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**GOOD Short Stories**

Some years ago at a Mardi Gras ball at the Hopkins Institute of Art, a man, masked, approached a woman, masked, and asked her for a dance, as is considered right and proper at Mardi Gras. "But I don't know you, sir," said the lady in her most icy tone. "Well, I'm taking as big a risk as you are," retorted the man.

A tender-hearted youth was once present at an Oxford supper, where the fathers of those assembled were being roundly abused for their parsimony in supplying the demands of their sons. At last, after having long kept silence, he lifted up his voice in mild protest. "After all, gentlemen," he said, "let us remember that they are our fellow-creatures."

It is said that at certain seasons in Scotland, when the fishing is not very brisk, the fishermen act as caddies, and are easily recognized by their costume, a woolen jersey and trousers braced up to the armpits. One of these was asked his name by the gentleman for whom he was carrying, and the reply was: "Weel, sir, hereabouts they mairstley ca' me 'Breeks' but ma 'maiden' name is 'Broon.'"

Charles Stewart, a British lawyer, has lately published a volume of reminiscences, in which he tells the following story of Tennyson, whom he found self-conscious and accessible to flattery: "A little niece of mine was one day standing beside his chair; he lifted her up and placed her on his knee for half a minute, and then he put her down, saying: 'Now you can say you have sat on Tennyson's knee.'"

An error of a new clerk in the mailing department of an Eastern publisher was responsible, the other day, for the mailing of a prospectus to a world-famous statesman, who had been dead for some years. The letter was returned a few days later, with the following indorsement: "In Heaven, —, 1901. Gentlemen: As your publications are not permitted to circulate here, I believe it would be useless for me to subscribe for them. Yours respectfully," and here followed the name of the famous statesman.

When Thomas Snodgrass, ex-collector of Ganjam, Madras, was expelled from the service of the East India Company owing to his extravagance, he applied for a pension. But the company turned a deaf ear to him. Accordingly he arrayed himself in tattered clothes, and armed with a broom, set to work sweeping a crossing in Leadenhall street, in front of the East India house. Immediately all London was agog with the intelligence that an old and distinguished officer of the East India Company, who had ruled over a hundred thousand people and reined in a palace, was now reduced, in the evening of his life, to the necessity of earning his bread by sweeping the streets. The king was thunderstruck, and implored Mr. Snodgrass to take himself and his broom away. This he did, when the company gave him his pension.

**AN INDEPENDENT GOVERNOR.**  
 Mr. Jones Checkmated the Impertinent Contractor for Convict Labor.  
 When Thomas G. Jones, whom President Roosevelt has appointed district judge in Alabama, was Governor of the State, the bad practice prevailed of farming out convicts in labor camps. Under the law they were let out by contract to the highest bidder, and were liable to neglect and maltreatment. The Governor had to administer the laws as he found them, but to this law, says a writer in Harper's Weekly, he was stoutly opposed.

One day a negro was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment. The law required the Governor's signature to a paper before the man could be sent to the convict camp. The Governor did not act as promptly as those who contracted for the labor of the convicts thought desirable, so they sent a representative to him to find out what the matter was.

"I have delayed acting in this man's case," said the Governor, "because I have heard that measles, in a very malignant form, have broken out in your camp, and that many of the convicts are dying. Is it true?"  
 "Yes," said the agent, lightly; "but what difference does that make? Send him along. He may not catch the measles, anyway, and if he does, and dies, why, it's only one nigger the less."  
 "That is all I wanted to know," replied Governor Jones. "I send no more persons, black or white, to your camp till the disease is under control."  
 The agent reddened.  
 "See here, Governor," he snapped out, angrily, "you don't own the State of Alabama! We have still some courts open. If you refuse to send that man to camp, we shall go into court and get out a mandamus, and then you will have to do it."  
 It was now the Governor's turn to flush. He wheeled upon his visitor with a gesture toward the door.  
 "You go into the nearest court and try your best to force me to do what I do not believe is right!" he thundered.  
 "Try it—it will teach you a lesson. The same laws which give me power to sign that paper give me authority to pardon a convict. Now I serve you with fair warning that the instant I see your emissary enter that door with your mandamus in his hand, I sign a pardon for the convict! Now go!"

We have noticed that when there is a band in town there are more men than usual on the streets smoking pipes.

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