

### THE GLUM GROUTCHY MAN.

His feet's always large, and his head's always small,  
And he can't see the good in the wide world at all;

No need to vote,  
No need to quote  
Any old thing that the editor wrote,  
No need to harken to what preachers call  
The threatening dangers of mankind's downfall.

His talk is soft, and his heart is dead cold;  
He believes that all truth is outnumbered twofold  
By falsehood and cheat  
And widespread deceit,  
That the promise for good is some fervent air beat;

Has a vehement doubt for all that is told;  
No man's resolution may be counted to hold.

He questions religion, he doubts politics;  
Believes that all nature is governed by elixirs,  
That all things go wrong  
Because we belong  
To a creature weak and a temptation strong;

He's a prophet of harm, and he always predicts  
That the right always fails; it's the evil that sticks.

Wickedness, ruling since far time began,  
Has the world down, and no effort can  
Believe happiness  
From the weight of distress  
And rescue the people that evils oppress;

He never finds pay dirt, knows only hard pay;  
Such is the way of the glum, groutchy man.  
—Denver News.

### SPANISH POLITENESS.

Some Phases of It Are Liable at Times to Cause Trouble.

The Spanish people are credited with being the most polite race in the world. They are very hospitable, and during a visit they will place everything at your disposal.

An Englishman was dining with a wealthy Spanish gentleman at Mar-del-Plata on one occasion. The house was a palace, and as he walked through it with the owner he admired it very much. His host at once offered the house and in such a cordial manner that the guest thought he was really in earnest. When he reflected, however, that the property would bring at auction at least \$100,000, he felt there might be a mistake and refused it with thanks.

This habit sometimes causes the giver trouble when he comes into contact with a foreigner who does not understand him. Not long ago a Spanish don was traveling down the west coast of South America. A charming Scotch girl was a fellow passenger. The don was married, but the young lady was beautiful, and when she admired a poodle which he was carrying with him he at once gave it to her.

He expected that she would thank him and refuse. But, to his surprise, she thanked him and accepted. The don was carrying the poodle to his wife, who was as jealous as Spanish girls usually are. He had special orders to bring it home safe and sound and as the young girl was going to the same town he knew that serious complications would arise if he did not recover the dog.

Before he left the ship he was compelled to ask one of his friends to explain to the young lady that his offer was not intended to be taken in earnest and that he hoped she would send back the poodle, as it belonged to his wife. — Pearson's Weekly.

### Why a Rat's Teeth Grow Continually.

Certain animals have teeth which grow during all their lives. The rat and the squirrel are examples of this. Our own teeth are developed from pulps which are absorbed and disappear after the teeth are grown, but in a rat's tooth the pulp is perpetual and is continually secreting material by which the incisor gains length. Therefore the animal is obliged to gnaw all the time to keep the tooth ground down to the proper length. It is commonly imagined that the rat keeps gnawing from pure cussedness, but such is not the case.

Sometimes it happens that the beast's upper and lower incisors do not meet properly, so that it is unable to gnaw, and its teeth keep growing around in a spiral. Cases have been known where a rat's tooth grew in this manner through its skull, so as to pierce the brain and

mastodon, which we have in the shape of fossils. One advantage about teeth is that they are harder than almost anything else in nature and will last longer, so that they may be picked up in an excellent state of preservation ages after the animals to which they originally belonged are dead.

### A New Disease.

A woman whose maid accompanied her to a vegetarian restaurant in London was soon the recipient of a protest.

"But, Mary," she argued, "the food is palatable—you cleared your plate—and it is certainly wholesome. Why do you object?"

"It ain't that bad to taste, ma'am," responded Mary firmly. "But I don't call it wholesome; no, ma'am, not when they fill a body's plate with tomato and cabbage and parsnips and potato all at once and give you fishball things without any fish in 'em and goose things without any goose in 'em and croquette things made of mixed up greens. Sure, ma'am, it gives me confusion of the stomach!"

### A LITTLE NONSENSE.

The Ruse of a Dad Who Wanted to Read the Paper.

"Play wif me," is the burden of every child's desire, and "Don't leather me" is the answer of almost every dad. Some of the dads compromise, however. Here's what one of them in the champion mean man class did: His 4-year-old daughter wanted him to play with her. He wanted to smoke and read a newspaper.

"We will play school," he said—"kindergarten school, where they do funny things."

The child was delighted and thought that the rest of the programme was for her special amusement. Regardless of the evil effect on her conduct, her father handed her a new pipe and said: "The first class in pipe smoking will come to order. Fill pipes—light—smoke quietly."

The child went through all the motions, not omitting to scratch an imaginary match on the seat of her dress, and then the deluded kid sucked away on the empty pipe for 15 minutes without saying a word and was having fun because she thought she was.

The next trick was meaner yet. "The teacher," said the father, "will now read aloud, and the class must be very quiet."

Then he read aloud what he had been trying to read to himself—something about the Yaqui Indians—and because she thought she was playing the daughter kept still and finally went to sleep.—New York Sun.

### When Li Hung Chang Grievated.

Once during a dry season in China the viceroy, Earl Li Hung Chang, called on the American minister, Mr. Conger, and spoke of the weather.

"Yes," said Mr. Conger, "it seems to be dry everywhere. It is dry in my country too. I read in one of our papers the other day that in many places in the west the people were praying for rain."

"What?" said the earl. "Do your people pray to their God for rain?"

"Oh, yes," said the minister, "they often pray for rain."

"And does their God send it when they pray for it?" asked the earl.

"Yes, sometimes their prayers are answered, and sometimes they are not."

"All the same like Chinese joss, hey?" said the earl, with a grin and a chuckle.

### This Boy Was Shrewd.

Tommy, aged 5, had a pony and a dog, and, while he liked them both, he liked the pony best. One day a visitor, to test his generosity, asked him if he would not give him the dog. "No," replied the little fellow, "but I'll give you the pony." This surprised his mother very much, and she asked him why he didn't give the dog instead. "Don't say a word, mamma," whispered the little schemer. "When he goes to

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