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HUMOR AND WISDOM.

"WHO IS HE WHO CAN UNDERSTAND A JOKE, SEEMS VERILY THERE BE SOME WHO KNOW NOT WHEN A JOKE WHEN THEY SEE IT."

—A more or less ancient proverb.

First passenger to fellow-traveler—'You come from Leipsic. Anything new in that quarter?' Second ditto—'Napoleon lost a great battle there in 1813. There has nothing happened since then.'—*Anon.*

'Yes, brethren,' says the clergyman who is preaching the funeral sermon, 'our deceased brother was cut down in a single night—torn from the arms of his loving wife who is left a disconsolate widow at the early age of twenty-four years.'

'Twenty-two, if you please,' sobs the widow in the front pew, emerging from her handkerchief for an instant.—*Anon.*

Anxious young man—'Miss B., may I have the sixth dance with you?'

Miss B—'As we have no pencil I cannot mark it.'

Anxious young man.—'Oh, well leave a space there, and you'll understand it.'

Miss B.—'Very well, then; when I see a vacant spot I shall know it is you.'

Exit anxious young man.—*Anon.*

A woman having some bodily ailment, called upon a doctor to get his advice. After examining her minutely, he gave her a fly-plaster, and told her to put it on her chest. On calling next day, the doctor asked if she had applied the plaster to her chest, and felt any the better for it.

'No,' replied the woman, 'I had no chest in the house, and I clashed it on the auld tea-box.' —*Anon.*

A Little Rock man sold his cooking stove to get money enough to take his family to the circus. When one of his friends remonstrated with him, he said:

'We had no use for the stove. Had nothing to cook.'

'But why didn't you buy something to eat with the money you got for the stove?'

'Then we should have had nothing to cook it on. Don't talk to me. I'm a philosopher.'—*Anon.*

De healthiest looking men is sometimes de soonest ter die. De biggest tree is de one whut am aptest to be holler. It ain't no use fur some men ter try ter be great. It doan' make no difference how much a mouse eats, he neber will be er rat. Dar's dis difference twixt men and wimin. Er 'oman tries ter make her heart show on her face; de man tries to make his mine show on his countenance. De trouble is dat de 'oman ain't allus got a heart and de man ain't allus got a mine.—*Plantation Philosophy.*

He asked her, as onward they strolled
In a path that was rustic and devious,
If she noticed the beauty of scene;
She replied: 'It's pellucidly, utterly,
Irisatedly, astrally, previous!'

He asked her again, as they sat
On the top of the lofty stone fence,
How she liked the position of things;
She answered: 'It's peripatetically,
Iridescently, spectrally immense!'

While sweetly like doves they did coo,
[illegible] sight of her snug little shoe,
[illegible] at he thought of its miteness,
[illegible] It's consummately, awfully,
[illegible] ly, ostensibly, quietly,
[illegible] ed whically, stellularly *too!*
[illegible] Naid: —*Anon.*

—Many people who have spoken or declaimed in public know what "stage fright" is—how, when one rises to speak, self-possession is lost. A funny example of this was shown recently at the town of Urbana, in Ohio. A gentleman, not accustomed to public speaking, was selected to present a silver cup to another gentleman, who had distinguished himself in some manner.

The orator of the occasion wrote and committed to memory a most elaborate address, and, on the other hand, the man who was to receive the present prepared an equally long and flowery speech of thanks.

The time arrived. Stage fright seized upon both gentlemen as soon as they stood before the audience. Each forgot every word of his harangue.

'There's the jug,' said the orator.

'Is that the mug?' said the other.—*Anon.*

Key, Hayes' Postmaster-General, who is a Tennesseean, while in Washington recently, told a story of a political trimmer in one of the back counties of Tennessee which might find its parallel in a broader field of politics. The county where the incident occurred was very much agitated over the question of a school tax. This trimmer was running for some office. He had never been known to give a decided opinion upon any political issue. One night when he was making a speech the crowd refused to let him talk any longer unless he would give his views upon the subject of the school tax.

'Are you for it, or are you against it?' shouted the crowd.

The orator, pressed for a reply, said:

'You have a right to ask for an answer. I have no concealments to make. To you I say in all frankness, if it is a good thing I am for it, and if it is a bad thing I am agin it.'

Sitting in the piazza of the Cataract House, at Niagara Falls, was a young, foppish-looking man, his garments very highly scented with a mingled odor of cologne and musk. A solemn-faced, odd-looking man, after passing the dandy several times, with a look of aversion which drew general notice, suddenly stopped, and in a confidential tone, said:

'Stranger, I know what'll take that scent out o' your clothes; and—

'What do you mean, sir?' said the exquisite, fired with indignation, starting from his chair.

'Oh, get mad now; swear, pitch round, fight, just because a man wants to do you a kindness!'

