

What the First Principles of Good Acting Are.

It was in the office of a successful modern theatrical manager as a tall thin and distinguished looking lady entered in quest of an engagement.

"Is this the manager?" "I'm the person you want," said the manager, "what can I do for you?"

"I am Mlle. Tearsceeri. I am open for an engagement to do leading business the coming season."

"Just the party I want. I suppose you have had a divorce or two?" "No sir."

"Perhaps you have been arrested for bigamy?" "Sir, you are insolent."

"What? Never eloped with the leader of the orchestra?" "No, indeed! If—"

"Never jilted any lords or dukes?" "No."

"Any lobby dude ever committed suicide on your account?" "These are peculiar questions to ask a lady."

"I don't suppose you have ever fallen over a precipice or had your diamonds stolen or any of those little snags?" "I rely solely upon my artistic merit to draw."

"My good woman," said the manager pityingly, "you may have talent and all that sort of thing; but if you haven't figured in any of the little eccentricities just mentioned you don't know what the first principles of good acting are."

"You can't give me an engagement then?" "Well, you are something of the Sara Bernhardt order for architecture. You might do for some kind of business. I could give you a place as the May pole in one of our spectacular pieces, or you might be competent to play the part of the stepladder in the balcony scene, but you will have to learn to act before I can do anything better for you."

"Do you know, Miss Smithers," remarked young Featherly, "there is something very peculiar about your father?" "Something very peculiar about my papa? repeated Miss Smithers, who loved Featherly passionately but purely.

"Yes," the young man went on, "very peculiar." "And what is it, pray?" "It lies in the fact that though he is not a grandfather he has a grand daughter."

A Jamaica, L. I., young man had his girl out carriage riding the other evening, and the horse took fright and ran away. In turning a corner the vehicle was overturned and the young lady was pinned to the earth, the body of the carriage lying heavily across her waist. She was rendered unconscious. When she was released from her perilous position she slowly opened her eyes, as consciousness slowly returned, and faintly gasped "Don't—squeeze me—quite—so hard—next—time—John."

A guest at a summer hotel at the beach found what he supposed was a sample of dress goods, lost by some lady, and so informed the clerk of the hotel when he handed it to him. The clerk stuck it up with a pin, over it a slip of paper on which was written:

"Found! A sample of dress goods." "You saucy thing," said a lady, pointing to the paper. Give me my bathing suit at once."

"Why is that cup of tea like truth?" asked the head of the family pointing to the cup of tea by the side of his plate. Tee-hee, giggled his wife; "I don't know. Why is it?" Because it is my tea and will prevail." Then his wife looked sorrowful and asked him what he had been drinking.

"I understand, professor, that you are opposed to admitting women to a college course." "That is my position exactly." "Have you any objections to giving your reasons?" "None in the least; they are all embraced in one." "What is that?" "I married a lady with a collegiate education."

"You don't say that Tom Bessel is going to marry Miss Mollie Penderby?" "Yes, that's what they say." "Why she hasn't got any mind of her own." "That's just the reason he is marrying her. He loves a quiet life, and as she hasn't got a mind of her own, she can't be eternally giving him a piece of it."

Johnny Decides that He Will Take a Rest on Sunday.

"How long did it take the Good man to make the world mother?" "Six days, Johnny."

"He put in a full week at it, didn't he?" "Yes; but you shouldn't talk that way about God."

"What did he do on Sunday?" "He rested."

"He is the best person that ever lived, isn't he?" "Yes."

"Well, the next Sunday I'm not goin' either to school or church, but will take a rest, too, and try and be good like God."

Then Johnny was sent right out after a bucket of coal.

The Theological Mystery that Puzzled a Countryman.

Franklin, Ky., has a new courthouse with the usual town clock, so dear to the provincial heart. Shortly after it was put up and set going, two young farmers were in town seeing the sights, and the court-house was the centre of attraction. Finally one of them noticed the clock's four faces, as they were walking around the square.

"Jim," he exclaimed, "just look at them clocks up in the cupulow!" "Yes, I seen 'em."

"All four uv 'em?" "In course."

"Well, I've been watchin' 'em purty close, an' I'll swar by hokey, ef I ever seed for clocks keep time so near together. I wonder who does the regulatin' an' tendin' to 'em."

A RAGGED and hungry man asked a gentleman for money enough to buy a meal.

"Can you not secure employment?" asked the gentleman.

"No, sir; the cheap railroad fares have killed my business," replied the man, despondently.

"Ah, how is that?" "All the bank cashiers gone to Canada when they are short in their accounts now."

"What has that to do with your business?" "I used to be a masked robber," replied the beggar, "and when a cashier was short in his accounts he'd send for me, and I'd tie him and all his family up and demand the keys to the bank at the point of a pistol, and so help him out in his accounts. But he flings the accounts in the stove now and goes to Canada. Times are hard in all kinds of trade."

BANK PRESIDENT—An. Howk-few I am sorry to see you back so soon. You evidently didn't catch up with our cashier before he reached Canada?

Detective—I found him at N. Falls and I got all of the stolen funds back.

"What! the whole \$40,000?" "Every cent of it. Here it is; count it."

"Well, well! That's glorious. You brought him back with you I suppose?" "No; I had no power to arrest him, because he was on the Canadian side."

Sunbeams.

A swell affair—a boil. Nota bene—A Boston famine. The health question: How are you?

Runaway horses generally leave some trace behind. A man can express his feelings and still send them by mail.

Wine loosens a man's tongue; marriage loosens a woman's. A Boston firm advertises "shoes for elopements." They don't speak.

Now that a political campaign is opening, the dried speech crop should be put to soak.

"Can a man marry his widow's sister?" is one of the traps laid for unreflecting persons.

At watering places they can have hops without beer; but the beer without hops is not so good.

Turnips fed to sheep are said to make mutton tender. Will cabbage fed to lawyers make legal tender?

When a young man attempts to put his arms around a girl, she can repulse him politely by telling him to "waist not, want not."

Grace (whispering): "What lovely boots your partner's got, Mary!" Mary (ditto): "Yes; unfortunately he shines at the wrong end."

"Having been sent a book entitled 'Summer Poems,' after a careful scrutiny we have decided that 'Summer poems and Summer not.'

New servant—Oh, if you haven't any children, I can't come, because whenever anything is broken there will be no one to blame it on but me.

"I wonder how ice-cream is in there?" she thoughtfully observed, "Cold I guess," was the chilling response, and they continued their walk.

Recitation in moral philosophy: Professor—What has a mother in view when she spans an incorrigible child? Vassar girl—ries, blushes and sits down.

An exchange contains an article headed "A Violinist Amazed." We suspect he was permitted to saw on "Sweet Violets" twenty minutes before he was hit.

An article on silk culture says "A young lady in Philadelphia has over twenty-five hundred worms." She—but let us draw a veil over the terrible picture!

"No," she said, "there's no deception about me. When my first husband died I didn't take on like a sick calf. It must be a calamity of some sort before I make any fuss."

The Summer offers great inducements to lovers. There are picnics, excursions, parks, front door courtships, promenades, strolls, ice cream, and, better still, they can see all the styles of baby coaches.

"Mamma, the weather is red-hot," and a bright little boy. "It's pretty warm, sunny; but I don't think it is red-hot."

"Yes, it is. It says in the paper that the thermometer is at blood heat, and you know blood is red."

"Jones is a miserly man; but is very pleasant," said Brown. "Yes," replied Smith, "but it is his miserliness that makes him pleasant. 'How's that?' "Why don't you see, he hates to loose anything, and therefore keeps his temper."

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