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**AN OPTICAL DELUSION.**

The Story of a Martinet Colonel, a  
Captain and a Sword.  
The colonel, a rigid martinet, is sit-  
ting at the window of his room when,  
looking out, he sees a captain crossing  
the barrack yard, toward the gate.  
Looking at him, closely, he is shocked  
to observe that the rules and regula-  
tions to the contrary notwithstanding,  
the captain does not carry a sword.  
"Captain," he calls from the window,  
"My captain, step up to my room for  
a moment, will you?"

The captain obeys promptly, borrows  
a sword of the officer of the guard, the  
guardroom being at the foot of the  
stairs, and presents himself to the col-  
onel in irreproachable dress.  
"The colonel is somewhat surprised to  
see the sword in its place and, having  
to invent some pretext for calling his  
subordinate back, says, with some con-  
fusion: "Beg your pardon, captain, but  
really I've forgotten what it was I  
wanted to speak to you about. How-  
ever, it can't have been very impor-  
tant. I'll keep. Good morning."

The captain salutes, departs, returns  
the sword to its owner and is making  
off across the barrack yard, where he  
again comes within range of the col-  
onel's vision.  
The colonel rubs his eyes, stares,  
says softly to himself: "How in thun-  
der is this? He hasn't a sword to his  
waist!" then calls aloud: "Captain!  
Ho, captain! One moment, please!"

The captain returns, borrows the  
sword again, mounts the stairs and en-  
ters the colonel's presence. His com-  
manding officer stares at him intently.  
He has a sword; he sees it; he hears it  
clank.  
"Captain," he stammers, growing  
very hot, "it's ridiculous, you know,  
but—hal hal—I'd just remembered  
what I wanted to say to you, and now  
—hal hal—it's gone out of my head  
again! Funny, isn't it? Ha, ha, hal  
Losing my memory. Never mind, I'll  
think of it and write you. Good morn-  
ing."

The captain salutes, departs, returns  
the sword to its owner and makes for  
the gate. As he crosses the barrack  
yard the colonel calls his wife to his  
side and says, "See that officer out  
there?"  
"Yes."  
"Has he got a sword on?"  
The colonel's wife adjusts her eye-  
glasses upon him, scans him keenly and  
says, "He hasn't a taste of a sword."  
The colonel: "That's just where you  
fool yourself. Yes, he has."—London  
Graphic.

**Humor**

**MARY JANE'S REASON.**

Why She Wanted a Divorce From  
Jim, Her Hubby.  
One Monday morning some time ago  
two colored women happened to be sit-  
ting next each other in a U street car,  
when one of them turned in surprise  
and, looking her companion up and  
down, said:  
"Law! Ma'ry Jane, is dat you? What  
is de name or gracious is you all dressed  
up so fine for dis soop in de  
mornin'?"  
"The gwine ter cot," she proudly re-  
plied.  
"Gwine ter cot? Is you been uh got  
later a fight?"  
"No, indeed. I don' never get in no  
'spites on quod'is."  
"Den is you been vooch' talkin' any-  
thing?"  
"Me vooch' talkin' anything! No, no,  
deed. I don' never lay my han' on no-  
thin' den' v'vooch' ter cot."  
"Den what you gwine ter cot ter?"  
"The gwine ter get a divorce from  
Jim."  
"Git a divorce from Jim! Why, what  
is Jim dead? Is he dead?"  
"Jim dead! No, indeed! Dat is  
deed. Jim ain't never speak a word  
wend ter me in dis whole life."  
"Den don't be vooch' pooty!"  
"Den don't be vooch' pooty! Jim is  
de come home de mornin' he give me  
vooch' on him ter all his in my lap.  
S'p'ose you say, Jim, you would ter  
be daty after he dead ter get ter cot."  
"Den is de name of de gwine, Ma'ry  
Jane, what is you gwine ter a divorce  
from?"  
"Well, Jim, I don't see de fault-I  
ter gwine ter get de cot from Jim."  
"Den is you ter gwine ter get de cot  
from Jim?"

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