'But I know what'll take out that smell—phew! you just bury your clothes—bury 'em a day or two.'

At this moment there issued from the crowd a simultaneous roar of merriment; and the dude very sensibly vanished upstairs.—*Anon.*

Maybe a man feels happy and proud and flattered and envied and blessed among men when he sees a pretty girl trying to raise a window of a railway car and jumps up and gets ahead of the other boys and says:

'Allow me?' oh, so courteously, and she says: 'Oh, if you please; I would be so glad,' and the other male passengers turn green with envy, and he leans over on the back of the seat and tackles the window in a knowing way with one hand, if peradventure he may toss it airily with a simple turn of the wrist; but it kind of holds on, and he takes hold with both hands; but it sort of doesn't go to [illegible] any alarming extent, and he pounds it with [illegible] fist, but it only seems to settle "a little clo[illegible] into place," and then he comes around an[illegible] he gets out of the seat to give him a fair c[illegible]ce and he grapples that window and bo[illegible] his back and tugs and pulls and sweats [illegible] grunts and strains, and his hat falls off [illegible] his suspender buttons fetch loose and his waistcoat buckle parts and his face gets red and his feet slip and people laugh and an irreverent young man, in a remote seat, grunts and groans every time he lifts and cries:

'Now, then, altogether!' as if in mockery, and he bursts his collar button, and the pretty young lady, vexed at being made so conspicuous, says, in her iciest manner:

'Oh, never mind, thank you; it doesn't make any difference,' and calmly goes and sits down in another seat, and that wearied man gathers himself together and reads a book upside down—oh, doesn't he feel just good!

Maybe; but don't be fool enough to extend any of your sympathy. He doesn't need it.—

FOR THE YOUNG FOLKS.

A Fight With Malay Pirates.

BY DAVID KER.

'This is a bad job!'

So said Captain Garnett, of the cargo steamer Seagull, outward bound for Singapore, and no one on board could say that he was wrong. To run aground on a sand-bank, with no chance of getting off till the next tide, just when you are near your port and in a special hurry to reach it, is unpleasant enough at any time; but when this happens off the coast of Sumatra, where swarms of blood-thirsty savages are always ready to pounce upon any ship in distress it is a very "bad job," indeed.

While the captain was speaking, his keen eyes were wandering restlessly to and fro along the great mass of dark green leaves that covered the shore, and the first officer (who was standing beside him) saw his hands clinch suddenly and his lips press themselves together, till they grew white.

A dark, fierce-eyed, wolfish countenance had just peered above the bushes, and then vanished like a ghost.

'That's *one*,' said the captain, grimly, 'and where there's one of these rascals, there are always plenty more. They scent plunder as vultures scent carrion—bad luck to them! And we haven't so much as a pistol on board, except my old revolver yonder, that must go and break its lock just at the wrong time!'

And now the matted boughs of the thicket began to bend and quiver in all directions, showing that a large number of men must be in motion behind them, while three or four Malays even ventured right out upon a low, sandy point fronting toward the shoal on which the steamer was stranded, and began to drag a large *prau* (native boat) down to the water edge.

'Well, we'll have a fight for it, anyhow!' cried the captain, whose bold blood was thoroughly up. 'Better fight it out like men than be killed like sheep. Here, my lads, be smart and tumble up some casks and coal-sacks, and make a barricade along here. Unship the capstan-bars. They're handy things to knock a fellow down with. Here, you Jim!' (to the cabin boy), 'break a lot of bottles all about the deck on the port side. It'll astonish their bare feet a bit; and here, carpenter! bring the grindstone along and put an edge on all the sheath-knives—smart, now!'

The men obeyed as gleefully as if playing a game, instead of preparing to fight for their lives against an enemy who knew no mercy.—But every man knew well how fearfully the chances were against them. Four boats, crowded with armed men, could now be seen coming round the point to attack them, and all that the Malays would have to do would be to pull up to the edge of the sand-bank, land there, and scramble right up into the steamer, which had heeled over so much when she struck as to be very easily boarded.

Even the hope of being able to go aloft and defend themselves in the rigging, should the worst come to the worst, was now taken away from them, for this would be only giving themselves to be picked off like sparrows by the bullets of the matchlocks, whose long, shining barrels could be seen here and there above the black heads of their enemies.

And all this while the rippling sea sparkled in the sunlight, and the fresh morning breeze whispered among the green leaves and great bell-shaped flowers along the shore, and the sky was cloudlessly blue overhead, and everything looked bright and beautiful around these black pirate boats that were coming on swiftly and surely to destroy them. Well might the sturdy boatswain mutter discontentedly:

'Well, it *does* seem hard to be murdered on sitch a fine day!'

'Say, cap'n, I guess I've got an idee!'

The captain turned quickly and found himself face to face with the chief engineer—a long, gaunt, keen-looking "Cape Codder," who whispered a few words in his ear.

