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THE DON AND THE BANDIT.

BY MARK LEMON

Don John was a nobleman of ancient blood, With a pedigree reaching direct to the Flood; And he lived in a castle as big as a town, With the Queen's regiment, and all round the wall; And he stuck to it like a man, didn't Don John, Who had pluck to back his blood and his lineage with the best of them. Yet, for all his birth and his spirit, poor John Was hard up—as hard as a nobleman can; The last penny he had was spent long ago, And he had to live, like other folks, upon credit. Now, Don John, being thus pressed for the ready, Had a tenant who owed him a matter of money; At least he said he had—but the fellow, Named Pedro Jim Crow, swore he was mellow When he said so, and that he didn't know Don John from a jackass with a bad bit of bone in his throat. Well, Don John, he had a way with him, and he could Be as civil as pie, when he liked to be civil; So he rode to the place where Pedro Jim Crow Was at work in his field, and he said, "Good morrow, Friend Pedro." Pedro touched his hat, and he said, "Good morrow, Your honor." "Pedro," said he, "I want money; I want it badly; I want it to-day; I want it to-morrow; in short, I want it always." Pedro scratched his head, and he said, "Well, I don't know, Your honor, but I'll see what I can do, if you will Just take it," said Don John. "But just because I'm good-natured, I'm not going to take less than the money I lent you." "Of course," said Don John, "of course I shall take interest for the money." "Of course," said the Don, "I don't pay interest on my debts." "Pedro," said he, "you don't mean to say you don't?" "Don't pay interest on my debts?" said Pedro. "Don't pay interest on my debts?" said he again, with a stare of astonishment. "Why, what do you do when you want to borrow?" "Borrow?" said Pedro, with a laugh at the idea of the thing; "borrow? I don't borrow!" "Then, if you don't, how do you get the money you want?" said Don John, in a fresh burst of astonishment. "Why, I steal it," said Pedro, with a laugh at the idea of the thing. "Steal it?" said Don John. "Steal it?" said he, with a shriek. "Steal it?" said Pedro. "Why, what else do you do when you want it?" "Why, I borrow it," said Don John. "Borrow it?" said Pedro. "Borrow it?" said he, with a laugh at the idea of the thing. "Why, what do you mean by borrowing it?" "I borrow it," said Don John, "because I intend to steal it." "Steal it?" said Pedro. "Steal it?" said Don John. "Why, what do you mean by stealing it?" "Why, I steal it because I don't intend to borrow it," said Pedro. "Borrow it?" said Don John. "Borrow it?" said Pedro. "Borrow it?" said Don John. "Borrow it?" said Pedro. "Borrow it?" said Don John. "Borrow it?"