears and threshes it.

817. When does a man shave himself with silver?

When he cuts off his heir with a shilling.

818. When is a lover like a tailor?

When he presses his suit.

819. What vegetable is anything but agreeable on board ship?

A leek (leak).

820. To what age do most girls wish to attain?

Marri-age.

821. Why are country girls' cheeks like a good cotton dress?

Because they are warranted to wash and keep their colour.

822. Why is a poor singer like a counterfeiter?

Because he is an utterer of bad notes.

823. What game of cards is most played by soldiers?

Hazard or picket.

824. Why are good husbands like dough?

Because women need (knead) them.

825. Je suis ce que je suis; je ne suis pas ce que je suis; si j'étais ce que je suis, je ne serais pas ce que je suis?

A footman.

826. How many peas are there in a pint?

One P.

827. Why is a man committing murder like a hen walking across the street?

Because it's a foul proceeding.

828. What islands ought to be good singers?

The Canaries.

829. What vegetable does a woman's tongue resemble?

The scarlet-runner.

830. Why are gymnastics like the tide at low water?

Because they develop the muscles (mussels).

831. Why is a room full of married folks like an empty one?

Because there's not a single person in it.

832. Why is it vulgar to send telegrams?

Because it is making use of flash language.

833. What is that which works whilst it plays, and plays whilst it works?

A fountain.

834. When is a lady's dress like an unfortunate bull-fighter?

When it is gored.

835. Where do starlings go in cherry-time?

They go to Peckham (peck 'em).

836. When is a lady like a poacher?

When she nets her hair (hare).

837. What difference is there between "The Cloth," the Stage, and the Army?

"The Cloth" is supposed to have "mores"; the Stage lessees; and the Army more or less ease.

838. When is a farmer's wife like the statue of the Duke of Wellington at the Royal Exchange?

When she is looking up the Poultry.

839. Why is a schoolmaster like a grindstone?

Because he sharpens other people's blades and gets worn out in the operation.

840. Why is an old man's farm in Texas like the focus of a sun-glass?

Because it's a place where the sons raise meat (sun's rays meet).

841. Why should a horse not be hungry on his journey?

Because he always has a bit in his mouth.

842. If Britannia were deformed, what public institution would she remind you of?

The National Gal-awry (Gallery).

843. Why is a dressmaker not likely to lose her hooks?

Because she has an eye to each of them.

844. Why was Rossini a very unnatural son?

Because he made a Stab-at Mater.

845. Why is an army like a newspaper?

Because it has leaders, columns, and reviews.

846. What is invisible blue?

A policeman when you want him.

847. Why are Government clerks like the fountains in Trafalgar Square?

Because they play from ten till four.

848. Why is chloroform like Mendelssohn or Rossini?

Because it is one of the greatest composers of modern times.

849. Why should doctors be less liable than others to be upset on the ocean?

Because they are more used to see sickness.

850. Why is gout like reciprocated love?

Because it's a joint affection.

851. Why should soldiers be rather tired on the 1st of April?

Because they have just had a march of thirty-one days.

852. Why is a miser's charity never to be interfered with?

Because what he gives is nothing to anybody.

853. When is a night-light like a tombstone?

When it is set up for a late husband.

854. Why is a black man out for a holiday like a bandy-legged man?

Because the negro's out (knee grows out).

855. Why is a policeman in a drunken crowd like one of the heathen gods?

Because he is struggling with the Titans (tight uns).

856. When is a pair of boots like a dying man?

When the soul is departing from the body.

857. Why should a pious person never call a patten a clog?

Because, instead of its being a "hindrance," it "elevates the soul" (sole).

858. Why is a bald-headed man like a greyhound?

Because he has to make a little hare go a great way.

859. When is a dog's tail like a toll-gate?

When it stops a waggin' (wagon).

860. Why does a good blow leave a blue mark?

Because blow in the perfect makes blue.

861. Out of what English river could you make bran?

The Usk.

862 What female name would an egg object to be called?

Addle-laid (Adelaide).

863. Why is there never such a thing as one whole day?

Because every day begins by breaking.

864. Why is a young lady dependent upon the letter Y?

Because without it she would be a "young lad."

865. What reason is there to believe that Othello was really a lawyer?

Because he was a tawny-general of Venice.

866. Add half a score to nothing, and what animal does it make?

O X (ox).

867. Why did Adam bite the apple Eve gave him?

Because he had no knife.

868. What shape is a kiss?

Elliptical (a lip tickle).

869. Why is a black woman like a doorway?

Because she is a negress (an egress).

870. Why do cabmen prefer tall ladies to short ones?

Because the higher the fare (fair) the better they like it.

871. What two flowers should decorate a menagerie?

A dandelion and a tiger-lily.

872. Why is a newly-married couple like a pair of sugar tongs?

Because they are two spoons joined.

873. Why was Noah the greatest financier on record?

Because he kept his Company (Limited) afloat when the rest of the world was in liquidation.

874. What did Adam and Eve do when they were expelled from Eden?

They "raised Cain."

875. Why are washerwomen foolish?

Because they set tubs to catch soft water when it rains hard.

876. What is the most dangerous kind of an assassin?

A man who takes life cheerfully.

877. Why is a barrister like a publican?

Because his business depends upon his standing at the bar.

878. Why is a melancholy young lady the most entertaining of all companions?

Because she is always a-musing.

879. Why is a thief called a jail bird?

Because he has been a robin (robbin').

880. What part of a clock reminds you of Christmas-eve?

The weights (waits).

881. When is a candle in a passion?

When it is put out or when it flares up.

882. What is always at the head of fashion, yet always out of date?

The letter F.

883. Why is a talkative young man like a young pig?

Because, if he lives, he is likely to become a great bore (boar).

884. Why may it be said that Dutchmen come into the world ready clothed?

Because they are born in Holland.

885. Why was the daughter of Herodias the fastest girl mentioned in Scripture?

Because she got a-head of John the Baptist on a charger.

886. Why are Cashmere shawls like deaf people?

Because you cannot make them here (hear).

887. When does a chair resemble a lady's dress?

When it is sat in.

888. Why are laundresses good navigators?

Because they are always crossing the line, and going from pole to pole.

889. Why did nurse object to take baby into papa's studio?

Because "them easels" (the measles) were about.

890. Why is an old bachelor always in the right?

Because he is never miss-taken.

891. Why are stout gentlemen subject to melancholy?

Because they are men of size (sighs).

892. Why is a washerwoman the most wonderful woman in the world?

Because she goes to bed worn out, and next morning gets up fine linen.

893. When is the wind of use to a country engaged in war?

When it blows great guns.

894. What is that which a cat has, but no other animal?

Kittens.

895. What is that which is full of holes, and yet holds water?

A sponge.

896. What is that which every man can divide, but which no man can see where it has been divided?

Water.

897. Why is a shoemaker like a true lover?

Because he is faithful to the last.

898. What's most like a cat's tail?

A kitten's tail.

899. Why is a door always in the subjunctive mood?

Because it's always would (wood) or should be.

900. What part of a fish weighs most?

The scales.

901. Why does a hen fly over the fence?

Because she can't go round it.

902. Why are balloons like vagrants?

Because they have no visible means of support

903. Why is winning the Derby like a limpet on its native rock?

Because it's hard to pull off.

904. Why should a clever wheelwright make a good barrister?

Because he is a good spokesman.

905. Which of your relatives are dependent upon you for a living?

Your uncles, aunts, and cousins, for without U they could not exist.

906. Why is a merry eye like one destroyed?

Because it is an eye elated (annihilated).

907. When is wine like a pig's tooth?

When it is in a hog's head.

908. When has a man four hands?

When he doubles his fists.

909. What is the key-note to good manners?

B natural.

910. What is the difference between a tube and a foolish Dutchman?

One is a hollow cylinder and the other a silly Hollander.

911. Why are a wife's complainings a good security for a man?

Because they are Home Rails.

912. Why is an oyster the greatest paradox in nature?

Because it has a beard without a chin,
And is pulled out of bed to be tucked in.

913. What kind of clothes did Adam and Eve wear in Paradise?

Bare-skin.

914. Why is a mahout, wher trampled on by his elephant, like a lobster?

Because he's a crush'd Asian (Crustacean).

915. Why is a waiter like a racehorse?

Because he runs for cups, and plates, and steaks (stakes).

916. What relation is the door-mat to the scraper?

A step farther (father).

917. When King Charles the First was beheaded off what dish did his executioner dine, and where?

He took a chop at the King's Head.

918. Had he his Majesty's permission to perform the operation?

He axed him whether he would or no.

919. If a disabled sailor goes into business why should he be a retailer?

Because he cannot be a whole sailor.

920. What professional men generally work with a will?

Lawyers.

921. Why is a sovereign gained like a guinea?

Because it is one pound won.

922. Why need a man never starve in the deserts of Arabia?

Because of the sand which is there.

923. What is the origin of the sand which is there?

Ham was sent there and his children bred (bread) and mustered (mustard).

924. Why should a fowl with only one wing and a fowl with two always disagree?

Because there is a difference of a pinion (opinion) between them.

925. What grows bigger the more you contract it?

Debt.

926. Why are birds melancholy in the morning?

Because their little bills are all overdue (dew).

927. When did Moses sleep five in a bed?

When he slept with his forefathers.

928. Why is a hungry man willing to be a martyr?

Because he is ready to go to the steak.

929. In what island would an easy-going bachelor choose to live?

In Ceylon; because he would be sure of finding Cingalese (single ease) there.

930. When is a fish out of its element?

When it rises and takes a fly.

931. Why is a fashionable young lady like a stingy old woman?

Because she makes a great bustle about a little waist.

932. What is that which, though black itself, enlightens the world?

Ink.

933. Why was Louis Napoleon like a very wet day?

Because he reigned (rained) as long as he could, and then he mizzled.

934. What are they which, though always drunk, are never intoxicated?

Toasts.

935. What is it that rises and falls, travels about and wears shoes out, but never had any shoes?

A football.

936. Why are lawyers uneasy sleepers?

Because they first lie on one side and then on the other, and remain wide awake all the time.

937. Why do policemen never catch the thieves they watch for?

Because they are waiting for marauders (more orders).

938. Why cannot a Bishop eat his own apron?

Because it goes against his stomach.

939. Why may we assume that a student is very hungry?

Because he "devours" books.

940. Why does a piebald pony never pay toll?

Because his master pays it for him.

941. Why is a madman equal to two men?

Because he is one beside himself.

942. What is the centre of gravity?

The letter V.

943. Why was Queen Elizabeth greater than Oliver Cromwell?

Because he was a won-(one)-der, but she was a Tu-(two)-dor.

944. When are we most likely to find the sky blue?

The nearer we go to the Milky Way.

945 What is the difference between a champion pedestrian and a doctor's watch timing a pulse?

One beats the record, and the other records the beat.

946. What is a good definition for a muff?

It is something or somebody that holds a lady's hand without squeezing it.

947. Why is every teacher of music necessarily a good teacher?

Because he is a sound instructor.

948. Why is a garotter under the lash like an Esquimaux?

Because he is disposed to whale (wail) and blubber.

949. Why is a tiresome orator like a whale?

Because he often rises to spout.

950. When does a hen peck the hardest?

When she's in her nest (earnest).

951. Why is it wrong to ship on board schooners?

Because no man should serve two-masters.

952. Why are blacksmiths the most discontented of mechanics?

Because they are always on the strike for wages.

953. Why are good resolutions like fainting ladies?

Because they should be promptly carried out.

954. What is the difference between a good soldier and a fashionable young lady?

One faces the powder and the other powders the face.

955. Why does a donkey eat thistles?

Because he's an ass.

956. What flowers are there between a lady's nose and chin?

Two-lips (Tulips).

957. Why is a lady-help like a child playing on the sands?

Because they are both infra dig (in for a dig).

958. What is the difference between the death of a barber and that of a sculptor?

One curls up and dyes and the other makes faces and busts.

959. What line of steamers has always music on board?

The P. and O. (pi-an-o).

960. What is the difference between a timid child and a shipwrecked sailor?

One clings to his ma and the other to his spar.

961. Why does a youth injure his stature by encouraging the growth of his whiskers?

Because he begins to grow down.

962. Why are young ladies the greatest prize-fighters in the world?

Because they are always open to enter the ring and make a match with any man twice their size.

963. Why is love like a canal-boat?

Because it is an internal transport.

964. Why is a wig like a lie?

Because it's a false hood.

965. Why are clouds like coachmen?

Because they hold the reins (rains).

966. What is the difference between the Prince of Wales and a football, when a player has had a throw in?

One is heir to the throne, the other is thrown to the air.

967. What were the colours of the wind and waves in the last storm at sea?

The wind blew (blue) and the waves rose.

968. Why is 'Arry taking out 'Arriet on a Bank Holiday like a poor chess player?

Because his "pieces" are soon gone.

969. Why is a handsome girl like a first-rate mirror?

Because she's a good looking lass (looking-glass).

970. What is that which a young lady looks for but does not wish to find?

A hole in her stocking.

971. Why is love like a novel?

Because it is a fiction (affection).

972. What is the difference between a deer fleeing from its pursuers and a decrepid witch?

One is a hunted stag the other a stunted hag.

973. What professional man generally shows his teeth to a customer?

A dentist.

974. Why does a scolding woman keep people at a distance?

Because she's always a railing.

975. When does a ship represent a young lady?

When she is on the breast of a heavy swell.

976. When does an ill-fitting pair of trousers remind you of two French ports?

When it is too loose and too long (Toulouse and Toulon).

977. Why is a situation without work like a good dinner eaten by an invalid?

Because it is a sign o' cure.

978. When does a farmer bend his sheep without hurting them?

When he folds them.

979. Why is a fender like Westminster Abbey?

Because it contains the ashes of the grate.

980. Why is last month like cricket?

Because it's a past time.

981. Why is a coachman an unprofitable member of a benefit society?

Because he's nearly always on the box.

982. What is the difference between a stockbroker and an electrified countryman at a fair?

One obtains stocks and shares, and the other gets shocks and stares.

983. Why would you expect an unwavering opinion from the citizens of Chester?

Because they are possessed of decided (Dee-sided) views.

984. In what sort of syllables ought a parrot to speak?

In poly-syllables.

985. Which is the best bird to represent a band and chorus?

The hawk-kestrel (orchestral).

986. What is the difference between a cloud and a whipped child?

One pours with rain, the other roars with pain.

987. Who dares to sit before the Queen with his hat on?

Her Majesty's coachman.

988. Why is an egg like a colt?

Because it is not fit for use until it is broken.

989. When is a soldier a very charitable person?

When he presents arms (alms).

990. Why is a naval outfitter a great bully?

Because he gives cuffs right and left to many a blue jacket.

991. Why is the earth like a school slate?

Because boys and girls multiply on the face of it.

992. What is the difference between a bankrupt and a feather-bed?

The one is "hard up," and the other soft down.

993. When was beef-tea first introduced into England?

When Henry VIII. dissolved the Pope's bull.

994. What is that which comes with a coach, goes with a coach, is of no use whatever to the coach, and yet the coach can't go without it?

