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IN "JOE MILLER'S JEST BOOK"

A Selection of Specimen Jokes From the Venerable Volume That Mark Twain Was Moved to Call the Alpha and Omega of Dejected Humor.

The "Joe Miller Jest Book"—it is famous. Mark Twain mentions it as the alpha and omega of dejected humor. It is unrivaled, incomparable, apart. Further, it is English—very English.

Possibly the latter phenomenon is responsible for the difficulty a searcher had in finding an unrevised copy. After an afternoon of search a second-hand but scarcely worn copy finally was discovered in a little bookstore. The bookseller eyed the buyer curiously, but with some awe, and seemed very glad to get rid of it for 25 cents.

Twenty-five cents! How instantly reminiscent of one of the Joe Miller jokes—beg pardon, jests:

THE LIGHT SUBJECT.

The government, having threatened to proceed rigorously against those who refused to pay assessed taxes, offered to them a remission of one-fourth. "This at least," said one sufferer, "may be called giving them some quarter."

You can get that off in your very next after dinner speech. You can put a little accent on one-fourth and quarter and get quite as loud a laugh.

Second specimen (it must be remembered that the jest book was compiled in the early part of the eighteenth century, when there were literarians; therefore the jests that aren't blamed on lords are mostly charged to writers):

A DIFFERENCE.

Jerrold one day met a Scotch gentleman whose name was Leitch, who explained that he was not the popular cartoonist John Leech. "I'm aware of that," said Jerrold. "You're the Scotchman with the t-t-t-h in your name."

There! Just think of the triumph with which Mr. Jerrold later related that quip to his friends.

Specimen:

THE CONNOISSEUR.

A person to whom the curiosities, buildings, etc., in Oxford were shown one very hot day was asked by his companion if he would see the remainder of the university. "My dear sir," replied the connoisseur, "I am stone blind already."

Whether the friend expired in spasms of mirth or subsequently was hanged for mayhem the jest book doesn't say.

Specimen:

A SPRIG OF SHILLALAH.

A fellow on the quay, thinking to quiz a poor Irishman, asked him, "How do the potatoes eat now, Pat?" The Irish lad, who happened to have a shillalah in his hand, answered cleverly: "Oh, they eat very well, my jewel! Would you like to taste the stalk?" And, knocking the inquirer down, he coolly walked off.

Probably it was a good thing he knocked him down first.

Turning to the middle of the book—there are 400 pages—Joe breaks into verse:

ON THE LATIN GERUNDS.

When Dido mourned, Aeneas would not come. She wept in silence and was Di-Do-Dumb. Classic? Here—

A BAD END

It was told of Jekyll that one of his friends, a brewer, had been drowned in his own vat. "Ah," he exclaimed, "floating in his own watery Bier!"

Right off the bat that.

There's little Johnny also. He drops in during jest:

THE SEASON-INGS.

"Come here, Johnny, and tell me what the four seasons are." "Young Prodigy—Pepper, salt, mustard and vinegar."

Here's a little shot at politics and the peer system:

EPIGRAM.

"On Alderman Woods being afraid to pledge himself to even the principles he has always professed." Sure in the house he'll do but little good. Who lets "I dare not" wait upon "I. Wood" (I would).

Oh, listen! Talk about your originality:

A SHORT JOURNEY.

"Zounds, fellow!" exclaimed a choleric old gentleman to a very phlegmatic, matter of fact person, "I shall go out of my wits!" "Well, you won't have far to go," said the phlegmatic man.

Yes, and here's a small ebullition from a dramatist:

OLD FRIENDS.

Coleman, the dramatist, was asked if he knew Theodore Hook. "Yes," replied the wit. "Hook and eye are old associates."

Hook was not sent at the time. The courts also come through with a few gems:

NEW RELATIONSHIP.

A stranger to law courts, hearing a judge call a sergeant "brother," expressed his surprise. "Oh," said one of the bystanders, "they are brothers—brothers in law."

And speaking of repartee:

A SHUFFLING ANSWER.

Two Oxonians dining together, one of them noticed a grease spot on the neck-cloth of his companion and said, "I see you are a Grecian."

"Fooh!" said the other. "That is far-fetched!" "No, indeed," said the wit; "I made it on the spot."

Right back at him, you observe. Of course there are some better ones, but there are also some that are worse. Taken as a whole, they don't add any laurels to the English reputation for humor nor detract any from the opinion of Mark Twain.—Kansas City Times.

Emperors and cobblers are alike, and the same reason that makes us wrangle with a neighbor causes a war between princes.—Montaigne.

ASHER C. HINDS.

The Man Talked of to Succeed Speaker Cannon.

The proposition to remove Speaker Cannon by means of the combined vote of Democrats and insurgents and substitute in his place Asher C. Hinds has brought the parliamentarian of the house much in the limelight of late. Mr. Hinds has long been the right hand man of the speaker and has at his tongue's end the rules of the



ASHER C. HINDS.

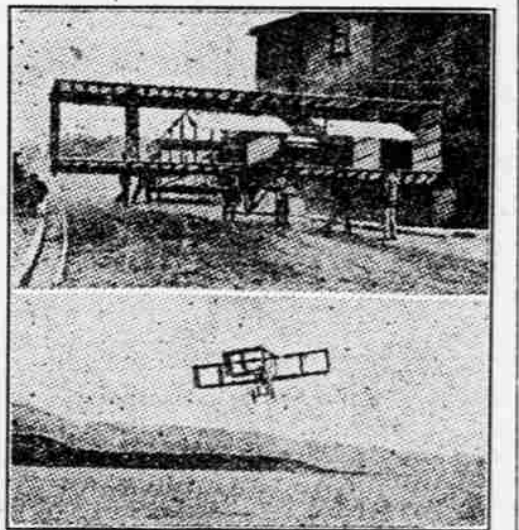
house and most of the precedents and authorities concerning decisions of parliamentary law.

