



MYOPIC ECCENTRICITIES.

They tell of 'matter over mind.'
This psychic domination
Brings strange results, you'll sometimes find,
In every tribe and station.
Pray note how she,
Who, by the sea,
Sighed as a troth was plighted,
When now you meet
Her on the street
Grows suddenly near sighted.

There are phenomena more strange
With divers politicians;
Their fondest friendships seem to change
When they have found positions.
And he who vowed
That, of the crowd,
In you he most delighted,
And got your vote,
You'll sadly note,
Is suddenly near sighted.

ONCE TOO OFTEN.

'WHEN you stepped on that gentleman's foot, Tommie, I hope you apologised.'
'Oh, yes; indeed I did,' said Tommie, 'and he gave me ten cents, for being such a good boy.'
'Did he? And what did you do then?'
'Stepped on the other and apologised, but it didn't work.'

BUSINESS FLURRY.

'I HAD a dreadful scare this morning; the whole office force ran out into the street.'
'Was the building on fire?'
'No; the janitor's dog had caught a rat.'

WONDERS.

'What makes you so quiet, Perry? Are you wondering what you will say to your wife when you get home?'
'No. I was wondering what she would say to me.'

TOO MUCH LIKE LIFE.

MRS BIRMINGHAM: 'Let me read you this story, dear.'
Mr Birmingham: 'What is it about?'
Mrs Birmingham: 'It is called "But Men Must Work."'
Mr Birmingham: 'No, don't read that. I don't care for so much realism in fiction.'

DOMESTIC FINANCE.

SHE: 'But isn't it true that two people can live as cheaply as one?'
He: 'They can if they are married, not if they are engaged.'



MORE FAMILY JARS.

SHE: 'What would you be if it were not for my money?'
He: 'Don't know, dear; probably a bachelor!'

AT THE AUTHORS' CLUB.

'SCRIBBLE always was a lucky dog.'
'What's he got now?'
'Invented a new form of dialect story, a cross between Scotch and toughs' slang that no one can understand. His fortune's made.'

COMING OUT ALL RIGHT.

JONES-BROWN: 'I don't see how you can afford to give her such valuable presents.'
Brown-Jones: 'Why, I get them back again, don't I, when we are married.'

THE OLD ORDER CHANGED.

CLAUDE: 'The dividing line between the sexes is fast disappearing.'
Maude: 'What line is that.'
Claude: 'The clothes line.'

THE FLOWER.

'YES,' said the old country dominie, 'he was the flower of the flock, so to speak, and you may well say he is a self-made man, for he rose from the humblest beginnings.'
'Ah,' said the Genial Cynic, 'a sort of self-raising flour, eh?'



A PRACTICAL TEST.

'HERE, stop that!' This exclamation came from young Mr Hazelwood, and was addressed to little Robbie Riverside, who was keeping the young man company until Robbie's big sister should descend to the parour.
'What are you sticking pins in me for?' Mr Hazelwood demanded of the little fellow.
'Pa said you were thick-skinned, and I wanted to see if it was so,' replied Master Robbie.

TWO BAD SCARES.

'YES,' said the retired army officer, 'I can recall two occasions when I was most terribly frightened.'
'Oh,' exclaimed the romantic young lady, 'do tell me about them. I suppose it happened when you were fighting the Maoris?'
'No,' he replied, 'one time was when I was married, and the other time was when we had our baby christened.'

PLEASANT LABOUR.

'NAN, doesn't it trouble you for Jack to have rheumatism in both arms?'
'Well, when he calls I have to do part of his work for him.'

AS TO THE POLICE.

ARTLESS ONE: 'Isn't it strange that they should choose for members of the police force men who are so heavy that they are unable to run with any approach to speed?'
Sophisticated One: 'Not at all; if they were sprinters they would be able to get away from a disturbance much quicker than they now can.'

THE WORST TO COME.

MOTHER: 'Dear me! the baby has swallowed that piece of worsted.'
Father: 'That's nothing to the yarns she'll have to swallow if she lives to grow up.'

NOTHING LOST TO THE DEALER.

'GOODNESS!' exclaimed Mrs Grumpy, 'I bought a number of little things down town and lost them on my way home.'
'Never mind, dear,' said Grumpy, with a cold blooded sneer. 'I'll find them in the bill.'



UNBELIEVING.

HE: 'My lips never uttered a word of love to any other woman before.'
She: 'How did you manage to speak then? Through your nose?'

HER RECOMMENDATION.

'I'm really afraid I can't engage you, Miss Hyjee,' said the operatic manager. 'Your voice is remarkable, and you will pardon me if I say that I fail to see what you rely upon to draw an audience.'
'My dear sir,' replied she 'I have the enviable distinction of never—absolutely never—having sung before Queen Victoria.'
'Why didn't you say so before? cried the enraptured manager. 'You are the very songstress I have been looking for these many years.'

A SLANDER RESENTED.

'No, sir,' said the gentleman with the flowing, rippling whiskers, 'no sir, Christchurch is not full of cranks, all reports to the contrary notwithstanding. There is lots of vacant land in Christchurch.'

WHY THEY OBJECT.

'WHY do your parents object so to Mr Longstop?'
Edith: 'Mamma objects to his shortcomings and papa to his long stayings.'

SOMETIMES HE DOES.

JOB LOTT: 'One never loses anything by keeping his engagements punctually.'
Kirby Stone: 'My experience is he is apt to lose half an hour waiting for the other fellow.'

A BAD SIGN.

'I GUESS something must be preying upon Johnson's mind.'
'Why so?'
'He hasn't told me a cute thing that his boy has said for three days now.'

WHY IT DIDN'T.

MRS RUMPUS: 'You want a meal, a big, strong fellow like you? Does your conscience never trouble you, making such a request?'
Casey De Kidder: 'Naw'm; me conscience is like me-self; it's quit workin'.'

'Every middle-aged woman has a delusion.' 'And what is it, may I ask?' 'That all the other women she knows are getting to look old faster than she is.'

She: 'They say he married her for her figure.' He: 'That was quite natural.' She: 'Oh, no, it wasn't.'



UNSUITED.

'I HEAR, dear, that you've broken your engagement with Fred?'
'Yes, dear, we are unsuited to each other, all through the Early Closing Association.'
'The what? The Early Closing Association?'
'Yes! Our shop closes now for the half day on Thursdays, and his office only closes early on Saturdays.'