Noise.

995. Why is a horse like the letter O?

Because gee (g) makes it go.

996. What is the difference between a cow and a rickety chair?

The one gives milk, and the other gives whey (way).

997. Why need France never fear an inundation?

Because, there, the water is always "l'eau" (low).

998. When is love a deformity?

When it is all on one side.

999. Why are bakers the most self-denying people?

Because they sell what they knead (need) themselves.

1000. When does a cow become landed property?

When she's turned into a meadow.

1001. Which animal travels with the most, and which with the least, luggage?

The elephant the most, because he never travels without his trunk. The fox and the cock the least, because they have only one brush and comb between them.

1002. What is the best way to make a coat last?

Make the waistcoat and trousers first.

1003. Cato and Chloe, combined well together,
Make a drink not amiss in very cold weather?

Chocolate.

1004. Why is a tallow-chandler like a villain exposed?

Because his wicked deeds are brought to light.

1005. Why cannot Prince Bismark insure his life?

Because no one is clever enough to make out his policy.

1006. What animals have only one leg between them?

A pair of posthorses, which have only the postilion's leg between them.

1007. What is a policeman's favourite oratorio?

"The Woman of Samaria" (some area).

1008. Why is a rosebud like a promissory note?

Because it matures by falling dew.

1009. Why is the house of a tidy wife like a motion to adjourn?

Because it is always in order.

1010. Why should a sailor be the best authority as to what goes on in the moon?

Because he has been to sea (see).

1011. What is that which no one wishes to have, yet no one cares to lose?

A bald head.

1012. What letter is the pleasantest to a deaf woman?

A, because it makes her hear.

1013. What is there apparent in a caustic speaker that fits him better than his opponents?

His attire (satire).

1014. Why is a clergyman of the Church of England the most untrustworthy of preachers?

Because he is never long accurate (a curate) if he can help it.

1015. What is the difference between a baby and a pair of boots?

One I was and the other I wear (were).

1016. Why is a caterpillar like a hot roll?

Because it's the grub that makes the butterfly.

1017. What proof have we that Moses wore a wig?

Because he was sometimes seen with Aaron (hair on) and sometimes without.

1018. Why were Bulwer Lytton and Dickens the most industrious of novelists?

Because Bulwer Lytton wrote "Night and Morning," and Dickens wrote "All the Year Round."

1019. If a church be on fire, why has the organ the smallest chance of escape?

Because the engine cannot play upon it.

1020. What is that which will give a cold, cure a cold, and pay the doctor's bill?

A draught (draft).

1021. Why is the county of Buckingham like a drover's goad?

Because it runs into Oxon and Herts (oxen and hurts).

1022. Why is a good institution like a well-fitting boot?

Because it is made "to last."

1023. What trees has fire no effect upon?

Ashes, as, when burned, they're ashes still.

1024. Why has man more hair than woman?

Because he's naturally her suitor (hirsuter)

1025. Why is prose at a discount in frosty weather?

Because everything is more or less in rime (rhyme).

1026. What is that which occurs twice in a moment, once in a minute, and not once in a thousand years?

The letter M.

1027. When the Queen is angry, what order of merit does she represent?

Victoria Cross.

1028. Which is the coldest seat in an omnibus?

The one nearest the pole.

1029. How many sticks go to the building of a crow's nest?

None; they are all carried to it.

1030. A man remarks, looking at a portrait, "Uncles and brothers have I none, but that man's father is my father's son." What relation is the original of the portrait to the speaker?

His son.

1031. Why is London Bridge like merit?

Because it is very often passed over.

1032. Why is a man who marries twice like the captain of a ship?

Because he has a second mate.

1033. When are eyes not eyes?

When the wind makes them water.

1034. Which is the best-behaved food, cake or wine?

Cake, which is only occasionally "tipsy," while wine is always drunk.

1035. What we all require, what we all give, what we occasionally ask for, yet very seldom take?

Advice.

1036. What is it that walks with its head downwards?

A nail in a shoe.

1037. Why is a lady's dishabille like a postman?

Because it's a morning wrapper.

1038 What is the best game for a Christmas party?

A haunch of venison.

1039. What goes most against a farmer's grain?

The reaping machine.

1040. What relation is that child to its own father who is not its own father's own son?

His daughter.

1041. What does a young lady do when she gets into church?

Looks out the hims (hymns).

1042. What beats a good wife?

A bad husband.

1043. What is the best thing out?

A conflagration.

1044. Name in two letters the destiny of all earthly things?

D K.

1045. Why was Goliath very much astonished when David hit him with a stone?

Because such a thing had never entered his head before.

1046. Why was the reptile that stung Cleopatra like the letter H?

Because it was an asp irate.

1047. Why is life the greatest of riddles?

Because we must all give it up.

1048. Why is a mouse like hay?

Because the cat'll (cattle) eat it.

1049. Why does a widow feel her bereavement less when she wears corsets?

Because she is so-laced.

1050. When does rain seem inclined to be studious?

When it's poring over a bookstall.

1051. Why is a chronometer like a thingum-bob?

Because it's a watch-you-may-call-it.

1052. Why are lobsters like many politicians?

Because they change colour when they get into hot water.

1053 Why is the letter D like a wedding-ring?

Because we cannot be wed without it.

1054. Which is the merriest letter in the alphabet?

U, because it is always in fun.

1055. Which dress lasts a lady the longest?

Her house dress, because she never wears it out.

1056. When is butter like Irish children?

When it is made into little pats.

1057. What does a stone become in the water?

Wet.

1058. Why are ladies bad grammarians?

Because very few of them are able to decline matrimony.

1059. Why is a lame dog like a schoolboy adding six and seven together?

Because he puts down three and carries one.

1060. When is a bar of iron like a bad note?

When it is forged.

1061. When are two kings like three miles?

When they make a league.

1062. When are true words also sweet?

When they are candid (candied).

1063. Why are fowls the most profitable of live stock?

Because for every grain they give a peck.

1064. Which is the heavier, the full or the new moon?

The new moon, because the full moon is a great deal lighter.

1065. Why is an alligator the most deceitful of animals?

Because he takes you in with an open countenance.

1066. Which of the constellations reminds you of an empty fireplace?

The Great Bear (grate bare).

1067. Why is the letter S like a sewing-machine?

Because it makes needles needless.

1068. Why are sailors bad horsemen?

Because they ride on the main (mane).

1069. Use me well, and I'm everybody; scratch my back, and I'm nobody?

A looking-glass.

1070. Why is buttermilk like something that never happened?

Because it hasn't a curd (occurred).

1071. Why is a barn-door fowl sitting on a gate like a half-penny?

Because it has "head" on one side and "tail" on the other.

1072. Why is a man searching for the philosopher's stone like Neptune?

Because he is a seeking (sea-king) what never was.

1073. Why is the nose placed in the middle of the face?

Because it's the scenter (centre).

1074. What is most like a hen stealing?

A cock robbin' (robin).

1075. Why should a cabman be brave?

Because none but the brave deserve the fair (fare).

1076. What letter made Queen Bess mind her P's and Q's?

R made her (Armada).

1077. Why is it an insult to a cock-sparrow to mistake him for a pheasant?

Because it is making game of him.

1078. What is it that, from which the whole may be taken, and yet some will remain?

The word wholesome.

1079. Why is blind-man's-buff like sympathy?

Because it is a fellow feeling for another.

1080. When does a "flat" seem unlike himself?

When he looks round.

1081. Why is it easy to break into an old man's house?

Because his gait (gate) is broken and his locks are few.

1082. Why should you not choose the 12.50 train to go to London by?

Because it's ten to one if you catch it.

1083. When does a steamboat captain say that he is what he is not?

When he says he's a bacca-stopper ("ease her, back her, stop her!")

1084. If your uncle's sister is not your aunt what relation is she to you?

Your mother.

1085. Why is a thief like a bolus given to a lady?

Because he's a pilferer (pill for her).

1086. Why does a duck put its head under water?

For divers reasons.

1087. Why does it take it out again?

For sun-dry reasons.

1088. What vegetable products are the most important in history?

Dates.

1089. What is an old lady in the middle of a river like?

Like to be drowned.

1090. Which side of a pitcher is the handle.

The outside.

1091. What is higher and handsomer when the head is off?

Your pillow.

1092. Why is a pig in a parlour like a house on fire?

Because the sooner it is put out the better.

1093. What is the best thing to make in a hurry?

Haste.

1094. What Queen Mary had before, poor thing! What King William had behind, poor thing! What Queen Anne never had at all, poor thing?

The letter M.

1095. If a row of houses were stripped by the wind what two historical personages would they name?

Wat Tyler—Will Rufus (What tiler will roof us?)

1096. If you saw an egg on a music-stool, what great poem would it remind you of?

"The Lay of the Last Minstrel."

1097. How would you make a thin man fat?

Throw him out of the window and he will come down plump.

1098. What is the difference between a young maid of sixteen and an old maid of sixty?

The one is happy and careless, the other is cappy and hairless.

1099. When was fruit known to use bad language?

When the first apple cursed the first pear (pair).

1100. If a man gets up on a donkey where should he get down?

From a swan's breast.

1101. Why were Adam and Eve a grammatical anomaly?

Because they were two relatives without an antecedent.

1102. Why are men like gooseberries?

Because women make fools of them.

1103. Why are oysters the best food for dyspeptic people?

Because they die just (digest) before they eat them.

1104. Why is the figure 9 like a peacock?

Because without a tail it is nothing.

1105. Why is wine spoilt by being converted into Negus?

Because you make a mull of it.

1106. Which are the most contented birds?

Rooks, because they never complain without caws.

1107. When does a beer barrel remind you of old-fashioned curtains?

When its tap is dry (tapistry).

1108. Why are birds in spring like a banking establishment?

Because they issue promissory notes, and rejoice when the branches are flourishing.

1109. What is that which you can keep after giving it to some one else?

Your word.

1110. What most effectually checks a fast man?

A bridal.

1111. When does a carver remind you of a fop?

When he parts his hair (hare) in the middle.

1112. Why is a ship's cable like a roadside berry?

Because it's a haw, sir (hawser).

1113. What soup would cannibals prefer?

"A Broth of a Boy."

1114. Why should you ride a mule if you want to get rich?

Because you are no sooner on than you are better off.

1115. When may the sea be compared to a laundress washing summer trousers at a tub?

When it makes clean breaches over a vessel.

1116. If a stupid fellow is going up for competitive examination, why should he study the letter P?

Because it can make an ass p-ass.

1117. Why do we know that Robinson Crusoe's island was not uninhabited?

Because he tells us there was a heavy swell upon the beach, and a little sandy cove running up the centre.

1118. Why is the final letter in Europe like a Parisian riot?

Because it's an E-mute (émeute).

1119. What is the greatest instance of cannibalism on record?

When a rash man ate a rasher.

1120. Why is a cracker like death?

Because it's a debt o' natur (detonator).

1121. Why are there fewer large trees in Scotland than there might be?

Because so many of the Scots "cut their sticks" when young.

1122. Give the three degrees of getting on in the world?

Get on, get honour, get honest.

1123. Why is your thumb, when putting on a glove, like eternity?

Because it's ever-last-in'.

1124. Why has the beast that carries the Queen of Siam's palanquin nothing whatever to do with the subject?

Because it's her elephant (irrelevant).

1125. Why are policemen seldom run over?

Because they are never in the way.

1126. Name a case in which the present time differs materially from the old?

Formerly there were hewers of wood and drawers of water; now we have drawers of wood and ewers of water.

1127. Why is an elephant's head different from every other head?

Because if you cut it off his body, you don't take it from the trunk.

1128. When is it difficult to get one's watch out of one's pocket?

When it's (s)ticking there.

1129. Why is a jeweller like a screeching florid singer?

Because he pierces the ears for the sake of ornament.

1130. What islands would form a cheerful luncheon party?

Friendly Society, a Sandwich, and Madeira.

1131. Tell us the best way to make the hours go fast?

Use the spur of the moment.

1132. Why is an aristocratic seminary for young ladies like a flower garden?

Because it's a place of haughty culture (horti-culture).

1133. What is the difference between a Roman Catholic priest and a Baptist Minister?

One uses wax candles, the other dips.

1134. What wind should a hungry sailor wish for?

One that blows fowl (foul) and chops about.

1135. What is that which we often return yet never borrow?

Thanks.

1136. Which are the lightest men—Scotsmen, Irishmen, or Englishmen?

In Ireland there are men of Cork; in Scotland, men of Ayr; but in England, on the Thames, they have lighter-men.

1137. Why is a spendthrift, with regard to his fortune, like the water in a filter?

Because he soon runs through it, and leaves many matters behind to settle.

1138. If you become surety for shady acquaintances, why are you like the most extraordinary ass that ever lived?

Because you act the part of a donkey to bail'em (Balaam).

1139. What tongue is it that frequently hurts and grieves you, and yet does not speak a word?

The tongue of your shoe.

1140. Why are there more marriages in winter than in summer?

Because then men seek comforters, and ladies seek muffs.

1141. Why is the root of the tongue like a dejected man?

Because it's down in the mouth.

1142. What sort of sympathy would you rather be without?

You don't want to be "pitted" by the small-pox.

1143. Why, in France, is an egg sufficient for a meal?

Because an egg is "un œuf"; and "enough is as good as a feast."

1144. Why *does* a man permit himself to be henpecked?

Because he's chicken-hearted.

1145. What is black and white and red (read) all over?

A newspaper.

1146. Who are the two largest ladies in the United States?

Miss Ouri and Mrs. Sippi (Missouri and Mississippi).

1147. Why is a drunkard hesitating to sign the pledge like a sceptical Hindoo?

Because he is in doubt whether to give up his jug or not (Juggernaut).

1148. What should a man's wife be like?

A lamb; young, playful, tender, nicely-dressed, and with—"mint" sauce.

1149. When is it a good thing to lose your temper?

When it's a bad one.

1150. What is the difference between a farmer and a seamstress?

One gathers what he sows, the other sews what she gathers.

1151. Why are ladies like bells?

Because you never find out their metal (mettle) till you give them a ring.

1152. In what tongue did Balaam's ass probably speak?

Most likely in he-bray-ic (Hebraic).

1153. Why should a physician keep his temper?

Because he'll lose his patients (patience) if he doesn't.

1154. Why is a horse an anomaly in the hunting-field?

Because the better tempered he is the easier he takes a-fence (offence).

1155. Why is a four-quart jug like a lady's side-saddle?

Because it holds a gall-on.

1156. Why is a gardener dissipated?

Because he's continually raking, and hoes (owes) a great deal.

1157. What is the difference between a milkmaid and a swallow?

One skims the milk, the other the water.

1158. What is the difference between a wealthy toper and a skilful miner?

One turns his gold into quarts, the other turns his quartz into gold.

1159. Why is it illegal to listen to a whisper?

Because it is a privateering (private hearing).

1160. Why may a beggar wear a very short coat?

Because it will be long enough before he gets another.

1161. Which has the hardest life of it, coffee or tea?

Tea, for while coffee can settle down, tea is compelled to draw.

