

**MARK TWAIN AND THE OFFICE BOY**

Mark Twain did not cherish a fondness for the average office boy. He had an idea that the genus was insufferable, and invariably when the humorist sallied forth into some business office there was immediate armed hostility between him and the boy. One day Mark went to see a friend at his office, and the office boy on guard, in icy tones, said: 'Whom do you wish to see?' Mark mentioned his friend's name. 'What do you want to see him about?' came next from the boy. Mark Twain immediately froze up, and then with a genial smile he said, 'Tell him, please, I want to ask his hand in matrimony.'

**AN OLD PROVERB**

'Never look a gift-horse in the mouth.' That this proverb was familiar as far back as the fourth century is evident from the fact that when some one found fault with certain writings of St. Jerome, he answered that they were free-will offerings on his part, and that it did not behove the receivers 'to look a gift-horse in the mouth.'

**SOLOMON THE SECOND**

A Jewish folk tale just going the rounds once more tells of a Jew who, feeling that his last moment had arrived, sent for his brother.

'I am dying,' he said, 'and I wish to arrange for the disposition of my fortune. For this last service of closing my eyes you shall be well rewarded. I leave £6000. Give my wife as much as you want, and the remainder you may take for yourself.' With that he died.

In dividing the amount left the brother took for himself £5000 and gave the widow £1000. The widow, who had several children and was in poor circumstances, brought the case before the rabbi and complained that as the brother was himself rich he should have provided better for her.

The rabbi ordered the man to appear before him, and when he came he charged him with having disobeyed his dead brother's wish.

'That I did not,' exclaimed the man, 'for he said, "Give my wife what you want and take what remains for yourself."'

'And you took £5000 and gave his widow only £1000?'

'Yes,' answered the man.

'Then you misinterpreted your dead brother's will, and you must make reparation. Did not your brother say, "Give my wife what you want?" And did you not want £5000? Therefore give the widow that sum. "What remains," your brother said, "you may keep." Hence take the remaining £1000 and be gone. I have judged.'

**ORIENTAL WIT**

Alvo Yusuph, chief judge of Bagdad, was remarkable for the modesty which accompanies wisdom. Once, after a long investigation of the facts of a case, he publicly confessed that his knowledge was not sufficient to enable him to decide it. 'Pray,' said a pert courtier, 'do you expect the caliph to pay you for your ignorance?' 'I do not,' meekly answered the judge; 'the caliph pays me well for what I know; if he were to attempt to pay me for what I do not know, the treasures of his empire would not suffice.'

**THE BOY'S STRATAGEM**

A Scotch lad had his leg injured at a factory and was treated some time by the doctor without much favorable result. His mother had great faith in a local bone-setter, and wanted her son to go to him; but the boy objected, preferring, as he said, the 'reg'lar faculty.' Finally, however, he yielded to his mother's persuasions and was taken to the town where the famous bone-setter resided. The leg was duly examined, and it was found necessary to pull it very severely, in order

'to get the bone in,' as the quack expressed it. The patient howled in agony, but at last the bone was 'got in,' and he was taken home. In a few days he would be all right, and could resume work. 'Didn't he do it well?' said the joyous old lady, as they started homeward. 'Yes, he did, mother,' said the lad; 'he pulled it well; but I was na sic a fool as to gie him the bad leg!'

**HE KISSED THE CAT**

A young first grade teacher of the children of foreign parents gave them a little talk on kindness to animals. The next day, when she was busy at her desk, she felt a little hand tugging at her sleeve. 'Why, Pietro,' she exclaimed, 'what is the matter?' 'Nothing, teacher, I just wanted to tell you how I was good to dumb animals yesterday,' he replied. 'Why, isn't that nice, Pietro! Just what did you do?' Pietro drew himself up to his full three feet, and proudly declared, 'I kissed the cat!'

**A SUGGESTIVE NAME**

'Are you boots?' blustered the Englishman in the American hotel.

'No,' replied the boy addressed; 'they call me "scales."'

The Englishman was mystified.

'"Scales," eh? That's a queer name. What do they call you "scales" for?'

'Because I get tipped so often.'

**SPRINGING A NEW ONE**

With a wild look in his eyes the man with the green satchel rushed ahead of the excited mob.

'Discovered!' he shouted for the twentieth time.

'Discovered! It is all over now.'

And then they caught him.

'Where'd you escape from?'

'Nowhere.'

'What were you locked up for?'

'Nothing.'

'Then what in thunderation is discovered?'

'The North Pole, gentlemen, the North Pole; and if you will allow me to open this satchel you will discover the greatest bargain in double action, automatic, self-revolving, collar-buttons—'

Then the crowd melted away.

**WHAT HE WAS LOOKING FOR**

A passenger who escaped uninjured from a serious railway smash, seeing a fellow-traveller searching anxiously with a lantern, offered to assist in the search, and, thinking the old man had lost his wife, asked in sympathetic tones: 'What part of the train was she in?' Raising his lantern and glaring at the kindly-disposed passenger, the old man shouted with indignant distinctness that triumphed over physical infirmity: 'She, sir! She! I am looking for my teeth!'

**FAMILY FUN**

Glass and Coin.—Place a piece of money on a shallow plate, pour some water over it, and then ask someone to take away the coin without wetting his fingers. As the coin is covered with water, he will naturally reply that he cannot do so. To show him that it can be done, take a large glass, hold it upside down, and burn a lighted strip of paper inside of it. The instant the paper is burned, place the glass, still upside down, on the plate. As a result the water will at once disappear, and the cause thereof will be the warm air in the glass. The plate will then be dry, and the coin can be removed without wetting the fingers.

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