

THE OLD MAN'S GROWING OLDER.

Yes, the old man's growing older—
He was looking at him there,
His eye had rested on his hair,
The other on his chair.

A Successful Trick.

A young and skillful disciple of Robert Houdin was some time ago traveling in the northern provinces of France, giving exhibitions in natural magic, in company with a young wag, now director of a printing establishment in Paris.

"By my faith," exclaimed the assistant magician, "it will never do to say we did not make our expenses. I have it! Let me write a poster for one more entertainment, and if the attraction don't answer, call me no assistant for a high priest of diablerie."

"At the urgent request of the large and intelligent audiences of our former entertainments, we have consented to perform the astounding feat of making the cathedral bell ring any hour indicated by any of the audience. To take place this evening."

"There, how will that do?"
"Out, how are you to fulfill the promise?"
"Ah, never mind. Am not I a worthy pupil of a skillful master. Leave that to me."

Night came, and with it a crowd of the curious. All went off well, and now came the feature of the evening. Any one was asked to name a number.

"Four!" came from the crowd.
In fear and trembling the mighty magician extended his hands toward the cathedral, when one, two, three, four! boomed from the cupola. The cold perspiration started to the exhibitor's brow, and he uttered a cry of surprise.

"Encore! encore!"
"Encore! encore!"
"Encore! encore!"
"Encore! encore!"

The Barrister and the Witness.

At an assize held during the past year, both judge and counsel had a deal of trouble to make the timid witnesses upon a trial speak sufficiently loud to be heard by the jury; and it was possible that the temper of the council may thereby have turned from the even tenor of its way.

"Now, sir," said the counsel, in a tone that would at any other time be denounced as vulgarly loud, "I hope we shall have no difficulty in making you speak out."

"I hope not, sur," was shouted or rather bellowed out by the witness, in tones that almost shook the building, and would certainly have alarmed any timid or nervous lady.

"How dare you speak in that way, sir?" said the counsel.
"Please, sur, I can't any louder," said the astonished witness, attempting to speak louder than before, evidently thinking the fault to be in his speaking too softly.

"A darkey arose to announce his text as follows: 'In the fus 'pistol of Clover, second chapter and the two hundred and ninety first verse.'
'Hold up, dooter,' cried one of his hearers, 'you've got into the wrong book; you mean de 'pistol of Timothy, I 'spose.'
The preacher hesitating a moment, with a very profound look, said:
'Well, I must cave in dis time, though I know'd dat de tex was somewhar among the grasses.'"

AN inquisitive female visited Boston jail the other day. She said to one prisoner, "What are you in for?"
"Or stealing a horse."
"Are you not sorry?"
"Yes."
"Won't you try and do better 'n next time?"
"Yes, I'll steal two!"

"John," said Mr. B., the other day to his son, "John, you are lazy; what do you expect to do for a living?"
"Why, father, I've been thinking as how I'd be a Revolutionary pensioneer."

"Why are young ladies at the breaking up of a party like arrows? Because they can't go off without a beau, and are in a quiver till they can get one."

"There!" exclaimed a banker, throwing down his bank-book after making a deposit, "I am square with the world now—I owe as many as I don't owe."

"What in the name of wonder have you been doing?" exclaimed the puzzled principal to his laughing assistant, as soon as the doors were closed.

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