

law. Dobson then charged Caulfield with using threatening language and refusing to leave licensed premises when ordered to do so. The Magistrate held that as Caulfield's alleged abusiveness was due to the refusal of his lawful demands he was not responsible, and that charge was dismissed. On the general charge Dobson was fined 40s (afterwards reduced to 20s), and the police withdrew the specific charge. The total fines and costs against Dobson amounted to £7 6s 8d.

**MORE WATER.**

A lady came down from upstairs in an English hotel lately and asked the manager if she could get a glass of water. "Certainly, madam," said he, filling up a glass for her. Two minutes later she was back again. "I don't like to trouble you, but could I get another glass of water?" "No trouble at all," said the manager, handing her another glass. Two minutes later she reappeared. "Certainly, madam," said the affable manager; "but may I inquire what you are doing with so much water?" "I know you'll just scream when I tell you," said the lady; "I'm trying to put out a fire in my room!"

**LEARNING A TRICK.**

The daughter of Bret Harte, with the aid of a number of her father's English friends, has opened a typewriting office in London.

She is a proficient typewriter, and an American journalist, calling to have some copying done, complimented her on her skill.

"My skill, such as it is, is due to practice," said Miss Harte. "It was acquired very painfully, like the marksmanship of one of my fathers' Western friends.

"My father used to tell of a man called Redwood James, a character of California. James in a bar one night, drew a revolver and shot the ashes from the cigar of a friend on the other side of the room.

"The friend laughed, and calmly drank off the remainder of his cocktail. My father said to Redwood James:

"That must have required considerable practice."

"Practice!" Redwood replied. "I should say so, young man. I guess I spilled more'n three dozen Chinamen a-learnin' that there trick."

**DEFINITIONS.**

Garrick's definition of Kitty Clive is a touch of genius. "Madam, I have heard of tartar and of brimstone, but you are the cream of the one and the flower of the other." The meaning of a term, according to the dictionary, is generally devoid of wit and humour; but, that it is possible to infuse a little of these qualities into a definition, without obscuring its meaning, or detracting from its value, the following examples make sufficiently evident:—"A gentleman" has been defined as a "man who can wear a clean collar without looking conspicuous"; "a lineal descendant" is "one who has to fall back on some praiseworthy ancestor for his own importance"; while "a second marriage" is said to be "the triumph of hope over experience." Bishop Wilberforce, being asked to define the difference between a good and a bad speaker, gave this definition "The good speaker has something to say; the bad has to say something." A speaker who opened a debate on the relative merits of burial and cremation as methods of disposing of the dead, characterised the subject of discussion as a "grave and burning question." Another is credited with having described water as "a clear, colourless fluid, very useful for washing purposes. Some people are said to drink it." Some definitions are little more than amusing, as witness the following: "A muff: An article that holds a lady's hands without squeezing them." "A lover: A man who, in his anxiety to obtain possession of another, loses possession of himself."

**CHANGE.**

The "New Zealand Times" says that the trick of carrying round a large cheque or banknote, and of presenting it to tradesmen in return for services already rendered, is not altogether new. In country townships where payment of wages is by monthly cheque, one sometimes hears of men who have "travelled" on all the "pubs" by presenting cheques after boniface had insufficient cash left to change them; but as a hotelkeeper can protect himself by simply refusing to cash cheques, the extent of his victimisation should not be very great. The presentation of a bank-note for, say, £10, is rather a different matter. A few of these make a big hole in the cash of the average tradesman. Here is an incident—it occurred in Wellington—illustrating that

the tradesman is not always caught on the hop. Seven men dine at a restaurant, some of them are about to pay, but another nudges them back; he will "shout." He presents a £10 note. Restaurant-keeper smiles, takes it upstairs, returns with nine packages full of silver. Pours them out on the counter (taking pains to mix them up), and proffers the customer £9 13s in shillings and half-crowns, all in a pile. Clever man sees the game has gone against him, says he will find 7s. "Can't take it," says the restaurant-keeper, "you said you had no other money." "Give me back my £10 note." "In the sweet by-and-bye." "I won't take your silver." "It is not the sort of article I would summon you to remove." Finally the clever man gulps, empties the silver into all his pockets and the pockets of his overcoat, and departs amid the jeers of his confederates.

Most people know what salary means. Latin—salarium, from sal, salt. The Romans served out rations of salt to their soldiers and civil servants. The rations altogether were called by the general name of salt, and when money was substituted for the rations the stipend went by the same name.

A reverend gentleman was getting shaved. The barber's hand was shaky, and the breath was laden with the fumes of liquor. At last the expected happened—the blood flowed freely from a cut in the parson's chin. He looked at the barber severely.

"See," said he, "what comes from drinking whisky."

"Yes, sir," replied the barber, "it makes the skin very tender."

**BEER EXPORTS.**

From figures taken from the "London Licensed Victuallers' Gazette" it would appear that India continues to be by far and away the best customer to the British brewer, the exports of beer and ale to that country last month having reached 11,657 barrels, of the value of £27,715, against 9571, valued at £24,976, in February, 1905. There has also been an improved demand from the United States, which has taken 6085 barrels, valued at £27,356—strange to say, nearly the amount of the increased Indian exports. Australia comes next with 4370 barrels. Here there is a slight falling off, 4882 barrels having been ordered by that country in February, 1905. The Straits Settlements, Egypt, British South Africa and the British West Indies have all taken less,

while an increased demand has been experienced from New Zealand, which has taken 575 barrels against 553, and also from Ceylon, which is credited with 185 barrels against 98. It is really difficult to locate the chief falling off in the demand, since the heaviest decline is under the head of "Other Countries," which figure for 9297 barrels against 15,050. The total exports of beer and ale last month reached 35,890 barrels, of the value of £123,372, against 40,647 barrels, valued at £135,883, in February, 1905.

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