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IRONIES OF LIFE

TOMUELSON made a talk to the Commercial club, on "Business Efficiency," observed the retired merchant, "and the next day his store was closed by the sheriff."

"Life is full of such ironies, dogzone it," said the hotel-keeper. "Low down jokes are being played on the best of us, almost every day, and I often wonder what sort of an evil genius is behind it all."

"I used to know a man who was a wonderful horse breaker. He used to give public exhibitions, taming man-killing brutes, and the way he could make them eat out of his hand, half an hour after being formally introduced to them, was a sight worth going miles to see. He always had immense crowds at his exhibitions, and it seemed that his future was assured. But one day he was loafing around a livery stable, just because he liked the atmosphere of the place, and an old, weary hack horse reared out a long, crooked limb, handed him one with it, and broke his leg."

"He had to go to a hospital for a while, and when he came out, his occupation was gone. He was as good a horse breaker as ever, but people wouldn't pay their hard-earned money to see the exploits of a conquering hero who had been manhandled by an old hack horse. You must admit that there was some sardonic intelligence back of such a joke as that. If the man had been hooked by a cow, or run over by a traction engine, or chewed up by an honest watchdog, it wouldn't have hurt his renown and prestige. But, no! A blamed old relic of a horse had to put him out of business."

"A long time ago, a very important case was tried in an Irish court. The people were greatly wrought up over it, and the courtroom was crowded. When it was announced that the jury was ready with a verdict, the judge addressed the audience, saying he knew there was much feeling over the case, but the hall of justice was no place for a display of it, and if there was a least sign of disturbance when the verdict was given, the guilty parties would be arrested."

"The jury brought in its verdict, and the people heard it in silence, but just then a whole doggone gallery, with about a thousand people in it, came crashing down, and the noise could have been heard forty miles out at sea. After the judge's solemn warning against a disturbance, the fall of that gallery has always seemed to me like a painful joke."

"A long time ago, I was called upon to address a crowd of voters on the living issues of the day, and I framed up a speech that would have been a credit to any orator. I swiped it from Roscoe Conkling, and I have always insisted that he was one of the greatest of American speakers. The house was full of refined and cultured people, and I was determined to make the hit of my life. I was just getting warmed up to my work, when the lights went out, and the hall was plunged in black darkness. There's nothing makes a man feel more idiotic than to have the lights shut off at such a time. The women in the audience were giggling, and the men haw-hawing. It seemed funny to everybody but me."

"I thought I knew where the little table was, that held the pitcher of ice water, and I moved toward it, and fell over a chair, and flattened my nose against the edge of a piece of scenery. When the lights were flashed on again, as suddenly as they went out, the audience beheld the silver-tongued orator on his hands and knees, climbing slowly to his feet, and trying to mold his nose into its original shape."

"I never saw such a delirious crowd in my life. Some of the women laughed themselves into hysterics, and the fool men weren't much better. They never heard the balance of that oration, and the last part was the best."

Alliteration.
Alliteration occurs sometimes in the writings of the ancients, but not, it is supposed, designedly, as they regarded all echoing of sound as a rhetorical blemish. Cicero, in the "Offices," has this phrase: "Sensim sine sensu aetas senescit;" and Virgil in the "Aeneid," has many marked alliterations. —William Mathews.

Try, Try Again.
"Lottarox was telling me that he has been trying for six months without success to get a passage to see the battlefields of France."
"Evidently the wind has changed. He spent two years trying not to see them, with success." —The American Legion Weekly.

Greatest Revenue.
The internal revenue bureau, in the fiscal year ended June 30, made the greatest annual tax collection since its establishment in 1862.

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All Kinds of Eats for the Holidays

Adequate Punishment for Motorist Who Kills and Then Speeds Away.

By LAMBERT WALTERS, Laredo, Texas.

No punishment could be too severe for an automobilist who kills a person and then deliberately drives away in the hope of escaping. The laws of Texas make this a felony, but there should be a punishment to fit the crime. What is needed is a drastic law, fixing a punishment as severe as can be fixed under the Constitution, for speeders who crash into a pedestrian or another car, kill one or more persons and then speed away.

The law should be so severe that the first person caught after it went into effect would form an example that would deter motorists in the future from taking any chances and, when they do have an accident, from shirking responsibility by running away.

Traffic accidents are largely due to pedestrians. But the accident that happens out on the open road is, with very few exceptions, the fault of the motorist. I hope to see the Texas law in this respect strengthened, and I think every state in the Union would be doing a general good to humanity by passing laws against this practice as drastic as they can be made under the Constitution.

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RECOGNIZED AN OLD FRIEND

Countryman Visiting in City Had No Fear of Being Harmed by "Thrashing Machine."

An elderly countryman stood on a Broadway curb with more fear in his heart than he had ever experienced in his home county and more than his son had experienced in Argonne forest. To him the crossing of that crowded street was truly the "great adventure."

In the middle of it were two lines of tracks, up and down which hurtled great "tanks" of street cars—juggernauts, seemingly intended for the sole purpose of crushing his aged limbs should he venture into their path.

On either side of them were endless lines of chugging trucks, with an occasional horse-drawn vehicle, and dodging in and about were touring cars and autos of all kinds.

Now and then the sharp whistle of a traffic policeman would spell safety to the acrobat and initiated, who dashed across the street, skillfully dodging traffic, which turned the corner in a way no one but an old New Yorker can understand, and even he cannot explain.

Finally there rumbled down the street a steam roller used in asphalt pavement work, belching clouds of smoke but attracting no attention. The old countryman was electrified. Resolutely he deserted his shore of safety and plunged across the street in its very path.

"Hub," he grunted as he reached the other side. "That's one thing I ain't afraid of. They used to scare horses when I was a kid; used to make a man out of the thrashing crew walk ahead of them. I know they won't hurt you, but I don't know what these other things will do. Never expected to see a thrashing engine here, but you never can tell. New York's a great city, all right." —New York Evening Sun.

And Dew Drops.

Struck by the notice "Iron sinks" in a hardware shop window, a wag went inside and said that he was perfectly aware of the fact that "Iron sunk."

All to the occasion, the smart shopkeeper retorted: "Yes, and time flies, but wine vaults, sulphur springs, jam rolls, grass slopes, music stands, Niagara falls, moonlight walks and holiday trips, scandal spreads, standard weights, India rubber tires, the organ stops, trade returns, and—"

But the visitor had bolted. After collecting his thoughts he returned, and showing his head at the doorway, shouted:

"Yes, I know, and marble busts!" —Science and Invention Magazine.

CHARLES CHICK ENTERTAINS
Charles Chick, a student at the University of Idaho, who is spending the holidays with his parents, Dr. and Mrs. C. C. Chick, entertained last Tuesday evening with a select dancing party at his home. Ten couples, mostly of the college set, were present and a delightful evening was reported.



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