

AT DEATH'S DOOR.

Sayings of Noted Persons Who Were Conscious of Their Approaching End.

"I am dying at the top," said Walter Scott, conscious that his brilliant brain was softening. Some wits have begun to die at the lower extremities. Lord Chesterfield's brain did not share in the decay of his body. He had arrived at such a stage of decrepitude as to be unable to bear the rapid motion of a carriage. When taking an airing, he had to be driven at a snail's pace. "I am now going to the rehearsal of my funeral, said the wit one day, as about to enter his carriage. Fontenelle, an aged Frenchman, had lost his memory, but his wit was so unimpaired that he made witticisms on his infirmities. "I am about to decomp," said he to a friend, who asked after his health. "Some faculties have left me, and I have sent my baggage on before." When near one hundred years of age, he met a lady almost as old. "Monsieur," said she, "I believe Death has forgotten us." "Hush, madame!" replied the wit. "Don't talk so loud, or you may arouse his attention."

The mother of Francis I. of France, Louisa of Savoy, died through pride and superstition. Her pride brooked no contradiction. When the Constable Bourbon declined the hand she offered him, she confiscated his estates. While sick with a fever, she thought she saw a comet, and exclaimed: "Ha! there is an omen which appears not to persons of low degree. God sends for us great. Shut the windows; it announces my death. I must prepare." In vain the physician assured her that she was not in a dying state. She insisted that she was; "had not the comet warned her?" In three days she died.

Some persons have thought themselves engaged in the business of life when life itself was departing. "That it is dark; the boys may go," were the last words of Dr. Adam, the rector of the Edinburgh High School. "Gentlemen of the jury, will you now consider your verdict," said the dying Lord Ten-terden.

A woman who had been a notorious scandal-monger repeated, before she died, every word she had heard against anybody. In health her scandals had been retailed in mysterious tones, but while dying she became noisy, and shouted out her malice.

There have been cases known where persons, who should have lived, were put to death by their friends telling them that they could not get well. A Scotch clergyman, on his way to visit a poor sick woman, met the parish surgeon, and inquired after the patient. "The room is full of friends, who tell her she can't last long," replied the doctor. "I make no doubt she will not, for she is sinking, because she thinks she is dying. Yet I see no reason why she should die, except the talk of her friends, and I couldn't get one of them to leave the room."

The clergyman entered the room, and, his authority being respected, soon cleared it of all in it, save one person. He then told the woman what the surgeon had said, that instead of dying, she would get well. Starting up in bed, she exclaimed, with energy: "What! Am I not dying? Shan't I die? Then, thank the Lord, I shan't die!"

She recovered, and thanked the clergyman for clearing the room of "the birds of ill-omen."—*Youth's Companion.*

HUMOROUS.

—A party question: "What time do you think they will have supper?"—*Boston Commercial Bulletin.*

—A teacher in a high school asked a little wad of an Irish boy to describe a lake. "Sure and it is a hole in the kettle."—*Providence Telegram.*

—Hotel keepers in the mountains, who are growling over unpaid board bills, should remember that they live in the owe-zone.—*Pittsburgh Bulletin.*

—"What made you steal that waterproof cloak?" demanded the judge. The culprit whispered: "I was trying to lay up something for a rainy day."—*N. Y. Telegram.*

—If you should hint to a man that small game existed on top of his head he would probably be angry, but most every man has a part-ridge there for all that.—*N. Y. Graphic.*

—"I wish you would call me at six, in the future, Mrs. Gray." "All right, Mr. Jones; but it's quite early for you." "Well, yes; the boys is taking an interest in me, and so I am bound to rise."—*Quits.*

—George to Celeste—"Your papa is not here, dearest?" Celeste—"No; he is behind time to-night." George—"Then come to my arms. As long as he isn't behind me, I care not where he is."—*Washington Critic.*

—Young Tellitall (continuing story)—"And just as I was stepping off the porch—" Landlady (touching bell for servant)—"Ting. Young Tellitall (injuredly)—"Perhaps some of the others have not heard it, madam."—*Tid-Bits.*

—A Boston lawyer, in reply to our inquiries whether there is any legal process which can be applied to coffee when it refuses to settle, replies: "I have to say that the grounds of action are in process of liquidation. No fee."—*Burlington Free Press.*

—"Ah," he exclaimed, as he pressed her tenderly to him at parting, "shall I hold you in these arms again to-morrow, and paint our future with the bright pigments of the imagination?" "No," she said, calmly, "not to-morrow, to-morrow's washing day."—*N. Y. Herald.*

—Brooklyn Man—"Talk about pretty store girls—I wish you could see the female clerks a Brooklyn druggist has." Omaha Man—"No doubt we could match them. Don't be too sure. Those girls have no equals for beauty and sweetness anywhere." "You think so?" "Think so! Why, man, he doesn't even have to sugar-coat the pills."—*Omaha World.*

—An old gentleman, while visiting a school, was invited to address the scholars. He looked up and down the long rows of children, and beaming benignantly upon them, said: "Dear little boys and girls, my heart goes out in tender love and sympathy for you all, for I remember so well when I was a little boy and girl myself!"—*Philadelphia Call.*

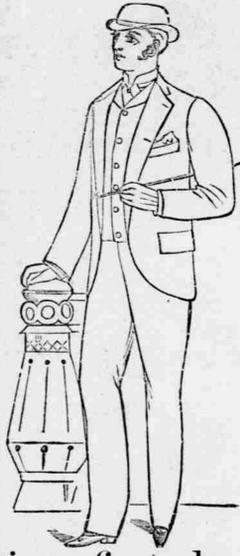
—"Speaking of heavy rains," remarked one farmer to another recently, "reminds me of one we had last spring. I put a barrel out in the yard, bung up, and it was filled with rain-water through the bung in just ten minutes by the watch." "That's nothing," said farmer No. 2. "I put a barrel in my yard, bung up, with both heads out. The rain went through the bung-hole so fast that it couldn't run out and overflowed at the bung." The farmers saluted each other and drove on.—*Boston Budget.*

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