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A WOMAN'S ANSWER TO A MAN'S QUESTION.

Do you know you have asked for the richest thing
Ever made by the hand above?
A woman's heart and a woman's life,
And a woman's wonderful love?

Do you know you have asked for this thing
As a child might ask for a toy?
Demanding what others have died to win,
With the reckless dash of a boy?

You have written my lesson of duty out—
Manlike you have questioned me;
Now stand at the bar of my woman's soul,
Until I shall question thee.

You may require your mutton always to be hot,
Your socks and your shirts be whole;
I require your heart to be as true as God's stars,
And pure as His heaven your soul.

I require a cook for your mutton and beef—
I require a far greater thing;
A mistress you're wanting for socks and shirts—
Look for a queen and a king;

I long for the celestial realm called home,
And a man that the Maker, God,
Shall look upon as he did in the first,
And say "it is very good."

I am fair and young, but the rose will fade
From my soft young cheek one day;
Will you love me then for the fading roses,
As you did among the bloom of May?

Is your heart an ocean so strong and deep
I may launch my all on its tide?
A loving woman finds heaven or hell
On the day she is made a bride.

I require all things that are grand and true—
All things that a man should be;
If you give this all, I would stake my life
To be all you demand of me.

If you cannot be this—a laundress and cook
You can hire, and a little to pay;
But a woman's heart and a woman's life
Are not for hire.

Judah P. Benjamin.

His Career in London as an Advocate—Cases in Which he Has Appeared—His Success.

We take the following well considered criticism of the legal career of our distinguished fellow-citizen, Judah P. Benjamin, from the London correspondence of the Cincinnati Commercial. The high character of the eminent statesman and jurist needs no comment at our hands, and the article will speak for itself; suffice it to say that no greater mind has appeared before a legal forum for the last half century:

Mr. Judah P. Benjamin, Q. C., ex-United States Senator and ex-Confederate minister, must be regarded as the most famous advocate at the English bar at the present moment. Having heard Mr. Benjamin speak in the Senate in old times, I can bear witness that, vigorous as he then was, he has greatly improved since his residence in this country, in manner as well as power. He is very eagerly sought for in all great cases, especially those which involve questions of foreign and of international law. Two weeks ago he made a speech on the question of the liability of the English criminal law of a foreign seaman passing through English waters, having left one alien port and bound to another, which, whether the case be ultimately decided in his client's favor or not, will have gained him a reputation for power and ability, enjoyed by no English barrister. Mr. Benjamin maintained that if his client could be punished by English law for an offense committed in English waters while merely passing through them, then English sailors passing through Spanish waters might be seized by the government, taken ashore and punished for heresy by Spanish law. The same able pleader has been retained in the most important cases which have been heard in the highest courts this week, and I think I can see that he is being selected as the best defender of forlorn hopes. I do not know his Confederate experiences have had anything to do with this repute, but certainly he has been appearing in some desperate cases. He will presently have to consider that question which so many before him have had to ponder—whether it be a greater advantage to be famous for defending the indefensible than to incur the risk of a reaction by losing so many cases of that kind as must be lost when the judges are as learned and experienced as they are in this country. Day before yesterday Mr. Benjamin, of three severe falls, metaphorically speaking, of which two at least were such as one would have supposed so clever a gentleman must have foreseen. One was in the Court of the House of Lords, the others were in the Supreme Court of Judicature. Moreover, there were some rather unpleasant features in the proceedings in one of these cases, which may probably suggest to Mr. Benjamin that he may be in danger of suffering a reaction in the judicial and political circles of the country which is not so exceptional as it may seem. It is not changed even by the fact that the tone of the country has changed even because of the late President Lopez. The money claimed by Mrs. Lynch and by the Republic is in the hands of a Mr. Currie, who claims a lien of several hundred pounds out of the large amount involved, and says after that is paid he is willing to pay the money as the courts may direct. The Exchequer court, therefore, ordered Currie to deposit a sum of eight hundred pounds in court, and thereupon all proceedings against him should be stayed pending trial of the main issue. Subsequently the same court was asked by Mrs. Lynch to vary the order so that Currie should make discovery of certain documents in his possession which would cast light on the issue between Paraguay and herself. This order Mr. Currie resisted on the ground that the stay of proceedings put him out of the case altogether, even to the extent of exempting him from making discovery of documents, however material. When Mr. Benjamin, as Mr. Currie's counsel, made this plea, the three judges at once manifested their disgust, and the master of the rolls said: "Surely, you must have some other reason for resisting this claim than that put forward; it is absurd." Benjamin having urged again that Currie was dismissed from the suit, the master of the rolls broke in on him sharply, saying: "He is not dismissed from the suit. No one ever heard of a man being dismissed from a suit before he has made discovery." He then said that there seemed to be an effort to take advantage of a mere defect in form, it not having been provided in it, as ought to have been the case, that discovery should be made of whatever either party needed for their case, and the result would be to leave Mrs. Lynch without remedy. The lord chief Justice and Judge Mellish having agreed with the master, Mr. Benjamin urged that the exchequer judge had not meant to order a discovery, but this excited the master of the rolls still more, and he said, "with warmth," as the Times puts it, "Oh, really, that is to impute to Baron Pollock a far greater absurdity than Mr. Murphy (Mrs. L.'s counsel) imputed to the court of exchequer." Much laughter followed this, and the judge said, "Really, the case is against you." Mr. Benjamin said, "Your lordships have in mind the practice of the courts of equity," (now abolished) whereupon the master cried, "Oh, but I hope common sense prevails now in all the divisions." Having then used again the ugly word "absurdity," the master said, "The claimant is clearly entitled to discovery, and the exchequer judge ought to have enforced the order as a matter of common sense and justice."

