

AMUSING ACUTENESS.

Anecdotes of Three Men Whose Wits Were as Amusing as Their Cheek.

Nowadays acuteness is deemed essential to success in any direction, and a certain amount of it does materially aid in the accomplishment of a purpose. But of a person reputed "cute" it is advisable to beware, else one may find himself unexpectedly involved in difficulties of some kind.

While, for the greatest part, human acuteness is tinged with base elements, it may be exercised without injury to the agent or object, merely to exemplify a good natured, though keen wit.

A young man under examination for admission to the University of Edinburgh, was asked if he studied logic, and replied affirmatively.

"You understand the difference between cause and effect?" inquired the professor.

"I do."

"Did you ever know an instance where the effect was in advance of the cause?"

"Yes, sir."

"Mention it," said the professor, in great amazement.

"Well, when a man pushes a wheelbarrow ahead of him."

On a certain occasion Rabelais desired to visit Paris, but was destitute of the means for so doing. He made up three packages and marked them "Poison for the king," "Poison for the dauphin," "Poison for Monsieur."

His landlord saw them, reported the case to the authorities, and he was arrested and taken to Paris. The contents of the packages were analyzed, found to be brick dust and harmless. Then Rabelais explained matters, and the king was highly amused by the ruse.

In days gone by few southern lawyers were more distinguished than Luther Martin. He was one day riding to Annapolis in a stage coach when his only companion—a young man who had just been admitted to the bar—addressing him, said:

"Mr. Martin, you have been wonderfully successful in your profession. Are you willing to acquiesce with the secret of your success?"

"If you will pay my expenses during the few days that I shall remain in Annapolis."

"I will," was the earnest response.

"It is in this advice: Deny every thing and insist upon proof."

At Annapolis, Mr. Martin enjoyed all the luxuries that a fine hotel could furnish, regardless of expense, and when the time for his departure arrived passed the "bill" of enormous proportions—to the young lawyer who was standing near. The latter merely glanced at it, and then returned it to Mr. Martin.

"Aren't you going to pay it?" Mr. Martin asked.

"Pay what?"

"This bill. Didn't you promise to defray my expenses while I was in Annapolis?"

"My dear sir," was the quiet reply, "I deny everything and insist upon proof."

The eminent lawyer paid his bill, and laughingly said to the young man:

"You need no further counsel from me."—Golden Days.

Hard on Our Funny Men.

A writer in the London Globe has discovered "a trait peculiar to American humorists." He says: "When the writer wishes to brighten the humor by a foil, he introduces us to the little American child; and when we find the little American child to innocent children, all chance of tickling the ribs of their readers is gone. Jokes are undoubtedly made in the States as they are in other countries. Humor there certainly is among the great and free people—mostly but humorists."

The Halibutrons, Lowells and Holmes are few and far between. Artemus Ward, Bret Harte, Mark Twain, Sam Adams, Stockton, the authors of "Helen's Babies" and "A Bad Boy's Diary," are amiable, but give us genuine amusement of an honest kind. But when these have been mentioned what names remain to be added? Who have they got to pit against the authors of "Vanity Fair," "Punch," "Essays of Elia," "Mrs. Gaskell's Curious Tales," "Alice in Wonderland," "Happy Thoughts," "The Jumbies," to mention only a very few of the works of great English humorists of late years? And if Europe is to be included, what of Mürger, About, Sauter and the rest? America's claim cannot be allowed for a moment. In the humor of the paragraphists she is rich. This humor is manifested by wretched men often with wretched spelling out of wretched materials."—Current Literature.

A Sweet Advice.

Mrs. Venering complacently telling in carriage—There, John, I told you our new turned-out would attract a great deal of attention. Everybody seems to be looking at it.

Mr. Venering suddenly discovering three urchins seated on the back springs—Hey, there, driver! Whip behind—New York Sun.

Poor Fellow.

Smith—What has become of Dr. Cures? Jones—The man who advertised to cure every complaint under the sun.

S—Yes.

J—Oh! he died the other day from a complication of diseases.—Boston Courier.

Jumped at the Invitation.

The little son of C. E. Hantsberger, of Lyons, has a live frog in his stomach, and all efforts to expel it have failed. The boy told the frog in his hand and opened his mouth. The frog jumped at the invitation.—Omaha Herald.

