

Humorous.

The Ass and the Fiddler.

Within the fields one summer day, A strong-lunged ass began to bray; The uplands echoed back his voice— To hear it made his heart rejoice.

At last the old ass dropped his head, And to the musician said: "Music is sound, my friend, you see— Therefore all sound must be music; Of mine the world must be the proudest.

How many men we daily pass Who reason like this braying ass! They grow to men from bragging boys, And think that brains must make a noise.

An Essay on Mules.

The mule is the most unhealthy animal in the world—unhealthy to have around. The very atmosphere about a mule is dangerous to inhabit.

Mule meat may be a good diet for a Frenchman but not for beef-raising Yankees.

The less mule meet a man has the better.

The only way that we could be persuaded to eat a mule would be to beat him.

Likewise, the only way we could be got to ride a mule would be to de-ride him.

And the darky was right when he said that the only way to "ub" a mule was to "c lub" him.

No man ever sees a mule kick him.

The man is usually seized with obscured vision just at that juncture.

We have seen a man get up after a mule had kicked him (very rarely though) and swear with both hands uplifted that he didn't believe the animal had stirred a peg—he looked so immovable and unconcerned.

A mule is a very quick animal.

Great quantities of this substance lie hidden away beneath his toe calks.

Caution—Take our word for this, and don't go hunting around in that vicinity.

You can't weigh a mule with any sort of accuracy.

An ounce of mule weighs more than a pound of any other live stock.

And no matter what his condition may be a mule is bound to kick the beam.

The only beam which a mule cannot kick is a sunbeam.

But he can knock the beam out of a man's eye with a greater alacrity than any other influence.

In this respect he is a regular mot-or power.

As a great explorer the mule is equal to Stanley.

When he goes exploring for a man he always finds him.

The safest place to stand by a mule does not exist.

He is the dynamite fiend of the four legged kingdom.

We have often wished that some "bunko" man would try to "rope in" a mule.

A Bridegroom's Joy.

"Are you the writing man?" A broad smile on his sun-browned countenance, and his hand was outstretched in a way that betokened a heart overflowing with true inwardness.

"One of them," replied the city editor, as he looked up and met the beaming face of a full-fledged countryman.

"The fellow that writes the surclety?" "Yes."

"Put it thar an' shake hafd. You're jes tip-top, you are. Why, Ella was wild. Been reading it all day. If you'll jes go down to the house, blam'd if I don't believe she'd bar you.

Why, when she laid her eyes on it this morning she was worse'n a boy on the first rabbit track of the season. 'Oh, Sol!' she says; 'but didn't he sling in the big words, though!'

"But won't that jes waken up old Fluvanner, though. They alters told me that you done things clean up to the handle here in Washington. But say, stranger, how d'ye find it out so quick?"

"What is it, air?" "I—"

"Don't remember! Don't know me! Why I'm Solomon H—, the chap as was hitched last night."

The editor remembered the name as that of a city merchant's son, whose fashionable wedding had taken place the evening before, and comprehended the countryman's mistake.

"You recollect me now? Didn't say nothin' about the runnin' away part, did you? Ella's a good lookin' gal, but didn't you just stretch the blanket a little 'bout the bride and her dresses."

"Great Christopher! Why, stranger, she wanted me to go right back to Fluvanner and run for the Legislature."

"Now, I tell you what you do. Here's a \$2 bill; there's nothing stingy 'bout me. You jes send one of them papers to every man in Fluvanner county. Sling 'em 'round peritical 'dockment style. Me and Ella will go back to-morrow, an' I'll come to Congress right off. I will, sure's you're born; there's nothing like gittin' writ up in the newspapers, and that'll jes take Fluvanner county, and maybe the whole o' Old Virginia."

Didn't Know Himself.

Saturday night a Detroitier commenced getting drunk so that he could not be used as a witness in a case in the Police Court to be tried yesterday.

The man was pretty drunk Sunday morning, almost sober by noon, drunk again by night, and yesterday noon was about half-and-half, just able to navigate, but so befuddled and mixed up that he didn't know a street car on a switch from a white-headed boy with a wart on his neck.

Entering a store on Woodward avenue the tippler asked: "Sheen Johnson 'round yere?"

"What Johnson?" was asked.

"Sham Johnson, course."

"Why, you are Sam Johnson yourself?"

"Zhat so?" exclaimed the victim, blinking wisely and seeming much put out.

"Of course it's so. Who did you think you were?"

"Gov'ner Cass?"

"Well, you aren't."

"Zhen I'm Johnson, am I?"

"Yes sir."

"Sham Johnson?"

"Yes sir."

"And I zhon't 'mout to much, do I?"

"Well, not a great deal."

"Just a common man, eh?"

"Yes; you are about an average man."

The inebriate held on to a chair and looked sorrowful as he said:

"I'm sorry. Thought all time I was Mizzer Gov'ner Cass, but if I'm Sham Johnson I won't try to put on any more style. Mucher bilged to you. Might went 'round here hull year 'thout knowin' I was Sham Johnson in hadn't 'formed me!"

His Little Grocery.

He was a clean-looking colored man of advanced age, and when he entered a wholesale house on Vesey street, New York, one of the clerks politely informed him that the situation of porter was already filled.

"Does I look like a man who'd be regarded as a porter?" demanded the stranger.

"Ah! excuse me."

"You is discussed, sar. What is de foreman? Over dar, eh? No, sar, I don't want to be porter. Ise here on 'portant business."

He wanted goods. There were lots of goods there, and it was very easy to suit him as to prices, but he had no money, and no recommendations.

"De pay is sure in sixty days," he urged.

"But you can give no security."

"What you wants of security? Won't the goods be dar?"

"You may have sold them!"

"Den won't de money be dar, all counted out on de counter? An' it de money ain't dar, won't I be dar? An' if I ain't dar, an' de ole woman's gone, an' de children can't be found, can't I be frowed into bankruptcy an' all smashed up?"

But he didn't get any goods.

It is said that during leap year young ladies have the right to exercise privileges of young men; but we don't see them loading on the street corners or around stores. A young lady is too much of a gentleman for that.

"Can you see me, dearest?" said a Chicago man to his dying wife. "Tell me, can you see me?" "No," she faintly whispered, "but I can smell your breath."

Wages are ten cents a day in China; but with those ten cents you subscribe for a daily paper, buy a pair of striped stockings, witness a play that lasts nineteen hours, and have a comfortable sum left to send to the benighted denizens of the New World to be used for missionary purposes.

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