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**Received Speech As Christmas Gift**

About six months ago Walter Voneda, of Collonsville, Nippenose valley, was very ill with diphtheria and, for a time, his life was despaired of. He recovered, but was unable to either walk or talk. On Christmas day, however to the surprise and joy of his friends and family the young man uttered a few words. The day following he talked considerably and now he is able to converse just as well as ever. He is yet unable to walk, but since recovering his speech he has taken new hope and is now looking forward to the time when he will be able to walk.

**About the Kicker.**

Here's to the kicker, the faint hearted kicker, the kicker so helpless and blue, who always is crying and never is trying some good for his town to do. No use to correct him or need we expect him to get to the front like a man, for while others rustle he'll sit down and hustle objections to raise to each plan.

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**AS TO NICKNAMES.**

**Given Often For Absurd Reasons, and Generally They Stick.**

"Wonderful how names stick to a person," said the observant man. "There were two nice little women in our village who came on us one evening, and we offered them popcorn which the children had just brought in from the kitchen. They refused, but not so emphatically as to keep us from giving them two heaping plates of the corn. We kept refilling the plates and they kept crunching all the evening. There was something so funny about it that I called them 'The Popcorn Ladies,' and the name has stuck to them so that the whole village knows them by it.

"I once knew a man who talked incessantly in a high pitched voice, and a bright girl dubbed him 'The Chirper.' The name was quickly passed around among the young people, and now the greater part of his friends know him by that name. A dignified young woman of my acquaintance goes by the name of 'Whont' to this day because when she was a little girl she used to call herself 'Mrs. Whont' when she played grownup ladies, and the family picked it up. She simply can't shake the absurd name.

"More than one red haired man is known by the name of 'Pink' and philosophically accepts the title. I have an acquaintance who holds a responsible position who is known by the name of 'Doty.' It seems that one day a mischievous girl discovered that he had three prominent dimples. She promptly dubbed him 'Doty Dimple,' and now he is known to all his associates as 'Doty.' Another man of my acquaintance is always called 'Bluebeard' because he has such a white and thin skin that if he does not shave daily his beard shows blue through it. That name, too, came through a woman's quick wit.

"In a certain household a very feminine little woman is still called 'The Boy' because when she was a young girl she went through a serious illness which made it necessary to cut her hair short. Her younger sister said she was 'the boy' of the family, and the dainty lady is still called by that absurd name.

"An offeminate man was once called 'Viola' by one of the boys in the office, and now we know him by nothing else. Another one of the boys in the office is always called 'Chester,' and though he got angry at first, he has cheerfully accepted the new name now.

"Our bookkeeper is always putting in his or when it is not at all necessary, and I think now he will be known until the end of time as 'General Butts.' A friend of mine who is always called 'Cheerful' does not know whether he is called that because his friends believe he has a cheerful disposition or because they consider him a cheerful idiot. But, at any rate, he can't shake the name."—Milwaukee Sentinel.

**Beaconsfield's "Don'ts."**

An inquiring and aspiring person once asked Beaconsfield to tell him the secret of social success. "Never discuss the authorship of the 'Letters of Junius,'" was the reply.

Beaconsfield's biographer, Mr. Wilfrid Meynell, adds something positive to this witty negative rule for getting on in the world. A distinguished member of parliament begged the Victorian statesman to tell his young son something to remember, something that would help to make him an agreeable and popular member of society.

Beaconsfield hedged. "Model yourself after your father," he said to the lad. This was not altogether satisfactory, and the M. P. insisted upon a definite rule of conduct.

"Well, my boy," said Beaconsfield, "be amusing. Never tell unkind stories. Above all, never tell long ones."

**A Large Fish.**

An Englishman visiting Lake Tahoe asked a native if there was any good fishing in the lake.

"Oh, yes, stranger."

"What kind of fish do you catch here?"

"Oh, all kinds, stranger."

"What is the weight of the largest fish you ever caught?"

"Waal, stranger, we don't take weighing machines when we go fishing, and I am an honest man and wouldn't like to say how much that last trout I caught weighed. But I tell you, stranger, that when I pulled that fish out of the water the lake went down a foot."—Birmingham Post.

**Pessimistic View.**

Sentimental Wife (reading from a novel)—"And, clasping the beautiful girl to his heart, the hero pressed his burning lips to her snowy brow."

Practical Husband—Yes, and I'll bet a dollar to a doughnut he'll be down with pneumonia in the next chapter.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

**Severely Practical.**

"Don't you sometimes wish you could write your name on the scroll of fame?"

"I'm not worrying about that," answered Senator Sorghum. "The scroll of fame isn't the book that the bank cashier turns to when you want a check certified."—Washington Star.

**Hold Out Your Chest.**

Nowadays we are told "Hold out your chest" and not "Throw back your shoulders." The shoulders will take care of themselves if the chest is held well up.—Maxwell's Talsman.

**The Fine.**

"Did Slickum's house catch fire from a defective flue?"

"No; an effective one. He had it insured for twice its real value."—Cincinnati Times-Star.

Don't contest a will if it is a woman's.—Lowell Citizen.

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