

SOFT, VERY.

Some one had written upon a pane in the window of an inn on the Chester road, "Lord M—— has the softest lips in the universe.—Phillis." Mrs. Abington saw this inscription, and wrote under it:

"Then as like as two chips
Are his head and his lips.

Amarillis."

SOLDIERS' WIVES.

The late Duchess of York having desired her housekeeper to seek out a new laundress, a decent-looking woman was recommended to the situation. "But," said the housekeeper, "I am afraid she will not suit your royal highness, as she is a soldier's wife, and those people are generally loose characters!" "What is it you say?" said the duke, who had just entered the room, "a soldier's wife! Pray, madam, what is your mistress? I desire that the woman may be immediately engaged."

SOMETHING FOR ALL.

When President Lincoln was attacked with small-pox, he said to his attendants, "Send up all the office-seekers, and tell them I've got something I can give each of them."

SOMETHING LIKE AN INSULT.

The late Judge C—— one day had occasion to examine a witness who stuttered very much in delivering his testimony. "I believe," said his lordship, "you are a very great rogue." "Not so great a rogue as you, my lord—t-t-take me to be."

SOMETHING TO POCKET.

A diminutive lawyer appearing as a witness in one of the courts, was asked by a gigantic counsellor what profession he was of, and having replied that he was an attorney, "You a lawyer?" said Brief, "why I could put you in my pocket." "Very likely you may," rejoined the other, "and if you do you will have more law in your pocket than ever you had in your head."

SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF.

Sheridan was once talking to a friend about the Prince Regent, who took great credit to himself for various public measures, as if they had been directed by his political skill, or foreseen by his political sagacity. "But," said Sheridan, "what his Royal Highness more particularly prides himself in is the late excellent harvest."

SOMEWHERE.

"I think I have seen you somewhere," said one gentleman to another. "No doubt, I have been there often," was the reply.

SOPORIFIC.

A spendthrift being sold up, Foote, who attended every day, bought nothing but a pillow; on which a gentleman asked him "What particular use he could have for a single pillow?" "Why," said Foote, "I do not sleep very well at night, and I am sure this must give me many a good nap, when the proprietor of it (though he owed so much) could sleep upon it."

SOON OVER.

In some parish churches it was the custom to separate the men from the women. A clergyman, being interrupted by loud talking, stopped short, when a woman, eager for the honor of the sex, arose and said: "Your reverence, it is not among us." "So much the better," answered the priest, "it will be over the sooner."

SOUGHT AND FOUND.

Three conceited young wits, as they thought themselves, passing along the road near Oxford, met a grave old gentleman, with whom they had a mind to be rudely merry. "Good morrow, father Abraham," said one. "Good morrow, father Isaac," said the next. "Good morrow, father Jacob," cried the last. "I am neither Abraham, Isaac, nor Jacob," replied the old gentleman, "but Saul, the son of Kish, who went out to seek his father's asses, and lo! here I have found them."

SOUND AND FURY.

A lady, after performing with the most brilliant execution, a sonata on the pianoforte, in the presence of Dr. Johnson, turning to the philosopher, took the liberty of asking him if he was fond of music? "No, madam," replied the doctor, "but of all noises, I think music is the least disagreeable."

SOUND CONCLUSION.

Sir William Curtis sat near a gentleman at a civic dinner, who alluded to the excellence of the knives, adding that "articles manufactured from cast steel were of a very superior quality, such as razors, forks, &c." "Ay," replied the facetious baronet "and soap, too—there's no soap like Castile soap."

SOUND SLEEPER.

A man meeting his friend, said, "I spoke to you last night in a dream." "Pardon me," replied the other, "I did not hear you."

SPARE MAN.

Jerrold said to a very thin man, "Sir, you are like a pin, but without the head or the point."

SPARE THE ROD.

A schoolboy being asked by the teacher how he should flog him: "If you please, sir, I should like to have it upon the Italian system,—the heavy strokes upwards, and the down ones light."

SPARKS.

A lady at a card table had her ruffles take fire; Lord Littleton, intending to be witty, said, "he did not think her ladyship so apt to take fire." "Nor am I," said she, "from such a spark as you."

SPARTANS.

A dancer said to a Spartan, "you cannot stand so long on one leg as I can." "Perhaps not," said the Spartan, "but any goose can."

SPEAKING OF SAUSAGES.

