

THE JOKERS' BUDGET.

STORIES AND YARNS BY FUNNY MEN OF THE PRESS.

Appearances Are Often Deceptive-- The Only One Doing Anything-- Experience-- That Reminded Him, Etc., Etc.

APPEARANCES OFTEN DECEPTIVE.

Tramp--Please, mum, I'm almost married.

Housekeeper--I saw you enter half a dozen houses before you got to this one, and you staid a good while in each.

Tramp--Yes, mum, but they was all boardin' houses.

THE ONLY ONE DOING ANYTHING.

"How's all the boys makin' out now?"

"None of 'em a doin' anything, exceptin' of Jim."

"An' what's Jim a doin' of?"

"Loafin' around!"

EXPERIENCE.

He--Now, darling, I shall go and ask your father for you.

She--He won't give his consent.

He--How do you know?

She--Because four or five have tried it before you.

THAT REMINDED HIM.

Farmer Poore--Marindy, I see in the paper they's a man out in Grand Rapids that's walkin' around without any brains.

Mrs. Poore--Well, Jabez, I know a man closter home that's in the same fix.

Farmer Poore--Oh! That kindlin' rood? I'll fetch it right in.

HOW NICE.

Miss Bellefield--I intend to treat Mr. Van Braam like one of the family.

Miss Bloomfield--What on earth do you mean, Carrie?

Miss Bellefield--When he proposes I'll tell him I'll be a sister to him.

NOT ALWAYS A GOOD PLAN.

Daughter--You told me that when I wanted a favor of my husband I should ask him after dinner. The first time I tried it he not only refused, but he was just as cross and ugly as he could be. He never refused me anything before--boo, hoo, hoo!

Mother--Bless me, my dear, you shouldn't have asked him after a dinner that you had cooked yourself.

CHINA'S NEED.

What China needs To remove the tarnish Is a few dabs more Of Japan varnish.

STRONG LOCKS.

Bilzer--How is it that your wig never falls off, Zabzin?

Zabzin--Easy enough; the locks do it for me.

SCIENTIFICALLY CONSIDERED.

Mother--What's that smacking noise in the parlor?

Studious boy (who goes to school)--It's a sister and her young man exchanging microbes.

IT'S ONE DRAWBACK.

Mrs. Homer--Dear me, I must commence housecleaning to-morrow, and I hate it!

Mr. Homer--Why, how is that?

Mrs. Homer--It dirties everything up so.

THE NEW MAN.

Wadsworth--Well, well, well! If this isn't Billy Brown. How are you, old man, anyway?

The late Billy Brown--I am not Billy Brown any longer. I am Mr. Blimpkins. I have married since we met last.

DISTINCTION.

"In all my career," said the eminent statesman, "I can say that I have never done anything to be ashamed of."

"You mean," sneered the cynic, "that you have never done anything you were ashamed of?"

AN OKLAHOMA COURTSHIP.

Miss Gladys Mork--How did you come to accept Alkali Ike?

Miss Birdie Slade--Because he was so brave and fearless. Why, when I asked him to do something heroic to prove his love for me he whooped and swore and kicked the chairs over and all paw got out of bed and came downstairs, as mad as a hornet, to get the uproar. And then Ike jumped on to him and licked him in less than three minutes. And you know paw has always been considered one of the hardest men in the county to handle.

MARRIED YOUNG.

He--You think you are too young to marry? Why, my mother married me when I was three.

She--That's nothing; my mother married before I was born.

A SIGN.

Daughter--I wouldn't be surprised if Mr. Lingerly proposed this evening. I just got a lovely note from him.

Mother--Did you? Did he ask if you would be at home?

Daughter--No. He asked if paw would be.

EQUAL TO IRVING.

Amateur Actor (to friend)--What did you think of my Hamlet, Charley?

Dear Friend--Immense. In one part of the play you were equal to Irving.

Amateur Actor--What part was that, Charley?

Dear Friend--Where Polonius gives his parting advice to Laertes.

Amateur Actor--But I was behind the scenes then.

Dear Friend--So is Irving.

HOW TO GROW THIN.

Instruction for Stout Persons to Reduce Flesh.

It is all very well to laugh at the absurdity of sighing over growing old, but there are very few women who are sufficiently philosophical not to be a little chagrined at the advance of years showing itself plainly in face or figure. There would seem to be two distinct types of American women--those who grow stout as they grow older, and those who grow thin. It is all very well to say that the face looks better when it is plump than when it is thin, but every pound of additional avoirdupois certainly adds to a woman's age in appearance at least, while the woman who does not grow stout rarely changes much in appearance from thirty-five to fifty. There are many physical reasons which induce added flesh, and we are told that the figure settles as one grows older; but it is this very settling that all women are anxious to avoid, and there is really no necessity for it whatever.