Mr. Hinds is known officially as "clerk at the speaker's table" and came to his place in the Fifty-first congress, being selected by the late Thomas B. Reed, former speaker. When the Democrats took control he returned to his newspaper in Portland, but went back to the Fifty-fourth congress and ever since has held his present position.

A SEA FLIER.

The Recent Sensational Flights of Rougier Over Monaco Bay.

Europe has been keenly interested recently in the marvelous work of M. Rougier, the French aviator, who, in



ROUGIER'S START IN STREET AT MONACO IN BIPLANE OVER MONACO BAY.

his Voisin biplane, flew over Monaco bay and out to sea. He is the first aviator to traverse this bay in an airship and has gained much fame by his successful trip.

The affair opened with a sensation that the residents of Monaco who witnessed it will long remember. Instead of making the run that is necessary before the machine will fly along the grass of an aviation field he used a public street for this purpose.

AN AIRSHIP LINE.

Charles J. Glidden of Boston Planning Aerial Road.

Charles J. Glidden, the millionaire automobile and airship enthusiast, of Boston is progressing rapidly with his plans for an airship passenger and freight line between Boston and New York. He plans to have stations at



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CHARLES J. GLIDDEN

South Framingham, Worcester, Bridgeport and other points between and hopes to have the service in working order within the next six months. This is not a money making scheme on the part of Mr. Glidden, who has associated with him some of the best known aeronauts and aviators in America.

Ezra Meeker and His New Plans



EZRA MEEKER.

ALMOST everybody has heard of Ezra Meeker, who, with his genuine old prairie schooner drawn by ox teams, started on a journey several years ago to mark the Oregon trail, and it will be of interest to thousands of persons all over the country to learn that he is now to push that work to completion. The same lumbering oxen and battered prairie schooner with its tar bucket swinging from the rear axle will again carry the pioneer of the Oregon country back over the trail which he and his family used in making the trip through the wilderness between Kansas City and The Dalles, Ore., fifty-eight years ago. He will be accompanied by W. B. Mardon and Mrs. Mardon and two helpers, the party following the trail eastward by way of Walla Walla, Wash., southwest of Spokane.

Though more than eighty years of age, Meeker is endowed with the unconquerable spirit of the western settler and is hopeful of carrying out the work of marking the trail from east to west in memory of the brave men and women who blazed the way that led to the opening of the Pacific empire before his spirit crosses the great divide. He retraced the old trail in 1906, erecting granite memorials in the larger towns and cities; also visiting President Roosevelt at the White House.

The purpose of the trip, upon which the Meeker party will start within three months, is to secure data and other information necessary to map the trail and to arouse interest in a campaign for funds with which to complete the work. There is a committee bill before congress appropriating \$50,000 to provide granite monuments and markers, but a clause requires the father of the idea and the various historical societies interested to manifest their sincerity by subscribing whatever money may be necessary in addition to the appropriation contemplated by the government. It is planned to select a representative from each historical society in the six states covered by the trail to assist in locating the overland route and placing the monuments.

At an age when most men are content to lay aside life's burdens this prosperous old farmer chooses to renew his youth by practically living over again the life of pioneer days and by dedicating his old age to what he believes to be a public duty. Mr. Meeker abandoned his home in Indiana in 1852 and struck out for Oregon. His present home is in that part of the original Oregon tract which be-

came Washington territory, now the state of Washington, and there he settled and prospered.



EZRA MEEKER'S OLD PRAIRIE SCHOONER.

came Washington territory, now the state of Washington, and there he settled and prospered.

Starting from his home in Puyallup, Wash., on Jan. 29, 1906, Mr. Meeker retraced his march of fifty-four years before, back along the Oregon trail to its eastern terminus, on the Missouri river, then across Iowa and Illinois to his old Indiana home. As he journeyed he interested the people along the route in the importance of saving the Oregon trail from oblivion. Their fathers and grandfathers had helped to make it, but the past was in a fair way to be forgotten. The line of a great transcontinental railroad parallels or covers the old Oregon trail for much of its way today, but there were detours and stages to be marked before they were lost sight of entirely.

So this old trail, which was one of the great roadways of the nation a century and a half ago, has become known better than ever to the present generation. Between Puyallup and Omaha many monuments have been erected. Mr. Meeker, after a year's travel, reached his former Indiana home, his journey and his task ended, as he thought then, but now he is to carry the work on to completion.

After he left his Washington home more than 2,500 persons contributed to the erection of Oregon trail monuments. At intervals along the route Mr. Meeker, with the aid of people for whom he and others blazed the way, erected monuments—a huge stone boulder here, a cairn of stones there, a signboard or post in another place. In Baker City, Ore., the monument was erected by contributions received from 800 school children, all of whom were present when it was dedicated.

How often do you eat this food?

A short time ago there appeared in the columns of one of the prominent magazines an article on building brain and muscle by the proper selection of the foods you eat.

A good many people were surprised to find oatmeal placed at the top of the list of foods recommended; but if the article had appeared in an English or Scotch paper every reader would have expected to see first place given to good oatmeal.

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