



ABOUT GOSSIP.
 Lady (to new servant): I do not tolerate gossip, but—if you know any interesting news you may tell me.



IN THIS WICKED WORLD.
 "Poverty's no crime," said the Job's comforter.
 "Maybe not," replied the poor man; "but it seems to be punishable by hard labour for life."

AT AFTERNOON TEA.
 Mrs Waterspout: My husband has become very hard to please."
 Mrs Wilkes: "It's a good thing for you, my dear, that he was not always that way."

SUSPICIOUS.
 Mr Hoon: "I am convinced that the groom at last night's wedding was either a widower or a bigamist. Didn't you notice that he looked neither scared nor sneaking during the ceremony?"



EVIDENCE.
 Father: Bobby, did you eat that little pie your mother made for you yesterday?
 Bobby: No, sir; I gave it to my teacher.
 Father: Did she eat it?
 Bobby: I expect so; there wasn't any school to-day.

ANOTHER WAY OF LOOKING AT IT.
 "I suppose you feel the usual regret at not having further improved your opportunities as a student?" said the young man just out of college.
 "Yes," answered the hollow-chested man, with a slight cough. "I kind of wish I had paid less attention to books and more to football and rowing."

AN ABSENT-MINDED FATHER.
 Hewitt—Congratulate me, old man: I'm a happy father.
 Jewett—Boy or girl?
 Hewitt—By Jove! old man: I forgot to inquire.

THE WAY OF IT.
 "You managed to laugh very heartily at that nonsensical piece at the theatre last night."
 "Yes. It was a kind of instance of reflex action. I got to laughing a little at some of the foolishness, and then I got to laughing at myself for not laughing at all, and then I discovered that I couldn't stop."

THE HEIGHT OF DIGNITY.
 "There's a lucky man for you!"
 "How's that?"
 "Why, he's got a butler so dignified that he even awes the cook into submission!"

HER SARCASTIC.
 "If I had known how sarcastic you were I never would have married you," he said.
 "You had a chance to notice it. Didn't I say 'This is so sudden' when you proposed after a two years' courtship?"

APPROPRIATE.
 To a silver wedding celebration recently a pious old lady sent as a present a pair of flat irons, a rolling pin, and a motta worked on cardboard reading, "Fight on!"

STARVING INDEED.
 "Now don't tell me any tale about losing your wife and children, and not being able to get work and all that," said the hard-faced lady. "I can see right through you."
 "What?" ejaculated poor old Road-roamer, in alarm. "You don't really mean it, do yer? I ain't 'ad nuthin' to eat for three days, I know, but I didn't think I 'ad got as thin as that!"

TO USE EXTERNALLY.
 Customer—I want twopenn'oth of zine for my sister.
 Drug Clerk—What kind of zine? There are about forty kinds. What does your sister want to use it for?
 Customer—I mustn't know the kind. She said I don't not tell what she wanted it for.
 Drug Clerk—Was it oxide of zine she wanted?

Customer—Yes, that's it—outside of zine to put on her face.

APPRECIATED.
 Curate (very pleased)—Vicar, I've had a great compliment paid me to-day. A member of the congregation asked to be allowed to see the MS. of my sermon.
 Vicar—That's very nice. Who was it?
 Curate (more pleased)—Oh, Thompson, You know Thompson, the inspector of nuisances.

A COOL YOUNG MAN.
 "So you want to marry my daughter? Well, what are your prospects, young man?"
 "I expect to come into possession of one hundred thousand pounds in a short time."
 "Why, that is just the amount of my daughter's fortune."
 "Yes; that's the hundred thousand I meant."

A POPULAR HOST.
 Traveller—Eh? Has this hotel changed hands?
 Clerk—Yes; the old landlord busted up—owed thousands of pounds to all the provision dealers in the neighbourhood. For every ten pounds he took in he spent twenty.
 Traveller—To bad! Too bad! He's the only landlord I ever met who knew how to keep a hotel.

AT THE ADVERTISING COUNTER.
 "I suppose," the advertising manager of the "Daily Howler" said, "you would prefer a position next to pure reading-matter?"
 "Oh, no!" replied the advertiser. "As I cater to the swell trade, a position next to some society scandal or divorce story would suit me best."

FOR THE BEST OF REASONS.
 Kittie: Harry won't take no for an answer.
 Trilbena: How do you know?
 Kittie: Because I shan't give it to him.

COULDN'T HELP HERSELF.
 Clara: How did you come to accept Mr Saphead?
 Dora: I had to. He proposed to me in a canoe, and he got so agitated I was afraid we'd upset."

INCONSIDERATE.
 The Bride (from Chicago): This is my fourth bridal tour.
 The Groom: Well, I hope it will be your last one.
 The Bride (busting into tears): You selfish thing!

DOMESTIC ECONOMY.
 "Mrs Stebbins is really the meanest woman on earth."
 "What has she done now?"
 "She gave her little boy a slice of bread and told him to go out and sit where he could smell the jam Mrs Perkins was making."

SHE WANTED TO KNOW.
 "You trust me thoroughly, don't you, Ethel?"
 "Of course, Edgar. But tell me just one thing, dear. Are the instalments on this diamond ring all paid off?"

ELECTED UNANIMOUSLY.
 One evening recently the members of a certain country cricket club met to choose a captain for the forthcoming season. Of the dozen youngsters present fully one half were candidates for the vacant post. One after another rose and stated his claims and qualifications, and the matter was still in doubt when the last of the half dozen rose to his feet. He was the son of the owner of the cricket field, and his speech, if brief, was very much to the point. "Chaps," he remarked convincingly, "I'm going to be captaining, or feythur's-a-goin' to turn his bull into the field." He was elected unanimously.

MAGISTRATES' CLERK (swearing witness): Take the book in your right hand.
 Witness: Yes, sir.
 Magistrates' Clerk: That's not your right hand.
 Witness: I'm left-handed, so my right hand would not be binding on my conscience.



THE FLESH IS WEAK.
 Mrs Crossley: "Oh, Henry, on New Year's Day you made a vow you would never stop out late again of a night, and last night you were later than ever."
 Henry: "My dear, I only wanted to test my good resolution. But it wasn't a good test. I'll admit. I'll try again to-night."

DIDN'T APPLY TO HER.
 An English clergyman once preached a sermon on the fate of the wicked. Meeting soon after an old woman well known for her gossiping propensities, he said, "I hope my sermon has borne fruit. You heard what I said about the place where there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth?"
 "Well, as to that," answered the dame, "if I 'as anythink to say, it be this: let them gnash their teeth as has 'em—I ain't."

A GOOD TEST.
 Curley: "See that fellow. He used to go to the same college as I did. I wonder if he remembers me?"
 Burleigh: "Ask him for the loan of five shillings. If he remembers you you won't get it."

THE LATE MR SMITH.
 Mrs Gay: "My first husband never did such a thing."
 Gay: "It seems to me, my dear, that other husbands of yours formed a great many bad precedents."

GIVING HER AWAY.
 "Well, Ethel," said the caller, "what are you going to do when you get big like your mamma?"
 "Oh," replied Ethel, "I suppose I'll have to put my teeth in a glass of water and paint my face, too."

AND THAT SETTLES HIM.
 "See, Joe," remarked Stroller, who was anxious for a jaunt, "what do you say to a tramp after dinner?"
 "Generally," replied Joe Kose, "I say, 'Get out, or I'll turn the dog on to you!'"

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A CADDIE CARRIES HIS CLUBS NOW.
 Old Lady (to wealthy golfer en route for the links): Hi, wait a minute. I've an umbrella I want mending!

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