Steady bantering always has the desired result in so far as the reducing of flesh is concerned, but there are other results far from satisfactory which are apt to accompany it, and very often ill health and irritable nerves are the outcome of trying to grow thin. The avoiding of starchy food is a simple matter, and by not eating potatoes and bread very often an astonishing difference in weight is soon perceived. Certain salts, which, however, should never be taken except under the orders of one's physician will sometimes start a disposition to lose flesh, which if followed with giving up potatoes and bread, will work marvelous results.

Indolence, one of the greatest factors in increasing weight, lies within the power of every woman to correct. It is so much the fashion now to take exercise that there is no excuse for being lazy. It is impossible for some women to walk a great deal, but a certain amount of regular exercise will benefit even the most delicate. Sitting invariably produces fat and fat just where one does not want it--about the stomach and hips. When one begins to lose flesh--and this can be ascertained by being weighed every week--a little massage will be found a great help. The masseuse, if she understand her business, will soon be able to tell where the superfluous flesh is, and will direct her energies to the particular place or places. Of course massage is an expensive luxury, but it is not a thing that needs to be continued, and a few hours will often work a wonderful change. For instance, one hour three times a week for a fortnight has been known to reduce the size of the waist half an inch. Standing erect with the hands pressed well down on the hips and then, with the hands still kept on the hips, bending the body forward, backward, and sideways several times, twice a day, will also work off accumulated fat about the hips and stomach. But this exercise must be conscientiously persevered in.

Snakes Which Feign Death.

This habit of feigning death is not unknown among snakes. It is particularly characteristic of the puffing adder, or hogsnake, although it has been observed in the grass snake and others. Several writers in Nature have recently described the "fainting" of the puffing adder. When the snake finds it impossible to escape he thrashes his head violently from side to side, the mouth open to its widest extent and the tongue protruding. After a few convulsive movements the body becomes limp and apparently lifeless. It may even be stroked or carried about without showing any signs of animation. The body would remain in whatever position it was placed except in its natural position; if it were thus placed it rolled over on its back and resumed its lethargy. The snake could be reanimated by being plunged in water, or if left to itself it would after a time revive of its own accord.

How It Was Named.

"Mason and Dixon's line" is a term in frequent use during the agitation against slavery, previous to 1861. It was the southern boundary line which separated the free State of Pennsylvania from what were the slave States of Maryland and Virginia. It was in 89 degrees, 48 minutes, 28 seconds north latitude. The line was surveyed by Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, two English mathematicians, between Nov. 15, 1763, and Dec. 26, 1776.

Odds and Ends.

In Essam they lower corpses from the roof, it being against the law to carry them through the front door.

Scientific records show only 505 cases are known of persons having second attacks of smallpox.

Tom Burrows, the all-round Australian athlete, has beaten the record by swinging a pair of Indian clubs for twenty-four hours, without stopping even for meals.

In Russia the water supply never freezes because the pipes are laid below the frost line.

Street cars in Dresden are propelled by gas engines.

By a new process stockings are now made out of paper.

North China is the land of the doughnut.

An Atchison man, 5,000 miles from Paris, is the first man to put a "Tribby corn cure" on the market.

Harmonics higher than the natural open tone of the fiddle string can be got by almost any violinist, but J. G. Holmes, of Buchanan, Mich., claims he can get a harmonic a fifth lower than the natural tone.

President Cleveland is having his portrait painted without sitting for it. The artist, Percy Ives, of Detroit, has a room opening into the President's private office, and catches him at his desk when he can.

Abbe S. Stiltz, a French priest, in charge of the blind, has invented a typewriting machine which prints ordinary characters and the corresponding raised letters for the blind, so that the sightless can write letters to their friends and also read them.

Somebody has invented a letter copying book which, when rolled up and held tightly in the hand, makes as good a copy as can be obtained from a press.

There are 200,000 more unmarried women in England and Wales than unmarried men.

The King of Italy spends more for charity than any other European sovereign.

France has but one volcano--in the Department of Aveyron, and it is in active operation for the first time since 1870.

An alarm letter box is a recent invention. When a package is dropped in it sounds a bell in the house to inform the listeners that the postman has brought a letter.

Six near relatives of George H. McCalmon, of Biddford, Me., met violent deaths--the father, grandfather, two brothers and two cousins.

Caycao, a small island in the West Indies, is inhabited exclusively by turtles, some of which grow to enormous size. Several vain attempts have been made to establish human habitations there.

Strange bed warmers are used by Chilean women. In cold weather, when in bed, they keep their feet warm by placing them on a dog.

Upon the meeting of the Fifty-fourth Congress each member will find upon his desk a button, a pressure upon which will be promptly answered by a page.