The scene amounted to almost as much of a humiliation to Mr. Benjamin as the compliments he had received from the bench in the case of the liability of aliens in English waters had been honorable. I have already intimated a belief that there was something more than the weakness of his case which gave to the master's severe words an undertone of insult, and I suspect they presage a thunder-clap not unlikely to fall upon the same lawyer and two others from Lord Coleridge. The last-named judge remarked lately on the case of Twycross vs. Grant that in the course of that case things had been said and done of which he had never heard nor read, and one

of them it would become his painful duty to remark. In the case in question Mr. Benjamin is chief counsel of the notorious Albert Grant, and the ominous remark made by the judge can hardly have any other reference than to trick and dodge by which Grant has been saved from a heavy loss by consenting to a series of comparatively small ones. There are eighty suits for various amounts, some very large, on file against Grant and other directors of the Lisbon fraud, and the whole eighty depend on the same principle as the one now on trial before a special jury. Mr. Benjamin, seeing that the cases could not be defended, hit upon the clever trick of refusing to defend it, so that the judgment could be applied to the other cases. So Grant's counsel leave the court, saying as they go: "We reserve our defense for the next case." They know full well that it will take twelve months to get up another specimen case, and heavy expense; and when that next case is got up Mr. Benjamin need only get up with his fellow-counsel, walk out of court, reserving his defense for the third case, which may come up in 1879, and so on indefinitely. It being against English usage that a judgment on an undefended case shall cut off the right of defense in any similar case, it is obvious that the invention of Mr. Benjamin enables his client to pay £1,000 a year only instead of the amount of all the cases he would. At this rate it will require eighty years for the sufferers of Grant's Lisbon swindle to recover from him and his heirs their losses, and their expenses in getting up annual cases would swallow up all they can wring out of Gottheimer, alias Grant. The procedure is very smart, and the only question is whether it may not prove to be a trifle too smart. Judges and lawyers generally agree that it amounts to a defeat of justice, and the opinion of Lord Coleridge, at the conclusion of the present case, is looked to with an excited interest. It has been postponed by the illness of a juror, so that a verdict cannot be reached until the middle of June. From time immemorial it has been the necessary custom of English courts to co-operate with counsel in making up test cases, otherwise it would hardly be possible for the enormous legal business of England to be accomplished. Mr. Benjamin has found a way to set aside this usage for the time being, and it remains to be determined whether the bench can find any way out of the dilemma. The general belief is that the two astute Israelites will be defeated. At any rate the three lawyers are playing a very dangerous game so far as their professional position is concerned, and if I am not mistaken there was a portent of this in the tone with which Mr. Benjamin was received by the judges in the Paraguay case, that being his first appearance before them after the last sitting in the Grant case. The incidents to which I have referred cannot yet be remarked upon by the press or public, as such a course is here a contempt of court until a case is decided, but the excitement is great in legal circles and extends to the general community.

