Tit for Tat.

It is never wise to intrude one's prejudices upon the general public, since there is everywhere some one capable of taking up such prejudices and turning them to ridicule. Nowhere is this more true than in the case of strangers in country towns, for nowhere does ready wit find expression more freely than under such circumstances.

It is related that there formerly lived in Boston a lawyer named Ratcliffe, who was famous in his circle for his skepticism and his hatred of religious things. One time this Mr. Ratcliffe had occasion to go to St. Albans, Vt., to take testimony in a law case in which he was engaged. He amused himself during the proceedings by continually alluding to the town as "Albans" instead of St. Albans.

Presently one of the local lawyers present asked, "Why do you call this place 'Albans?'"

"Because I don't like saints," said Mr. Ratcliffe.

"Oh!"

Nothing more was said on the subject, but by and by, the work being completed, the Boston lawyer rose to take his departure.

"Good-by, gentlemen," he said to the three or four St. Albans men who were present.

"Good-by, Mr. Cliffe!" they all answered.

"What do you mean by calling me 'Mr. Cliffe?'" he exclaimed.

"Why, we don't like rats," said one of the St. Albans men.—Youth's Companion.

A Jumbo Spider.

E. M. Tutwiler, superintendent of the Sloss Iron and Steel company's mines at Coalburg, has, preserved in alcohol, the largest black spider ever seen in this section.

A few days ago Tutwiler heard a great commotion among the chickens in his yard. He went out to investigate and saw a small chicken being slowly drawn into a hole in the ground. Some invisible reptile had caught the chicken by one leg and was drawing it into the hole in spite of its desperate struggles.

Tutwiler approached, and looking down in the hole discovered an immense black spider. He punched it with a stick and compelled it to release the chicken. He then dug the spider out of its den and placed it in a jar of alcohol. It lived an hour after being placed in the jar. When dead the spider was taken out, weighed and measured. It measured 2 1-2 inches across the back and weighed nine ounces. Its longest legs were 4 1-2 inches in length, and its eyes were as large as a hotel clerk's diamonds.—Birmingham (Ala.) Cor. St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Idle Hours.

When a man is apparently idle it may be that his time is most profitably employed. "This were some time a paradox," but he who reflects upon it will see its meaning. All hard workers learn sooner or later the truth that recreation is an absolute necessity for tired bodies and tired minds.

The idle time of Bacon, Pope, Cowper and many another famous writer has been spent in gardening. It is said that market gardening is the one passion of Blackmore, the English novelist, and that he spends the money earned by his pen in carrying out this dearly beloved hobby. And who could wish it otherwise? Doubtless the poetical spirit which pervades his work is that caught from long days spent in homely tasks in the garden and field. "Some men dig up worms from the earth," says an old proverb, "others uncover truth."—Youth's Companion.

Torpid Liver.

If the liver is inactive, and consequently fails to make bile enough, the poisonous waste elements which should be eliminated in this manner are retained. The bile is not retained, because it is not made. The materials for the bile are not bile, any more than alkalies and oils are soap. One of the elements of bile is a resinous substance called cholesterine. If this is not carried off properly very serious and sometimes fatal consequences follow. In the liver itself it accumulates and forms gall stones, a diseased condition accompanied with the greatest pain. Gall stones are sometimes so nearly pure resin that they can be ignited and burned.—Hall's Journal of Health.

Why He Was Desperate.

Jack—What on earth is the matter, old fellow?

...ere (wildly)—The proprietor is ...as left me in charge. It's ...he cash is in the safe; ...ation, which I put in ...ning and have for- ...ped the mucilage ...le, and (to office ... and get me a ...oison!—Pitts-

...he skin of ...sh green ...r of six ...een gen- ...eyesight. ...l the mat- ...o changes ...l.—Ram's

...of "Baled

...ook)—Ah, ...s of "Baled

...ucker once

Justice Field Would Not Sign.

A rather spare old gentleman, with thin, grayish whiskers, and wearing a pair of highly polished spectacles, leaned over the counter in the Southern Pacific company's uptown ticket office, Monday morning, and asked for a round trip ticket to Portland.

"Thirty dollars," promptly responded the clerk.

The passenger laid the gold on the counter and the clerk pulled the ticket out of the case and handed it toward him with a well inked pen.

"What is that for?" asked the passenger, with a touch of contempt in his tone and glancing toward the pen.

"Sign there, please."

"I beg your pardon."

"Sign the ticket, please."

"No, sir; I refuse; there is no law in the United States compelling me to sign a railroad ticket. There is your money. Give me the ticket."

