Wit and Humor.

MATRIMONIAL WISHES.

A happy pair, in smart array,
By holy church united,
From London town, in open *shay*;
Set off, by love incited.

The day was dull as dull could be,
So (dreaming of no pun)
Quoth John, "I hope, my dear, that we
May have a little *sun*."

To which his bride, with simple heart,
Replied (twas nature taught her)
"Well—I comiess—for my own part,
I'd rather have a daughter!"

SOLILOQUY OF A LOAFER.

Let's see, where am I? This is—coal I'm layin' on. How'd I git here? (reflects.)—Yes, I mind now. Was comin' up street—met a wheel-barrow—was drunk—comin' 'tother way—the wheel-barrow fell over me, or I fell over the wheel-barrow—and one on us fell into the cellar,—dont mind which now—guess it must a been me. I'm a nice man, hic, I am—light! tore! shot! drunk! Well, I can't help it—'taint my fault—wonder whose fault 'tis. Is it Jones' fault? no. Is it my wife's fault? well, it aint. Is it the wheel-barrow's fault? n-o-o. It's whiskey's fault. Who is whiskey? Has he a large family? got many relations? All poor, I reckon? I think I won't owe him any more. I'll cut his acquaintance. I've had that notion for about ten years, and always hated to do it for fear of hurtin' his feelings—I'll do it now—I think. Liquor's injurin' me, it's a spoilin' my temper.

Sometimes I get mad, when I'm drunk, and abuse Betz and the brats—it used to be Lizzie and the children—that's sometime ago; I can just mind it; when I come home evenin's she used to put her arms round my neck and kiss me, and call me her dear William. When I come home now she takes her pipe out of her mouth, and puts her hair out of her eyes, and looks at me, and says smethin' like—Bill, you drunken brute! shut the door after you, we're cold enough, havin' no fire, 'thout letin' the snow blow in that a way. Yes, she's Betz and I'm Bill now; I aint a good bill nuther; think I'm counterfeit—won't pass—a tavern without goin' in an' gittin' a drink. Don't know what Bank I'm on; last Sunday I was on the river bank, drunk.

I stay out pretty late now, sometimes I'm out all night; fact is, I'm out pretty much all over—out of friends, out of pocket, out at the elbows and knees, and always outrageously dirty, so Betz says—but then she's no judge, for she's never clean herself. I wonder why she don't wear good clothes; maybe she hasn't got 'em; whose fault's that? 'taint mine—it must be whiskey's.

Sometimes I'm in, however; I'm intoxicated now, and in somebody's coal-cellar. There's one good principle I've got—I won't go in debt, I never *could* do it. There, one of my coat-tails is gone—got tore off, I expect, when I fell down here—I'll have to get a new suit soon.—A fellow told me the other day I'd make a good sign for a paper mill; if he was not so big I'd a licked him. —I've had this shirt on for nine days, and I'm afraid it won't come off without tearin'. —People ought to respect me more'n they do, for I'm in hole-y orders.—I aint a dandy, though my clothes is pretty near all *grease*-jan'style. I guess I tore this window shutter in my pants, behind, the other night, when I set down on the wax in Ben Suggs' shop.—I'll have to get it mended up, or I'll catch cold—I aint very stout as it is, though I am full in the face—as the boys say, I'm about as fat as a match and as healthy as the small-pox.—My best hat is stavin' out for a window pane that went out the other mornin' at the invitation of a brick-bat. It's gettin' cold down here; wonder how I'll get out; I ain't able to climb—If I had a drink I could think better—let's see, I haint got no three cents—wish I was in a tavern, I could sponge one.—When anybody treats and says "come up fellers," I allers think my name's "fellers," and I've got too good manners to refuse:—Well I must leave this or they'll arrest me for an attempt at burglary—I aint come to that yet. Anyhow it was the wheelbarrow *done the harm, not me.—Alleghanian.*

THE PRISONER OF ROCHELLE.

Here is a scene from the vaudeville of the "Prisoner of Rochelle," which, says a metropolitan journal, keeps the audience in a roar of laughter every night of its performance. Corporal Cartouch amuses himself by going through the manual exercise, while Leza, seated at her work table, abstractedly questions him concerning matrimony.

Leza.—If a girl was to fall in love with your Corporal, what would you do?

Cartouch.—[Manœuvring with his musket.] present arms!

L. She would doubtless look to you for Support!

C. And then what a heavy burden you'd have to—

C. Carry!

L. Your butcher and baker would have to—

C. Charge!

L. Your prospects, of course, would not—

C. Advance!

L. And you'd have to—

C. 'Bout face!

L. And never have any—

C. Rest!

L. Now, Corporal, pray give me your—

C. Attention!

L. A man of your years is not able to bear such a—

C. Load!

L. But you are not in your—

C. Prime!

L. Your wife may—

C. 'Bout!

L. Leave you, but she will soon—

C. Return!

L. And then you'd have to bear all on your—

C. Shoulder!

L. Would you be—

C. Ready!

L. I think you have some other—

C. Aim!

L. And you'd throw all your epistles into the—

C. Fire. [Fires the musket.

☞ BE CAREFUL TO WHOM YOU TALK.—Two young ladies were once singing a duett in a concert-room. A stranger, who had heard better performances, turned to his neighbor, saying:—"Does not the lady in white sing wretchedly?"

"Excuse me, Sir," replied he; I hardly feel at liberty to express my sentiments, being not impartial in the case; it is my sister."

"I beg your pardon, Sir," answered the stranger in much confusion, "I meant the lady in blue."

"You are perfectly right there," replied the neighbor; "I have often told her so myself; it is my wife!"

☞ "Did you ever know a little fellow, by the name of Nathaniel Shelly, one of the crustacea?" asks a cotemporary. He was complaining that some one had sent him a letter addressed "Nat Shelly."

"Why," said a friend, "I don't see anything insulting in that, 'Nat' is an abbreviation for Nathaniel."

"I know it," said the little man, "but blast his impudence, he spelled it with a G —Gnat!"

"That was taking liberties with a man's cognotive," as Mrs. Partington would say.

☞ A DROLL FELLOW, who had a wooden leg, being in company with a man who was somewhat credulous, the latter asked the former how he came to have a wooden leg. "Why," said he, "my father had one, and so had my grandfather before me; it runs in the blood."

☞ EPITAPH.—A number of odd epitaphs are going the rounds of the press. The following upon a tombstone in the cemetery near Cincinnati, is worthy of being placed among the number:—"Here lies——, who came to this city and died, *for the benefit of his health.*"

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Dec. 24, 1853 52—

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