Whatever Joel Bradford's "idee" may have been, the captain's face brightened wonderfully as he listened, and his answering "All right, go ahead," sounded surprisingly hopeful under the circumstances.

For a moment or two there was a bustle amidships, and then officers and men alike crouched down behind the barricade (which was now completed) to await the assault.

On came the Malays, and presently a fierce shout and the crackle of half a dozen matchlocks, followed by the crash of the heavy bullets into the ship's planking, told that they had landed upon the sand-bank. In another moment, they came swarming up over the bulwarks, yelling like hungry wolves.

But they yelled to a very different tune when their bare feet came plump down upon the broken bottles that strewed the deck, while three or four, who had missed their footing, fell sprawling all their length among the sharp-pointed glass, pricking and cutting themselves from head to foot, as if they were being tattooed.

Meanwhile, a shower of big stones from the ballast-bags, flung among them with unerring aim by the English sailors, knocked down four or five, and considerably discouraged the rest.

Just at that moment, however, up came the crews of the other two boats, brandishing their *krisses* (curved daggers), and shouting like madmen; but all at once there came a sharp "whish," like the hiss of an angry serpent, followed by a screaming and howling from the Malays, to which all their previous cries were as nothing. Joel Bradford had carried one end of the fire-hose down into the engine-room, and was now flooding the bare-limbed savages with scalding water from the boiler.

This new weapon turned the day at once.—The force of the jet was sufficient to knock the pirates right off their feet, and between the broken glass and the boiling water they very soon had enough of it. Roaring like bulls, they tumbled headlong over the ship's side into the sea, only too glad to escape; and the deck was clear in less than two minutes.

"Guess they won't want another dose of that air medicine," chuckled Mr. Bradford, as he came up the engine-room stair, flushed and breathless, but triumphant.

He was right, and two hours more saw them beyond the reach of danger; for the steamer floated again with the rising tide, while a fresh breeze, springing up from the southwest, soon carried them far away from that perilous shore.

A LITTLE Scotch boy once caused several of his elders to smile by a bright bit of repartee. He was being questioned by a clergyman, and was asked:

'What is the meaning of regeneration, as taught by the Bible?'

'To be born again,' was the reply.

'Quite right. Would you like to be born again?'

The boy hesitated; but, being pressed, admitted that he would not.

'And why not?'

'For fear I might be born a lassie,' said he, with more frankness than gallantry.

'Come, my son, give your brother a bite of your apple. Nothing looks so well in a little man as generosity,' said a gentleman to one of a party of children.

'A bite—a bite of this apple? A bite! Well, sir, I guess you never saw that boy's mouth open. A bite of apple would feel lost in *his* mouth. Generosity is a nice thing to have; but I had rather have the apple,' said the young philosopher.

'What makes you so sweet, Willie?' said a doting mother of her chubby, round-faced, rosy-cheeked son.

'I don't know, mamma,' replied the little fellow, gravely—'I don't know; but guess when the Good Man made me out of dust, He put a little sugar in!'

'Robbie,' said a visitor who wished to make herself agreeable, 'have you any little brothers or sisters?'

'No, ma'am,' replied Rob, solemnly; 'I'm all the children we've got.'

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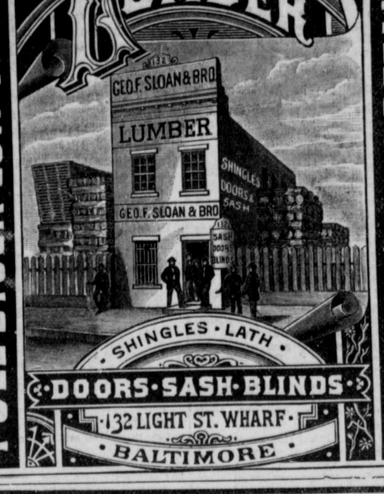

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PERIODICALS.	AUTHORS.
Quarterly Review,	Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone
Brit. Quarterly Review,	Alfred Tennyson,
Edinburgh Review,	Prof. Huxley,
Westminster Review,	Prof. Tyndall,
Contemporary Review,	Rich. A. Proctor, B.A.,
Fortnightly Review,	J. Norman Lockyer, f.r.s
The Nineteenth Cent'y,	Dr. W B Carpenter,
Science Miscellany,	E B Tylor,
Blackwood's Magazine	Prof. Max Muller,
Cornhill Magazine,	Prof. Owen,
Macmillan's Magazine,	Matthew Arnold,
Longman's Magazine,	E A Freeman, D C L.,
New Quart. Magazine,	James Anthony Froude,
Temple Bar,	Thomas Hughes,
Belgravia,	Algernon C. Swinburne
Good Words,	William Black,
London Society,	Mrs Oliphant,
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