

ANECDOTES AND SKETCHES

CONCISE.

An inquiring American wrote recently to Mrs Flora Annie Steel, whose novels of life in India are well known, asking for some information about herself, and this is what she wrote:—

"I have been married, I have borne children, I have two grandsons, I have therefore lived through the life allotted to woman, and the only novelty before me is death."

Let us hope that it will be many years before Mrs Steel has any acquaintance with this novelty.

HOW JOKES ARE MADE.

The professional humorist was having his boots blacked.

"And is your father a bootblack, too?" he asked the boy.

"No, sir," replied the bootblack, "my father is a farmer."

"Ah!" said the professional humorist, reaching for his notebook. "He believes in making hay while the sun shines."

APPEAL ANSWERED.

Miss Mary Anderson, now Madame de Navarre, was once playing the part of Galatea in Mr W.S. Gilbert's "Pygmalion and Galatea." In the last act, as is well known, she appeals to the gods for assistance to bring about a reconciliation between Pygmalion and Cynisca.

The actress assumed a suppliant attitude, and, with upturned face and outstretched arms, exclaimed:

"The gods will help me!"

To her surprise her appeal was answered, by the gods—in the gallery of the theatre, they all unanimously crying:

"We will!"

A roar of laughter ran round the place, and the play was stopped for a while.

SURE TO PLEASE.

"Automatic scales!" snorted the manager of the amusement hall. "Oh, they're out of date. We're looking for novelties."

"Well," replied the selling agent, "this is a novelty. When a skinny person gets on this machine it records his weight as half-a-stone heavier, and it makes a fat person a stone lighter."

THEY COME HIGH—BUT—

A stranger in the city asked a news-boy to direct him to a certain bank, promising him sixpence for it. The boy thought for a moment, as though running through in his mind the list of banking houses with which he was acquainted. Then, bidding the old gentleman to follow him, he put his hands in his pocket and sauntered to the nearest, which was only three doors away. Paying the fee, the man said, "That was sixpence easily earned, sonny."

"Sure," said the boy, "but you mustn't forget that bank directors is paid high in these days."

THE UNFOUGHT DUEL.

Two officers once appeared before Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden to ask his permission to fight a duel as one had grievously insulted the other.

"Certainly, my friends," said the king. "I will be present myself at the encounter."

On the day appointed, Gustavus Adolphus appeared on the scene accompanied by a sinister-looking person, who proved to be the public executioner.

Pointing to the two combatants, the king said:

"You see those two men? Immediately after their duel, you will behead the survivor."

The two officers shook hands on the spot.

A DEVOTIONAL TURN OF MIND.

As the new minister of the village was on his way to evening service he met a rising young man of the place whom he was anxious to have become an active member of the church.

"Good evening, my young friend," he said solemnly. "do you ever attend a place of worship?"

"Yes, indeed, sir; regularly every Sunday night," replied the young fellow with a smile. "I'm on my way to see her now."

IRISH HUMOUR.

Speaking of a serious illness, an Irishman said: "I lay speechless for six weeks, and all my cry was 'Wather, wather!'"

After tramping a long, weary way, an Irishman remarked that he did not see why they did not put the milestones nearer together.

An Irishman, who was having trouble with a new pair of shoes, said: "I shall never get them on at all until I have worn them a day or two."

In an Irish newspaper there once appeared the following announcement: "Owing to lack of space a number of deaths are unavoidably postponed."

When told that a certain stove would save half the fuel used in an ordinary one, an inhabitant of Cork declared that he would buy two and save all the fuel.

An Irish servant was told to tell a man that an engagement had been made to meet him at noon. "And what shall I tell him if I can't find him?" answered Pat.

LIFE'S LITTLE COURTESIES.

"Hang it all!" exclaimed Mr Subbuls, arriving home from the office. "We'll have to call on the Dubleys to-night."

"Why, George, you said you wanted to stay at home with me in comfort to-night!" exclaimed his wife.

"Yes, but I heard that Dubley and his wife mean to call on us to-night. We can leave their house earlier than we could make them leave ours."

AN ACCIDENT.

It was at a crowded "At Home." A lady wished to pass in front of him, so the young man backed. In so doing, his heels stepped on someone's toes.

"One million pardons! I do trust I have not hurt you!" he exclaimed, as he turned round.

Then, when he saw who it was, he uttered a cry as though he had been stabbed.

He had been polite to his brother.

WISE YOUNG MAN:

"Yes," said the old man to his young visitor. "I am proud of my girls, and would like to see them comfortably married, and as I have made a little money they will not go penniless to their husbands. There is Mary, twenty-five years old, and a really good girl. I shall give her £500 when she marries. Then comes Bet, who won't see thirty-five again, and I shall give her £1000, and the man who takes Eliza, who is forty, will have £2000 with her."

The young man reflected for a moment, and then inquired:

"You haven't one about fifty, have you?"

AN INSPIRING MODEL.

Little Johnnie, having in his possession a couple of bantam hens, which laid very small eggs, suddenly hit on a plan. Going the next morning to the fowl-run, Johnnie's father was surprised to find an ostrich egg tied to one of the beams, and above it a card, with the words:

"Keep your eye on this, and do your best."



Mrs Jones: What delicious TEA this is!
Mrs Goodfaste: Yes I always ask for ARTHUR NATHAN'S RELIABLE TEAS

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