

Mistreated Him.

One day, several years ago, while Addison was sitting in his "garretty" room, revising his Cato, he received the following note from Dick Steele: "My darling Addison: I am in that cavity profanely known as Gehenna's excavation. My morning hours are disturbed by collectors and my evening moments are made harsh by the footsteps of the man I owe. Addison, we have always been good friends. I am a whig and you are a whig, in this kingdom by the sea—as Edgar Poe will in the future express it—but can't you help me out of this fix?"

Addison had but little money. In fact he owed the grocer, the barber and the candlestick manipulator, but he pawned his gold spurs, his richly ornamented sword, his silver tea-pot—his all, and raising a hundred pounds, sent the sum to his distressed friend. Several days afterwards, when Addison found himself in Steele's neighborhood, he decided to go up and see if there were any other way in which he could help his poor friend. As he approached the door leading into Steele's room, he heard music and dancing sounds only befitting the abode of those who felt the weight of many nickels, but halting not, he shoved open the door and entered. Steele, dressed in a suit of tawdry clothes, stood in the middle of the room. On the sofa sat a young woman with a discolored eye; beside her reclined a woman with bad teeth; while at the right stood women who were not grand-motherly in appearance. Dandies and hilarious bucks stood around, and upon the whole, the scene was one of fashion and excessive refinement. When Addison entered, Steele, who had been turning the crank of a musical instrument, arose and said:

"Hah, here is Mr. Addison. We are all glad to see him. Addison, how do you find yourself?"

Addison was disgusted. He looked at the table, loaded with ham sandwiches and said:

"I thought, sir, that my donation was intended to keep you from prison?"

"Correct you are, cully," exclaimed Steele, "but now that I am out, we should enjoy ourselves. Henry," addressing a boy, "bring Mr. Addison a glass of beer. Ah, my dear essayist, you do not seem to be enjoying yourself. Had to soak your household goods to keep me out, eh? Glad to hear it. Fine thing to have friends, Addy—fine thing. Hadn't been for you, I would have been in jail. As it is, I am giving a dinner. Say, can't you lend me seventy-five cents?"

These are historical facts, yet there are literary historians who say that Addison mistreated Dick Steele.—Arkansas Traveler.

Stories of Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Dr. Holmes does not save his bright thoughts for print and the public, but is often so witty while chatting with one or two friends as was ever the autocrat or professor of the breakfast table. A young physician once asked him for a suitable motto. "Small favors gratefully received," was the witty response. He was complaining in a comical way to a lady of the minute portion of honey that was given to him at a hotel tea. "A mere trifle; the work of a very young bee in an idle half hour." "Did they give you no comb, Doctor?" she laughingly inquired. "Possibly one tooth, madam!" Several of the now famous writers and lecturers of Boston were speaking of their lecture experiences, when the subject of pay was brought up. Each man of the company was certain that he had received the smallest sum. But Dr. Holmes made a climax by saying: "Listen, gentlemen. I had engaged to give a lecture for \$5. After it was over a grave-looking deacon came to me and said, 'Mr. Holmes, we agreed to give you \$5, but your talk wasn't just what we expected, and I guess that new-fangled will dew.'—Youth's Companion.

The best paper on the West side.

"Are wedding rings expensive? Well, no; they vary in price, but the dearest of them would break a comparatively poor man. This is the cheapest we have, fourteen carats and not very thick, and it only costs \$4. This again is the most expensive I have in stock, weighs tolerably heavy, you see; is of the finest gold used for manufacturing purposes, twenty-two carats, and costs \$15. Seems almost too heavy to wear, doesn't it? But a ring that would gall and weigh down a woman's finger wouldn't be unsuitable to some marriages, after all. Yes, I sell quite a few of the cheaper ones. You would naturally think that as a man only buys one, or at most two such articles in the course of his life, he would not mind spending a few dollars on it. But that's according to how they feel, too.

"Some men aren't overburdened with sentiment. Why, a man bought a ring in September last, haggled over the price and chose one at \$7. Day before last Sunday he came in and wanted the size altered straight-away. He was dressed in mourning and looked like a well-to-do clerk. He explained that his first wife had died in November, and he was going to be married again Christmas day, and as the ring was 'hardly worn' he thought it was no use buying another!

"Rings are broader and heavier than they were thirty years ago, but as a rule the purchaser's choice is guided pretty much according to how the lady feels about it. They say that in England the thin, old-fashioned ring is coming in again, but in New York, as I say, the ladies mostly prefer a broad and heavy one, and before marriage anyhow a man generally is guided by his future wife's inclinations, and everything is done according to how she feels about it."—N. Y. Jeweler.

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