

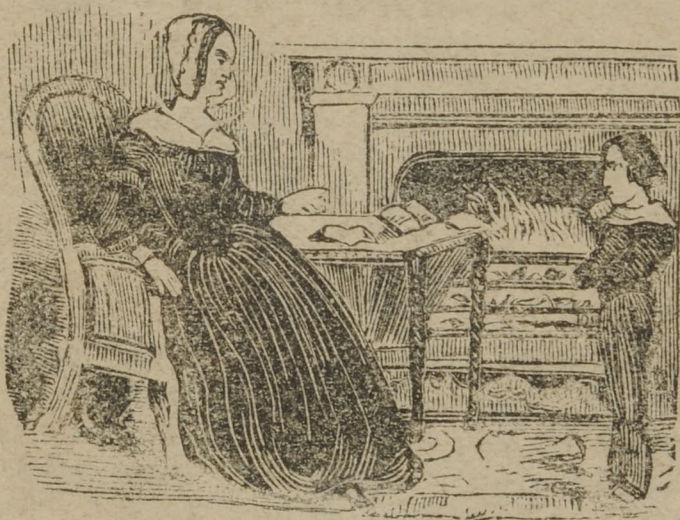
NEW AND IMPROVED SERIES.

No. 1.

THE
ANECDOTE BOOK:

A CHOICE COLLECTION OF
ANECDOTES, JESTS, WITTY SAYINGS,
BON MOTS, &c., &c.,

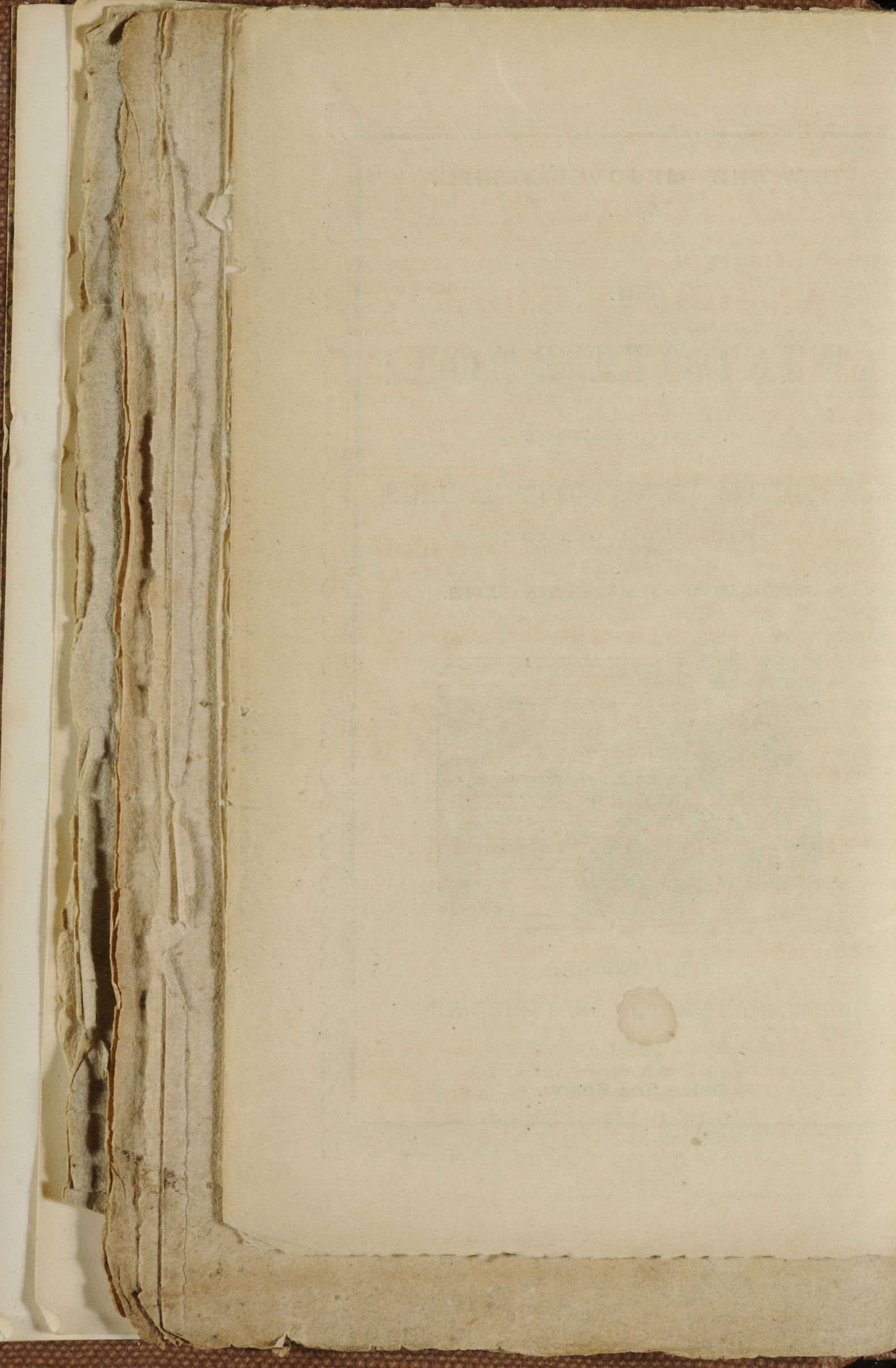
SELECTED FROM THE BEST SOURCES.