1162. How is it you can never tell a lady's real hysterics from her sham ones?

Because, in either case, it's a feint (faint).

1163. What kind of a cravat would a hog be most likely to choose?

A pig's-tye, of course.

1164. Why will scooping out a turnip be a noisy process?

Because it makes it hollow (holloa).

1165. Why are artists like washerwomen?

Because they are not satisfied until their works are "hung on the line."

1166. Why was the Emperor Napoleon III. like a retired waiter?

Because he remembered Ham and when he cut it.

1167. What author would eye-glasses and spectacles mention to the world if they could only speak?

You see by us (Eusebius).

1168. Why is a blush an anomaly?

Because a woman who blushes is admired for her cheek.

1169. What is a young lady who refuses you?

Much too "no"-ing.

1170. Why do we speak of poetic fire?

Because, if the ancient Scandinavians had their "Scalds," we have also had our Burns.

1171. What is the difference between a hen and an idle musician?

One lays at pleasure, the other plays at leisure.

1172. Which is the coldest river?

The ice is (Isis).

1173. Why is a magnificent house like a book of anecdotes?

Because it is made up of good stories.

1174. When does a lady think her husband a Hercules?

When he can't get on without his "club."

1175. At what time was Adam married?

Upon his wedding Eve.

1176. Which of the four seasons is the most literary?

Autumn, for then the leaves are turned, and they are red (read).

1177. What's the difference between your last will and testament and a man who has eaten as much as he can?

One is signed and dated, the other dined and sated.

1178. Why are bishops like superannuated washerwomen?

Because they wear lawn dresses (were laundresses).

1179. Why is a pleasure-trip to Egypt fit only for very old gentlemen?

Because it's a see-Nile thing to do.

1180. When is a butcher a thorough thief?

When he steals a knife and cuts away with it.

1181. Why does a young lady prefer her mother's fortune to her father's?

Because, though she likes patrimony, she better likes matrimony.

1182. When was Napoleon I. most shabbily dressed?

When he was out at Elba (elbow).

1183. Why do girls kiss each other, and men not?

Because girls have nothing better to kiss and men have.

1184. When is a fish-kettle like a city omnibus?

When it's blocked-tin (blocked in).

1185. When is a young lady not a young lady?

When she's a sweet tart (sweetheart).

1186. Why is opening a letter like taking a very queer method of getting into a room?

Because it is breaking through the sealing (ceiling).

1187. Why is a comet more like a dog than the Dog Star?

Because it has a tail and the Dog Star hasn't!

1188. But why, all the same, does the advantage lie with the Dog Star?

Because, while the comet is a transitory affair, the Dog Star is a real sky(e) tarrier.

1189. How would you best protect a valuable "Turner" in the National Gallery?

Place a "Constable" on each side of it. (Then, if lost, you would at least have the satisfaction of knowing that the Constables were "hung.")

1190. When does a skipper going down channel begin his voyage just as he ends it?

When he "makes" the Start.

1191. Why has the "Dark Continent" no terrors for Mr Stanley?

Because he "makes light" of it.

1192. What part of a fish is like the end of a book?

Don't you know? Why, the

FIN-IS!

A guest's a riddle—since he has been asked;
A host's a riddle—since he can't be guest;
Also a poet, when his meaning's masked
So that you cannot guess where lies the jest,
And you're a riddle, when your friend is tasked
To guess what's up when you—don't look your best:
Pleasure and pain too—sweet and bitter cup—
Make Life a riddle—which we all give up.

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"Se non è Vero, è ben Trovato"

LONDON
GEORGE ROUTLEDGE AND SONS, LIMITED
BROADWAY, LUDGATE HILL
GLASGOW, MANCHESTER, AND NEW YORK
1890

"A jest's prosperity lies in the ear
Of him that hears it, never in the tongue
Of him that makes it."

SHAKSPERE.

JOE MILLER UP TO DATE.

Very Credulous.

A man was strolling along Fleet Street when he met a lawyer, whom he mistook for a casual acquaintance, and accosted him with, "Hallo! I believe your name's Smith!" "Well, if you believe that you'll believe anything!" coolly replied the other, passing on.

"Quite English, you know!"

An old lady, visiting Paris for the first time, was greatly annoyed at hearing herself repeatedly spoken of as a "foreigner." At last she could stand it no longer, so sharply turning round on the offenders, indignantly exclaimed, "You're quite mistaken—*you* are foreigners, *I'm* English!"

The less said the better.

During a storm at sea a reprobate sailor, in a frightful panic, was loudly praying to the Virgin. "Hang you, hold your noise!" cried a messmate; "if you remind her that *you're* aboard she'll send the ship to the bottom!"

He got what he'd paid for.

Truth is responsible for the following story. One night, when a new actress was to take the leading part in one of Sir

Arthur Sullivan's comic operas, the composer strolled into the back of the dress circle at about the time of her first entrance, and, as he was anxiously watching her, unconsciously hummed her part aloud. One or two indignant glances were cast around, without, however, having any effect on the absent-minded composer. At last a gentleman sitting near, angrily cried, "I have paid my money, sir, to hear Sir Arthur Sullivan's music, not yours!"

He didn't mean it, after all.

A certain venerable bishop, who prided himself on his dignity, was having his portrait painted by an eminent artist. After sitting in silence for about an hour, his lordship thought he would like to break the monotony with a remark. So he said to the artist, "How are you getting on?" To the astonishment of the sitter, the painter, absorbed in his work, replied, "Move your head a little that way, and shut your mouth!" Not being used to be spoken to in this fashion, the bishop said, "May I ask why you address me in this manner?" Still absorbed, the artist replied, "I want to take off a little of your cheek!" The bishop didn't "ask another."

A Terrible "Blow."

The world has now well nigh forgotten M. Vivier, the once famous French horn player, who was so unnerved by a certain lord blowing his nose at a critical moment of his performance that he threw up all his London engagements. "Ah," he would say after this, "the English have terrible noses; they remind you of the Day of Judgment."

"Speak to the Porter."

This same Vivier was a practical joker of the deepest dye. One day, walking through Paris, he passed a house, at the entrance of which the usual notice, "*Parlez au Concierge*,"

was displayed. He rang the bell, and in due course the porter, a bright little Frenchman, and a very favourable specimen of his class, appeared. After wishing him good day Vivier proceeded to "draw him out," and plied him with an interminable string of questions. He asked about his health, his condition, his wife, his son, his pretty daughter ("of course she is pretty, Monsieur?"), her *fiancé* ("of course she has a *fiancé?*"), the son's prospects, the *fiancé's* prospects, his own prospects, his opinion of the Government, etc., etc.—till at last the old gentleman, in answer to some absurdly irrelevant inquiry, remarked, "Monsieur is very kind, but might one be pardoned for asking in turn the reason of all these questions?" "Oh certainly. Nothing more simple. I see written up 'Speak to the Porter,' and I do so!"

Just so!

A few seasons ago, when one of Mr. S. J. Solomon's most striking pictures was exhibited at Burlington House, there happened to be a greater display than usual of the inanities of certain academicians who shall be nameless. "Yet Solomon in all his glory," mused an admirer of the young painter, "is not R.A.'d like one of these!"

Sorry he Spoke.

Abernethy, while canvassing for the office of surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, called upon a rich grocer. "I suppose, sir," said the grocer, with much importance, "you want my vote and interest at this momentous epoch of your life?" "No, I don't," said Abernethy, "I want a pennyworth of figs: come, look sharp and wrap them up, for I want to be off."

"Fred."

A century and a half or so ago the then reigning family were

not popular in England. On the death of a certain royal prince the following epitaph was suggested :—

"Here lies Fred,
Who was alive and is dead;
Were it his father
I had much rather;
Had it been his brother,
Better than another;
If it were his sister
None would have missed her;
But since it is Fred,
Who was alive and is dead,
No more need be said."

One too many for her.

An old lady was one day walking through the streets of London when the tray of a butcher's boy came in contact with her, and soiled her dress. "The deuce take the tray," exclaimed the old lady, angrily. "*Ah, but the deuce can't take the tray*," replied the boy.

One way of putting it.

When Mr. Whistler ceased to be president of the Society of British Artists, his withdrawal was followed by that of a number of members known, more or less, for the cleverness and unconventionality of their work. "The 'Artists' gone, the 'British' remaining," is said to have been the ex-president's characteristic comment.

A Dangerous Prescription.

When the celebrated Beau Nash was ill Dr. Cheyne wrote a prescription for him. The next day the doctor coming to see his patient, inquired if he had followed his prescription. "No, truly, doctor," said Nash; "if I had, I should have broken my neck, for I threw it out of the bedroom window."

The Worst "'Ism."

A certain zealous preacher happened to miss a constant auditor from his congregation. Schism had already made some depredations in the fold, which caused the minister some anxiety. "What keeps our friend farmer B—— away from us?" he asked his clerk. "I have not seen him these three weeks; I hope it is not Socinianism that keeps him away." "No, sir," replied the clerk, "it is something worse than that." "Worse than Socinianism? God forbid it should be Deism!" "No, sir, it is something worse than that." "I trust it is not Atheism?" "No, sir, it is something worse than that." "Worse than Atheism!" "Yes, sir, it is *Rheumatism!*"

"No sich Person."

It was *Mr. Punch*, it seems, and not the wits of the Stock Exchange, who originated the joke about there being no Emin Pasha. It appeared in this form, December 21, 1889:—

"A Mythical Person: Emin Pasha.—Why this fuss about a man who does not exist? There's no M in 'Pasha.'"

"Of Two Evils——."

"Of all the plagues by authors curst,"
Said Morton, "sure the very worst
Is, to the assembled mimic crowd
One's last new farce to read aloud."
"That may be bad," sly Buckstone said,
"But worse to sit and hear it read!"

Hard Times.

Hard times have even reached the millionaires. "I don't suppose you know what hard times are," said a man to one of the house-servants of a wealthy Baroness in Paris. "Oh, yes, we do, for it was only this morning that I saw the Baroness and her daughter *playing on one pianner.*"

Incorrigible.

On the first night of one of the late H. J. Byron's dramas, the author and a friend were seated in the boxes. There was a long "wait" after the second act. The audience were getting impatient, and the author's friend anxious and uneasy; but the author himself remained provokingly cool. At last a harsh sawing noise was heard behind the curtain. The nervous friend could stand it no longer. "Good gracious, Byron," he cried, "whatever is *that?*" "Don't know, I'm sure," quietly drawled Byron, "*perhaps they're cutting out the third act!*"

How did he feel?

A famous London wit one day went out shooting, but made no bag. Knowing that he would be "roasted" by his friends on his return, and thinking to improve the joke, he asked a farmer-like man, whom he saw leaning on the gate of a poultry-yard, how much he would take to allow him to take a shot, with both barrels, at the fowls, and carry off all he killed. The man named half-a-sovereign, but as the "sportsman" could only scrape together seven-and-sixpence, the man, after some haggling, agreed to take it. "Mind, both barrels," said the wit, "and I'm to have all I kill." "All right," replied the man, pocketing the coin, "fire away!" Bang, bang!—a great cackling and fluttering, and half a dozen fine Dorkings are knocked over. "I don't think you've got much out of that," said the wit, when he'd bagged his game, and was turning to go. "Oh, it's nothing to me!" coolly replied the rustic, "*they're not mine!*"

Ready for him.

A humorous man being subpœnaed as a witness on a trial for an assault, one of the counsel, who was notorious for brow-beating, asked him what distance he was from the parties

when the assault happened. "Just four feet five inches and a half," was the reply. "How came you to be so very exact?" sneered the counsel. "Because I expected some fool or other would ask me," said he, "so I measured it."

A Disqualification.

During a dinner at the house of a literary celebrity, Dean Swift became the subject of conversation, and when the ladies had retired, one of them asked, "Who is this Dr. Swift? Can I ask him to my parties?" "Hardly so." "Why not?" "Because he did a thing some years since which effectually prevented his ever again appearing in society." "What was that?" "Why, about a hundred years ago he died."

English as she is spoke.

As a train was "slowing" into a station, a passenger, wishing to warn a Frenchman, who was sitting very close to the window, cried "Look out!" upon which the Frenchman thrust out his head and got a nasty knock. "Ze stupid Englishman!" exclaimed he, "he zay, '*look out*,' ven he vants to zay, 'look in!'"

Open to All.

In the case of an oppressive lawsuit by a rich suitor against a poor one, the counsel for the former argued that "the law was open to everybody." "Well, yes, brother," exclaimed the judge, "and so is the London Tavern!"

"If he'd only have thought of it!"

"Never was more put out in all my life than I was yesterday," remarked Hughes at his club the other day. "Just fancy! I returned home rather late, lit the gas, and was about to retire for the night, when I took a notion to smoke a cigarette. Hunted high and low, but not a sign of a match could I find.

In a rage I put out the light and went to bed." "But why didn't you light your cigarette by the gas?" said some one. "Great goodness," cried Hughes in comical despair, "if I'd only thought of it!"

The Prophet was Right.

The other day a lady, accompanied by her son, a very small boy, got on to a train at an American railway station. The woman had a careworn expression hanging over her face like a tattered veil, and many of the rapid questions asked by the boy were answered by unconscious sighs.

"Ma," said the boy, "that man's like a baby; ain't he?" pointing to a bald-headed man sitting just in front of them.

"Hush."

"Why must I hush?"

After a few moments' silence: "Ma, what's the matter with that man's head?"

"Hush, I tell you. He's bald."

"What's bald?"

"His head hasn't got any hair on it."

"Did it come off?"

"I guess so."

"Will mine come off?"

"Some day, perhaps."

"Then I shall be bald, shan't I?"

"Yes."

"Will you care?"

"Don't ask me so many questions."

After another silence the boy exclaimed: "Ma, look at the fly on the man's head."

"If you don't hush, I'll whip you when we get home."

"Look! There's another fly. Look at 'em fight; look at 'em!"

"Madam," said the man, putting aside a newspaper and looking round, "what's the matter with the young hyæna?"

The woman blushed, stammered out something, and attempted to smooth back the boy's hair.

"One fly, two flies, three flies," said the boy innocently, following with his eyes a basket of oranges carried by the newsboy.

"Here, you young hedgehog," said the bald-headed man. "If you don't hush I'll get the conductor to put you off the train."

The poor woman, not knowing what else to do, boxed the boy's ears, and then gave him an orange to keep him from crying.

"Ma, have I got red marks on my head?"

"I'll slap you again if you don't keep quiet."

"Mister," said the boy, after a short silence, "does it hurt to be bald-headed?"

"Youngster," said the man, "if you'll keep quiet I'll give you a quarter."

The boy promised, and the money was paid over.

The man took up his paper and resumed his reading.

"This is my bald-headed money," said the boy. "When I get bald-headed I'm going to give boys money. Mister, have all bald-headed men got money?"

The annoyed man threw down his paper, arose and exclaimed: "Madam, hereafter, when you travel, leave that young gorilla at home. Hitherto I had always thought that the old prophet was very cruel for calling the she-bears to kill the children who made game of him, but now I am forced to believe that he did a Christian act. If your boy had been in the crowd he would have died first. If I can't find another seat on this train I'll ride on the cow-catcher rather than stay here."