Mr. Smith passed a pork shop the other day; Mr. Smith whistled. The moment he did this, every sausage "wagged its tail;" as a note to this, we would mention that the day before he lost a Newfoundland dog that weighed sixty-eight pounds.

SPECIAL PLEADER.

When an eminent special pleader was asked by a country gentleman if he considered that his son was likely to succeed as a special pleader, he replied, "Pray, sir, can your son eat saw-dust without butter?"

SPECULATION.

A capitalist being asked what he thought of the speculations now afloat, replied, "They are like a cold bath, to derive any benefit from which, it is necessary to be very quick in and very soon out."

SPINNING.

A drunken fellow returning home towards evening, found his wife hard at her spinning; she, reproving him for his ill-husbandry, and commending herself for her good housewifery, he told her that she had no great cause to chide, for as she had been spinning at home, he had been reeling abroad.

SPECIES AND SPECIE.

In preaching a charity sermon, Sidney Smith frequently repeated the assertion that, "Of all nations, Englishmen were most distinguished for their generosity, and the love of their species." The collection happened to be inferior to his expectation, and he said that he had evidently made a great mistake; for that his expression should have been that "They were distinguished for the love of their specie."

SPECIFIC GRAVITY OF FOLLY.

Coleridge once dined in company with a gravel-looking person, an admirable listener, who said nothing, but smiled and nodded, and thus impressed the poet with an idea of his intelligence. "That man is a philosopher," thought Coleridge. At length, towards the end of dinner, some apple dumpplings were placed on the table, and the listener no sooner saw them, than almost jumping from his chair, he exclaimed, "Them's the jockeys for me!"

SPECIMEN OF THE LACONIC.

"Be less prolix," says Grill, I like advice. "Grill, you're an ass!" Now surely that's concise.

SPECIMEN OF UNIVERSITY ETIQUETTE.

A poor youth, brought up in one of the colleges, could not afford the price of a pair of shoes, but when his old ones were worn out at the toes, had them capped with leather; whereupon his companions began to jeer him for so doing: "Why," said he, "don't you see they must be capped? Are they not fellows?"

SPIRITS OF THE DEAD.

A visitor to Surgeon's Hall, lately remarked, when shown a number of dwarfs, &c., preserved in alcohol, "Well, I never thought that the dead could be in such spirits."

SPIRIT AND LETTER.

A man was described in a plea as "I. Jones," and the pleader referred in another part of the plea to "I" as an "initial." The plaintiff said that the plea was bad, because "I" was not a name. Sir W. Maule said that there was no reason why a man might not be christened "I" as well as Isaac, inasmuch as either could be pronounced alone. The counsel for the plaintiff then objected that the plea admitted that "I" was not a name by describing it as "an ini-

tial." "Yes," retorted the judge, "but it does not aver that it is not a *final* as well as an *initial* letter."

SPIRIT OF A GAMBLER.

A bon vivant brought to his death-bed by an immoderate use of wine, after having been told that he could not in all probability survive many hours, and would die by eight o'clock next morning, exerted the small remains of his strength to call the doctor back, and said with the true spirit of a gambler, "doctor, I'll bet you a bottle I *live till nine*."

SPRANGER BARRY.

This celebrated actor was, perhaps, in no part so excellent as that of *Romeo*, for which he was particularly fitted by an uncommonly handsome and commanding person, and a silver-toned voice. At the time that he attracted the town to Covent Garden by his excellent performance of this part, Garrick found it absolutely necessary to divide the attention of the public by performing *Romeo* himself at Drury Lane. He wanted the natural advantages of Barry, and great as he was, would, perhaps, have willingly avoided such a contention. This, at least, seems to have been a prevailing opinion; for in the garden scenes, when *Juliet*, in soliloquy exclaims, "O *Romeo*, *Romeo*, wherefore art thou, *Romeo*?" an auditor archly replied aloud, "Because Barry has gone to the other house."

SPRIG OF SHILLELAH.

A fellow on the quay, thinking to quiz a poor Irishman, asked him, "how do the potatoes eat now, Pat?" "The Irish lad, who happened to have a *shillelah* in his hands, answered, "O, they eat very well, my jewel, would you like to taste the *stalk*?" and knocking the inquirer down, coolly walked off.

ST. AUGUSTINE.