A Summer Luxury.

Man, in awful hurry, looks in elevator door—"Up!" Boy, calmly—"Down." Man flies upstairs, five floors, three steps at a time, elevator passes him on second floor. Man recovers breath and asks the boy: "Whammed jettumme you got down for?" Boy, still calm—"Didn't thought you asked me if I was up, and I said I was down."—Bob Burdette.

He Paid for the Ear Drops.

A young lady employed at a hotel in Dixmont, Me., one day carelessly left her ear drop in the sauce dish. A young man who dined there swallowed one of the ear drops with his sauce. It so happened that this winter the aforesaid young man pressed his finger for the father of the aforesaid young woman. When they settled the young man was handed an envelope containing his pay. In the envelope was a bill for \$5 for the ear drop he had swallowed, and money accounted to make the account good.—Chicago Tribune.

"What do you keep that sniveling little beggar of a dog for?"

"Why, dear boy, it makes me cold to look at him."—Life.

THE EXTINCTION OF THE BISON.

Dr. Carver, the Great Shot, Talks About It—Some Breeds Stopped.

As the Indians hunted them, the race of bison would probably have lasted forever, but about 1866 the white men turned their attention to the shaggy monsters of the plains. Large eastern firms organized hunting parties and paid the shooters \$2.50 for each bison where he lay dead on the plains. I then went to southern Nebraska and became a professional hunter. The bison consisted of two large divisions, the one living in the south and the other in the north. Their only common feeding ground was along the Republican river and its branches in Nebraska. The Indians were well aware of that fact, and hostile tribes had many a fight for that territory. It was not until 1873 that the government put an end to this by sending the Pawnee south and the Sioux to their northern reservations. Prior to that time we had to do all our hunting at the risk of being scalped at any time.

Our favorite gun was an army model of the Springfield rifle, 45 caliber and loaded with ninety grains of powder. The whites patterned after the Indians and hunted on horseback. Having wagons to haul our game, we did not care to "circle" them as the Indians did. When a herd was located we would mount our best horses and as quietly as possible approach the herd from the rearward side. As soon as they saw us the fun would begin. Although of a low build, the bison will make a very interesting race with a horse for ten miles. We would press up on the right flank of the herd and ride so close to the animals that our gun would touch the side when fired. The monster would then turn and charge, and the hunter would be forced to turn and shoot at the animal's head.

In riding back an awful sight was presented to the eye. The trail was marked by dead and dying animals. An occasional big bull would have a broken back so that he could not get up on his fore legs, and nothing could look more furious than his shaggy head, with coal black eyes glaring in a death stare from his shaggy front. We received our pay for the animals dead on the plains, and wagons followed us up, quartered the animals and shipped the saddle and tallow to eastern markets.

About 1871 the hide hunting began. Prior to this time little or no attention was paid to the skins, but when the demand for them created a high price the meat was allowed to rot on the plains, and this magnificent race was extinguished simply that extravagant tastes might be satisfied. With the improvement in firearms an entirely different mode of hunting was adopted. The Springfield army gun was superseded by a Sharp 50 caliber and loaded with 110 grains of powder. The hunter used his horse only to get up on a herd, and then we would go to the leeward side so that the scent of the powder and report would not reach the animals, and find a suitable shelter about 1,000 yards distant from them. I have killed them at a distance of a mile. Hunting in this way we had to be very particular, and watch the herd closely. Like a herd of cattle, the bison are all ways on the go and are apt to walk out of the range in a short time. In moving, however, they always have a leader and the trick was to kill any one that started to lead the others off. By this killing the leaders, we could of ten shoot for an hour from behind one clump of grass, and when they had moved out of range the "skinner" would come up, cut the hide in the ordinary way for skinning, tie the animal's head to a stake, hitch a team of horses to the hide, and jerk it off. No one who has ever known what immense numbers of bison were killed by these hide hunters, but to my certain knowledge 3,000,000 hides were shipped from the Frenchman river in one winter. The hide hunters, by a system of fire, kept the bison from the streams until many of them perished and thousands of others were easily killed. At the close of that winter a man could go along the banks of the Frenchman for fifty miles by simply jumping from the carcass of one bison to that of another. Considering facts of this kind, it is not surprising that a small, tame herd and a few old circus animals represent the great herds which, less than a quarter of a century ago, blackened miles of prairies as a thunder cloud darkens the sky.—Inter view in The Kansas City Times.

