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MR. BILLUPS READS ALOUD.

Domestic Feat Attended by Some Difficulty. Mr. Billups was reading aloud to his wife. "Are you listening?" he said to Mrs. Billups.

"Why, certainly, dear," she replied. "Go on, please; go on." "Excuse me for thinking so," said Mr. Billups, "but I did think that you were going to sleep with your eyes open."

"Oh, please go on!" Mrs. Billups exclaimed. "You are so aggravating, John!" "All right," continued Mr. Billups. "Where was I at? Ah, I see! The darkness that can be felt, impaled and stabbed through its whole thickness by one mighty moonbeam, clear and clean and..."

"One mighty moonbeam," he read, "clear and clean and cold, from the top to the bottom!" "Hello, papa!" chirped the baby, having rapidly reached the wide awake state, in which, particularly by lamplight, he was a very observant child.

"Hello, you rascal! Keep still!" said papa, and then resumed, "All around, in the circle of the outer black, lie the great dead!" "Ma-ma!" cried the disturber again. "Ma-ma! Down! Dit down!"

"He wants to get down and run around," ma-ma explained to Mr. Billups, who was not an adept in baby talk, and she allowed the boy to slide from her lap and shift for himself. "Lie the great dead in their tombs," Mr. Billups continued, with a sigh of resignation, "whispering to each other of deeds!"

"Wait just a minute, John," said Mrs. Billups, calmly breaking in upon the voices from the tombs. "He's got your pipe off the table."

An Awful Curse.

Briggs—You don't mean to say that you are smoking a cigarette, do you? Griggs—Certainly. Why not? Briggs—Why not? If you had any conception of the injury they are doing you would stop. Why not? Do you know that these harbingers of death are killing more men than all the liquor in the land?



Visitor—What is all that noise and racket in the private office? Office Boy—Oh, that's the silent partner going over the books.—Life.

Well Caught. "There's lots of horses that git pretty lame tryin' ter keep up with the procession," said Uncle Ezra to the boys as they sat before the fire. "An it don't pay ter git too darin' and assy with yer jokin'."

Here the old man threw his head forward and attempted an imitation of Miss Jones' smile. "It was pretty moldy an black lookin, and Aaron chuckled to himself, a-thinkin' what a fine time he'd hev with that cheese, when the old lady sez—a-givin' him a knife, sez she:

How His Lordship "Got Left." The following anecdote is told of a certain venerable and learned bishop who had an uncontrollable partiality for correcting and criticising the language of his parishioners.

How She Caught Them. They were talking of the vanity of women, and one of the few ladies present undertook a defense. "Of course," she said, "I admit that women are vain and men are not. Why," she added, with a glance around, "the necktie of the handsomest man in the room is even now up the back of his collar."

For Once in His Life. First Disputant—Then I'm a liar! Second Ditto—On the contrary, my dear fellow, you have just spoken the truth.—Tit-Bits.



CHIMMIE GETS A JOB.

And Uses Strange Language to the Gentle man Who Hires Him. "Say, I knowed ye'd be paralyzed w'ee ye seed me in dis harness. It's up in G ain't it? Dat's right. Say, remember me tellin' ye 'bout de mug I stumped fer de loidy on de Bow'ry—de loidy wot give me de five and squared me wid der perlick! Dat's right. Well, say, she is a torribre an dat goes. See? Dat event wot d'ys tink she done? She brought 'is whiskers ter see me."

"Den 'is whiskers gives me a song an dance 'bout me bein a brave young man fer 'tumpin' der mug wot insulted 'is daughter, an 'bout 'is 'art bein all broke dat 'is daughter should be doin' missioner work in der slums."

"Den 'is whiskers was kinder paralyzed like, an 'e turns to 'is daughter an 'e says—'dese 'is 'is very words—'e says: 'Really, Fannie,' 'e says, 'really, Fannie, you must interpet dis young man's language,' 'e says. See?"

Married Women and Girls' Secrets. "There is nothing so exasperating in the whole world as to tell a profound secret to some woman friend and discover a day or two later that her husband knows as much about the affair as you do," said a young girl to us the other day.

Sure Pop. He (at 11:30 p. m.)—Your father is an awfully jolly old chap, isn't he? Can't you arrange it so that I can meet him? She—Yes, just stay half an hour longer.—New York Herald.

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