

AN EXPERIMENT.

John Jones was telling his wife—they had not been married very long, by the way—about a man who came home one night so drunk that he had to lie down on the floor while his wife pulled his shoes off for him.

"Such a spirit," remarked Jones, "strikes me as being very creditable to a woman. It isn't every man's wife who regards an occasional lapse so leniently."

John listened with great attention to this reply, and he came to the conclusion that she didn't mean a word of it. He had detected in the tone of her voice what he stamped in his mind as a false note.

He therefore determined to see precisely how she would conduct herself if he did come home drunk one night, or rather, if she thought him drunk, for he decided to simulate the condition in order to make his observations.

"Dear me," murmured Mrs. Jones, one night or early morning, about a week after their conversation already noted, "I wonder where John can be. He's never been so late before on playing poker. I feel quite anxious."

The hour was 2 a. m., and Mrs. Jones was seated in a chair with a book in her hand, which she was not reading. Suddenly she heard the rattle of a key in the lock of the outer door of the flat, and in a few moments her ears noted the sound of something stumbling along the hall.

"Oh, John!" was all she could say. "Lo, Maria," he repeated. "Lo! Wash ma? Wyn ner come n ginnie kiss, hey?" Then he chuckled. "Hey?" he said again in a loud and hoarse tone of voice.

"Oh, John," she said, approaching him with reluctance, "come into the room, for goodness sake and close the door. The people in the flat above will hear you."

"Pull off boots," he commanded. "She turned away with a glance of astonishment. 'Pull off boots!' he repeated banging his heels on the carpet. She hesitated for an instant but obeyed him."

"Hah! Oh, tell n street—thash how," he replied. "Ole shutt wash odds any way?"

"Come, John," she then said, "try and get up. See if you can take hold of my arm. I'll take care of you, dear. Come. There's a good boy!"

"Get n the bath, now, dear," she said sweetly. "Get n wot?" he exclaimed. "The bathtub," he repeated. "But er gomme cloze on," he objected, looking at her.

"Oh, no, you haven't, John," she told him. "You think you have, but you haven't. Now get n like a good boy."

"That teaches my heart," sez he. "I've bin feelin a wave of goodness wavin over me ever since I read your signs on the outside of the tent, an now my emoshuns hev filled my eyes with tears."

"I ain't seen no wewl in that peroshun an I want ye to gin him a show."

"I was sobering you up, dear," she replied. "But I'm not drunk!" "Really not drunk? You don't say so?" "Certainly not! I was only pretending—just to fool you."

"Yea, dear I know," was the answer. "Then what in the name of heaven did you do that for?" he demanded, with a shock the water out of his ears.

SILAS HUMBLE.

As I was drivin over the dusty road which leads to the town of Busted Hopes an reflectin as I driv that goodness allus pays at least 90 on the dollar I met a feller pilgrim with a one hoss outfit. He was also in the show bizness. He was a showin of a trick hog an sellin a cure for sun strokes an frost bites.

"Not so much as to ketch suckers," sez he, with cheerful frankness. "I wish thee well but hogs do not elevate. I will continue my labors single handed."

"That's true," sez he an away goes the gang. "I think they overtook the man an overruled his objections, if he had any."

"A few sez I 'If I was taken away, 'tha would be nobody to run my panoramy of the Holy Land, which is billed to show tomorrow night in Busted Hopes. I'm showin that panoramy fur the moral elevashun of my feller men."

"Then sez I on an overtake the feller in the one hoss wagin. 'He's got a show but it ain't an elevatin show. Nobody who wanted to make mankind better would be showin a trick hog."

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"One stout prairie dog in dirt (dead). One Oklahoma hornut (alive). The hornut and a bumblebee hev bin placed in the same cage together, an the mercantile amusement they will git out of tuckin each other will please an interest the tender hearted children."

"I hev agin added to the colleckshun, makin up my grand aggregashun of dead an livin wonders an call attenshun as follows:—"

"Then I pondered an reflected an bring out the gallon jug in which I keep a liquid to ward off sun-strokes an cyclones. It was what he most desired, an he departed long an uttered signs of satisfaction. When he could daily no longer he put down the jug an said:—"

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