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How the Discussion Ended.

It was whispered in Washington that as the Montague Browns were not as rich as other members of the smart set they had to practice economy where it did not show. But tonight there was certainly no hint of economy anywhere. There were strawberries, hothouse grown, and terrapin and canvasback duck, though both were exorbitant in the market. The handsome tablecloth had been ruthlessly cut, and through the opening a cluster of American Beauty roses, their stems on the floor, shot up two feet above the table. It was the most effective table decoration of the winter.

Mrs. Montague Brown, young, pretty and ambitious, smiled a smile of rare pleasure. She reflected complacently that she had captured a cabinet officer for this dinner. The conversation was bowling along smoothly, and she leaned forward to listen. The guest of honor was speaking:

"And still I insist that no woman can do society all the time without neglecting her household and children."

"Not at all," smiled Mrs. Montague. "I think I can persuade you to the contrary if you"— She paused, observing that he was staring with wide open eyes at the doorway. A tiny, half clad figure stood there.

"Mamma, Mary's in the kitchen, and I tan't find my nighty," piped Montague Brown, Jr.—Harper's Magazine.

Too Extravagant by Half.

The manner in which one defaulting cashier was detected was rather peculiar. It was all due to the curiosity of the women of his neighborhood. He went to no expense in the way of dressing, they never heard of his gambling or drinking to any extent, he was a model husband, but he loved a good table. There was nothing unusual in this, but one day when the ladies of the vicinity were discussing the best method of cooking meats the wife of the cashier declared very innocently that her husband doted on ham, but he would not eat it unless it had been boiled in champagne. "Boiled in champagne!" exclaimed the listeners. "Heavens, how expensive! We couldn't afford to have ham on our table often if we cooked it that way."

It was soon noised all around the neighborhood that Cashier Blank was a high liver indeed, and the men began telling of his uplifted ideas of cookery. This soon reached the ears of the directors of the bank, and they concluded it might be wise to investigate the accounts of such an epicure. Plain water was all they could afford for their hams, so the champagne lover was called up and subsequently relegated to the pen, where he had to forego his pet dish for many, many weary days.—Louisville Times.

A Long Separation.

"Home again at last, darling."

"John, dearest, you don't look a day older."

"I must. Centuries can't roll over a man's head without leaving traces."

"It was ages and ages, wasn't it? And, oh, John, how lonesome I have been!"

"You poor little wifey! If ever I have to go away again, you shall go with me. But you're more beautiful than ever, sweet one. What have you been doing with yourself all the time I was away?"

"Thinking of you, darling, and longing and longing for you to come home."

"If that is the secret of beauty, I ought to have grown a perfect Adonis. And you're sure you recognized me straight off without thinking at least a minute?"

"Of course, you old dear. Do you suppose I could ever forget you?"

"Good gracious! It doesn't seem possible that I've been away only since the day before yesterday, does it, sweetheart?"

"Not a bit more, husband mine, than that we have actually been married a whole month tomorrow."—Pearson's Weekly.

Scotch Medicine.

A stranger came to a provincial Scotch town one day. He looked somewhat of an invalid, and he asked one of the inhabitants to direct him to the chemist's shop.

"The what, sir?"

"The chemist's shop."

"Aye, an what kin' o' shop's that, na?"

"Why, the place where you can buy medicine."

"Eh, sir, we've nae sic shop as that here."

"No? What do you do, then, when any one falls ill? Do you take no medicine?"

"Deed, no; not a drap. We've just whisky for the folk an tar for the sheep, an that's a' the fessick we deal in."—London Answers.

It Was Strictly Modern.

"She has received a strictly up to date education, you say?"

"Well, rather. She hasn't a bit of practical knowledge about household affairs, but she has more theories than you could get in a book, and she can talk about parliamentary law in a way that will make her shine in any woman's club you can pick out."—Chicago Post.

His College Days.

"Mike," said Plodding Pete, "do you t'ink it does a man much good to go troo college?"

"Not much," replied Meandering Mike. "I went troo a college once, an all I got was two dictioneries an a suit of football clothes. De swag wasn't wort' de risk."—Washington Star.

It has been found that a dozen Portuguese oysters contain about six grains of phosphoric acid. French oysters have about four grains per dozen.

It is human nature to deride what we cannot possess, to deny what we cannot understand and to insult those we envy.—Chicago News.

The Story of a Mean Man.