It would be natural to suppose that with so many large cases as he has recently been employed in, Mr. Benjamin must be getting very rich. No doubt he is making a great deal of money for a member of the English bar, but it must be borne in mind that even the greatest lawyers here do not receive such fees as are frequent in America. Mr. Sergeant Parry told me recently that the fees he heard of in America were such as almost took an English barrister's breath away. The English barrister has to pay two firms in each case—the solicitors who prepare and the barristers who conduct his case—and the payments are, therefore, divided. There is not a barrister in England who gets more than seventy-five thousand dollars a year—which is about Mr. Hawkins' income—and there are only two, or at most three, that make over fifty thousand dollars a year. A thousand dollars for one case is considered a fancy fee. Probably the low average of fees paid for the every-day legal work done here is due in a large part to the survival of the old theory that the lawyer is a learned friend of humanity in its difficulties whose advice is given solely for the reward of virtue. Theoretically they are supported by honoraria, as the Pope receives Peter's pence. They are not supposed to receive fees, that being too gross a form in which to reward learning and benevolence.

"Massa Bob, what is in dis note, got so many dis mornin, I got em mixed."

The boy read the note, explained its contents to Massa G., whistled and laughed, and a bright idea struck him. "A negro boy who was said: 'Boy, does you want to quarter?'"

"Of course I does."

"Well, take dis note down dar, to Massa G., an' get a grubben hoe, and I'll wait here till you comes back, an' den I gives you a quarter."

The boy hurried off to accomplish his errand, and in due course delivered the note to G., who took him into the yard, locked the gate, and proceeded, despite the boy's protestations of innocence, to administer the desired flogging, while Jake hurried off home, chuckling over the happy result of what might have been serious business to him.

That evening the Judge called him up and enquired:

"Jake, did you get that grubbing hoe?"

"No, massa; I gave a boy a quarter to take dat note to Massa G., an' I spec he got dat hoe."

PEN DIPPING.

Not amiss—A rich and lovely widow.

Flash writers—Telegraph operators.

Engagement.

A round of pleasure—A promenade concert.

What class of people lie the most? Sluggards.

Men who have violated the law are always open to conviction.

When a widow with children marries, she becomes a pa-taker at the wedding feast.

It is a thin excuse for a young lady to lie abed until nine o'clock in the morning because this is sleep year.

A "receipt" to get married, was what a young man applied for to the clerk of a court in a North Pacific town.

"Astonishing cure for consumption," as the old lady said when she sprinkled snuff on the victuals of her boarders.

Swinging is said by the doctors to be good exercise for the health, but many a poor wretch has come to his death by it.

As this is leap year, a good many young men are procuring bogus marriage certificates to carry about their persons as a means of protection.

A family in Philadelphia have a dog twenty-five years old. He was originally a hound, but he has stayed with them so long that they call him a tarrier.

Old Moneybags says that a girl with an income of three thousand dollars a year or more is always an object of interest, because she has so much principal.

Why is playing chess a more exemplary occupation than playing cards? Because at chess you play two bishops, and at cards you play with four kings.

Dat Grubbing Hoe.

Many years ago there lived in a beautiful little town in North Alabama, a genial, warm-hearted old gentleman, who was well known throughout the State as well for his distinguished ability as his marked generosity and congeniality. Among his chattel possessions—for the time we are speaking of was long before the war—was an old negro named Jake, or as he was more familiarly called, Uncle Jake, and there never lived a more provoking old darkey; for Uncle Jake, although a favorite, had many weaknesses, and amongst others he was particularly regardless of truth, to such an extent in fact that occasionally the good old Judge found it necessary to punish him. It was customary in those days for the town constable to administer a flogging for a consideration whenever the matter was disinclined to officiate, and the constable of this particular town had a severe reputation for proficiency amongst the darkies who had now and then been so unfortunate as to come under his hands. Jake, although he had never been there, was well posted and had a great repugnance to Massa G., who was the incumbent at that time. On one occasion, during the Christmas holidays, while the old gentleman was severely indisposed, Uncle Jake had been guilty of a misdemeanor, and punishment was deemed necessary, so the Judge wrote a note to the constable about as follows:

Mr. G.—Please give the bearer thirty-nine lashes, and charge to me.

JUDGE H.

Calling up Uncle Jake the Judge ordered him to carry the note to G., who would give him a grubbing hoe.

Jake started off up town, but his suspicions were aroused. He couldn't understand what the Judge wanted with a grubbing hoe at Christmas time, and as his conscience was not as clear as it should have been, the result of his suspicion was that the truth suddenly flashed upon him. He was to be whipped. Seeing a school-boy approaching, he handed out the note and said: