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FABLES FROM ELI.

Every Observation Has a Moral of Its Own.

LAMB BLEATS GET THE WOLF

Bamboozling is Easier Than the Club. Pared Down Nose Can't Smell—A Talkless Man is Always Safe—No Show For a Malignant Cur.
By M. QUAD.
(Copyright, 1911, by Associated Literary Press.)

ONE day the Wolf found the Lamb wandering in the forest, and as he caught sight of her he said to himself:

"Hullo gee! But things have come to a pretty pass when the Lamb comes and offers herself for my dinner! I will give thanks and dine on chops."

So saying, he approached the innocent and was about to spring upon her when she said:

"Oh, Mr. Wolf, I was looking for you."

"And you see I can always be found by a Lamb. What is wanted?"

"My man has got hung by the wool in a thorn tree, and I want you to help get her free."

"And you shall have it," said the Wolf as he licked his chops over the prospect. Right there was more mutton than he had had in six months.

"Right this way, dear Mr. Wolf," said the Lamb as she entered a path. "Mother said you wouldn't come, but I was sure you would. One look into your face told me what a kind heart you had."

"Here's hayseed by the bushel!" chuckled the Wolf as he followed after. "Won't the old sheep bleat a few when she catches sight of me!"

The Lamb led the way at a gallop, and the Wolf followed close behind, and at the end of a few rods they turned a corner. The Wolf fully expected to see a struggling sheep, but it was a shepherd who rose up and gave him the contents of a shotgun and bowled him over.

Moral—An old dog Fox who had been concealed in the bracken and seen all arose and stretched himself and said: "I haven't lived in this cold world but seven years, but my experience has taught me that it is just as easy to bamboozle a man as it is to hit him with a club."

The Discontented Clam.
One day the Clam paid a visit to the Sage, and when he had come into the presence of the wise man he said:

"O Sage, I am not content with my lot and would have you better it for me."

"But you are a large and juicy Clam," replied the Sage, "and no

doubt you have the respect and good wishes of all your fellow bivalves. That ought to be good enough for you."

"It may appear that way, O Sage, but of what use is a common Clam? Am I pretty? Is there anything stylish about me? Have I a Piccadilly gait? Why, I never attract a passing glance from any one except the clam hunter, and he has never complimented me. In fact, I heard him calling his old woman a clam the other day in a voice of derision. I want to stand out from my fellows. I want to be known as the Clam."

The Sage took a long drink from the bottle and returned it to his coatpocket without offering the Clam any and then wiped off his chin to say:

"Um! Um! Did it ever strike you that there was anything in long chin whiskers such as fake doctors wear to secure the confidence of clambroiled men?"

"By George, but it has!" exclaimed the Clam. "It's just the cheese. Gimme long flowing whiskers for the sea breezes to toy with and I'll ask for no more. I'd be a mighty poor coat of a Clam if I couldn't make a bit with them."

The sage waved his hand, and the whiskers were there. The Clam stroked them lovingly, gave thanks and was gone. He had scarcely begun to show off, however, when a fisherman came along and scooped him up and, after taking a long look at him, said:

"If he was a Clam I'd chuck him into my basket and send him to market. If he was a dude I'd sell him to a dime museum for 50 cents. Being he is neither a Clam nor a dude, I'll smash his shell and toss him aside for the crows to eat."

Moral—Discontent seldom means betterment. The man who had a Roman nose pared down lost his sense of smell.

Looking For Wisdom.

One day a Traveler who was making his way along the seashore espied an Owl perched on the branch of a tree, and at the water's edge reposed a Clam. The Owl winked and blinked, but preserved silence, and the Clam kept its shell tightly closed and gave no sign.

"Ah, but here is wisdom in chunks!" exclaimed the Traveler. "I doubt not that both of these could give me valuable advice if I could only prevail upon them to break through their silence."

Thereupon he coaxed and entreated, and at the end of half an hour his efforts were crowned with success. The Owl opened his mouth and gave utterance to a dismal hoot, and the Clam opened its shell and yawned sleepily.

"Good lands, but is that all!" exclaimed the Traveler in disgust as he turned away. "The one but opened his mouth to make discord and the other his shell to show that he had no brains!"

Moral—The man who never talks can be criticised only for what he doesn't say.

No Escape For the Rat.
The Householder, having set a trap and caught a Rat in his cellar, was proceeding to draw water to drown his victim when the Rodent called out:

"How now, man—why do you wish for my death?"

"Because you ate my cheese," was the reply.

"But you have no cheese in the house."

"Then you ate my pickles."

"But no rat eats pickles."

"Then you gnawed a hole in my coat," persisted the householder.

"Here it is before your eyes."

"I deny it. That hole came from a burn, as any one can see."

"That may possibly be the case, but your squealing when you found yourself in the trap greatly disturbed me. I thought sure it was a cat fight."

"You are still dodging the truth, sir. When I found myself a prisoner I was so surprised that I made no noise whatever. You have no excuse for putting me to death."

"Oh, but I have," replied the householder as the trap went into the tub. "It's not that you actually ate the cheese I didn't have, but that you would have eaten it if I had had some."

Moral—Give a dog a bad name and he has no show.

Optimistic.
Some time ago there was a flood in British Columbia. An old fellow who had lost nearly every thing he possessed was sitting on the roof of his house as it floated along, when a boat approached.

"Hello, Jim."

"Hello, Bill."

"Are your fowls all washed away, Jim?"

"Yes, but the ducks can swim," replied the old man.

"Apple trees gone?"

"Well, they said the crop would be a failure anyhow."

"I see the flood's away above your windows."

"That's all right, Bill. Them winders needed washin' anyhow."—Housekeeper.

Sagacity.
One would have it that a collie is the most sagacious of dogs, while the other stood up for the setter.

"I once owned a setter," declared the latter, "which was very intelligent. I had him on the street one day, and he acted so queerly about a certain man we met that I asked the man his name, and—"

"Oh, that's an old story!" the collie's advocate broke in sneeringly. "The man's name was Partridge, of course, and because of that the dog came to a set. Ha, ha! Come again!"

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