

Squirrels: the Kind with Whiskers

Striking a "squirrel" is the inherent dread of any barber with a desire to do good work and a commendable pride in his razors.

"What's a squirrel?" repeated a Lincoln barber in unfeigned astonishment to a question of a Courier representative. "They're not animals. They're simply fellows that have beards like small steel wire and for that reason are hard to shave. They ruin razors and irritate barbers' nerves."

"Any sort of beard is likely to be squirrelish. You first find out the facts in the case when the razor gives off a sharp metallic ring. Sometimes the skin of the customer is sensitive and smarting from ill usage and careless work. Then there is a howl in addition to the razor difficulty."

"A squirrel is an outcast among busy barbers. He drifts from shop to shop getting the worst of it in each one. The men do not care to shave him and give him the long scrape when the proprietor is not looking. The long scrape is bringing the razor straight down the cheek like a lawn mower. It hurts the squirrel like sin and makes him fairly wiggle. The victim leaves the shop with a firm resolve never to come back again."

"One barber who owns a shop has worked up quite a business by a shrewd trick. He hired an extra man and laid in wait for squirrels. He made a list of all the difficult customers and invited them to his chair. Casual visitors were first sent through this chair in order to determine whether they were tough propositions or not."

"He took a sharp razor and gave the sufferers each a first class shave. He did it slowly and with care. When one razor gave out he had another ready. As a result the squirrel left, declaring he had the best tonsorial artist in town. He generally drifted in

and became a permanent customer. In addition the squirrel kept bragging up the shop to all his friends.

"And the hard propositions seem to have more of them than any one else. Leastwise this man is forging ahead of all his competitors."

"About one man in every twenty is a squirrel or has tendencies in that direction, and a veteran barber can detect the truth of the case by one hasty glance. When the unfortunate man goes into a shop the men all soldier, that is hang back, in order to miss him. Nine times out of every ten he never realizes that the barbers are trying to miss him."

"This squirrel barber I was telling you about gets all his hardest fellows to come in before Saturday. The milder cases he treats with care along with his regular work. For the extra time spent on them he exacts a five or ten cent fee through the medium of some face lotion or skin massage."

"It is far better to be a beardless or bald headed man than be a squirrel at the mercy of the indigent barber."

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"Of course you were given the freedom of the city?" "Yes," answered the distinguished visitor. "But I had to keep so close to a regular schedule under the strict surveillance of so many committees that it was hard to realize how free I was."—Washington Star.

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A certain drug clerk had heard the story of the colored woman who on asking for flesh-colored court plaster, was given black by the observant druggist. When a comely colored woman asked him for court-plaster, he congratulated himself on his presence of mind when, in response to her request for "flesh-cullah" he handed her black. She opened the box with a deliberation that was ominous, but her face was unruffled as she noted the color of the contents.

"I gues you mus' a' misunderstood my odah. I asked foh flesh cullah and you done give me skin cullah," she said.—Pittsburg News.



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