Keen Sense of Pressure.

The relative sensibility to pressure of different parts of the body is ascertained by placing weights upon the same. This "humor" is manifested by wretched men often with wretched spelling out of wretched materials."—Current Literature.

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DEARER EVERY DAY.

They said I would cease to love her When her forehead showed wrinkles; They were wrong, for as the river Wears its channel more away, Deeper grew my love, and deeper Still her beauty in display. Dearest every day—Dearest every day.

Had I loved her for her beauty, Had her heart been simply clay, Then might mine have ceased its worship; But her truth's resplendent ray Filled my soul and drew me nearer To the fount where sweetest lay. Still the older, still the dearer—Dearest every day.

Age has laid its hand upon her— Do I realize it? Say, Her youth's bloom my heart remembers— Years her faithfulness portrays, And I should be mine a cheer her, So her winter shall be dearer— Still the older, still the dearer—Dearest every day.

Antique Pocket.

The pocket was previously a girdle and first of all a purse, or pouch. The ancient Hebrews carried a pouch and the Romans carried a hand bag which originated the modern reticule. They were at first made of netting but later of leather. The Romans came nearer to having a pocket than any people until modern times. A portion of the tunic was tucked in a knot under the left breast and a protuberance was there formed divided into many folds, which was named a pocket. The Roman matrons concealed valuable articles in the upper part of the strobium, a kind of corset fitting the waist tightly. You lose at top.

Charlemagne carried a traveling pouch, which was suspended from his person. The Saxons had purses, and the Normans, when they came to England, carried the almoner, a little purse for carrying alms for the poor, which was suspended from the neck. The Saxons had purses, and the Normans, when they came to England, carried the almoner, a little purse for carrying alms for the poor, which was suspended from the neck. The Saxons had purses, and the Normans, when they came to England, carried the almoner, a little purse for carrying alms for the poor, which was suspended from the neck.

Wanted—A job of work done on a public street without drawing a crowd to watch by the hour to see the laborers are getting along.

A VALUABLE REMEDY.

Hon. Edmund L. Pitts, the late President of the New York State Senate, writes: "STATE OF NEW YORK, SENATE CHAMBER, ALBANY, March 11, 1886. I have used ALCOCK'S PAIN EXPELLER in my family for the past five years, and can truthfully say they are a valuable remedy for all the pains of the body. I would not be without them. I have in several instances given some to friends suffering with rheumatism, and they have invariably afforded certain and speedy relief. They cannot be too highly commended."

The agonist has a mind to eat hash. He asks not to know.

COUGH—Brown's Bronchial Troches are not new and untried, but having been tested by long and constant use, they have attained well-merited rank among the few staple cough remedies. 25 cts. a box.

The trouble with Justice is that she does so little beside holding her scale.

Six Novels Free will be sent by Cragin & Co., Philadelphia, Pa., to any one in the United States who sends a letter containing receipt of 5 Dobbins' Electric Soap wrappers. See list of novels on circulars around each bar. Soap for sale by all grocers.

Squips—How's the new baby? Jenkins—He's a howling success, and don't you forget it!

A Pocket Cigar Case and five of "Tanalis" pouch," 25 cts.

MADE—Isn't young Mr. Dolly a spruce fellow? Amy—Yes, but he was sick, but I did not know exactly what he did.

THE VIRTUE OF MEDICINE IS TESTED BY ITS EFFECTS.

MODERST, Cal., May 24, 1880. Dr. J. Eugene Jordan, Seattle, Wash.

DEAR SIR: I hope you will not consider me tedious if I tell a little experience, such as may not have come under your observation. About fifteen years ago a bright red spot, about the size of a pea, came on one side of the end of my nose. It was a source of great annoyance to me and great anxiety to my friends, who feared the spot might be a cancer. It seemed strange such a thing would come on my face, for my health has always been good and never had much as a pimple on my skin. I did not know what to do for the trouble. There was a throbbing pain all the while and last fall, when the weather was cold, it became more painful and red and hard, and I was told it was a source of great annoyance to me and great anxiety to my friends, who feared the spot might be a cancer. It seemed strange such a thing would come on my face, for my health has always been good and never had much as a pimple on my skin. I did not know what to do for the trouble. 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