"The bald-headed man is gone!" said the boy, and the woman leaned back and blew a tired sigh from her lips.

Neatly "Done."

"I will bet you a bottle of wine that you shall descend from that chair before I ask you twice." "Done." "Come down." "I will not." "Then stop till I ask you a second time." But he came down, and the other fellow won.

Exactly!

"Waiter!" "Yes, sir." "What's this?" "It's bean soup, sir." "No matter what it's been, the question is, what is it now?"

Oh the Brute!

A certain favourite American actress was reported to have said, *àpropos* of marriage, that, as for herself, she was wedded to Art. On which one of those horrid newspaper men thought proper to remark, "Then Mary is to be congratulated, as Art neither snores nor has cold feet!"

Stale Killed.

He had had no sport, but the village poulterer's lay on his way home. Absolute freshness is not a *sine quâ non* with a hare—a fact which the sportsman overlooked. "It was certainly high time, my dear," remarked his wife, "that this hare was shot!"

Cause and Effect.

A person complaining at a tavern of the smallness of the chops, a wag observed, "Probably the sheep were fed on short commons."

The Poor Author!

The great Ducrow, of equestrian fame, was a shrewd, clever man of business, quite guiltless of "book learning," and was noted for "the judicious use of the pruning-knife." "Cut out

the *dialect* and get to the 'osses!" was his cry at rehearsal when the "talkee talkee" seemed to delay the action of the piece.

He didn't See It.

Ducrow looked to everything himself, and was "all over the place." One day he strolled into the orchestra when the big drum happened to have nothing to do. "Now then, sir, why aren't you playing?" cried he. "I've twelve bars rest, sir!" explained the man, pointing to his score. "Rest, you beggar!" roared Ducrow, "What do you mean by rest?—I pay you to *play*, not to *rest!*"

A Bit Ahead of Him.

A boy, selling newspapers at a railway station, one Saturday evening was calling out, "To-day's *Times*, gentlemen," upon which a passenger remarked, "What's the use of *to-day's Times?* I'll give you a shilling for *to-morrow's!*" when the boy immediately handed him the *Sunday Times*, and took the shilling.

"Goody."

About the same time that Dr. Goodall was made Provost of Eton he was also made a canon of Windsor. A young lady, while congratulating him, and requesting him to give a ball on his elevation, happened to touch his wig with her fan, causing the powder to fly about, upon which the doctor exclaimed, "My dear, you see you can get the powder out of the canon, but not the ball."

Flying Kites.

Plunkett perpetrated a good joke about "kite-flying." He used to say there was this difference between boys' kites and men's kites—that with boys the wind raised the kites, but with men the kites raised the wind.

If You Please.

At a wedding recently, when the officiating priest put the question, "Wilt thou have this man to be thy wedded husband?" she dropped the prettiest curtsey, and, with additional grace, replied, "If you please."

A Spare Diet.

At a recent exhibition of paintings, a lady and her son were regarding with much interest a picture which the catalogue designated as "Luther at the Diet of Worms." The lady having descanted at some length upon its merits, the boy remarked, "Mother, I see Luther and the table, but where are the worms?"

Imperfect Information.

A poet says: "Oh! she was fair! but sorrow came and left his traces there." He doesn't state what became of the rest of the harness.

"He's not look ver good."

A Frenchman, near the Canada line in Vermont, sold a horse to a Yankee neighbour. To every inquiry of the buyer respecting the qualities of the horse, the Frenchman gave a favourable reply; but always commenced his commendation with the deprecatory remark, "He's not look ver good." The Yankee, caring little for the looks of the horse, of which he could judge for himself, and being fully persuaded that the beast was worth the moderate sum asked for him, made his purchase, and took him. A few days afterwards he returned to the seller, and declared that he had been cheated in the quality of the horse. "Vat is de mattaire?" said the Frenchman. "Matter!" said the Yankee; "matter enough—the horse can't see! He is as blind as a bat!" "Ah!" said the Frenchman, "vat I vas tell you? I vas tell you he vas not look ver good—be gar! I don't know if he look at all!"

He Deserved to Win.

A farmer, finding a dozen idlers stretched out on the ground, offered a shilling to the laziest one of the lot. Eleven jumped up and claimed the reward, each asserting himself to be the laziest. The shilling, however, was given to the twelfth, who had slothfully kept his position.

"Sign!"

"Sire, one word," said a soldier one day to Frederick the Great, when presenting to him a request for the brevet of lieutenant. "If you say two," answered the king, "I will have you hanged." "Sign," replied the soldier. The king stared, whistled, and signed.

In Extremis.

"Mother, send me for the doctor." "Why, my son?" "'Cause that man in the parlour is going to die; he said he should if sister Jane would not marry him, and Jane said she wouldn't."

More like it.

A certain barrister, who was remarkable for coming into court with dirty hands, observed that he had been turning over Coke. "I should have thought that it was coals he had been turning over," observed a wag.

Two Different Things.

A counsel being questioned by a judge to know "for whom he was concerned," replied, "I am *concerned*, my lord, for the plaintiff, but I am employed by the defendant."

Very Obliging.

A cockney took two ladies to an observatory to witness an eclipse. They were too late; the eclipse was over, and the

ladies were disappointed. "Never mind!" exclaimed our hero, "I know the astronomer very well; he is a decent fellow, and I'm sure, to oblige me, will begin again."

One Thing or the Other.

At a concert in a town that shall be nameless, a gentleman rose up just as the third piece had been performed, and said: "Mr. Conductor, will you oblige me by requesting the vocalists either to sing louder or to sing in whispers, as there is a conversation going on here, which is conducted in so loud a tone as to entirely hinder my enjoyment of the music. I prefer, certainly, to hear the latter; but, if I cannot do that, I should like to hear the conversation." There was no more talking that night.

Just the Other Way about.

A short man became attached to a tall woman, and somebody said that he had fallen in love with her. "Do you call it *falling* in love?" said the suitor; "it's more like *climbing up to it!*"

Notice of Motion.

The railway whistle.

Casualties.

A Western editor apoiogizes to his readers somewhat after this fashion:—"We expected to have a death and a marriage to publish this week, but a violent storm prevented the wedding, and the doctor being taken sick himself the patient recovered, and we are accordingly cheated out of both."

He'd like to See Him.

"I say, Higgins," said a fellow to that aspiring, but unappreciated tragedian, "I met a rich old gentleman in the City who

declared he would give a hundred pounds to see you perform Hamlet." "You don't say so?" "Fact, I assure you; and, what's more, I'm positively sure he meant it." "By Jove, then, it's a bargain, I'll play it for my benefit. But who is he?" "Ah, to be sure, I didn't tell you. Well, he's a blind man." Higgins never spoke to the wretch again.

What came up.

A Kentish farmer, in his old age, moved into the town to enjoy it, but his old love clung to him, and he indulged in a small way in gardening pursuits. Visiting his friends in the country, and relating his experience in town farming, he said: "I put outside my window a large box, filled it with mould, and sowed it with seed. What do you think came up?" "Wheat, barley, or oats?" "No; a policeman, who ordered me to remove it."

Poor Letter H!

"It is not the 'unting that 'urts a 'orse," said a philosophic ostler, "it's the 'ard 'ighway; it's the 'ammer, 'ammer, 'ammer over a 'ard 'ighway; it 'urts 'is 'ooves. When you are not going to 'unt, 'ire a 'ack, and 'ammer along with 'im."

Condimental.

Douglas Jerrold once went to a party at which a Mr. Pepper had assembled all his friends, and, on entering the room, said to his host, "My dear Mr. *Pepper*, how glad you must be to see all your friends *mustered*."

A Singular Exception.

The curate overheard the schoolmaster giving lessons in grammar. "You cannot place *a*, the singular article," said the preceptor, "before plural nouns. No one can say *a* pigs, *a*

women, *a* ——." "Nonsense," cried the curate, "the Prayer-book knows better than you, I should think, or it wouldn't teach me to say *a*-men."

A Long Sight.

Two sparks from London, while enjoying themselves among the heather in Argyleshire, came upon a decent-looking shepherd reading on the top of a hill, and thus accosted him: "You have a fine view here; you can see a great way?" "Ou ay, ou ay! a ferry great way." "Ah! you will see America from here!" "Farrer than that," said Donald. "Ah! how's that?" "Ou, just wait till the mist gangs awa, an' you'll see the mune."

English under Difficulties.

A foreigner's difficulty in acquiring our language is well illustrated by the following question:—"Did you ever see a person *pare* an apple or a *pear* with a *pair* of scissors?"

Two Ways of Doing It.

"There's two ways of doing it," said Pat to himself, as he stood musing and waiting for a job. "If I save me two thousand pounds, I must lay up one hundred pounds a year for twenty years, or I can put away twenty pounds a year for one hundred years—now which shall I do?"

Quite Safe!

An awkward man, attempting to carve a goose, dropped it on the floor. "There now!" exclaimed his wife, "we've lost our dinner." "Oh no, my dear!" answered he, "it's quite safe, I *have my foot on it!*"

How to take it.

A schoolboy being asked by the teacher how he should flog him, replied, "If you please, sir, I should like to have it upon the Italian system—the heavy strokes upwards, and the down ones light."

Very Thin.

"I have just met your old acquaintance, Daly," said an Irishman to his friend, "and was sorry to see he has almost shrunk away to nothing. You are thin, and I am thin, but he is thinner than the two of us put together."

Taking her Part.

"That was very greedy of you, Tommy, to eat your little sister's share of cake!" "You told me, Ma, I was always to take her part," said Tommy.

Quite So!

Tailors are always remarkable for keeping the peace. They may quarrel over their cloth, but give them an order for a coat, and they will make it up directly.

A Good Reason.

An author, complaining of the injustice of the press in condemning his new tragedy, said, the censures were unjust, for the audience did not hiss it. "No," replied the friend, "*how could they yawn and hiss together?*"

The Proper Place for it.

A lady asked Dr. Johnson's opinion of a work she had written, adding that she "had other irons in the fire." After glancing over a page or two the Doctor returned her the MS., saying, "that she had better put it where her other irons were."

"'Twill Serve."

A half-famished fellow from the South tells of a baker (whose loaves had been growing "small by degrees and beautifully less") who, when going his rounds, knocked at the door of one of his customers, when the lady within exclaimed, "Who's there?" "The baker." "What do you want?" "To leave your bread." "Well, you needn't make such a fuss about it —put it through the keyhole."—*American Paper.*

All's Well.

Subscriber to Editor: "I don't want your paper any longer." Editor to Subscriber: "I wouldn't make it any longer if you did. Its present length suits me very well."

Quantum Suff.

A Scottish laird, on market day in a certain town, entered a tavern with a friend and called for some whisky. The waiter, when he set it down, asked if they wished to take water with the spirit. "Na," said the laird; "had ye no better try to tak' out the water that's in't already?"

A Black "Nigger."

A little boy one day ran to his father, and said, "O father! I've just seen the blackest nigger that ever was!" "How black was he, my son?" "Oh, he was as black as black can be; why, father, charcoal would make a *white* mark on him!"

Quite Unnecessary.

At a duel the combatants discharged their pistols without effect, whereupon one of the seconds interfered and proposed that the duellists should shake hands. "Quite needless," remarked the other second; "their hands have been shaking this half-hour."

"After you, Sir."

An astrologer having predicted the death of a woman with whom Louis XI. (of France) was in love, which prediction chance had been kind enough to verify, the king sent for him, and sternly asked him, "You, sir, who foretell everything, pray when will *you* die?" "Three days before your Majesty." And then the king changed his mind.

"Storied Urns." (A Forecast.)

When cremation is a fact, and the Coming Race preserves its relatives in Doulton ware, we may expect something like this:—Friend (gazing at mantelpiece): "Those are two very handsome vases, Jones; but they're not a pair—seem to want a third." Jones: "Yes, that's just it. The big one is poor old Uncle Ben, and the small one is his first wife; Aunt Maria; but his second wife, Aunt Jane, left herself to my brother Harry. Awful nuisance—*spoils the set!*"

"Peace!"

An American dramatist, observing to a friend the thinness of the house during the performance of one of his plays, supposed it was owing to the war. "No," replied the wag, "I should judge it was owing to the piece."

After the Scene.

"Papa, was Solomon a wise man?" "Yes, my boy." "Then why did he have 600 wives?" "Ask me another."

Severe.

It was a very fashionable church, and they were building a new spire to it. Somebody asked a certain divine how much higher it was to be carried. "Not much," was the reply; "they don't own very far *in that direction.*"

The Right Cue.

Theodore Hook, in the supposed character of a Gower Street undergraduate, says: "One problem was given me to work, which I did in a twinkling. Given C A B to find Q. *Answer:* Take your C A B through Hammersmith, turn to the left, just before you come to Brentford, and Kew is right before you."

Curious Weather.

A traveller at a Pennsylvanian hotel got out of his bed one night to see what sort of weather it was, but instead of looking out upon the sky, thrust his head through the glass window of a cupboard. "Landlord," shouted the guest, "what sort of weather do you call this? the night is as dark as Egypt, and *smells of cheese.*"

A Slip.

Clergyman (to drunken man who has fallen down on the frozen pavement): "The wicked stand on slippery places." Tight'un (picking himself up): "Do they? it's more than I can do."

Literal.

Sentry (to lieutenant in uniform): "Halt! who goes there?" Superior, but supercilious, officer: "Ass!" Sentry: "Advance, Ass, and give the countersign."

Inside and Outside.

"Did the patient drink much, and what was the liquor he indulged in?" inquired the doctor. Brandy and water was his weakness, confessed the patient, and he generally took from six to twelve glasses per diem, which he had done for many years. "Good Heavens!" cried the doctor, "I wonder you have any coat left to your stomach!" "Ah, doctor, my friends wonder that I have any coat left to my back."

Self-made.

An admirer of a certain statesman, now no more, said to one of his Radical opponents: "You ought to give him credit. He is a self-made man." "Yes," replied the other, "and he *adores his maker.*"

A Lasting Wrong.

"That woman did me the greatest injury woman can do man—gave me a solemn promise of marriage." "And broke it?" "No, kept it, and made me keep it too."

One for the Doctor.

A paviour asked a famous doctor to pay him his bill. The doctor objected that he had spoiled the pavement, and then covered it with earth to hide his bad work. "Doctor," retorted the man, "mine is not the only bad work that the earth hides."

Having His Joke.

A gentleman called one evening at the stage door of the theatre to see Suett the comedian. Suett not being in the house, the gentleman—to whom the actor's person was unknown—resolved to wait. Presently the actor came in, drenched with rain. "Pray, sir," said the gentleman, "are you Suett?" "Egad," was the reply, "I rather think I'm *dripping.*"

"The Stage Waits."

"Now, children," said a teacher, "I want you to be very still, so that you can hear a pin drop." In a moment all was silent, when a little boy cried out: "Let it drop!"

Served Him Right.

Mr. Pomposity (whose wife has stolen up behind and kissed

him): "Madam, I consider such an act indecorous." Wife of his bosom: "Excuse me, sir, I didn't know it was you."

