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Willing to Help.
Lord Pauncefote suffered greatly from rheumatic gout in his latter days, and he walked stiffly and sometimes had to use two canes. He went one afternoon to make a call, and he remained quite a long time, so long that the horses got restive, and the groom walked them up and down the street. When Lord Pauncefote left the house the carriage was not in front, and thinking there was some mistake in his orders, he started to walk to the embassy, which was only a square or two. But he had twinges of his old enemy, and the pavements were icy. He was a large, heavily built man, and he feared a fall. While he was pondering over his dilemma alone came a young man in working clothes, and the British ambassador, after a courteous salutation, asked: "My friend, will you walk beside me and help me home? It is just a short way, but I am afraid of falling. I shall greatly appreciate it." The young man looked him over and then said thickly, "Old gent, I am pretty full myself, but I'll do the best I can—the very best I can."

An Imaginative Statesman.
Imagination is the greatest moving force in the world. In saying this I am merely repeating a remark of Disraeli's, and to prove the strength of his conviction I will repeat a story Mr. Lowell told me when he was minister to England. It is the custom of the Royal Academy of Painters to hold a private view of their pictures before the public exhibition. Disraeli, walking arm in arm with Browning through the galleries, said, "What strikes me most forcibly here is the lack of imagination," and he proceeded to enlarge upon the power of imagination, declaring it to be the greatest force in the world. In responding to a toast at the banquet which followed the private exhibition he dwelt upon the wealth of imagination in evidence on the walls about him and again expressed his conviction that imagination is the moving force in the world. Browning repeated Disraeli's first remark to Gladstone, who sat beside him, and he muttered, "The devil!"—John Townbridge in Atlantic.

Quite Natural.

"That play had some very natural touches."

"Drama of domestic life, eh?"

"Yes; they had a new servant in every scene, and the heroine was a brunette in act 1 and a blond in act 2."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Awkwardly Put.

Old Lady (to new curate)—Ah, sir, we do enjoy your sermons. They are so instructive. We never knew what sin was until you came to the parish.—London Telegraph.

A Sign of Death.

There may have been many "signs" of death—so some people believe—but one described here is probably new to many. Mr. W. B. Cooper of Cheltenham tells of his father being ill, but not confined to bed, and one sunny day in June when he walked across the garden another man, the facsimile of his father, met him and "apparently passed into him."

"Shortly after my father came to me and said, 'Did you see me go across the garden?' I said, 'Yes.' 'Well,' he said, 'I shan't be here long. Our family see themselves before they die.' Although I had seen this, I said, 'Nonsense.' He shook his head and walked away. Shortly after he took to his bed and died July 5. My father during the few days he was in bed—we were haymaking at the time—asked each morning, 'Which field are you in now?' When we came to a certain field called 'Cadley,' he said, with a sigh of great satisfaction, 'Ah, I shall die now.'"

He died the same morning near mid-day.—T. P.'s London Weekly.

A Financial Parable.

Just before the collection was taken up one Sunday morning a negro clergyman announced that a certain brother had forgotten to lock the door of his chicken house the night before, and, as a result, in the morning he found that most of the fowls had disappeared. "I doan' want to be pussional, bred'n," he added, "but I hab my s'picious as to who stole dem chickens. I also hab reason fo' b'leevin' dat if I am right in dose s'picious dat pussion won't put any money in de plate which will now be passed around."

The result was a fine collection. Not a single member of the congregation feigned sleep. After it was counted the old parson came forward.

"Now, bred'n," he said, "I doan' want your dinners to be spoilt by wonderin' where dat brudder lives who doan' lock his chickens up at night. Dat brudder doan' exist, mah friends. He was a parable gotten up fo' purpose of finances."

Old Time Salaries.

How often clerks and other employees of big firms are heard to complain of the small salaries they receive! Yet if they realized that Columbus drew a salary of only just over 100 a year they would, perhaps, hesitate before grumbling at their £100 or £150 per annum. Prominent clergymen have received as much as and more than £10,000 a year, and yet John Knox only got 10s. 8d. a week, and that was 4s. 2d. more than Scottish judges of his time. It must be confessed, however, that at this period of small salaries money went a long way. For instance, a good Christmas dinner for a family of six during the sixteenth century could be provided for an outlay of about eightpence halfpenny.—London Standard.

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