



Window Faces.

Windows look when opened wide
Laughing fit to split their side.

When they're only opened half
They seem to have a jolly laugh.

When they're raised a peg or two
They smile as bashful children do.

When they're shut and will not budge
They're quite as sober as a judge.

Look up and down the street, and see
If they laugh at you as they do at me.

He Kissed the Bride.

The Rev. Dr. B—, a well-known clergyman, gives an amusing history of his first marriage fee. He was settled over a country parish, and had his study at his boarding-house. One evening a young man and woman, genuine specimens of the rustic lover, called at the house and asked him to marry them.

I performed the ceremony, and according to custom was about to kiss the bride, who was really quite a beauty, when the groom stopped me.

"No, you don't, mister, he said good naturally; 'I'll attend to that myself!'"

I smiled and yielded the point, and as the couple started out I followed them to the front door. There the groom invited me out to the wagon, where he had something for me. He helped the bride in, got in his seat beside her, and reaching down and handed it over to me.

I thanked him, and was about turning away. Just then the groom looked proudly at the girl and then at me.

"Aint she a beauty, mister?" said he.

"Very handsome," I admitted.

"Nothin' purtier in the country, eh?" he asked.

"Not that I have seen."

"Air you married?" he inquired, kindly.

"I'm sorry to say I am not."

"Nothin' like this in the house, eh?" and he chuckled the blushing bride under the chin.

"No, I'm all alone."

The groom must have detected a note of sadness in my voice, for he looked at me commiseratingly.

"Look here, mister," he said, "I'll tell you what I'll do. If you'll give me back them 'taters and half a dollar to boot, I'll be blamed if you can't kiss the bride."

Of course I couldn't be so ungallant as to refuse the offer, if, indeed, it would have been safe to do so, and handing over the potatoes and the only half dollar I had, I saluted the bride.

Whistled Speech.

When the Marquis de Lafayette and several officers quitted the French army, then in insurrection, after the famous 10th of August, they were seized by the King of Prussia. Then they were transferred to the custody of Austria, and for a long time were confined in the castle of Olmutz. They were kept in solitary confinement, but were in hearing of each other when standing at the windows of their chambers.

To improve this advantage they

thought of the following plan: There are, or were at that time, in Paris, certain tunes called airs of the Pont Neuf—popular ballads that were sung on street corners and in other public places. The words belonging to these airs were so well known that to strike up a few of the notes was to recall to memory the words that accompanied them.

The captives at Olmutz gradually composed for themselves a vocal vocabulary by whistling these notes at their windows; and this vocabulary, after a short time, became so complete that two or three notes from each tune formed an alphabet, and gave the men a means of intercourse.

In this way they communicated to one another news concerning their families, the progress of the war, and many other things; and when, by rare good fortune, one of them had procured a gazette, he whistled its entire contents to his partners in suffering and confinement.

The commander of the fortress was constantly informed of these unaccountable concerts. He listened; he set spies; but as the whole was a language of convention, the most practised musician would have failed to detect the meaning of the notes.

Whistling was prohibited, but in vain, and at length the Austrian, tired of conjecture, interposed no further to prevent what he could not comprehend.

Venus.

The planet Venus continues to puzzle the astronomers. It is a world so closely resembling the earth in size that one might naturally enough expect to find many other resemblances between them.

But there is some peculiarity in Venus' atmosphere which renders the telescopic study of the planet's surface exceedingly difficult. In fact, its atmosphere seems to be so exceedingly cloudy that only the merest glimpses of the globe beneath can occasionally be caught.

A recent review of the results of twenty years' observation of Venus by Trouvelot, the French astronomer, indicates that the surface of that planet is no less extraordinary than the atmosphere which covers it. Trouvelot thinks that certain white spots seen on Venus are the tops of vast mountains which protrude above the cloud-laden atmosphere. Curiously enough, these mountains are all in the neighborhood of the poles.

Observations by J. J. Landerer on the polarization of light reflected from Venus appear to bear out Trouvelot's conclusions. Landerer believes that the phenomena observed by him indicate that the whole surface of the planet must be covered by a thick layer of clouds, except in the polar regions, where parts of the surface extend above clouds.

Discouraging.

Sometimes young men are deterred from entering upon matrimony by such incidents as the following, which is of actual occurrence:

A young man passing through a crowd in a great dry goods store found himself side by side with a timid-looking little man, and exactly behind a lady. A movement of the crowd forced the young man to step upon the hem of the lady's skirt.

She turned quickly around, with a furious look, and was evidently about to address some fierce remarks to him, when a change came over her face suddenly.

"Oh, I beg your pardon, sir," she said; "I was going to get very angry. You see I thought it was my husband!"

The timid little man smiled faintly; and the young man said to himself, "If wives get angry so much more quicker with their husbands than they do with other men, what is the use of being a husband?"

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