St. Augustine, by a simple but very apt allusion, has set out the danger of ill company which he compares to a nail driven into a post with a hammer, which, after the first and second stroke, may be drawn out with little difficulty, but being once driven up to the head, the pincers can take no hold to draw it out, which cannot be done but by the *destruction* of the wood.

STEALING GOOD THOUGHTS.

An Irishman telling what he called an excellent story, a gentleman observed, he

had met with it in a book published many years ago. "Confound those ancients," said Teague, "they are always stealing one's good thoughts."

STEAMBOAT RACING.

A traveler, when in this country, received the following advice from a friend: "When you are racing with an opposition steamboat, or chasing her, and the other passengers are cheering the captain, who is sitting on the safety-valve to keep it down with his weight, go as far as you can from the engine, and lose no time, especially if you hear the captain exclaim, 'Fire up, boys! put on the resin!' Should a servant call out, 'Those gentlemen who have not paid their passage will please go to the ladies' cabin,' obey the summons without a moment's delay, for then an explosion may be apprehended. 'Why to the ladies' cabin?' said I. 'Because it is the safe end of the boat, and they are getting anxious for the personal security of those who have not yet paid their dollars, being, of course, indifferent about the rest. Therefore never pay in advance; for should you fall overboard during a race, and the watch cries out to the captain, 'A passenger overboard,' he will ask, 'Has he paid his passage?' and if he receives an answer in the affirmative, he will call out, 'Go ahead!'"

STERNE.

Sterne, who used his wife very ill, was one day talking to Garrick in a fine, sentimental manner, in praise of conjugal love and felicity. "The husband," said Sterne, "who behaves unkind to his wife, deserves to have his house burnt over his head." "If you think so," said Garrick, "I hope your house is insured."

STRANGE JETSAM.

A thin old man, with a rag-bag in his hand, was picking up a number of small pieces of whalebone which lay on the street. The deposit was of such a singular nature that we asked the quaint-looking gatherer "how he supposed they came there?" "Don't know," he replied, in a squeaking voice; "but I 'spect some unfortunate female was *wrecked* hereabout somewhere."

STRANGE OBJECTION.

A great drinker being at table, they offered him grapes at dessert, "Thank you!" said he, pushing back the plate, "I don't take my wine in pills."

STRANGE VESPER.

A man who had a brother a priest was asked, "Has your brother a living?" "No." "How does he employ himself?" "He says mass in the morning." "And in the evening?" "In the evening he *don't know* what he says."

STRAY SHOT.

An officer in battle, happening to bow, a cannon ball passed over his head and took off that of the soldier who stood behind him. "You see," said he, "that a man never loses by *politeness*."

STRIKE FOR HIGHER WAGES.

A few days ago, the operators in a western foundry, not being able to obtain an increase of compensation, knocked their employer down. That was an unequivocal "strike for higher wages."

STRIKING NOTICE.

The following admonition was addressed by a Quaker to a man who was pouring forth a volley of ill-language against him: "Have a care, friend, thou mayest run *thy face* against my fist."

STRIKING POINT.

When Mr. Gulley, the ex-pugilist, was elected member for Pontefract, Gilbert A. Beckett said: "Should any opposition be manifested in the House of Commons towards Mr. Gulley, it is very probable the *noes* (nose) will have it."

STRIKING REPROOF.

It being reported that Lady Caroline Lamb had, in a moment of passion, knocked down one of her pages with a stool, the poet Moore, to whom this was told by Lord Strangford, observed: "Oh! nothing is more natural for a literary lady than to double down a page." "I would rather," replied his lordship, "advise Lady Caroline to *turn over a new leaf*."

STUPIDITY.

"I believe the jury have been *inoculated* for stupidity," said a lawyer. "That may be," said his opponent, "but the bar are of opinion that you had it in the *natural way*."

SUBTRACTION AND ADDITION.

A chimney sweeper's boy went into a baker's shop for a two-penny loaf, and conceiving it to be diminutive in size, remarked to the baker that he did not believe it was weight. "Never mind that," said the man of dough, "you will have *the less to carry*."

"True," replied the lad, and throwing three half-pence on the counter, left the shop. The baker called after him that he had not left money enough. "Never mind that," said young sooty, "you will have *the less to count*."

SUDDEN CHANGE.

