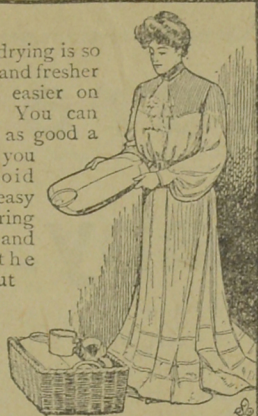


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Der German Cobbler

He Makes an Empty Barrel and a Sign a Source of Profit.

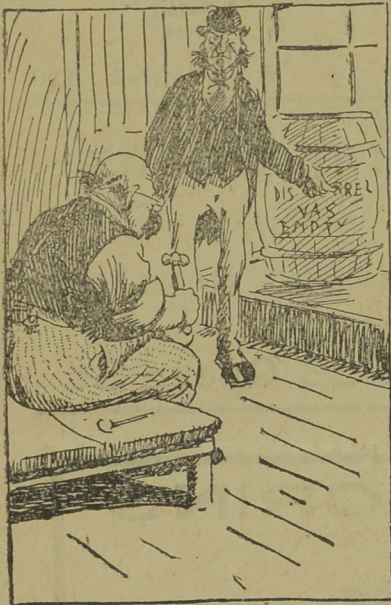
DOT little tailor comes in to see me der odder day, und when I says I don't haf no shoes to repair for three days he shrugs his shoulders und replies:

"Vhell, if you don't haf some brains in your head, how can I help it?"

"But why don't I haf some brains?" I says.

"I can't say. I guess you vhas porn dot vhay. I tell you more ash one hoonered times dot you don't understand der peoples of America. If you did, you shall haf plenty of work. Look at my case. I begin peeness mit a cent, und I can now draw a check for ten thousand dollar. It vhas because I understand der peoples. I know how to draw 'em to my place. It vhas better if you go und work in a coal yard. If I haf your cobbler shop one day I bet I bring in ten pairs of shoes to be fixed oop. Poor Hans! Why do you effer leaf Germany?"

Dot night my wife cries, und I sit down by der stove und think und



"I VHAS NO MAN MIT CURIOSITY, BUT I LIKE TO LOOK INTO DOT BARREL."

think. Maype it vhas two hours, und den I vhas all right. In der morning I put an empty barrel in my shop window, und on it I hang a sign dot reads, "Dis Barrel Vhas Empty." It don't seem to be over ten minutes before a man comes in and says:

"Cobbler, you may fix oop my heel while I wait, but don't be too long about her."

He looks around while I work, und pooty queek he smiles und says:

"I vhas no man mit curiosity, but I like to look into dot barrel."

"All right."

He looks in and sees nottings, und he laughs und says:

"Vhell, dot vhas a pretty good joke—pretty good. It shows you vhas a smart man, und after this you shall haf all my work. Yes, it vhas a good joke. Ah, ha, ha!"

I don't see where some joke comes in, but I laugh und wink at him, und his heel vhas fixed, he pays me a quarter und pats me on der back. He vhas hardly out doors before a woman comes in mit some children's shoes. She vhas a woman who always goes by a dago cobbler, but she talks mit me about der weather und vhas werry pleasant. All at once she pretends to see dot barrel und says:

"Say, now, I like you to speak to me in confidence, und I don't gif it avhay. Vhas it some rats in dot barrel?"

"Oh, no."

"Vhas it a goat?"

"No."

"Vhas it a fox or wolf?"

"No."

"Come, now, please be a dear good mans und tell me how it vhas. I pledge you my word I don't speak to some living soul about her."

"You may look in."

She goes oafar on tiptoe und looks in und don't see nottings. She looks mad at first, but den she laughs und says:

"Vhell, dot vhas der best joke for a year. If anybody takes you for a fool he gets left. From now on you shall fix oop all der shoes in my family, und I vhill send you all der customers I can. Ha, ha, ha!"

I laugh, too, but I don't know what I laugh at, und in a leetle time a man

stands before my shop und looks into der window for ten minutes. He can't make dot barrel out. He shakes his head und talks to himself, und by und by he comes in und says:

"Cobbler, I guess you may put a cement patch on my toe for feefteen cents. I vhas going to run for office next spring mebbe, und it vhas a good thing to keep my shoes in repair."

"I begin to fix his shoe right avhay, und he speaks of der price of coal und politics und den says:

"Cobbler, do you know I haf met ten thousand liars on my time? Yes, sir, I haf met ten thousand mans who lie to me like Texas."

