

Stories With a Smile


Couldn't Be Trusted.
THERE is a certain Ohio judge whose wit has enlivened many a dull case. On one occasion counsel made in his court this statement on behalf of a plaintiff of somewhat bibulous appearance:
 "My client, Your Honor, is a most remarkable man and holds a very responsible position; he is manager of a waterworks."
 After a survey of the client, His Honor replied:
 "Yes, he looks like a man who could be trusted with any amount of water."

The Difference.
 A story is told of an Irish sailor who decided to walk from Newport to Cardiff. He met a cart driver and asked:
 "How far is it from Newport to Cardiff?"
 "Thankee," said Pat. "An' how far is it from Cardiff to Newport?"
 Driver—Didn't I ask you how far it was from Newport to Cardiff? Do you suppose it is any further the other way back?
 Irishman—Sure, and I don't know. I know it is a great deal farther from New Year's Day to Christmas than from Christmas to New Year's Day.

Mutual Expectations.
 A notoriously close-fisted man was taking his golfing holiday in Scotland, and had, by hard bargaining, managed to secure the exclusive services of a first-class caddie, who was known to be a very good player.
 "Mind, now," said the ambitious southerner, "I expect to receive some really good tips from you during my stay here, you understand?"
 "Aye," replied the Scotsman, hitching up the heavy bag, "an' Ah'm expectin' the like frae ye, ye ken."

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Not Well Informed.
 An amusing incident is told by Dr. Henry Coward of his early days in Sheffield concerning a quartette which he organized in a warehouse. Anxious to make money, he approached a showman who was visiting the place and suggested to him that a party of singers would be a decided attraction to his show.
 "Kin ye sing?" asked the showman. "Yes, sir, very well." "Have ye dress suits? Them's necessary." "Yes, sir." "How much will it cost for such an engagement?" "Five shillings each per night I think will do it," he replied.
 "I know," said the entertainer, "but how much will it cost? How many are ye in this 'ere quartette?"

Hats Off, Boys.
 Gebhard von Blucher, the famous Prussian general field marshal, had as surgeon-major of his army a man who was very homely, but extremely proud and vain.
 One day, says Novellen-Schatz, Blucher entered the surgeon's tent and found him standing before a looking glass arranging his toilet and admiring himself generally.
 "Doctor," said Blucher, laughing, "I suppose that you are the luckiest man in the world."
 "How's that, sir, may I ask?"
 "Why, here you are quite in love with yourself, and you haven't a single rival!"

Advice to Agents.
 "Now a few words about selling this dictionary. A young woman will open the door a few inches."
 "Yes."
 "When she learns you are a book agent she will try to close it."
 "Well?"
 "At this point you insert the dictionary."

His Stock in Trade.
 The nervous little man next to the car window sized up the fat man who shared the seat with him and ventured the inquiry:
 "How's business?"
 "Can't complain," said the other laconically.
 "What do you deal in?"
 "Mothers-in-law, billy goats, the weather, slit skirts, tramps, stranded actors, candidates, politics and the like."
 "Whattyye tryin' to do?" snarled the nervous little man. "Tryin' to kid me?"
 "Nope," the fat man grinned. "The things I have named in a large measure comprise my stock in trade. You see, my dear sir, I am a professional writer of jokes and anecdotes."

Right in the First Place.
 Mrs. Mason's negro washerwoman, Martha, was complaining of her husband's health. "Why, is he sick, Martha?" asked Mrs. Mason.
 "He's very po'ly, mum, very po'ly," answered the woman. "He's got the exclamationary rheumatism."
 "You mean inflammatory, Martha," said the patron. "Exclamationary means to cry out."
 "Yas'm," replied Martha, with conviction. "Dat's what it is. He hollers all de time."

Would Have Been Suicide.
 "I am glad to find you better," said a physician to a famous comedian upon paying him a professional visit one morning. "You followed my prescription, of course?"
 "Indeed, I did not, doctor," retorted the sick man, "or I should have broken my neck."
 "Broken your neck!" exclaimed the doctor.
 "Yes," said the other, "for I threw your prescription out of the window."

A Useful Marksman.
PAT was a young recruit and was undergoing his first course in musketry. The soldiers had finished firing and Pat was taken before the officer for his bad shooting.
 "Now, Pat, you fire at No. 5 target."
 Pat banged away and waited, which showed he had hit No. 4 target the possible number of rounds, but had not hit No. 5 target once.
 "What target did you aim at?" asked the officer.
 "No. 5, sir," answered Pat.
 "And have hit No. 4 every time."
 "Bedad, sorr," retorted Pat, "it would be a grand thing in war. Sure, I might aim at a private and hit a general."

In the Balance.
 "Give me two seats in the balance," said a man, stepping up to the box office window the other afternoon.
 "In the what?" asked the ticket seller, fearing that she had misunderstood.
 "I said I wanted two seats in the balance."
 The ticket seller racked her brain trying to solve the puzzle, and finally, giving up, she asked the man to explain just what he wanted.
 "On this sign out here it says, balcony 25 cents for the first three rows. It says balance 15 cents. I want two in the balance."
 Then the ticket seller understood.

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