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**Told Out of Court**

De Wolf Hopper was once a witness in a suit for slander, and the opposing counsel in the court room said:  
 "You are an actor, I believe?"  
 "Yes," replied Hopper.  
 "Is not that a low calling?"  
 "I don't know, but it's so much better than my father's that I am rather proud of it."  
 "What was your father's calling, may I ask?"  
 "He was a lawyer," said Hopper.

What is a "reasonable state of intoxication" apparently just missed precise definition by a coroner's jury in Mississippi, which stated in its verdict that "We, the jury, find that deceased came to his death by a stroke of an east-bound train, No. 204, on I. C. R. R., at Pentress, Miss., in Choctaw county, on the 27th day of November, 1898, he being in a reasonable state of intoxication." A somewhat similar indefiniteness of legal conclusion mars a recent verdict of a neighboring Georgia jury, to the effect that "We, the jury, find the defendant almost guilty." Equally as uncertain and ambiguous as these statements by laymen is the opinion in an early Maryland case which "acknowledges the corn," by saying that an occurrence referred to took place "at a former sitting when the court was full."

"And what is your age, madam?" was the attorney's question to a Memphis woman.  
 "My own," she answered promptly.  
 "I understand that, madam; I mean how old are you?"  
 "I am not old, sir," with indignation.  
 "I beg your pardon, madam. I mean how many years have you passed?"  
 "None; the years have passed me."  
 "How many of them have passed you?"  
 "All; I never heard of them stopping."  
 "Madam, you must answer my question. I want to know your age."  
 "I don't know that the acquaintance is desired by the other side."  
 "I don't see why you insist upon refusing to answer my question," said the attorney, coaxingly. "I am sure I would tell how old I was if I were asked."  
 "But nobody would ask you, for everybody knows you are old enough to know better than to be asking a woman her age."  
 And the attorney passed on to the next question.

"There is nothing more successful in swaying a jury and especially a jury of farmers than the proper application of sentiment," said the old lawyer to a Kansas City Star man. "I remember when Ralph B. Turner, who was sent up from Kansas City for larceny, was tried in Topeka. Turner defended himself. He did the same in the trial of which I am thinking and after all the testimony was in, and it was damaging evidence, too, Turner made his plea.  
 "Gentlemen," he said, "it is impossible that I could have committed that crime. Gentlemen, my old father lies buried on the hills of New Hampshire and many years ago, when that godly old man was on his deathbed, he put his hand on my head and said: 'My boy, you have always been my stay and my comfort, never do anything to disgrace your old father's name'—and the prisoner's voice was choking, but he continued—and it was not many years ago that my saintly old mother laid her head down to rest. I was called in sorrow to her bedside and there, in the presence of the awful and the unknown, my mother took my hand in hers, which already was growing cold, and whispered: 'My boy, as you pass through life, with all its failures and temptations, remember that your old mother is watching you.' Gentlemen of the jury, I could not commit a crime."  
 "Turner was quite overcome with his emotions. But back in the court room was his brother-in-law and he turned to me and said with a smile:  
 "Did you hear that fellow? Why, his father and mother are both living."  
 "But the jury turned him loose."  
 The old lawyer told another story in which the sentiment game was made a little too strong.  
 "A young man," he said, "was on trial for murder in the first degree. He was charged with killing his father and mother and the proof was conclusive against him. The jury returned with a verdict of guilty. The prisoner was called before the court to be sentenced and, as is the custom, the judge asked:  
 "If you have any reason why sentence should not be passed upon you, you may give it now?"  
 "I haven't any, judge," said the prisoner, "excepting that I think you ought to have pity on a poor orphan."

**Prosperity**

Detroit Journal: Perhaps it was the tobacco juice upon his whiskers; perhaps it was his wearing a silk hat with a tuxedo coat; anyway, a subtle something told us that he was a farmer.  
 "Young man," said he, accosting the jeweler, in the purest agrarian English. "I want eight grots of diamond pins for favors at my wife's husking bee."  
 It is reported that the extreme prosperity of the agricultural classes has in many sections led to the use of such large tracts of land for golf links as seriously to curtail the visible supply of wheat.

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