"Dot vhas bad," I says.

"I meet so many liars dot I don't pe- lief nobody no more. If a man tells me he runs oafar a street car I know he vhas a liar, und I like to bang him in der eye. I see you haf a barrel in your window."

"Yes."

"Dere vhas a sign dot says she vhas empty."

"Yes."

"Vhell, I vhas going to look in, but I know you vhas a liar."

He looks in und finds nottings, und he shakes his head und sits down to think it oafar. After five minutes he holds out his hand to me, und dere vhas some tears in his eyes ash he says:

"Cobbler, I haf found one man in dis wide world who vhas not a liar. Dot barrel vhas empty. In one hour I shall send my boy mit all my shoes to be fixed oop, und you can charge your own price. Keep right on telling der truth und you shall haf a funeral two miles long when you die."

Der next person to come in vhas a woman. I see her looking at dot barrel through der window, und she goes home und gets a pair of shoes und comes back to say:

"You may fix dese oop if you will. How much vhas potatoes a barrel?"

"I don't know," I says.

"How much vhas apples?"

"I don't know."

"If you haf some alligator in dot barrel he don't get out sometimes?"

"He vhas no alligator."

"Den he vhas some chickens."

"No; he vhas only nottings."

Dot woman winks at me und looks in der barrel. When she sees dot emptiness she keeps still for two minutes und den laughs und says:

"I see how it vhas. Dere vhas some false bottoms to der barrel, und der poy gets out und hides down cellar if anypody looks in. Ha, ha, ha! I like a mans who can make jokes, und I shall gif you all my work to do. How long vhas you in dis shop?"

"More ash five years."

"Und vhas you a joker all der time?"

"All der time, madam."

"Dear me, und I don't know aboutt him! How many good things I haf lost! Vhell, I shall come in now every week, und I like you to haf a new joke every time."

In three days more ash feefty peoples comes in my shop und brings me work und looks into dot barrel, und I haf work ahead for two weeks. Sometimes a man gets mad when he don't see nottings, but most of 'em says it vhas a good joke und I haf brains. Dot little tailor finally comes around to see if I vhas in der poorhouse yet, und when I tells him how she vhas he goes oop by dot barrel und strikes her mit his fist und shouts:

"I tell you, Hans, you don't understand der American public. If you do you haf plenty of work."

"But I haf plenty of work now, und eaferypody says dot barrel vhas a joke."

"It makes no deference. You vhas some pumpkin heads, der public vhas fools, und I vhill go right home und leave you to smell of your old wax und leather."

I guess dot little tailor vhas no joker und he vhas jealous of me.

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"Mary's young man has left already, und Mary's just gone up to her room in tears," said Mary's mother. "I wonder what the trouble is."

"I know," chimed in Mary's little brother. "They had a scrap. I heard 'em. Sis said she was givin' him more kisses than he was a-givin' her, an' he said it wasn't so. Then they both got

into a quarrel."

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No. 4 Express for Point du Chene	11.00
No. 26 Express for Point du Chene, Halifax and Pictou	11.45
No. 136 Suburban for Hampton	13.15
No. 8 Express for Sussex	17.15
No. 138 Suburban for Hampton	18.15
No. 134 Express for Quebec and Montreal	19.00
No. 156 Suburban for Hampton	22.40
No. 10 Express for Halifax and Sydney	23.25

TRAINS WILL ARRIVE AT ST. JOHN

No. 9 Express from Halifax and Sydney	6.25
No. 135 Suburban from Hampton	7.45
No. 7 Express from Sussex	9.00
No. 133 Express from Montreal and Quebec	12.50
No. 5 Mixed from Moncton	15.10
No. 137 Suburban from Hampton	15.30
No. 3 Mixed from Point du Chene	17.30
No. 25 Express from Halifax, Pictou and Moncton	17.15
No. 1 Express from Halifax	19.15
No. 22.40 Suburban from Hampton	22.05
No. 81 Express from Moncton, (Sunday only)	1.35

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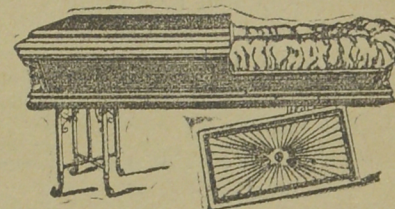
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