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CAPITOL TITBITS

A Long Time to Forgive

WHEN Victor Murdock first went to Congress, he attended a reception at the White House, and the late Associate Justice Brewer introduced himself, saying: "I am Justice Brewer. May I ask your name?"

"Certainly," was the reply. "I am Representative Murdock, from your own State of Kansas."

"I was quite sure that you were the man," said the Justice, "although it is thirty-five years since you scratched my face so dreadfully, in a stagecoach near Wichita. You were the worst behaved red-headed youngster I ever saw. You ought to have been spanked—and maybe it isn't too late yet to give it to you."

"Well, Judge, my mother says that I was only two years old when I did that trick. Can't you forgive me, after all these years?"

"Well, maybe I can," said the Justice musingly, "maybe I can; but I see that you are still an insurgent."

The Thief Had to Tell

THE father of William Jennings Bryan was a wise old farmer. Once he had several fine hams stolen from his smoke-house. He missed them at once; but said nothing about the loss, not even to any member of his family. A few days afterward a neighboring farmer came to him and said: "So, Mr. Bryan, I hear'd tell that some of your hams was stole t'other night."

"Yes, I had several very fine hams stolen," said Mr. Bryan in a low whisper; "but please don't tell anyone. You and I are the only ones that know it."

Repartee Among Doctors

SENATOR DOLLIVER tells of a physician at Fort Dodge, Iowa, who had a grave made for a man who was dying; but the man got well, and the doctor was joked about it for many years afterward.

Once, in consultation with three other physicians, he attended a patient who died. After the death, one of the physicians said: "Since a quick burial is necessary, we might inter the body temporarily. I understand that Dr. X. has a vacant grave on hand."

"Yes, I have," said Dr. X., "and I believe I am the only physician present whose graves are not all filled."

Not Up on Proposals

FORMER Vice President Fairbanks says it happened at a White House reception that one young woman giggled to another, "Jack B. proposed to me last night."

"He does it awkwardly, doesn't he, dear?" murmured the other one.

Room for One More

ARCHBISHOP IRELAND was urging one of his senatorial friends to help the church with his presence; but the Senator declined to be a regular churchgoer, giving this reason: "One finds so many rank hypocrites there."

"But there is always room for one more," said the genial prelate, as he gripped the hand of his statesman friend.

Had Wood to Burn

JOHN SHARP WILLIAMS says, "One of the negroes on my place did me quite a valuable service once, and I wished to show my appreciation. After paying him, I asked: 'Now, Uncle, which shall I give you, a ton of coal or a big bottle of whisky?'"

"Fo' de Lawd, Massa John," he replied; "yo' shorely knows Ah on'y buhns wood."

Insane for Hiring Him

SENATOR DOLLIVER tells of the trial of a man for murder, who was undoubtedly guilty, but was acquitted, greatly to the surprise of the presiding Judge. The jury had been out two days considering the case, without reaching a conclusion. Then the Judge called the jury into court and asked what the difficulty was. The foreman said:

"Judge, there is only one thing that is troubling us. Was the prisoner's counsel appointed by the court, or retained by the prisoner himself?"

"The prisoner is a man of means," said the Judge, "and he retained his own counsel."

Ten minutes later the jury sent out word that an agreement had been reached. They filed into the court. The foreman rose and announced the verdict:

"Acquitted, on the ground of insanity."

He Still Lives

PROFESSOR GREENUP, a colored school teacher, was injured in a railroad accident and had his leg amputated. When one

of his pupils called on him and inquired concerning his condition, Professor Greenup replied grandiosely:

"My physical condition is discontinuous, truncated. I am now an incomplete human being, a mere minuend deprived of an almost indispensable subtrahend."

But he got well.

Reason for His Silence

SENATOR HALE of Maine tells of two women at a White House reception who were strangers, but were conversing together, as everybody does converse at those informal affairs. At last one of them said: "I wonder what is the matter with that tall blond gentleman over there? He was very attentive to me awhile ago; but he won't even look in this direction now."

"Perhaps he saw me come in," said the other.

"Oh, my!" said the first one with a shrug. "You must think you are a stunner!"

"No, I'm not exactly what you would call a stunner," was the reply; "but I am that man's wife."

A Successful Petition

THERE was a substitute chaplain on duty in the House one day, and he prayed too long, almost interminably. The regular chaplain does not pray longer than two minutes. The substitute prayed so long that Speaker Cannon's mind manifestly wandered; for when the substitute chaplain concluded, Uncle Joe brought down his gavel with a heavy whack on the desk and said: "The petition will be approved."

Recipe for Good Health

GOOD health is my only ailment," says Senator Jeff Davis of Arkansas. "I work like a harvest hand and I have an appetite like a prize fighter. I need plenty of air when I am at work, and that's the reason I am always found in my shirt sleeves when in my office."

"I have been admonished frequently that I am violating the rules of good society. Now, I don't give a cuss for the rules of good society, when those rules are the rules of fools and contrary to the rules of common-sense!"

"Would you get any good work out of a draft horse if you kept a blanket on him on a hot day? Not much, you bet! Well, I'm a draft horse; I always work in my shirt sleeves."

Marriage as a School

ONE of the friends of Secretary Knox expressed regret that his son had married, "before completing his education."

"The same might be said of every man that marries," said the Secretary.

Evolution in New York

CONGRESSMAN EUGENE FOSS of Massachusetts says that a little girl in Boston defined "evolution" thus: "That's how they kill people in New York."

In the Swim

MANY a young man tries to get in the swim," says Senator Beveridge, "long before he proves himself to be a swimmer."

Should Know How to Milk

PRIVATE JOHN ALLEN of Mississippi says, "Although I have lived in cities all my life, they have generally been surrounded by farming country, and so I know a great deal about farming. One of the first things that the city bred person should learn about the farm is how to milk a cow. The best way to begin learning is to sit on the side farthest from the cow and nearest the soft spot in the pasture."

Submitted to the Touch

I SUPPOSE all of us have our little vanities," says James Hamilton Lewis of Chicago. "When I was a member of Congress I was called out into the corridor by a stranger, who asked, 'Is this Colonel James Hamilton Lewis?'"

"Plain Mr. Lewis, at your service," I replied.

"Well, Mr. Lewis," he said, 'I was so struck with a speech you made in the House last week that I went to the document room to get a copy for myself and for another friend. They charge five cents for a copy, and I haven't a cent of change. Can you let me have the money to buy two copies?'"

"Now I had not made any speech, and they do not charge five cents nor any cents at all in the document room; but I gave him the dime he wanted, and reproached myself afterward for my stinginess. Such an artist at flattery ought to have had a quarter, at least."

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