This is the story of a mean man. He may not be the meanest on record, but he carries a very fair brand of close fistedness. He had a contract to supply a certain amount of crushed stone. The machine he used could turn out all the work he could get by running eight hours a day.

The mean man had an engineer who was a genius. The genius went to his employer one day and said he thought he could make some improvements in that machine so it would do more work in less time. The genius was paid by the month.

He worked on the machine for several days, taking it apart and putting it together again. When reconstructed, it proved to have greater efficiency than before, so much so that it did the same amount of work in one minute and a half that it used to take four and a half to do.

The mean man, however, could get no more contracts than before. He could fill all his orders by running about three hours a day. The mean man then went to the genius and said:

"See here, Henry, I've been paying you by the month, but there isn't as much work as there used to be—not enough to keep you busy. I shall have to pay you by the hour after this."

Henry demurred. He had been too faithful, but he didn't think that ought to reduce his earnings over one-half. His employer was firm, however, and Henry resigned.—New York Mail and Express.

An Experiment In Journalism.

Once there was a really radical paper, in London it was, but the man who made it now lives here and tells the tale. It was one of those papers which are a tragedy. They represent the wreck of the enthusiasm of strong men who must find the outlet for their apostolate. This paper began by being at odds with all that was established, and it had readers. But as time went on the man who made the paper drove off singly and in groups all those who had begun by being his supporters. It was found a little too radical for them, and they no longer kept step with its newest march.

"Of course I now can see that such a paper was foredoomed to failure," the editor said after he had recited the early history of his venture. "I confess it was pretty strong even for British radicals. After the circulation had dwindled down to the extremists I succeeded in alienating about half of them by denouncing social democracy as feudal oppression, and the other half left me when I attacked atheism on the score of its superstitious tendencies. After that I ran the paper as long as I could without any subscribers. But I had to give it up. Nobody would read it except myself, and toward the end I had to give up reading it myself. I found it too unsettling. So it stopped."—New York Commercial Advertiser.

The Longest Word.

"Rob," said Tom, "which is the most dangerous word to pronounce in the English language?"

"Don't know, unless it's a swearing word."

"Pooh!" said Tom. "It's 'stumbled,' because you are sure to get a tumble between the first and last letter."

"Ha, ha!" said Rob. "Now, I've got one for you. I found it one day in the paper. Which is the longest word in the English language?"

"Incomprehensibility," said Tom promptly.

"No, sir; it's 'smiles,' because there's a whole mile between the first and last letter."

"Ho, ho!" cried Tom, "that's nothing. I know a word that has over three miles between its beginning and ending."

"What's that?" asked Rob faintly.

"Beleaguered," said Tom.—Pearson's.

His Accent and His Country.

On one occasion during a visit to America Michael Gunn, who assisted Gilbert and Sullivan in bringing out many of their operas, was trying the voices of some candidates for the chorus. One of them sang in a sort of affected Italian broken English. The stage manager interrupted. "Look here," he said, "that accent won't do for sailors or pirates. Give us a little less Mediterranean and a little more Whitechapel."

Here Gunn turned and said: "Of what nationality are you? You don't sound Italian."

The other suddenly dropped his Italian accent and in Irish said, "Shure, Mr. Gunn, I'm from the same country as yourself."

Military Pomposity.

Quinn—Such pomposity in the army is disgraceful.

De Fonte—Pomposity?

Quinn—Yes. Since Finn has been promoted to corporal he objects to his letters being marked "private" for fear people may think that that is still his rank.—Chicago News.

Odors and Deafness.

"Here," said the observant boarder, who had a newspaper in his hand, "is a writer who asserts that odors can cause deafness."

"Well," added the cross eyed boarder, "musk is pretty loud."—Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.

A Prominent Chicago Woman Speaks.

Prof. Roxa Tyler, of Chicago, Vice-President Illinois Woman's Alliance, in speaking of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, says: "I suffered with a severe cold this winter which threatened to run into pneumonia. I tried different remedies but I seemed to grow worse and the medicine upset my stomach. A friend advised me to try Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and I found it was pleasant to take and it relieved me at once. I am now entirely recovered, saved a doctor's bill, time and suffering, and I will never be without this splendid medicine again." For sale by M. A. Toulson, druggist.

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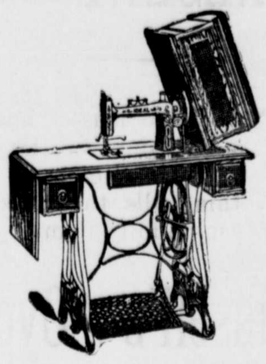

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