

State Historical Society, Linn Library

THE DRAWBACK.

Beardman was a writer of plays, ultimately fairly well known in his day. For nearly twenty years he struggled and fought his way along without meeting with any very pronounced success, each play in turn proving more or less of a failure. At last, however, he produced a play that really caught the public taste. He and the famous Sheridan happened to be present together on the opening night. All went well. Success followed success and applause greeted and ended each scene. At the end of the second act Beardman's elation got the better of his discretion, and leaning over toward Sheridan—as usual, too witty to be merely sympathetic—he exclaimed:

"By heavens, Sheridan, it's going to be a success, a complete success!"

"Ah, yes," murmured Sheridan, with exquisite compassion in his voice, "too bad! too bad."

"Too bad?" stammered his friend, completely taken off his guard, "why too bad that it should prove a success?"

"Because now," retorted Sheridan, "it'll take you another twenty years to convince anyone you wrote it."

She was an English child of five and was visiting an aunt at Dinard. A number of Americans had been taking 5 o'clock tea at the house, and when they left the little girl said: "Aunt—, what language do Americans speak?" "Why, English, of course," replied the aunt. The child pondered for a moment. "Then they have no language of their own; only an accent."

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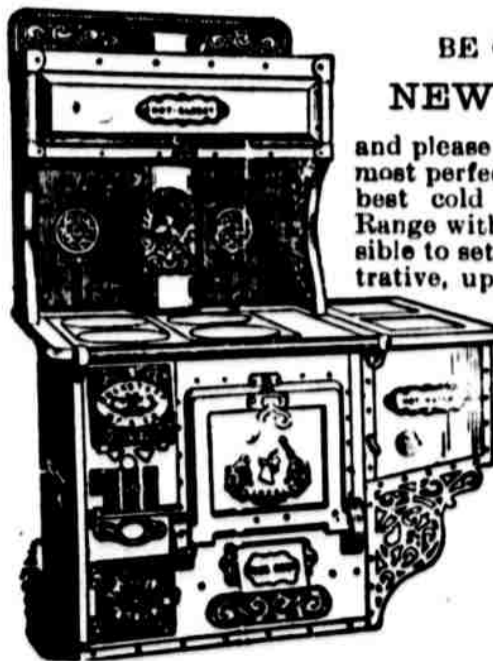
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