One drinking some beer at a petty ale house in the country, which was very strong of the hops and hardly any taste of the malt, was asked by the landlord if it was not well hopped. "Yes," answered he, "if it had hopped a little farther, it would have *hopped into the water*."

SUDDEN FREEDOM.

A nation grown free in a single day is a child born with the limbs and the vigor of a man, who would take a drawn sword for his rattle, and set the house in a blaze, that he might chuckle over the splendor.

SUFFERING.

A native of Hibernia, relating to his friend the dangers and difficulties he had undergone both by sea and land, speaks thus to him with great seriousness: "I believe in my soul, John, that I have suffered everything that man fears but death; and I expect, if I shall live, to suffer that also."

SUGGESTION.

"Do you know what made my voice so melodious?" said a celebrated vocal performer, of awkward manners, to Charles Bannister, "No," replied the other. "Why then, I'll tell you: When I was about fifteen, I swallowed, by accident, some train oil." "I don't think," rejoined Bannister, "it would have done you any harm, if at the same time, you had *swallowed a dancing master*."

SUGGESTIVE PAIR OF GREYS.

Jerrold was enjoying a drive one day with a well known, and jovial spendthrift. "Well, Jerrold," said the driver of a very fine pair of greys, "what do you think of my greys?" "To tell you the truth," Jerrold replied, "I was just thinking of your *duns*!"

SUGGESTIVE PRESENT.

Jerrold and a company of literary friends were out in the country. In the course of their walk, they stopped to notice the gambols of an ass's foal. A very sentimental poet present vowed that he should like to send the little thing as a present to his

mother. "Do," Jerrold replied, "and tie a piece of paper round its neck bearing this motto: 'When this you see, remember me.'"

SUGGESTIVE QUESTION.

Douglas Jerrold, discussing one day with Mr. Selby the vexed question of adapting dramatics from the French, that gentleman, upon claiming some of his characters as strictly original creations, "Do you remember my 'Baroness' in 'Ask no Questions?'" said Mr. S. "Yes, indeed. I don't think I ever saw a piece of yours without being struck by your barrenness," was the retort.

SUITED TO HIS SUBJECT.

The ballot was, it seems, first proposed in 1795, by Major Cartwright, who somewhat appropriately wrote a book upon the "Common Wheel."

SUMMARY DECISION.

Mr. Brougham, when at the bar, opened before Lord Chief Justice Tenterden an action for the amount of a wager laid upon the event of a dog fight, which, through some unwillingness of dogs or men, had not been brought to an issue. "We, my lord," said the advocate, "were minded that the dog should fight." "Then I," replied the judge, "am minded to hear no more of it;" and he called another cause.

SUN AND AIR.

A pert young lady was walking one morning on the Steyne, at Brighton, when she encountered the celebrated Wilkes. "You see," observed the lady, "I am come out for a little sun and air." "You had better, madam, get a little husband first."

SUN IN HIS EYE.

Lord Plunkett had a son in the church at the time the Tithe Corporation Act was passed, and warmly supported the measure. Some one observed, "I wonder how it is that so sensible a man as Plunkett cannot see the imperfections in the Tithe Corporation Act." "Pooh! pooh!" said Norbury, "the reason's plain enough; he has the sun (son) in his eye."

SUPERFLUOUS SCRAPER.

Foot, being annoyed by a poor fiddler straining harsh discord under his window, sent him out a shilling, with a request that he would play elsewhere, as one scraper at the door was sufficient.

THE SUPERIORITY OF MACHINERY.

A mechanic his labor will often discard,
If the rate of his pay he dislikes:
But a clock and its case is uncommonly hard—
Will continue to work though it strikes.

SURE OF HIS MAN.

Two gentlemen having wagered upon the number of characteristic specimens of native brilliancy they should encounter in a rural excursion, one of them thus addressed a stonebreaker on the road: "My good fellow, were the devil to come now, which of us two would he carry away?" After a little hesitation, that savored of unexpected dullness, the man modestly lifted his eyes from his work and answered, "me, sir." Annoyed by the stolidity of this reply, the querist pressed him for a reason. "Because, your honor, he would be glad of the opportunity to catch myself—he could have you at any time."

DEAN SWIFT AND KING WILLIAM.

The motto which was inserted under the arms of William Prince of Orange, on his accession to the English crown, was "*Non rapui sed recepi*" (I did not steal it, but I received it.) This being shown to Dean Swift, he said, with a sarcastic smile, "the receiver is as bad as the thief."