Wishing Him a Long Life.

Sir Walter Scott once met a street beggar, who bothered him for sixpence. Not having one, Sir Walter gave him a shilling, saying, "Now, remember, you owe me sixpence." "Och, sure enough," replied Paddy, "and God grant your honour may live till I pay you!"

Prepared for the Consequences.

It is said, that during the early married life of Queen Victoria, the little Princess Royal fell into the habit of addressing the Court physician as "Clark," just as she had heard her parents do, who reproved her for this familiarity, and bade her say "Dr." Clark in future, on pain of being sent summarily off to bed. So the next time the physician called, "Vicky" greeted him with, "Good *morning*, Clark—and good *night*, Clark, for I'm going to bed now!"

Author and Publisher.

"Andrew Millar sends his compliments to Mr. Johnson, with the money for the last sheet of the Dictionary, and thanks God he has done with him."—"Sam'l. Johnson returns his compliments to Mr. Andrew Millar, and is very glad to find that Andrew Millar has the grace to *thank God for anything*."

Lawyer and Client.

"Why don't you pay me that six and eightpence, Mr. Mulrooney?" "Why, faith, because I do not owe it to you." "Not owe it to me? yes, you do; it's for the opinion you had of me." "That's a good 'un, indeed, when I never had any opinion of you in all my life."

Seediness.

"I thought you liked seedy cake, Jack." "Yes, mother; but this is such a very seedy cake!"

Ready to Hand.

When Sydney Smith was told that St. Paul's churchyard was to be paved with wooden blocks, his answer was that he thought there would be no difficulty in the matter if the Dean and Chapter were to put their heads together.

More Ways than One.

Little Pickle: "Won't you take me to the toboggan slide with you some day, Mr. Brown?" Visitor: "I never go to a toboggan slide, Bobby; never even saw one." Little Pickle: "That's strange; I heard Pa say something about your going down-hill at a furious rate."

"Let go the Painter."

There are painters and painters. There is the well-known common house-painter; some R.A.'s are painters, and so are some ship-ropes. It was unlucky, to say the least of it, that when the green hand, who had only come aboard the day before, was ordered to "let go the painter," a harmless, necessary craftsman of that ilk, absorbed in his work, should happen to be suspended at the stern of the ship.

Sold.

In one of H. J. Byron's comedies, a lawyer, despatching a bibulous old clerk on an errand, remarks, rattling his keys in his pocket, "Let's see—you pass a public-house, I think?" Clerk (eagerly): "Yes, yes, sir!" Lawyer (drily): "Then *pass* it!"

The Voice of the Spring.

Somebody tells a story of how he was walking beside a railway line with a man who was very hard of hearing. A train was approaching, and as it rounded the curve the whistle gave one of those ear-destroying shrieks which seems to pierce high heaven. A smile broke over the deaf man's face. "That is the first robin," said he, "that I have heard this spring."

Scientific.

At a regatta. She: "What's the matter on the judge's stand, George?" He: "There is some dispute over the last heat." She: "Aren't their thermometers all alike, George?"

Mixed Again!

"Halloa, Tomkins, what's the matter?" "Why, you see, they've got twins at my sister's. One of 'em's a boy and one of 'em's a girl, and blessed if that doesn't make me an uncle and an aunt at the same time!"

The Complete Angler.

She had refused to sing, and Fitz-Jones was a little put out about it. "I really believe," said he, "that you are fishing for compliments." "No, sir," replied she; "I never fish in so shallow a stream."

Much about the Same.

Sydney Smith, one day, seeing a child stroke a tortoise, asked why he did it? "To please him, sir," was the reply. "Why, my dear," exclaimed the reverend wit, "you might as well stroke the dome of St. Paul's to please the Dean and Chapter!"

A Blessing in Disguise.

A man, whose previous record would not bear too much looking into, was charged with some trivial offence. The case broke down. "Mr. C——," remarked the learned judge, "leaves the court without a stain on his character!" "I say, C——," observed a blessed good-natured friend, "wasn't it precious lucky you *went in!*"

He Knew His Alphabet.

Macready, the actor, was dreadfully particular as to the correctness of the "properties." Knowing this, a man, at a provincial theatre where the great actor was to appear in one of Shakespeare's Roman plays, happened to come across a banner, which bore the device "S. P. Q. R." "Confound it!" thought he, "that's all wrong, this will never do—it's 'P. Q. R. S.' all the world over;" and "put it right" accordingly. When night came, and the noble Roman met the procession, he gave one glance at the banner in front, and fled the spot.

"Oh, What a Surprise!"

Mrs. C. J. Loudon, the naturalist, once wrote to the Duke of Wellington, asking his permission to view his Waterloo beeches—a clump of fine trees so named. Now the lady wrote in the fashionable angular style, and the Duke mistook the word "beeches" for "breeches," and her signature "C. J. Loudon" for "C. J. London." Wondering what the Bishop of London (Dr. C. J. Blomfield) could want with his Waterloo breeches, he nevertheless despatched a brief note, placing them at his disposal if he really wanted them. The note duly arrived, and caused the Bishop to wonder in his turn. Meanwhile the Duke, who had gone on wondering, decided that the prelate must be mad; and it did not take long for the Bishop to arrive at the same conclusion in regard to his Grace. With

this alarming idea, they both hurried off to acquaint the Prime Minister with their suspicions—arriving at about the same time. Awkward situation—production of letters—*dénouement.*

Murder most Foul.

"Say, Bodger, what on earth made you name that infant, 'Macbeth'?" "Because he murders sleep!"

Bar Foreigners.

It was a little boy in an American Sunday School, who, in reply to his teacher's question, "Who was the first man?" answered, "George Washington," and upon being informed that it was Adam, exclaimed: "Ah, well! If you are speaking of foreigners perhaps he was."

Lamb-like.

It was the gentle Elia who remarked of one of his critics, "The more I think of him the less I think of him."

Cranky.

Maccabe, the ventriloquist, was a great practical joker. Several years ago he was on board a river steamboat, and, having made friends with the engineer, was allowed the freedom of the engine-room. He took a seat in the corner, and, pulling his hat down over his eyes, appeared lost in reverie. Presently a certain part of the machinery began to creak. The engineer oiled it and went about his duties. In the course of a few minutes the creaking was heard again, and the engineer rushed over, oil can in hand, to lubricate the same crank. Again he resumed his post, but it was only a few minutes before the same old creak was creaking louder than ever. "Great Jupiter!" he yelled, "the thing's bewitched!" More oil was administered, but the engineer began to smell a rat.

Pretty soon the crank squeaked again, when, slipping up behind Maccabe, he squirted half a pint of oil down the joker's back. "There," said he, "I guess that crank won't squeak any more!"

Crushed.

Scene—a pastrycook's at Boulogne. 'Arry (turning on his best French): "Er—Mamselle—er—avez-vous de l'eau de soda?"—Mam'selle: "Oh, yes, sir, plenty of soda water!"

Raison d'être.

A little learning is a dangerous thing, and accounts for a good many magazine articles.

Charity!

She passed the plate round to a miser. "I have nothing," said he. "Then *take something*, sir," said she; "you know I am begging for the poor."

Shouldn't Wonder.

Jones complained of a bad smell about the Post Office, and asked Brown what it could be. Brown didn't know, but thought it might be the dead letters.

Ear-mark it.

A man with a new idea cannot be too careful of it; it may get away from him and become original with somebody else.

Probably.

Siffler, a noted wit, has just uttered one of those good things for which he is famous. Charles (his friend) patronizingly: "I wish I had said that." Siffler: "You will, Charles, you will!"

Didn't require Telling.

"I meant to have told you of that hole," said one Irishman to another, who had tumbled into a pit in his garden. "Oh, never mind," said Pat, "I've found it."

"That is the Question."

A Scottish minister, on his rounds, enters a house where a hot dispute is raging: "I should like to know who is the head of this house." Gudeman: "Weel, sir, if ye'll sit down a wee we'll maybe be able to tell ye, for that's the point we're just a trying to settle."

He Stood Corrected.

"Is that the second bell?" "No, sah, dat am de second ringin' ob de fust bell; we hab but one bell in dis house."

Do Tell!

Nobody in Switzerland knows anything about William Tell. When anyone is asked, he replies, "He was probably a guide, and he is probably dead." And he is partly right.

Fitting the Cap.

Stranger (at the street door): "I want to find a lady whose name I have forgotten, but I know she lives somewhere in this neighbourhood. Perhaps you may know her—a singularly beautiful creature, with pink and white complexion, sea shell ears, lovely eyes, and hair such as a goddess might envy." Servant: "Really, sir, I don't know——" Voice (from head of stairs): "Jane, tell the gentleman I'll be down in a minute."

Not Much.

The doctors disagreed. At length one of them gave in. "All right!" said he; "do as you please now, but the *post mortem* will show that I am right." And the patient, who was eagerly listening, didn't feel any better.

At any Price.

"What do you propose to take for your cold?" "Oh, what you like to give, my dear madam, what you like to give!"

Popularity.

He was a popular man. Why, lots of people tried to prevent him leaving the town, and a great many, including the sheriff, the inspector of police and several constables, followed him a long way.

It Leaves the Pier.

"The Kew boat leaves this pier, does it not?" "Yes, lady. Never been known to take it up the river yet."

All Out!

He was told that "Master was out." Very well; could he see the mistress? "Mistress is out." Then perhaps he could step in and sit by the fire for awhile? "The fire was out." So he went out too.

Home, Sweet Home.

"Darling, wake up and stop snoring," said a Detroit woman to her husband. "If you only knew how homesick it makes me, I'm sure you would." "Whazza matter now? How the duse can my innocent snore make you homesick?" "Why, you know, dear, the old house on the coast from which you took me, a joyous bride, was only half a mile from a Government fog-horn, and every time you snore it reminds me so of home that I just can't stand it!"

Broken English.

A certain well-known R.A. affected a queer kind of French accent. "Oh, don't you know?" explained Jerrold. "He once spent a fortnight at Boulogne, and fell down on the quay and broke his English!"

Irrepressible.

"So you have changed your barber?" "Yes, couldn't stand the old one. Only last week they had him out on Fourth Street to shave a corpse, and he tried to start a conversation on the tariff."

It took Time.

He was a man taciturn, and of perception slow. But when a joke *did* get through him it shook him to bits, as the forked lightning shattereth the tower that hath no lightning conductor. Somebody read out the above barber joke. But he neither smiled nor uttered sound. An interval of twenty minutes. Then a wild rumbling guffaw awoke the echoes of the place, and the doctor had to be sent for. He had just seen it!

Better Still.

"You must admit," said a musical enthusiast, "that the pieces were extremely difficult." "I wish they had been impossible," replied his non-appreciative friend.

He'd Heard it Before.

"How did you like my sermon this morning?" asked Archdeacon Fisher of Constable. "Very much, indeed, Fisher," replied the artist; "I always did like that sermon!"

Sauce for the Gander.

"Now then, Arthur, it's time for little boys to go to bed. The little chickens always go to roost at sunset, you know." "Yes, auntie; but the old hen goes with them!"

It Didn't Come Off.

"A nasty howling dog woke me up about midnight." "How horrid! why, the howl of a dog like that is a sign of death!" "It wasn't this time, though, for my revolver missed fire, and before I could shoot again the beast was gone."

Neatly Turned.

"I wish, sir, you were taller!" a fair admirer once remarked to Garrick. "My dear madam, I should be happy, indeed, to stand *higher in your estimation*," replied little Davy.

Too Realistic.

Many years ago Jefferson was playing his famous part of Rip Van Winkle at Chicago, and one night went to the theatre tired out by a long day's fishing. The curtain rose on the third act, and duly disclosed the white-haired Rip deep in his twenty years' nap. Five, ten minutes elapsed, but he did not awake. The audience grew impatient, and the prompter grew uneasy; he supposed the great actor knew what he was about, but this was carrying the realistic business a little too far. At length the gallery waxed uproarious, and yelled their delight at one of their number inquiring "if there was going to be nineteen years more of this snooze business." At this point Jefferson snored audibly. Opening a small trap beneath the stage, the prompter prodded Rip from below, only to see the sleepy comedian fumble in his pocket for an imaginary railway ticket and hear him mutter, "Going clear through, con-

ductor." This was too much for the prompter; he went at Rip with a big pin, and with a loud shriek the worthy sat up, wide awake to the situation.

"Take any Shape but That!"

"Give this to the editor, please, and ask him if he can look over it at once. Say it's a humorous article." (Interval of two minutes.) "The editor returns the article with thanks. He says he's all upset with the mumps, and prob'ly won't be able to read anything funny for a week."

The Better Land.

The teacher had grown eloquent in picturing to his little pupils the beauties of heaven, and finally asked: "What kind of little boys go to heaven?" A lively four-year-old flourished his fist. "Well, you may answer," said the teacher. Reply—"Dead ones!"

The Finest Country.

Tom Moore was once complimented on the beauty and fertility of Ireland, his native land. "Oh, yes," said the poet, "Ireland is the finest country in the world—*to live out of.*"

Making Sure of Him.

She had buried her husband, but owned to one consolation—she knew now where he was o' nights.

Happily Named.

"Well, have you patented anything lately?" "Oh! yes. I have just received letters-patent for my new 'Prize-fight Suspender Button.' Biggest hit of the day." "What makes you call it the 'Prize-fight'?" "Because it never comes off."

Hospital-ity.

He was an Irish soldier, just returned from foreign service, and they asked him if he had met with much hospitality abroad. "Hospitality did you say? Why, I was in the hospital nearly all the time!"

Bar One.

"We must all die!" exclaimed the eloquent French divine. Then, remembering that he was preaching before the Grand Monarch, with whom this particular subject was not a favourite, he pulled up short, and, with a courtly bow, added, "at least, nearly all!"

A Sure Thing.

"Do you think I could put the twenty-five cent piece which the lady holds, into your coat-pocket?" asked the conjuror. "No, sir," said the little boy, "I know you couldn't." "Why not?" "Because the pocket is all torn out."

Only That.

A barrister came into court one day with his wig all awry, which caused a general titter, on which he turned to Curran and said, "Do you see anything ridiculous in my wig?" "No," was the reply; "nothing but your *head!*"

What He Prayed For.

When the British ships under Lord Nelson were bearing down to attack the combined fleet off Trafalgar, the first lieutenant of one of the ships, on going round to see that all hands were at quarters, observed one of the men devoutly kneeling at the side of his gun. Such an attitude in a British sailor exciting his surprise and curiosity, he went and asked the man if he was afraid. "Afraid?" answered the sailor,

"No! I was only praying that the enemy's shot may be distributed in the same proportion as prize-money—the greatest part among the officers."

The Hod-Man Out.

"Did your fall hurt you, Teddy?" enquired an Irish hodman of his mate, who had slipped from a ladder. "Faith, not at all, Mike; it was the stopping quick that did it."

One of Hook's.

Theodore Hook was once challenged to make on the spot a joke out of the Latin gerunds. After a few humorous remarks, referring to Æneas and Dido, he extemporised two lines, thus:—

"When Dido found Æneas did not come,
She wept in silence, and was *Di-do-dumb.*"

One Was Enough.