The somewhat ruffled ticket agent looked at the passenger and then at the ticket, but did not touch the money.

"What is your name sir?" he asked at length.

"Stephen J. Field," was the reply.

Then it dawned upon the rather dazed mind of the young man behind the counter that he was talking to one of the justices of the supreme court of the United States. He quietly stamped the unsigned ticket, handed it to the passenger with a subdued air, and as he put the money in the drawer he was observed by the bystanders to be in a very reflective mood. —San Francisco Chronicle.

Buffalonian Intellect.

Some of Buffalo's public school children should have had a chapter in "English as she is taught." Among the questions in the last term examination was this: "What are the chief advantages of New York city?" One answer was: "The Statue of Liberty and New York bay." Another "The zoological gardens and the elevated railroads," and another, "Jay Gould and its amusements." These are actual answers taken at random from several hundreds of papers. These are not specimens of what the most untutored minds in our public schools are capable of. Some of the answers in questions in geography were so wide of the mark that a pre-Adamite ought to have known better.—Buffalo Courier.

Consolation of History.

Chicago Dame—My dear, we are not the only ones whose fortunes have taken wings.

Chicago Broker—We've got plenty of company, that's so, and——

"But I was referring to the historic past. The paper says John Augustus, marquis di Medici, and the last of that illustrious family, is now running a cheap wine cabaret opposite the palace of his ancestors in Florence."

"Medici! Medici! I don't remember 'em."

"Oh, they were an old, old family, my dear, and at one time the wealthiest on the globe."

"Well, well! What did they go into, wheat or coffee?"—Omaha World.

Valuable Information.

"Can you tell me where I can get something to eat?" said a tramp, piteously, to a gentleman in Madison square. "I haven't tasted food in about a week."

"Well," replied the gentleman, "you can get a good square meal over at the Hoffman house, if you don't mind what you pay for it."—New York Sun.

She Caught On.

Husband—Sarsaparilla (winking knowingly).

Wife—Lemon! without the wink!—Judge.

Hard on the Hen and the Printer.

You have all heard of the hen that got buried under a pile of hay and lived from two weeks to three months according to the ability of the man telling the story, and then came out somewhat thin in flesh, but nevertheless in first class health and all right mentally. Well, a Dakota hen recently had a worse time than that. She accidentally got shut in the store of a man who doesn't advertise and remained there four weeks. When she was rescued she was a mere wreck, having eaten a peck of dried apples and then drank three or four quarts of kerosene. During her enforced confinement the owner of the store was making a little trip in the country and painting the fences and bridges with:

By Yor, PRuNs: & Etc AT. FOSSIL'S' GROCry.!

—Dakota Bell.

A Big Spit.

"We want you to come over and look at our house," she said to the policeman on Crawford street the other day.

"What's the matter of the house?" he asked.

"Some one has spit tobacco juice all over the stoop."

The officer went around on Crawford street and viewed the scene of disaster and said:

"Don't you know tobacco juice from ink?"

"No, sir; I—I don't chew," she humbly replied, "though I did think it was an awful big spit for one loafer."—Detroit Free Press.

His Offense.

West Point Cadet (to young lady)—I am surprised to hear that Corp. Callow has been punished. Did you learn what his offense was, Miss Smith?

Young Lady—I believe, Lieut. Shoulderstrap, that it was conduct unbecoming either an officer or a gentleman, but I have forgotten which.—New York Sun.

How to Keep Cool.

"How cool and comfortable you look, dear," said a mother to her daughter. "Have you been taking a bath?"

"No, mamma," was the reply; "I have been reading a love scene from Howells."—New York Sun.

Papa's Teeth Are Being Fixed.

Put away the beefsteak, Mollie;
Chop the cutlets into hash;
Turn the solids into salads,
Crush potatoes into mash.
Bake the rice in little patties,
Have the mush with dressing mixed,
For the hour is fraught with danger—
Papa's teeth are being fixed.

Mix the festive pancake batter,
Chop the lobster into bits;
Fry the soft and plastic doughnut
That the grinder never grits;
Cut the bread in yielding slices,
Lay an oyster in betwixt,
Banish all the pleasant solids—
Papa's teeth are being fixed.

—Texas Siftings.

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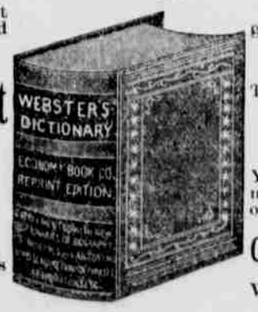

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