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1850.

Price One Penny.



THE
ANECDOTE BOOK.

SECRETS.

'My dear Murphy,' said an Irishman to his friend, 'why did you betray the secret that I told you?' 'Is it betraying you call it? Sure, when I found I wasn't able to keep it myself, didn't I do well to tell it to somebody that could?'

DUE PROPORTIONS.

'Jock,' said a farmer's wife to the herd callant—'Jock come in to your parritch—the flies are drowning themselves in the milk.' 'Nae fears,' replied Jock, moving very deliberately towards the scene of action—'Nae fears they'll wade through't.' 'Od, you little rascal, do you say you dinna get enough o' milk?' 'Ou ay, plenty for the parritch.'

GIPSY WIT.

Two young ladies were accosted by a gipsy woman, who told them that, for a shilling each, she would show them their husband's faces in a pail of water; which being brought, they exclaimed, 'Why, we only see our own faces!' 'Well,' said the old woman, 'those will be your husband's faces when you are married.'

SECURITY AGAINST DROWNING.

A lady at sea, full of apprehension in a gale of wind, cried out among petty exclamations, 'We shall go to the bottom—mercy on us, how my head swims.' 'Zounds, madam, never fear,' said one of the sailors, 'you can never go to the bottom while your head swims!'

GEORGE COLMAN THE YOUNGER.

A young gentleman being pressed very hard in company to sing, even after he had solemnly assured them that he could not, observed testily that they were wanting to make a butt of him. 'No, my good sir,' said Mr Colman, who was present, 'we only want to get a *stave* out of you.'

MAKING SURE.

Captain N——, who lately arrived at Boston, when going up to the wharf, ordered an Irishman to throw over the buoy; and going below a few minutes, he called to the Irishman, and asked him if he had thrown the buoy. 'No,' said he, 'I could not catch the *boy*, but I threw over the *old cook*.'

GRACEFUL COMPLIMENT FROM A CHILD.

Washington was visiting a lady in his neighbourhood, and on his leaving the house a little girl was directed to open the door. In passing the child, he said, 'I am sorry, my dear, to give you so much trouble.' 'I wish, sir,' she replied, 'it was to let you *in*.'

CLUMSY COMFORT.

An Irishman, placed at the bar, complained bitterly that he should be placed in such an awkward position, so far from friends and home. The Judge felt kindly toward him, and said—'Be calm, young man; you may rest assured that, although among strangers, full *justice will be done you*.' 'Be me soul, yer honour,' groaned Pat, 'and it's the fear of that same that throubles me!'

RESULT OF FLATTERY.

An unsuccessful lover was asked by what means he lost his fair. 'Alas!' cried he, 'I flattered her until she got too proud to speak to me.'

BEFORE AND AFTER MARRIAGE.

A lady who was very modest and submissive before marriage, was observed by a friend to use her tongue pretty freely after. 'There was a time,' said her friend, 'when I almost imagined she had none.' 'Yes,' said the husband with a sigh, 'but it's *very long* SINCE.'

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER.