SWORD AND SCABBARD.

A wag, on seeing his friend with something under his cloak, asked him what it was. "A poniard," answered he; but he observed that it was a bottle: taking it from him, and drinking the contents, he returned it, saying, "There I give you the scabbard back again."

SYDNEY SMITH.

Sydney Smith was once dining in company with a French gentleman, who had been before dinner indulging in a number of free-thinking speculations, and had ended by avowing himself a materialist. "Very good soup, this," said Mr. Smith. "Oui, Monsieur, c'est excellente," was the reply. "Pray, sir, do you believe in a cook?" inquired Mr. Smith.

SYDNEY SMITH'S SOPORIFIC.

A lady complaining to Sydney Smith that she could not sleep. "I can furnish you," he said, "with a perfect soporific; I have published two volumes of sermons take them up to bed with you; I recom-

mended them once to Blanco White, and before the third page was read, he was fast asleep."

SYLLABIC DIFFERENCE.

Gibbon, the historian, was one day attending the trial of Warren Hastings, in Westminster Hall, and Sheridan, having perceived him there, took occasion to mention, "the luminous author of *The Decline and Fall*." After he had finished, one of his friends reproached him with flattering Gibbon. "Why, what did I say of him?" asked Sheridan. "You called him the luminous author." "Luminous! oh, I meant *vo-lu-minous*!"

SYMBOL.

A satiric poet underwent a severe drubbing, and was observed to walk ever afterwards with a stick. "Mr. P. reminds me," said a wag, "of some of the saints, who are always painted with the symbols of their martyrdom."

TAKE WARNING.

A man was fined £5 at the College police office, Dublin, for assaulting another, and as he paid the money into court, he shot glances at the victim of his indiscretion, and said, "Wait till I get you into Limerick, where beating's cheap, and I'll take the change out of you."

TAKING HIS MEASURE.

A conceited packman called at a farmhouse in the west of Scotland in order to dispose of some of his wares. The good wife was startled by his southern accent, and his high talk about York, London, and other big places. "An' whare come ye frae yersel'?" was the question of the gude wife. "Oh, I am from the border." "The border? oh, I thocht that; for we aye think the selvidge is the wakest bit of the wab."

TAKING A WIFE.

It is said of a man who married a rich but ugly woman, that "he took her by weight, and paid nothing for the workmanship."

TALL AND SHORT.

At an evening party Jerrold was looking at the dancers. Seeing a very tall gentleman waltzing with a remarkably short lady, he said to a friend at hand, "Humph, there's the mile dancing with the mile-stone."

TANNING.

A low lived editor threatens to give us a *tanning*. We hardly think he will: hides are tanned with bark, but not the bark of a dog.

TAPPING.

After consultation, several physicians decided that a dropsical patient should be *tapped*. Upon hearing of the decision of the doctors, a son of the sick man approached him and exclaimed, "*father, don't submit to the operation! for there never was anything tapped in our house that lasted more than a week.*"

TASTE.

A gentleman described to Jerrold the bride of a mutual friend, "Why, he is six feet high and she is the shortest woman I ever saw. What taste, eh?" "Ay," Jerrold replied, "and only a taste."

TAVERN DINNER.

A party of *bon vivants*, having drank an immense quantity of wine, rang for the bill. The bill was accordingly brought, but the amount appeared so enormous to one of the company (not quite so far gone as the rest) that he stammered out, it was impossible so many bottles could have been drank by seven persons. "True, sir," said the waiter, "but your honour forgets the three gentlemen *under the table*."

TAVERNS.

A moralist observes, "that at taverns, madness is sold by the bottle."

TEACHING TWO SCIENCES.

A young man, who was a very great talker, making a bargain with Isocrates to be taught by him, Isocrates asked double the price that his other scholars paid him; "and the reason," said he, "is, that I must teach you two sciences, one to speak and the other to hold thy tongue."

TELL IT NOT IN ENGLAND.

Lady Carteret, wife of the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, in Swift's time, one day said to the wit, "The air of this country is very good." "Don't say so in England, my lady," quickly replied the dean, "for if you do they will certainly *tax* it."

TELLING ONE'S AGE.

A lady complaining how rapidly time stole away, said: "Alas! I am near thirty." A doctor, who was present, and knew her