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TALES FROM TOWN TOPICS

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Not Old. A "minister's man" in Scotland was one Sunday afternoon following his master to church, when the minister happening to turn about detected an unwonted smile on his face. "What makes you laugh, James? It is unseemly. What is there to amuse you?" "Oh, nothing particular," says James. "I was only thinking of something that happened this forenoon."

Strategy. He-I am in love. Will you be my confidante? She-Certainly. I am at your service. He-Well, would you advise me to propose to you?-Life.

Could Improve on the Advice. He might have been forty-five or fifty years old, and was apparently in comfortable circumstances. He was well dressed, and as he sat in front of the big fire at the club he puffed meditatively at a cigar. The young man sitting near him was scowling at the fire as he smoked his cigar.

A Wild Goose Chase. Chappie (faintly)-Doctah, my aw-head feels awful! Does grip ovah go to the brain? Doctor-Sometimes. Chappie-I have pains rushin around all ovah, in me arms and hands and feet and everywhere.

Excusable. "Talk about mean men. I've read a good deal about them; but the meanest man is the fellow who steals my jokes without credit!" exclaimed the humorist to the editor.

A Fellow Feeling. Grumbling Consumer (at gas company's office)-Between footpads and gas bills a man's life is hardly worth living any more. Clerk-Have the footpads been after you? Grumbling Consumer (handing over a twenty dollar bill)-No. They know I'm a customer of yours.-Chicago Tribune.

She Was Sorry. He (at 11 p. m.)-There's one thing I'd do, Miss Smithington, if I were rich. She (wearily)-What is that, Mr. Lingerly? He-I'd travel. She (sympathetically)-I'm so sorry, Mr. Lingerly, that you are not rich.-Detroit Free Press.

A Happy Condition. First Officer's Servant to Second Ditto-What's the matter with you. You look as happy as a skylark. "And no wonder. You see, my lieutenant sent me to get a cheese, and I dropped it in the mud-so I was allowed to eat it myself."-Fliegende Blatter.

Explaining a Mystery. Briggs-Strange things happen. A Brooklyn policeman was seen walking the streets at midnight recently. Griggs-What was the trouble? Briggs-Upon investigation it turned out that he was a somnambulist.-Life.

Turns His Eyes Away. "Before he married me John said he would love me too well ever to see me build a fire." "And does he?" "Yes. He never looks at me when I am building it."-Washington Star.

A Story with a Moral. He knocked at the back door of a suburban house and the cook opened it. He was a minister looking fellow and she held on to the door. "Lady of the house in?" he inquired. "No," trembled the cook. "Man of the house here!" "No." "None of the people in?" "None but me," and she tried to shut the door.



We Didn't Want It. "Do ye kape butter here?" "Kape butter, ye greenhorn! I've kapt butter this twenty years." "Well, kape it then. It's too ould for me."-Smith & Gray's Monthly.

Crane's New Servant Girl. "Speaking of servant girls," said Crane, the actor, to a friend who was recently entertaining him with an account of his experiences with the tribe, "we had one up at Cohasset last summer that simply took the bakery and everything appertaining thereto. She was named Maria, and she came with a letter of recommendation from a family of our acquaintance. They said that she was honest and faithful, but a little crude and needed training. Imagining that the latter fault could soon be remedied, we engaged her and appointed her to the then vacant position of waitress in ordinary.

They Were Thumpers. Two men met and adjourned to a neighboring saloon to talk over old acquaintance. In answer to inquiries as to the different members of his family, one man said: "My eldest girl thumps the piano."

About Ajax. "Father," asked Tommy, "why did Ajax defy the lightning?" "Because, my son, Ajax was a French seist, and the lightning was known to hiss 5,000 times where it hit once. Moreover, it was 800 miles away, and wasn't lightning at the time. Ajax knew whom to defy."-Texas Sittings.

He Was a Little Late. "That was quite a little joke of mine," said, with enthusiasm, after he had excited himself with a bon mot. "Did you see it?" "Oh, yes," she answered wearily, "I saw last week in a newspaper."-Washington Star.

A Poor Beginning. Young Nobles to his future mamma-in-law-Photograph of you here. Really you must have been good looking when you were young-I-I-I mean you must have been-ahem-quite young when you were good looking.-Drake's Magazine.

Head of the House. Bilter-Do you know who I can get to take charge of my house? Witherby-You might get my wife's dressmaker. She is running ours just at present.-Cloak Review.

He Was in a Hurry. Patsy McKenna (in an electric car which has broken down)-Well, av this car don't be after moving soon, O'll take the one be-hind.-Harvard Lampoon.

Not Possible. Head of Firm-Mr. Travers, while you were out a man came in to collect a bill from you for an ulster which he said had been running for a year. Can't you pay for your clothes, sir, out of the liberal salary we give you? Travers-No, sir, I can't do it and be a gentleman.-Clothing and Furnisher.

The Thought Transmitter. It was the seventeenth time that he had made a visit in the hope that he could collect the entire amount of the bill or at least get something on it, but as he entered the door he was greeted by the debtor with: "I know it! I would have bet my life on it!" "On what?" asked the collector. "Mental telegraphy. It's a clear case-the best illustration of thought transmission I ever saw. I've had you in my mind for two hours, wanted to see you awfully, but didn't know how to reach you, so I just took a seat and thought of you and how badly I wanted to see you and here you are."

From Bad to Worse. A lady whose Christian name was Jane and whose little daughter was named after her engaged a housekeeper who was also a Jane. "Thinking that three Janes in one household might occasion confusion, the lady said to the newcomer, who was a tall, angular woman, with a rigid air and an uncompromising cast of countenance, 'I think, Jane, it will be better for me to call you by your last name, if you have no objection.' "No'm, I have no objections," answered the housekeeper, standing stiffly erect, vaive in hand. "Call me 'Darling,' ma'am, if you prefer. That's my name!"-Youth's Companion.

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