"You say you love my daughter?" said the old man. "Love her!" he exclaimed, "why, I would die for her! For one soft glance of those sweet eyes I would hurl myself from yonder cliff and perish, a crushed and mutilated corpse, upon the rocks below!" The old man shook his head. "I'm a bit of a liar myself," he said, "and one is enough for a small family like mine."

A Serious Case.

"I hear the mild winter is likely to advance the price of ice-creams next summer." "By Jove! Then I must either break it off with Carry, or marry her!"

A Tender Subject.

"A pretty mess you made of it last night!" "Me! How?" "Yes, you. Telling Mrs. Ellis that her baby looked good

enough to eat." "Well, what of that?" "Oh! nothing, only you know that they start as missionaries to the Cannibal Islands next week."

Naturally.

"You have offered to settle on certain terms?" inquired the lawyer. "I have," replied the client. "And what did the defendant say?" "Told me to go to the devil." "Ah! and what did you do then?" "Came to you."

"Six of One."

When Dr. Johnson asked the Widow Porter to be his wife, he told her candidly that he had no money, and that his uncle had been hanged. The widow replied that she cared nothing for his parentage; that she had no money herself; and that, though she had no relation hanged, she had fifty who deserved hanging. So they made a match of it.

A Fishy Story.

"I mind when I was a bit laddie," remarked the old fisherman, "a gentleman hooking a fish after breakfast on Saturday. He played it a' day till twal' o' the clock, when he was richt glad o' the excuse o' the Sabbath morn to let it go."

She Excused Him.

Fontenelle, when an old man, passed Madame Helvetius without recognising her. She recalled it to him afterwards, saying: "You actually passed me without looking at me." "Madam," replied he, "if I had looked at you, I never should have passed."

He Struck.

The crowded deck of an American packet. Californian to skipper of ditto: "I should like to have a sleeping-berth,

neow, if you please." Skipper: "Why, where have you been sleeping these last two nights since we left?" Californian: "Wal, I have been a-sleeping a-top of a sick man; but he's got better neow, and won't stand it no longer."

How to Do It.

A certain author, who had been roughly handled in one of the reviews, told a friend that he wished to write down the offending periodical. "Then write *in* it," was his friend's remark.

How He Looked.

"I saw Mat this morning." "Ah! ha!" "Yes, and I had a great mind to speak to him. He owes me five pounds." "I hear he has been ill. How was he looking?" "Well, he was looking the other way when I met him."

Billing and Cooing.

When a certain well-known artist was preparing his "Reminiscences" for the press, he and his wife jointly corrected the proofs as they came from the printer, whose name happened to be Billing. As the process not infrequently led to a little connubial squabbling, it soon came to be called "billing and cooing."

Not Happily Expressed.

"I have another patient in this neighbourhood," remarked the doctor; "so I kill two birds with one stone."

Unnecessary.

Mamma: "I hope you were very polite, Flossie, at the table, and said, 'Yes, please,' and 'No, thank you!'" Flossie: "Well, I didn't say 'No, thank you,' because, you see, I took everything."

Considerate.

You had better ask for manners than money," said a fop to a beggar. "I asked for what I thought you had the most of."

Too Much at a Time.

Lord Chesterfield one day, at an inn where he dined, complained that the plates and dishes were dirty. "It is said that every one must eat a peck of dirt before he dies," pertly retorted the waiter. "That may be true," said Chesterfield; "but no one is obliged to eat it all at one meal."

That Little Pig!

"You, Sambo, have you fed the pigs?" "Yes, massa, me fed 'um." "Did you count them?" "Yes, massa, me count 'um all but one." "All but one?" "Yes, massa, all but one: dere be one little speckle pig, he frisk about so much me couldn't count him!"

More than He was Worth.

An Irishman had rescued from drowning a man who meanly rewarded him with sixpence. Pat, glancing first at the coin and then at the man, exclaimed, "I am overpaid for that job, anyhow!"

He Got His Laugh.

Actors, it is well known, like to have "an exit," *i.e.*, some telling word or sentence as they leave the stage. A low comedian, who was to play the part of a waiter in a new piece, begged the author to provide him with something of the kind at the end of a scene with two gentlemen at an inn. "No, no!" said the author; "it can't be managed—it would spoil the whole thing." The actor pleaded no more. But when the scene came on, and one of the gentlemen had duly dis-

missed him with a "tip," our low comedian paused a moment at the wing, spun the coin in the air, caught it, and exclaimed, "Welcome, little stranger!" And got his laugh.

All the Difference.

Belphegor, the tumbler, to his man Fanfaronade: "You rascal, this bottle was nearly full when I left it!" "Indeed, master, it wasn't when *I* left it!"

A Thumping Legacy.

"Did the old gentleman leave much when he died?" "He left the earth. What more would you have?"

On the Face of It.

An old lady, visiting an acquaintance, found one of the little ones, a mite of five or six years, apparently in great distress, sobbing bitterly. "You shouldn't cry like that," said the visitor; "that's what makes little girls ugly!" Dolly looks up through her tears, and gazing critically at the visitor, remarks, "What a lot you must have cried when you were a little girl!"

He Won't Bite.

Small boy: "Won't that boa-constrictor bite me?" "Oh, no; he never bites; he swallows his wittles whole."

A Mis-deal.

A celebrated Scotch divine had just risen up in the pulpit, when a gentleman in the front of the gallery took out his handkerchief to wipe his brow, forgetting that a pack of cards were wrapped up in it; when the whole pack was scattered. "O man, man!" exclaimed the minister, "surely your psalm-buik has been ill bound."

And He Went.

"Which way are you going," asked a bore, attempting to button-hole Douglas Jerrold in Fleet Street. "The *other* way!"

Post Mortem.

"He lived long enough after death to accuse a man named Griffin of having wounded him."—London daily paper, June, 1890.

Wanting to Know.

It was his first day at school. "Well, what did you learn?" asked his aunt. "Didn't learn anything." "Well, what did you do?" "Didn't do anything. There was a woman wanting to know how to spell cat, and I told her."

Where it Went.

A little boy, who was taken to the seaside for the first time, happened to arrive when the tide was at the full. On getting up the next morning and looking for the sea, now far out, he cried, "Why, mother, it's all gone down its sink!"

Send Him to Bed.

"There is no rule without an exception, my son." "Oh! isn't there, Pa? A man must always be present while he's being shaved!" "My dear, hadn't you better send this child to bed. He's too clever!"

"Doubly Sure."

Asked if he were guilty, the prisoner replied: "Guess I am, judge; but I should like to be tried to be sure of it."

No Nonsense about Her.

A certain judge met a girl returning from market, and asked her, "How deep did you find the stream? what did you get for your butter?" "Up to the knee and ninepence," was the reply. "Ah," said the judge to himself, "she is the girl for me; no words lost there," turned back, proposed, was accepted, and was married the week after.

Where the Fun came in.

He was a German soldier with a keen sense of humour. One day he was ordered to be flogged, and laughed immoderately all the time it was going on. When it was over, the officer asked him what there was to laugh at? On which he broke out afresh, and cried, "Why, don't you see, I'm the wrong man!"

That Settled it.

By one decisive argument
Giles gained his lovely Kate's consent
To fix the bridal day.
"Why in such haste, dear Giles to wed?
I shall not change my mind," she said;
"But then," says he, *I may*!"

As to Credibility.

They were telling wonderful stories; each more wonderful than the other. And a seafaring man said: "We were once in Mid-Atlantic, when the man at the look-out spied a small object in the offing. It turned out to be a man afloat on a hencoop. Of course we prepared to take him aboard, but he declined our offer with thanks, saying he guessed he should float into Boston. And," concluded the seafaring man, looking round, "he *did* float into Boston." Then arose a long Yankee, who hadn't been much noticed before. You didn't know how long he was till he uncoiled himself. "Stranger,"

solemnly remarked he, "I reckon I can corroborate *you*. *I* was that identical man on the hencoop."

A Dying Speech.

Cooke, the actor, was one day playing at a seaport town, just at the time when the news of one of Nelson's great victories arrived. The play was *George Barnwell*, and the actor who was to play the uncle, demoralized by the general rejoicing, did not turn up. In this dilemma Cooke begged the door-keeper of the theatre, an old sailor with a very strong lisp, to take the absentee's place. The man protested that he did not know a word of the part, but Cooke overruled this by promising to speak it all for him, which he really did (by the clever device of saying, whenever it came to the uncle's turn, "Nay, my dear uncle, I know what you would urge," and then repeating the uncle's lines) till it came to the scene of the murder, the "business" of which the old man got through very creditably. But suddenly remembering at the end that Cooke had advised him to say something, "anything he happened to think of," just before he expired, he raised himself on his elbow and shouted, "*Nelthon for ever!*" And brought down the house.

Making it Fair.

Curran once "went out" with a very stout man, who objected that it wasn't fair, inasmuch as it was far easier, on account of his size, for Curran to hit him than it was for him to hit Curran. "All right then," said Curran, "let me be placed up against you, and let a chalk line be drawn round my body on to yours, all shots *outside the line not to count.*"

Q. E. D.

Pope Pius IX., who was an inveterate snuff-taker, one day offered a pinch to Cardinal Antonelli. "No, thanks, Father," remarked the Cardinal, "I haven't *that* vice!" "Nay," retorted his Holiness, "had it been a vice, you *would* have had it!"

The Advantage of Him.

"Halloa Sambo, so I hear you were whipped last week. I didn't know it till to-day." "That so, Massa? *I* knew it at the time."

The Woodman's Reply.

"*Woodman, spare that tree!*"—OLD SONG.

No, mum; this 'ere tree
Can't be no longer spared;
It ain't no odds to me,
If Muster Brown was squared.
But Muster Brown sez, "Green,
You chop that there tree down,"
And what he *say* he *mean*,
Sure-ly do Muster Brown.

I don't possess the 'ed
To hargify with you;
A lady born and bred
Is safe to speak what's true.
But put a case: I takes
A job from Mr. B.,
And little 'tis I makes
Out of the likes of he.

Your heart-strings, and all that
Round this 'ere tree may cling—
To contradict you flat
Would not be quite the thing;
But if you talk of shade,
There's other boughs than these,
And other folks have played,
Mayhap, round other trees.

It's werry good to feel
A mystning of the eyes
For chairs of oak or deal,
And old straw hats likewise;
To keep if you've a mind
The things as makes you weep;
I've got no fault to find,
If they're your own to keep.

But this 'ere old oak tree,
As you don't want cut down,
Excuse me, mum, you see,
Belongs to Muster Brown.
To him you should apply,
Though 'taint no use I think;
And if you please, mum, I
Should like your health to drink.

The Other Cheek (and Plenty of it).

How beautiful a thing is sweetness of disposition! A gentleman has long been annoyed by his neighbour's hens, which make a daily practice of roving in poultry meditation fancy free, through his front garden and back yard. And what did this worthy gentleman do? Did he shoot the offending fowls, or chase them out of his premises with bricks and clothes props, or slang his neighbour over the fence, and thus lay a sure foundation for family feuds and lawsuits? Not much he didn't. He just went patiently and put some old hats and hay under his steps and in the barn, and when those hens came on their marauding expeditions, those that came to scratch remained to lay. He has had all the fresh eggs he wanted lately, and has sold 50s. worth to the man who owns the hens.

An Infant Hercules.

"Is the Baby strong?" "Well, rather. You know what a tremendous voice he has?" "Yes." "Well, he lifts it five or six times an hour."

The Twins.

In form and feature, face and limb,
I grew so like my brother,
That folks got taking me for him,
And each for one another.
It puzzled all our kith and kin,
It reached an awful pitch,
For one of us was born a twin,
Yet not a soul knew "which."

When quite a little infant child
My trouble did begin,
For when I called for nourishment
'Twas given the other twin;
They gave "me" Godfrey's cordial
When he kicked up a shine,
And when his nose was troublesome
They took to wiping mine.

One day, to make the matter worse,
Before our names were fixed,
As we were being washed by nurse,
We got "completely mixed";
And thus, you see, by fate's decree,
Or rather nurse's whim;
My brother John got christened "me,"
And I got christened "him."

This fatal likeness even dogged
My footsteps when at school,
For I was always being flogged
'Cause he turned out a fool.
But once I had a sweet revenge,
For something made me ill;
The doctor came and gave poor Jack
A black draught and a pill.

We both set up at last in trade,
My prospects were but grim;
The people bought *my* things, but paid
The money all to him.
And once, when he had had a drop,
And broke a p'liceman's nob,
They took *me* into custody,
And fined me forty bob.

This fatal likeness turned the tide
Of my domestic life,
For somehow my intended bride
Became my brother's wife.
Year after year, and still the same
Absurd mistakes went on;
And when I died the neighbours came
And buried brother John.—*Henry S. Leigh.*

A Cruel Hoax.

The other evening, just before sundown, a gentleman who was sitting by his window casually remarked: "There goes the woman that George Brown is dead gone on." His wife, who was in the room getting supper ready, dropped a plate on the floor, tumbled over the baby, and ran like a lamplighter to the window with, "Where? where? Tell me quick!" "The one with the long cloak—just at the corner." Then the

woman at the window said in deep disgust, "Why, that's his wife." "Yes, exactly," remarked the brutal husband, quietly. Then the disappointed woman went back and got supper ready, but her usually sweet disposition was soured for the evening.

On Tour.

That was "good business," when John Reeve came from New York to fill-Adelphi!

The Benefit of the Doubt.

Little Girl: "What's the matter, little boy?" Little Boy: "I'm crying because my mamma has just gone to Heaven." Little Girl: "Oh! but p'haps she hasn't!"

The Weak Point.

She was summoned to appear as a witness, so consulted her friend, Judge S——, as to what she should say if she were asked her age. "Say, Madam! Tell the truth—that you have not yet arrived at the age of discretion!"

Not in Haste.

A Scottish clergyman chose for his text a passage in the Psalms, "I said in my haste all men are liars." "Ay," premised the minister by way of introduction, "ye said it in your haste, David, did ye? Gin ye had been here, ye micht hae said it at your leisure."

"Ask Me no More."

"Who is that lady dressed in black, Mamma?" "That is a Sister of Charity, my dear." A significant pause. "Which is she, Mamma—Faith or Hope?"

Something to be Thankful for.

The hat was passed round, then it was duly handed to the minister, who had "exchanged pulpits" with the regular preacher. There wasn't a penny in it, so he inverted it over the pulpit cushion and shook it so that its emptiness might be known; and looking towards the ceiling, exclaimed, "I thank God that I have got back my hat from this congregation."

No Wonder.

Ticket Collector (of "express" that has stopped *outside* of every station): "Say, Mister, that boy is considerably over twelve!" "So he may be *now;* but he was considerably under when this darned old train started!"

The Parrot.

By Edgardo Pooh.

