

Stories the World Meets With Smiles

The Ferocious Giraffe.

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That same evening as the luckless owner of the show was sitting in the village store, ruminating on the fortunes of life, a colored gentleman poked his head in at the door.

"Did you-all lose a gi-rafte?" he inquired.

"Yep," returned the owner; "I sure did. Have you found him?"

"Yes, sah; I done found him."

"Got him with you?"

"No, sah; I reckoned I better inquire first, sah, before I fitched him over."

"All right, you fetch him here and I'll give you a dollar for your trouble."

"Yes, sah, but I reckon de trouble am wuff mo' dan a dollar. Dat ole giraffe am right smart rambunctious. He done tried to bite me."

"What are you talking about? Giraffes don't bite! They kick. But you bring him along and I'll give you two dollars."

"All right, boss; I reckon you am mo' familiar wid dat gi-rafte dan I be, but he sure made signs like he would bite me."

The darkey departed and about a half hour later there was a sudden commotion on the front porch of the store, the door was thrust open and in came the colored man, puffing and wild-eyed and pulling on a rope. At the other end of the rope, squirming and snarling, was an enormous Nubian lion—"the fiercest lion in captivity," according to the show bills.

"Dar, mistah white man," exclaimed the captor, throwing down the rope and pointing to the lion—"dar's you ole giraffe, and I tell you he do bite."

Under Oath.

Smith was one of the foremost engineers of his time. His one fault was an

enormous bump of conceit. He completed a piece of work for a large corporation and was compelled to sue for his fee, which was \$25,000.

He was being cross-examined by counsel for the corporation:

"On what ground do you base your exorbitant charge for this miserable piece of work?"

"On the ground that I am the greatest engineer in the world."

After the suit had been concluded one of Smith's friends came to him and, in an admonishing tone, said: "Smith, you should never make such statements in public; allow others to acclaim you as the greatest in your profession."

Smith answered: "I know it, and I felt like a blooming idiot up there on the stand—but, blast it all, I was under oath."

Passed Through at Night.

Some years ago a writer in Harper's Monthly told of an old colored man, Uncle Joshua, who was fond of boasting of the travels he had been on with his master. As the years passed he added to the tale of his and "Marse Richard's" travels every town and country whose names he learned of until the itinerary was indeed marvelous in extent, and whenever a new person entered the community he immediately tried to find out how much of the world he, or she, had visited.

On the advent of the new school teacher he was heard to accost Deacon Johnson, a member of the board: "Well, deacon, what kind of cullud lady do de new teacher seem ter be?"

"She 'pear like a right smart little yaller lady, she do."

"Has she done much travellin', deacon, as you knows off?"

"I nevvah axed her, but I hear tell es how she done been through Latin, Algebar an' But'ny."

Uncle Joshua was staggered for a second only, then recovering himself, he declared patronizingly: "Yes, yes, me an' Marse Richard parse through all dem little places in de night time, but Marse Richard low dey warn' wuth stoppin' ovah fur."

Delivered the Goods.

When the topic turned to kids and the good old happy school days, a smile illuminated the features of Congressman Louis Fitzhenry, of Illinois. He said he was reminded of how little Willie delivered the goods in the matter of constructing a sentence.

One day the class in small-sized grammar was holding forth, when the youngsters collided with the word "notwithstanding." Immediately the teacher dropped upon it as a ripe subject for an example.

"Children," said she, with an impressive glance at the class, "we have here the word 'notwithstanding.' Can any little boy or girl give me a sentence containing it?"

Then came a moment of intense silence. Every little mind was churning hard. Then the hand of Willie Jones shot up and vigorously wiggled.

"I've got one, Miss Mary!" exclaimed Willie, on receiving recognition.

"Very well, Willie," smiled the teacher encouragingly, "you may tell it to the class."

"The man's trousers were worn out not with standing," was the triumphant rejoinder of Willie.

Wa and Ug.

Governor-elect Whitman, at a dinner in New York, praised the New Year resolution habit.

"A good habit," he said, "and a very, very old one. It dates, in fact, from the stone age."

"Dressed in the furs of wild beasts, two men of the stone age, Wa and Ug, met one New Year morning."

"Say, Wa," said the first man, "lend me your crowbar, will you?"

"What for, Ug?" asked the second man.

"I want to go home," said the first, "and turn over a new leaf."—Washington Star.

Going Slowly.

It was Richard's first day at school. At noon he rushed into the house, picked up the treasured funny page of the paper and scanned it with eager anticipation in his face. A moment later he threw it down and in a tone of disgust cried: "Gee! That's a rotten school."

"Why, Richard!" exclaimed his astonished mother, "what do you say that for?"

"Well, I've been to it a whole half day and I ain't learned to read yet."—Harper's Magazine.

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