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**"Overheard"**

A number of University students were congregated upon the porch of their rooming-house one evening recently, and were singing familiar airs, when a rather peculiar incident happened. They had just finished singing "Way down upon the Swanee River," and were starting on "Dixie Land," when an old man in working clothes was observed to be standing on the walk listening to them. They proceeded with the song and presently he approached the house and took off his hat. At first there was a disposition to laugh, and the singing ceased. For a moment he stood there in silence, and then he said: "I'm glad to hear you sing those songs. They are the ones I used to sing in my college days, and now they recall pleasant memories to me. Can you sing 'My Old Kentucky Home?'" One member of the party tried it, but encountered difficulties before he had gone very far; but greatly to the surprise of all, the old man took up the song and finished it in excellent shape. By the time he departed the critical attitude of the company had disappeared, and he had gained the sympathy of all.

The sluffer sat chewing the rubber tip of his pencil, which was a sure sign that sad emotions had penetrated the hidden recesses of his manly spirit. Somewhere in the depths of his system a vacuous feeling of unpleasantness had ensconced itself, and tenaciously maintained its grip, despite his efforts to shake it. Well might he be sad. The time for examinations and their attendant terrors was approaching—the time when professors devise mental tortures for their subjects and watch them die by slow degrees. Already he saw the hand of Fate tracing on the wall the most depraved and villainously momentous of all words—namely, "Failure." He had not been diligent in his studies, and now he felt remorse chewing away on his vitals with baleful persistency. The golden moments of opportunity had sped away unheeded and all his chances for mental improvement and humanizing achievements had slipped away like the funds of the acutely business like woman in a 49-cent bargain store. His thirst for knowledge had been quickly sated, and he had no high ideals to guide his footsteps into the paths of learning. He had not "come to enjoy his studies;" for he was only human. His affection for his professors had long since passed through the zero point and was making terrific progress toward minus infinity. He had acquired a liking for the company of false-hearted maidens, who, delighting in frozen compounds and the attractions of the opera, diminished his revenues until he was insolvent, and then coldly abandoned him to work out his destiny. Many things had claimed his attention, and his lessons had become a grievous imposition upon his time and patience. Monday was one of the days upon which he especially disliked to study. The others were Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. His professors were atrociously impertinent in their warnings of what was in store for him. He dismally strove to picture the future, and then closed his eyes to shut out the sight. Before him was a bed of blazing, glowing coals. They were very warm. He shuddered as he thought of his approaching doom, and strove to find comfort by trying not to think of it. Great indeed is the remorse of the offended, when certain punishment is in store for him.

"The stingiest man I know of," said the talkative student, "is one whose martial spirit is always attracted by Salvation Army music; yet he always stands on the opposite side of the street, so he won't have to contribute when they take up the collection." The knowing student smiled sarcastically. "That man," he said, "was liberal beside one fellow I knew, who bought a Sombrero and then offered it to his girl for half-price."

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