Once, as through the streets I wandered, and o'er many a fancy pondered,
Many a fancy quaint and curious, which had filled my mind of yore,—
Suddenly my footsteps stumbled, and against a man I tumbled,
Who, beneath a sailor's jacket, something large and heavy bore.
"Beg your pardon, sir!" I muttered, as I rose up, hurt and sore;
But the sailor only swore.

Vexed at this, my soul grew stronger: hesitating then no longer,
"Sir," said I, "now really, truly, your forgiveness I implore!
But, in fact, my sense was napping——" Then the sailor answered, rapping

Out his dreadful oaths and awful imprecations by the score,—
Answered he, "Come hold your *jawr!*

"May my timbers now be shivered"—oh, at this my poor heart quivered,—
"If you don't beat any parson that I ever met before!
You've not hurt me; stow your prosing," then, his huge pea-coat unclosing,
Straight he showed the heavy parcel, which beneath his arm he bore,
Showed a cage which held a parrot, such as Crusoe had of yore,
Which at once drew corks and swore.

Much I marvelled at this parrot, green as grass and red as carrot,
Which, with fluency and ease, was uttering sentences a score;
And it pleased me so immensely, and I liked it so intensely,
That I bid for it at once; and when I showed of gold my store,
Instantly the sailor sold it; mine it was, and his no more;
Mine it was for evermore.

Prouder was I of this bargain, e'en than patriotic Dargan
When his sovereign, Queen Victoria, crossed the threshold of his door;
Surely I had gone demented—surely I had sore repented,
Had I known the dreadful misery which for me Fate had in store,
Known the fearful, awful misery which for me Fate had in store,
Then, and now, and evermore!

Scarcely to my friends I'd shown it, when (my mother's dreadful groan! it
Haunts me even now!) the parrot from his perch began to pour

Forth the most tremendous speeches, such as Mr. Ainsworth teaches
Us were uttered by highwaymen and rapparees of yore!—
By the wicked, furious, tearing, riding raparees of yore;
But which now are heard no more.

And my father, straight uprising, spake his mind. It was surprising
That this favourite son, who'd never, never so transgressed before,
Should have brought a horrid, screaming—nay e'en worse than that—blaspheming
Bird within that pure home circle—bird well learned in wicked lore!
While he spake, the parrot, doubtless thinking it a horrid bore,
Cried out "Cuckoo!" barked, and swore.

And since then what it has cost me,—all the wealth and friends it's lost me,
All the trouble, care, and sorrow, cankering my bosom's core,
Can't be mentioned in these verses; till, at length, my heart-felt curses
Gave I to this cruel parrot, who quite coolly scanned me o'er—
Wicked, wretched, cruel parrot, who quite coolly scanned me o'er,
Laughed, drew several corks, and swore.

"Parrot!" said I, "bird of evil; parrot still, or bird or devil!
By the piper who the Isrealitish leader played before,
I will stand this chaff no longer! We will see now which is stronger.
Come now,—off! Thy cage is open—free thou art, and there's the door!
Off at once, and I'll forgive thee; take the hint, and leave my door."
But the parrot only swore.

And the parrot never flitting, still is sitting, still is sitting
On the self-same perch where first he sat in days of yore;
And his only occupations seem acquiring imprecations
Of the last and freshest fashion, which he picks up by the score;
Picks them up, and, with the greatest gusto, bawls them by the score
And will swear for evermore.

Our Miscellany, by EDMUND YATES & ROBERT BROUGH, 1857.

No Consequence.

A man who was reproached with having broken his promise, said it was of no consequence, as he could make another just as good.

One of Sothern's.

The late E. A. Sothern (Lord Dundreary) had invited a number of friends to dinner. They were all assembled but one, who was rather late. After waiting a few minutes, the host suddenly exclaimed, "Here he comes—let's all get under the table — make haste!" Anticipating a joke, they all scrambled under—except Sothern himself. Enter guest: "Halloa, where are all the other fellows?" "Oh, they all got under the table when they heard you coming—I'm sure I don't know why!" The ignominious crawling forth, one by one, that ensued, beggars description, and drives word-painting to bankruptcy.

Take it as Read.

He was a zealous Methodist, strict in his religious observances, but he suffered from the cold. So he composed a long prayer, which he wrote out and hung over his pillow. Then, on winter nights, he would just point to it, and saying, "O Lord, them's my sentiments," scramble into bed.

Somebody Else's Coat.

I hurriedly called for my duster, and climed into the train and waited for it to start. By and by I reached into the capacious pockets of that duster, and in an idle, vagrant kind of a moment, drew forth a *Police Gazette*, radiant with its usual risky pictures. Now I never buy and never read that journal, and was amazed to find it in my pocket. I went down again and brought up a couple of beer tickets. Then I raked again and found a piece of billiard chalk. It seemed to me that my ordinarily well-behaved duster had been out with the boys last night, instead of reposing in the quiet of the cloak room. Curious to know just how far this iniquity went, I reached into another pocket and found a corkscrew, three dice revelling in the luxurious affluence of three aces apiece, and a poker check containing four kings of spades. I was almost afraid to examine the last pocket, but finally I sent down the grapple and up it came with a whisky flask very empty but very odorous.

I began to wish the train would start, and stealthily felt under the bottle and found a pair of brass knucks. That settled it. My duster was irrevocably bad. I would wear it as far as the first river or first tunnel—I would wear it no farther. Would the train ever start?

Just then a gentle hand touched my shoulder—I started guiltily and looked up expecting to see a policeman. If I had been arrested on any charge, burglary, murder, sheep-stealing, treason, anything, I should have given in and gone right along. I hadn't enough confidence in myself to deny anything. But when I looked I saw a kind, tender face, and I heard the pleasant voice of a Methodist clergyman.

"I beg your pardon," he said, "but I fear you and I have exchanged dusters. I only noticed the change this moment, when I found some letters and lecture tickets in the pockets. The mistake was my own I have no doubt. I am so careless, and our dusters are so nearly alike."

I was so shocked that I didn't know what to say nor where to look, but I had just enough sense left to say,

"Yes, that *is* my duster! I took the only one that was left in the cloak room," and then I gave the good, innocent man the villainous old sin-dyed Philistine that had been corrupting my morals all the morning.

And then, to sit there and never look around, but just listen to the man's exclamations of amazement and horror! First he found the billiard chalk. He didn't know what that was, so he only said, "H'm!" When he found the dice he just said, "Ha!" Then he fished out the corkscrew, and he seemed to understand *that*, for he said "What!" in a staccato of astonishment that elicited an encore from the entire audience. The poor man's "Merciful heavens!" that greeted the appearance of the whisky flask was drowned in a perfect torrent of applause and wild cries of "Go on, go on," and "More." And when he pulled out the *Police Gazette* and the brass knucks, he fell back into his seat with an audible gasp of horror, and the whole car full of people just rose as one man and yelled and howled, and trampled on their hats and wanted to get out and tear the bottom out of the car and throw it into the Chenango River to express their feelings. And the fainting clergyman came to me, holding the disreputable old duster in his trembling hands.

"Sir!" he said, with a patient rebuke and pitiful appeal mingling in his tremulous utterance, "Sir——"

But I steeled my heart against him, because I was as innocent as himself.

"Go way," I said; "don't bring it round here! Don't you point that thing at me! 'Taint mine? You claimed it yourself! Don't dare to charge me with it! Throw it under the car! Burn it up! I won't have it! Don't you dare——"

But the clergyman held it out towards me and raised his right hand appealingly to heaven. Just before the tableau began to tell with the jury, however, the porter came panting

down to the train. He had an innocent-looking duster in his hands, with a package of Sunday-school papers bulging in one pocket, and a Moody hymn-book flattening the other.

"Gen'men," he said, "de barkeeper sent me down, and he says as how somebody has run away wid his duster, and he want it sent back or he make it pow'ful lively for de man what took it if he have to come after it hisself."

The Same to You.

"Do make yourselves at home, ladies, I am at home myself, and sincerely wish *you* all were!" remarked a bored hostess to some visitors who had evidently "come to stay."

Tooleries.

Our genial friend, Mr. J. L. Toole, has been at it again. Shortly after his arrival in Australia, he turned out for a ramble through the streets of Melbourne, with a representative of the *Melbourne Argus*, and another. We issue from the hotel, says the *Argus* correspondent, and are about to take a tramcar, when the actor, saying, "Wait a moment," steps up to a stranger passing by, grasps his hand with effusive warmth, and bursts out with, "Well, I am delighted to see you! I wanted to explain all about that dinner, you know. I waited for you some time after; but you've been placed in the same position yourself, and of course you understand it all. Every one said the same thing, and, as you know, a matter of that sort always turns out perfectly satisfactory, and he said he knew you held to your opinions, and when we mentioned the subject he said he hoped——" Here the stranger, who had been vainly endeavouring to get in a word edge-ways, and across whose face had flitted the puzzled expression of one making a futile effort to recall some forgotten circumstance and person, managed to quaver out in a mild uncertain tone: "I'm afraid, sir, you are making a mistake. My name is Brown, and I—er—" A

look of quite rapturous joy and good humour now overspread the comedian's countenance—such an expression as one might assume on

Discovering a Long Lost Friend,

and with greater warmth and volubility than ever he exclaimed, "Why, of course it is! What a ridiculous mistake for me to make, to be sure. I always mix you and your brother up somehow. My dear Mr. Brown, I've been looking for you for days past. Charlie left, as you know, and" (here sinking into a confidential tone) "he said to me, 'Tell my brother, when you see him that I'll write and explain that little circumstance, and my friend, Mr. Others, brought all sorts of messages, and said he would call upon you as soon as he could possibly manage it, and I think it will be all right. I am glad to see you looking so well. Excuse me rushing off in this manner, won't you? but I have to catch a tram. Good-bye;" and the actor bustles across the street and seats himself beside us. When we looked back we saw the stranger standing still on the pavement gazing after us, and looking like one suddenly aroused from sleep—a monument of blank amazement.

"In this Style."

Later in the day we called at a photographer's. We followed Toole into the little office, the walls of which, as is usual in such places, being hung with every imaginable specimen of the work done on the premises. Consequently we were not prepared to see Toole lean over the counter and ask the young woman attendant if she could recommend him to any place in Melbourne where he could have his photograph taken. The girl stared at him, but there was such a look of humble and inquiring gravity in his face that she only smiled, and said he could have his likeness taken there. "Yes," said Toole in a deprecatingly considerate tone of voice, "but I shouldn't like

to put you out, you know. Now if you could tell me of any place where they make a business of it, I should be so much obliged." The girl, repressing a tendency to laugh, for his manner was full of a pleading earnestness, assured him that they made a business of nothing else, and asked what style he would like to be taken in. "Well," he answered, thoughtfully, "I don't quite know, for I was never taken before, and I don't know

Which Style Hurts the Most!

I think a group is the least painful form, so I think the three of us would like to be taken in a group."—"Well, now, here is a group. Would you like to be taken in this style?" and she handed him one of those remarkable pictures in which two young men stood bolt upright in the background, while three others were disposed at their feet in what are called picturesque attitudes, the whole five looking as stiff and uncomfortable as disconcerted pickpockets. Toole gazed at this sadly for a few minutes, and plaintively remarked, "Oh, I see it takes five to make a group—just you wait here a moment while I run downstairs and get a couple of men out of the street to make up the number, so we can be taken in a group," and he turned to go. "No, no," said the girl, "there are five here—I haven't a group of three to show you, but three can be taken as well as five." "But wouldn't it be more painful with only three?" Toole asked, innocently, but got no answer, for the girl dived behind a little screen, from which she presently emerged with a heightened colour, and said if we would please to step upstairs to the next floor but one she would arrange everything through the speaking tube.

"Don't Laugh."

The first landing was occupied by a merchant's office full of packing-cases and samples in which two or three clerks were working, while the man of business was seated at a little desk

all by himself. With a hurried injunction of "Don't laugh," Toole preceded us straight into the room, and addressing the man at the desk with a smile of cheerful serenity said, "We have spoken to the young lady downstairs, and she arranged us through the speaking-tube. We want a group of three, please, as I understand it doesn't hurt more than five, and I hope you won't keep us long, as I have an appointment." I thought the man of business would have fallen backwards out of his chair, but he recovered himself and said with a smile, "I think, sir, you are mistaken." "Yes, we want to be taken," said Toole, pretending to be deaf. "Any style you think best, you know. I should like to arrange my hair first." "I said, sir, I think you have made a mistake. If you want the photographer he is on the next flat." "As flat as you like," Toole answered. "I've seen some of 'em raised, but I don't think it any improvement. You won't keep us more than ten minutes, will you?" "You have come to

The Wrong Office,

sir," said the merchant, raising his voice. "What name did you want?" "Oh, yes, we'll have a frame if it's all the same price—not that I'm particular to a shilling or two. Perhaps you can show us some specimens?" Toole's countenance was smiling amiability itself. I felt my lips beginning to quiver when the merchant rose solemnly from his chair, leant on his knuckles across the desk, and proceeded to bawl directions to Toole how to find the studio upstairs, who listened intently, with his glass in his eye and his hand to his ear. We left the room and then heard the directions being shouted out—half the city might have heard them for that matter—and presently Toole joined us, not a bit flustered, and quietly remarking that it appeared we had made a mistake, for the studio was on the floor above. As Mr. Toole's man had actually been there in the morning and made an appointment for him with the photographer, no further pranks could be played there.

"What Price the Eels?"

On our way homeward we passed a fishmonger's shop whose window displayed only crayfish and oysters, on top of which was coiled an ordinary garden hose. Toole asked the man what he wanted for the eels. "The crayfish you mean, sir; a shilling each," he answered. "I don't mean the crayfish, I mean the eels." "We haven't any eels, sir." "Well what do you call these?" asked Toole triumphantly, pointing to the coil of hose. "Why, Lord bless my soul! that's the hose!" Toole turned savagely to his friend and wanted to know what was the sense of taking him into an ironmonger's shop when he said he wanted to buy fish, and marched off in an apparent fit of indignation.

A "Nod" as good as a Wink.

Clara: "Did I hear you say good-night?" De Bore: "No, my dear. You must have dreamed it." Clara: "Perhaps I did. I'm quite sleepy enough."

A Learned Provost.

A plaintiff, in stating his case before the Provost of a certain Scotch burgh, having had occasion to speak of a party who was dead, repeatedly described him as the defunct. Irritated by the iteration of a word which he did not understand, the Provost exclaimed, "What's the use o' talking sae muckle about this chield you ca' the defunct? canna ye bring the man here and let him speak for himsel'?" "The defunct's dead, my lord," added the weaver. "Oh! that alters the case," gravely observed the sapient Provost.

The One to Charge.

A man, just recovering from a dangerous illness, declared that his doctor had brought him through. "Nay," corrected

a pious friend, "say, rather, that Providence brought you through." "Maybe he did; but the doctor will charge for it."

Not Technically Educated.

"Doctor, what seems to be the cause of the child's trouble?" "Some foreign substance in the stomach, I should say." "Oh! yes, I know; those dreadful French potatoes! I must tell the greengrocer that he positively must get us some English ones."

How It Struck Him.

"What's the admission to this here show, stranger?" "There's no charge for admission, sir. It's a church." "Wal, for a free show there don't seem to be much of a rush."

