

His Excuse Is a Perfectly Valid One.

She was the typical country schoolma'am. She had a youthful, engaging look, and an evident interest in what went on in the neighborhood, despite the responsibility that rested on her shoulders.

"Willie Smith," she said, "you are late again."

"Yes'm."

"This must be stopped. I have a great mind to punish you, and I assure you that if you allow it to occur again you will not escape lightly. What is the cause of your tardiness?"

"Miss Jenkins' beau."

"Who? that young man from town?"

"Yes'm."

"Does he go to see Miss Jenkins often?"

"Bout seven times a week."

"The idea! Do you know whether they are going to get married?"

"Not exactly, but I know that they talk mighty sweet to each other, and he gave her a ring."

"Poor fellow! You may go to your seat, Willie."—*Merchant Traveller.*

His Father's Trade.

Many a Sunday-school speaker has come to grief while attempting to make his remarks interesting by drawing out his audience. The *Christian Register* mentions a recent instance:

In a California Sunday-school the superintendent was expatiating upon the importance of living high aims in life, and illustrated his argument by describing a boy of his acquaintance who was too lazy to work or study, and seemed to have no loftier ambition than to follow the business of his father.

"Now, what do you suppose his father's business is?" asked the superintendent.

"He's a minister, I guess," eagerly replied little Tommy W.

As soon as the general mirth would allow, the superintendent explained that the man was a bartender; but the moral effect of the story was hopelessly lost.

Familiar with the Subject.

A teacher was telling her little boys about temptation and showing how it sometimes came in the most attractive attire. She used as an illustration the paw of a cat.

"Now," said she, "you have all seen the paw of a cat. It is as soft as velvet, isn't it?"

"Yessem," from the class.

"And you have seen the paw of a dog?"

"Yessem."

"Well, although the cat's paw seems like velvet, there is, nevertheless, concealed in it something that hurts. What is it?"

No answer.

"The dog bites," said the teacher, "when he is angry, but what does the cat do?"

"Scratches," replied the boy.

"Correct," said the teacher, nodding her head approvingly. "Now, what has the cat got that the dog hasn't?"

"Whiskers," said a boy on the back seat, and the titter that ran around the class brought the lesson to an end.—*The Young Catholic.*

Taffy.

Servant Girl—Why don't you come around to the back door instead of ringing the front door bell?

Tramp—Because I am sure that one of the kitchen ladies is sure to answer the bell, while I might find the missus in the kitchen, and she would set the dog on me likely. The kitchen ladies don't do that. They give poor fellows like me a bite of suthin' to eat instead of the bite of a dog. He was befriended.—*Boston Courier.*

Spring Planning.

Potted Daughter—Mamma, I saw such a beautiful set of diamonds down town at Stonking & Co's this morning! And they are marked only \$2,500. I'm sure papa will buy them for me if you say so.

Doting Mamma—Ethel, your papa does not expect to fail in business till the 1st of May. You'll have to wait till after he gets them for you when we start for the seaside in June that will be soon enough, won't it, darling?—*Chicago Tribune.*

A Tale of the Aborigines.

St. Louis Man—I want the most stylish suit you can put up. I've got the cash right with me, and there musn't be a fly on it.

New York Tailor—Yes, sir. How will you have it cut?

St. Louis Man—Claw hammer, of course. There's going to be a wedding breakfast in my town next month, and you bet I'm going to lead the gang.—*Ex.*

A Conundrum.

What is the difference between the lover who is afraid to propose and the one who keeps repeating "Good night, sweetest" twenty times before taking his leave?

The one goes without saying and the other says without going.—*Boston Courier.*

Two Souvenirs.

Fay—Pfwat's this, Shanny?

Barry—That's a brick O! got agin me head in th' P. lassht riot!

Fay—Well, well! An pfwat's th' posy on the side av it?

Barry—That's par-rt av th' wrathe tho laid an th' carfin av th' man t'rew the brick.—*Judge.*

Remarks to a Puppy.

Dudeson (seeing Mabel petting her pug)—Ah, Gypsie is a luck creature, Miss Murray. I wish I were a dog!

Mabel—Well, don't despair, Mr. Dudeson. You may grow as you get older.—*Munsey's Weekly.*

Solomon's Wisdom.

Mamma (sternly)—Don't you know that the great King Solomon said, "Spare the rod and spoil the child?"

Bobby—Huh! But he didn't say that until he was grown up!—*Puck.*

Has Begun It Already.

Soon for trout the fisherman will cast his flies, And will wander by the brook with eager eyes; Then, returning when 'tis late With diminished stock of bait, He'll regale his friends with lengthy string-of-lies.—*N. Y. Press.*

Since it is now a well-established fact that catarrh is a blood disease, medical men are quite generally prescribing Ayer's Sarsaparilla for that most loathsome complaint, and the result, in nearly every instance, proves the wisdom of their advice.—*Advt.*

Worth \$10,000

Two friends met after a separation of ten years.

"How are you doing, old man?" asks one.

"Middling."

"Rich, I suppose?"

"Not worth a cent."

"Married?"

"No. How are you doing?"

"Middling."

"Rich, I suppose?"

"Well, they say every child a man has is worth \$2,000 to him."

"Yes."

"I'm worth \$10,000; I've got five children."—*Buffalo Courier.*

A Gentle Hint.

"Mamma made the oddest remark the other night, George."

"That's not surprising. She's always doing it."

"But this was so peculiar and poetical. You know she and papa in a few years will celebrate their golden wedding. Well, she said it wouldn't surprise her if you waited until then to celebrate the silver anniversary of our engagement. Odd, wasn't it?"—*Philadelphia Times.*

Security Guaranteed.

"I have a great money making scheme."

"What is it?"

"A refuge for hiding criminals."

"What kind of a cover will you go under?"

"I'll start a store, you know."

"Yes."

"And never advertise."—*Chicago Times.*

Interpreting the Fine Arts.

"What does it represent?" inquired the visitor, as he stood before the gorgeously colored canvas in the parlor of Mr. Gaswell and strove to decipher its meaning.

"That there paintin'," said the millionaire, proudly, "frame and all, represents nigh onto \$750, b' George."—*Chicago Times.*

An Antidote with Every Bottle.

Mrs. Gilroy—Here's a patent medicine man who offers a dictionary with every bottle of medicine.

Gilroy—That's right. The dictionary is good for bad spells.—*Munsey's Weekly.*

Ah Yes!

"I see no good in his books."

"I read them with considerable profit to myself."

"You did?"

"Yes, I was paid \$25 for correcting the proof sheets."—*Harper's Magazine.*

Consumption Cured.

An old physician retired from practice, having had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma and all throat and lung affections, also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints, after having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, has felt it his duty to make it known to his suffering fellows. Actuated by this motive and a desire to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge, to all who desire it, this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail by addressing with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. NOYES, 520 Powers' Block, Rochester, N. Y.

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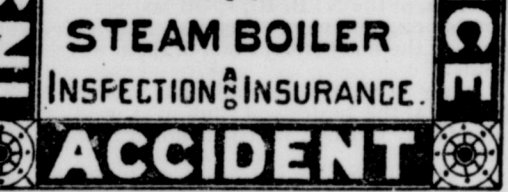
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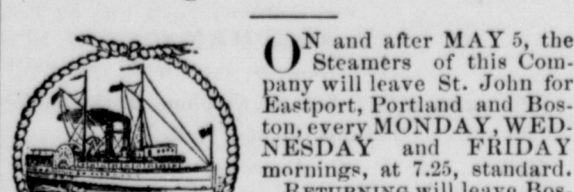
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