A new imitation of gold is made of ninety-four parts of copper and six of antimony with a little magnesium and carbonate of lime added while it is melted. It is said that it preserves its color, is an almost exact imitation of gold, and that it costs only twenty-five cents a pound to make it.

Of the few genuine relics of Shakespeare preserved in his native town, the most interesting are his signet ring, with the initials "W. S." on it, and the desk at which he sat in the grammar school in Stratford. The average number of visitors to the poet's home and church is 23,000 a year, of whom 6,000 are Americans.

"Tribe of Gad" is the title of an association of teachers at Larned, Kan.

In England imitation or filled cheese cannot legally be sold as cheese.

Mount Tacoma is the highest point in the United States--about 15,000 feet.

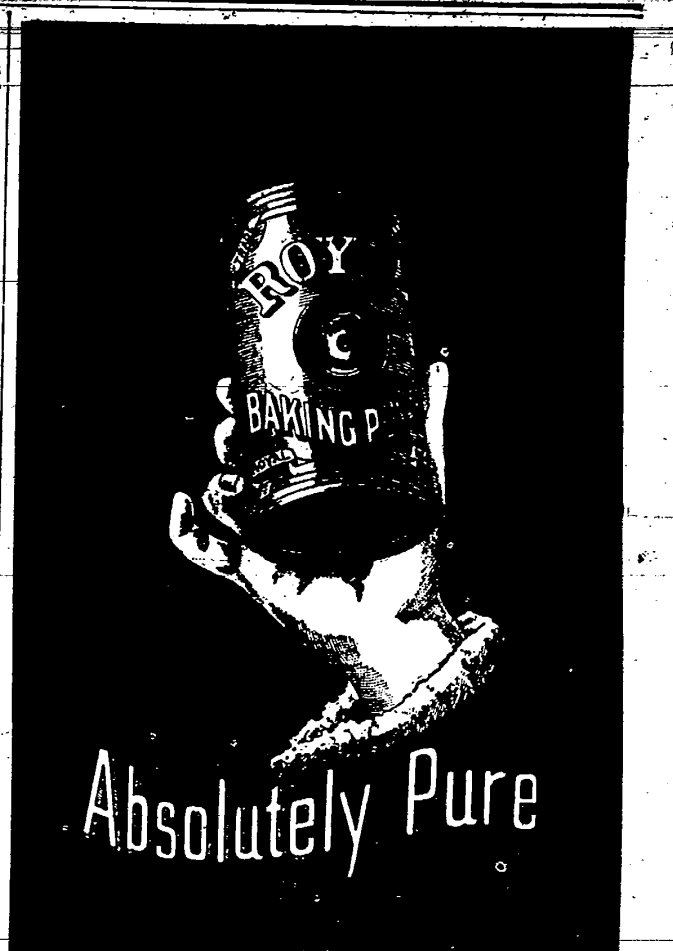
A Minnesota man has sued a barber for \$500 damages for ruining his beard.

There are in the world over 120,000 species of flowering plants.

Men or women who wear cords to their eyeglasses these days are the exception.

Up to Date Femininity.

The new woman is marching on bravely. Two smoking parlors for her exclusive use have been established in New York according to the Sunday World, and there is promise of several more. From the smoking parlor to the drinking room is only a step, and frequently it is not such a long step at that. Beyond that, if the reformers are to be believed, are the card and faro dens, the roulette wheels, even the loaded dice, and goodness knows what.



Woodman, Spare That Tree.

Mr. John Merchan, a farmer residing in the Somerville district, Maryland, has sold to a Baltimore furniture manufacturing firm a walnut tree from his farm for the sum of \$100, says the Washington Post.

The tree, which as yet has not been felled, is a magnificent specimen of its kind and is probably the largest tree ever grown in the State of Maryland. For over 200 years it has sheltered a good portion of Mr. Merchan's farm. Its height is about 68 feet, and its largest circumference measures 32 feet. Its branches are of enormous size, and in themselves are as large as ordinary small trees.

By its immense size the old walnut has become a familiar landmark about the surrounding country. In a few days it will be cut down and a log hewn from it and shipped to Baltimore.

Oregon is said to have the wildest region in the United States.

Sea water contain silver in considerable quantities.

A Patriotic Pilot.

Henry Fisher, the earliest licensed pilot in Delaware, was a man of substance when the war for independence broke out, and besides serving as a major in the Continental army, he freely gave his wealth to aid the cause. When about to part with his savings he was interrupted by his wife, who said, according to tradition: "Henry Fisher, will you make beggars of your children?" and the pilot's answer was, "Better be beggars than slaves." 19

The population of the German Empire is increasing at the rate of 500,000 a year.

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The Washing of the Feet

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Beware

"Well Done Outlives Death," Even Your Memory Will Shine if You Use

SAPOLIO