At the Theatre.

"Do you know who that ugly old woman is with the large bonnet on, that has just entered that box?" "That lady, sir, is my sister." "O dear, you mistake me. I mean that shabby-looking old hag with her." "That, sir, is my wife."

Under the Bye-Laws.

Rufus Choate, the American statesman, when told that if he persisted in his exhausting habits of hard work he would injure his constitution, replied "Why, I haven't had a constitution for ten years—I'm living under the bye-laws."

A Matter of Indifference.

"Well, I don't know where I am going," observed Mark Twain, as to his future state. "It is a matter of a good deal of doubt, and, I am afraid, of indifference to me, for I have friends in both places."

Mother's Milk.

And, doctor, do you really think
That ass's milk I ought to drink?
'T would quite remove my cough, you say,
And drive my old complaints away.
It cured yourself—I grant it true;
But then—'t was mother's milk to you!

A Modest Request.

A little girl of three was saying her prayers, when her little brother came slyly behind and pulled her hair. Without moving her head, she paused and said: "Please, Lord, excuse me a minute while I kick Herby."

Admit One.

"Who was the first man recorded in history who didn't pay?" said Liston, who was just handing an order to a friend. "Why, really, I never gave it a thought," replied his friend. "Why, Joseph, of course," said Liston; "didn't his brothers put him into the pit for nothing?"

Drawing the Line.

"I pardon your pathos," she plaintively said,
"Although it's depressing, no doubt;
Your sentiment's silly, and heavy as lead
The tragic tirade you pour out.
All these I can stand—and a little bit more;
I'm human though, like other folks:
So Edwin, dear Edwin, I beg—I implore—
Pray spare me, oh spare me, your jokes!"

Never Say Die.

An observing individual, in a very healthy village, seeing a sexton at work in a hole in the ground, inquired what he was about. "Digging a grave, sir." "Digging a grave! Why, I thought people didn't die often here—do they?" "Oh, no, sir! they die but once."

Degree.

"Sad thing this about poor H——. Haven't you heard? He's cut his throat." "No, really! *Has he cut it much?*"

Not His Fault.

"You can leave the court now, Sambo; but don't ever let me catch you here again." "I wouldn't ha' been here dis time, massa, only de constable fetch me."

"Dis."

Mrs. Coutts, wife of the eminent banker, one day made her appearance in Edinburgh, dressed in the most magnificent style. "Hoot, mon," remarked a bystander, who did not know who she was, "yon's a braw lady; she'll be a countess I'm thinking." "No," replied another, "not a *countess*, but a *discountess*."

A Plain Direction.

Profanity in a railway carriage is objectionable; so at least thought the genial old gentleman in black, who, having had about as much of it as he could stand, ventured to call the speaker to order. But the profane one wanted to know who the old gentleman was—presuming that he must be a bishop at the very least. "Well, I happen to be the Bishop of O——," was the quiet reply. "Then, in that case," was the

unabashed retort, "perhaps you can tell me the way to heaven?" "Nothing easier," said the bishop, "turn to the *right*, and keep straight on!"

Pinning a Ghost.

A gross outrage was lately perpetrated upon the gentle and forgiving spirit of Daniel Webster, which tried at a recent American spiritualistic *séance*, to walk over a stage strewn with drawing pins. When the first pin entered the ghost's right foot, he calmly lifted up his injured limb to withdraw the intrusive bit of steel. In his efforts to balance himself on one leg, he ran another pin in his left foot, when he broke silence in a gentle exclamation expressive of pain and annoyance; then he incautiously sat down, and thus inserted two more pins. Instead of letting his ghostly passions rise, he merely remarked, "Well, by gosh!" and hurriedly withdrew into his mystic cabinet.

Dog Tear'em.

The late Mr. J. A. Roebuck, speaking as the guardian of British interests at a time of suspicion against Austria, dubbed himself "Dog Tear'em." But, being induced to visit Vienna, he, after a course of brilliant entertainments there, returned with greatly changed views. "Ah," remarked a wit, "Tear'em's come back quite *un autre-chien*."

Chalks.

Said a wine merchant to his porter, whom he wanted to leave awhile in his cellar, "I'll chalk your mouth, so that I can tell if you drink any wine while I am gone," at the same time drawing his thumb-nail over the man's lips, as though he were chalking them. The porter drank as much wine as he wanted, and then chalked his mouth so as not to be detected, and by that means exposed himself to his shrewd master.

An Old Table.

"That is probably the oldest piece of furniture in England," said a collector of antique curiosities to a friend, pointing to a venerable-looking table as he spoke. "How old is it?" asked the friend. "Nearly 400 years." "Pshaw, that is nothing. I have a table more than 2,000 years old." "Indeed!" "Yes, the Multiplication Table."

A Lower Depth.

Sometimes, when city men go in for a big thing, they come to grief. So it was with this one—so much so, indeed, that he was fain to take a situation as waiter at a certain restaurant, not of the highest class. One day, an old pal dropped in, and seated himself at one of the tables. Recognizing his former friend, and remembering his days of splendour, he exclaimed in tones of pity, "What, Jones, you *here!*" "Yes, worse luck; but I *wait* here—I don't *dine* here!"

The Waning of the Honeymoon.

"By Jove, it's awfully lonesome here." "Yes, we are worse off than Robinson Crusoe." "Oh come, not quite so bad as that." "Yes, twice as bad. There was only one of him. There are two of us—just twice as lonesome."

Shakespeare in Paris.

Auguste: "Come and dine with me this evening." Pierre: "I can't." Auguste: "Why not?" Pierre: "I am going to see *Hamlet*." Auguste: "Bring him with you."

Further Back.

"Heard my last joke? It is great—positively Shakesperian." "Oh yes, I heard it. It struck me it was earlier than Shakespeare, though."

Division of Labour.

A parson, of too free a life,
  Was yet renown'd for noble preaching,
And many grieved to see such strife
  Between his living and his teaching.

His flock at last rebellious grew:
  "My friends," he said, "the simple fact is,
Nor you nor I can both things do:—
  But I can preach—and you can practise."

She Wouldn't Own to it.

She was a stylish young lady of about eighteen, and took a friend's baby out for an airing. She was wheeling it up and down, when an elderly man, very deaf, came along and enquired for a certain person who lived in that street. She nearly yelled her head off trying to answer him, and he looked round, caught sight of the baby and said, "Nice child that. I suppose you feel proud of him?" "It isn't mine!" she shrieked. "Boy, eh? Well, he looks just like you." "It isn't mine!" she cried again; but he nodded his head, and continued, "Twins, eh? Where's the other one?" Despairing of making him understand by word of mouth, she pointed to the baby, at herself, and then shook her head. "Yes, yes, I see. T'other twin in the house. Their father is fond of them, of course?" She turned the perambulator and hurried the other way, but he followed and asked, "Do they kick about much at night?" "I tell you 'tain't mine!" she shouted, looking very red in the face. "I think you're wrong there," he answered. "Children brought up on the bottle don't thrive very well." She started on a run for the gate, but before she had opened it, he came up and asked, "Have to spank 'em now and then, I suppose?" She made about twenty gestures in half a minute, and he helped the perambulator through the gate, and said, "Our children were all twins,

and I'll send my wife to give you some advice. You see——" But she picked up a flower-pot and flung it at him. He jumped back, and, as she entered the house, he called out, "Hope insanity won't break out among the twins!"—*Cole's Fun Doctor.*

Professional.

An undertaker, "conducting" a funeral, and forgetting the name of his client, whom he wished to consult on a question of detail, sent up word that he should be glad if he could speak for a moment with the corpse's brother.

Tit for Tat.

A well-known English lady, who had been on terms of friendship with Louis Napoleon during his exile, went to pay her respects to him in Paris, in 1849. The President, resenting some former misunderstanding between them, affected a very cool and distant manner towards her, and merely asked, "Do you stay long in Paris?" "No, *do you?*" was the ready reply.

Balder the Beautiful.

A little boy accosted his papa thus: "Papa, are you growing still?" "No, dear; what makes you think so?" "Because the top of your head is coming through your hair."

Rather Rough on Him.

Some judges have no consideration for a "pore" prisoner's feelings. This was especially the case with his lordship who, on a burglar pleading, "that he must live you know," remarked that "he didn't see the necessity!"

Scientific Cookery.

"Where are you going to, my pretty maid?"
"I'm going to the cooking-school, sir," she said.

"And what do you do there, my pretty maid?"
"Make biscuits and pancakes, kind sir," she said.

"And then do you eat them, my pretty maid?"
"Not if we know it, kind sir," she said.

What he'd Forgotten.

"I say, Cap'n!" cried a little keen-eyed man, as he landed from a steamer at Natchez, "I say, Cap'n, these here aren't all. I have left somethin' on board, that's a fact." "Them's all the plunder you brought on board, anyhow," answered the captain. "Wal, I see now; I grant it's O.K. accordin' to list; four boxes, three chests, two bandboxes, and portmanty; two hams, one part-cut, three ropes of inyens, and a tea-kettle. But see, Cap'n, I'm dubersome; I feel there's somethin' short, tho' I've counted um nine times over, and never took my eyes off um while on board; there's somethin' not right, somehow." "Wal, stranger, time's up; them's all I knows on; so just fetch your wife and five children out of the cabin, cos I'm off." "Them's um! Darn it, them's um! I know'd I'd forgot somethin'!"

He Lived to Tell it.

They were all boasting of hair-breadth escapes and moving accidents by flood and field; and when he had had about as much of it as he could well stand, the Quiet Man arose and said: "I was once engaged in a skirmishing party in America. I advanced too far, was separated from my friends, and saw three Indians in pursuit of me; the horrors of the tomahawk in the hands of angry savages took possession of my mind. I considered for a moment what was to be done. I was swift

of foot, and fear added to my speed. After looking back I perceived that one of my enemies had outrun the others, and the well-known saying, 'Divide and conquer,' occurring to me, I slackened my speed and allowed him to come up. In a few minutes he lay a corpse at my feet. In this short space of time the two other Indians had advanced upon me, so I took again to my heels with the hope of reaching a neighbouring wood, where I knew dwelt a friendly tribe. This hope, however, I was forced to give up; for, on looking back, I saw one of my pursuers far before the other. I waited for him, and soon this Indian shared the fate of the first. I had now only one enemy to deal with, but I felt fatigued, and being near the wood, I was more desirous to save my own life than to destroy another's. I plainly perceived smoke curling up among the trees. I redoubled my speed. I felt I should reach the goal; but, at this moment, the yell of the Indian's voice sounded in my ears. I even thought I felt his warm breath; but there was no choice, I turned round——" Here one of the other fellows lost patience, and cried out: "Well, sir! and you killed him also?" "No, sir; he killed me!"

Once Bit.

A gentleman having lent a guinea for two or three days to a person whose promises he had not much faith in, was very much surprised to find that he punctually kept his word with him. The same gentleman, some time after being desirous of borrowing the like sum, "No," said the other; "you have deceived me once, and I am resolved you shan't do it a second time."

Resisting Temptation.

Jessie had been doing something which her mamma had told her she mustn't do. She had been eating currants, and, of course, got her mouth all stained; that's the way she was found out. Her mamma said, "You know you were forbidden

to eat currants." "But, mother, Satan tempted me." "Why didn't you say, 'Get thee behind me, Satan'?" "I did say, 'Get thee behind me, Satan;' and he went and got behind me, and pushed me right into the currant bushes!"

A Little Bit Mixed.

A Western settler, expatiating on the uncertainty of a backwoodsman's life, remarked that they never knew, on setting out, whether, on their return they might not find their wives widows, and their children fatherless. This almost beats the young naturalist, who was good enough to explain that the cuckoo was the bird that didn't lay its own eggs.

Restoring a Ruin.

The suit of clothes in which Mr. Toole plays the "Artful Dodger" is a triumph of the sartorial art, being a miscellaneous assortment of countless separate rags, each being looped by a piece of string or a pin to the others, to give cohesion to the whole. During one of his seasons in Belfast Mr. Toole's manager made arrangements with a leading tailor of the town to exhibit these cloths as an advertisement, the suit to be displayed with a ticket on it—"A new suit of clothes for the 'Artful Dodger.'" On the clothes arriving at the shop, the senior partner of the firm happened to be absent, and one of the juniors, spying the tattered garments, and at once jumping to the conclusion that they had been sent for repair, immediately set four experienced tailors to work upon them to mend, patch, and make them look like new. The "Artful Dodger's" attire was completely renovated, and returned, with the account, to the theatre. Mr. Toole's distraction may more easily be imagined than described when, coming to the theatre in the afternoon, being about to play the "Dodger" the same evening, he found the vandalism which had been at work on his artistic

costume. He forthwith engaged six tailors to reduce it to its original state, and their labours were only just completed when the curtain rose.

The Weak Place.

"A new boarder came while you were out, mamma, a young lady." "Is she pretty?" "Awfully." "Well, put an extra strip of drugget in front of her mirror."

Ever Thus.

Gone—and I always loved that girl so well!
Gone—like the old proverbial dear gazelle,
Or like the piece of toast, so large and wide,
That always tumbles on the buttered side.

Wool Gathering.

Sir Frederick Pollock relates that one day Lord Dudley was dining with King William and Queen Adelaide, and was sitting next the Queen. Some dish was handed round, to which Lord Dudley helped himself, and, finding it much to his liking, thought it his duty to tell his neighbour of it. So, forgetting where he was, and all the etiquette of the palace, he turned to the Queen and said, "You really ought to take some of this; it is most excellent." The Queen only smiled and thanked him. A minute afterwards the same thought came again into Lord Dudley's head, and again he strongly urged the Queen to have some. After another short interval, for the third time he pressed the dish upon the Queen's notice, who then replied, "I am glad you like it, Lord Dudley. It must be very good, for this is the third time you have told me of it." Then he, remembering that, but forgetting everything else, exclaimed aloud, "Confound the woman, so it is!"

The Locus in Quo.

Rather unexpected was the reply of the urchin, who on being arraigned for playing marbles on Sunday, and sternly asked, "Do you know where those little boys go who play marbles on Sunday?" replied, innocently, "Yes; some on 'em goes to the common, and some on 'em goes down by the side of the river."

The Grey Mare.

"Wretched boy!" said the Bishop to his delinquent footboy, "who is it that sees and hears all we do, and before whom even I am but a crushed worm?" "The missus, my lord." But his Lordship declared that this was not the right answer.

Getting off Cheap.

One night Jones came home very late, and found his wife ready for him. But, instead of going to bed, he sat down, and resting his elbows on his knees, sighed heavily, and exclaimed, in a tone of grief: "Poor Smith, poor fellow." "What's the matter with Smith?" presently asked Mrs. Jones, from the bed. "Ah," said Jones, "his wife is giving him fits just now." Jones was let off that time.

Showing his Affection.

An Irishman swearing the peace against his three sons, concluded thus: "The only one of my children who shows me any real affection is my youngest son, Larry, for he never hits me when I'm down."

Habeas Corpus.

He was in a Government office, and he wanted a "day off." So he got it by saying that he was going to attend his father's