While a worthy individual, of the march of intellect school, was 'laying down the law' the other day to a knot of acquaintances on one of the streets of Cupar, he caught the eye of a carter hard by, who had been vainly endeavouring to raise a sack of potatoes upon his cart, and who, on the instant, thus appealed to the man of knowledge—'Come awa', Mr. — ; knowledge is *power*, ye ken—*gie us a lift on wi' this poke o' taties!*'

A HARD WORLD.

A man who came to market to dispose of his cattle, entered into conversation with another on the subject of 'hard times.' 'Yes,' said the cattle dealer with an air of peevishness, 'times *are* hard, and this is a hard world—and, in my opinion, very few will *get out of it alive.*'

MAKING THE MOST OF IT.

Horne Tooke was the son of a poulterer, which he alluded to when called upon by the proud striplings of Eton to describe himself. 'I am,' said young Horne, 'the son of an eminent Turkey merchant.'

THE VALUE OF MARRIED MEN.

'A little more animation, my dear,' whispered Lady B—— to the gentle Susan, who was walking languidly through a quadrille. 'Do leave me to manage my own business, mamma,' replied the provident nymph; 'I shall not dance my ringlets out of curl for a married man.' 'Of course not, my love; I was not aware who your partner was.'

QUITE GROUNDLESS.

'I am happy, Ned, to hear the report that you have succeeded to a large *landed* property.' 'And I am sorry, Tom, to tell you that it is *groundless.*'

A NOUN OF DIFFICULT DECLENSION.

It is a remarkable fact, that however well young ladies may be versed in grammar, very few of them are able to *decline matrimony.*

AN ACID DROP.

'I don't know where that boy got his bad temper—not from me, I'm sure.' 'No, my dear, for I don't perceive you have lost any.'

WELL DONE.

Lord Chesterfield has beautifully and truly remarked—‘Whatever is worth *doing* at all, is worth *doing well*.’ This axiom applies admirably to the treatment of a friend.

A THRIFTLESS LADDIE.

On the application of the Prince Regent to Parliament for a grant to pay off his debts, being talked of one evening in a company, an old Scotch lady, whose ideas were all of a homely character, exclaimed, ‘Debt! how can he be in debt—*doesna he get his meat in his fayther’s?*’

A CHANCE FOR BACHELORS.

A man with eleven daughters was complaining to a friend that he found it hard to live. ‘You must husband your time,’ said the other, ‘and then you will do well enough.’ ‘I could do much better,’ was the reply, ‘if I could husband my daughters.’

EQUITABLE ADJUSTMENT.

‘Patrick,’ said an employer one morning to one of his workmen, ‘you came too late this morning; the other men were at work an hour before you.’ ‘Sure, and I’ll be even with them to-night.’ ‘How, Patrick?’ ‘I’ll quit an hour before them, sure.’

TAKE CARE OF YOUR EMPHASES.

An elderly gentleman being ill, one of his friends sent a messenger with the usual inquiry, which, however, he had not pronounced with due emphasis—‘I’ll thank you to take my compliments, and ask *how OLD* Mr. W. is!’ The messenger departed on his errand, and speedily returned, saying, ‘He’s just 68, sir!’

A BROAD HINT.

The great man of a village being at dinner, allowed one of his tenants to stand while he conversed with him. ‘What news, my friend?’ said the squire. ‘None that I know of,’ replied the farmer, ‘except that a sow of mine has had a litter of thirteen pigs, and she has only twelve teats.’ ‘What will the thirteenth do?’ asked the landlord. ‘Do as I do,’ returned Hodge; ‘it will stand and look on while the others eat.’

DOING BUSINESS.

The papa of a young man, who devotes more attention to gaming, horse-racing, &c., than to business, was met by a friend, who asked him what his son Jack was doing now. 'Doing, sir?' said the papa—'*doing his father, as usual.*'

KEEP A DOG AND BARK!

A simple servant boy one evening went up to the drawing-room, on the bell being rung. When he returned to the kitchen, he laughed immoderately. Some of the servants asking the cause of his mirth, he cried, 'What do you think? there were sixteen of them who could not snuff the candles, and were obliged to send for me to do it.'

THE SAME HERE.

A farmer in the neighbourhood of Doncaster was lately met by his landlord, who accosted him thus:—'John, I intend to raise your rent;' to which John replied, 'Sir, I'm very much obliged to you, for I cannot *raise it myself.*'

NO TIME TO LOSE.

A gentleman was one day composing music for a lady to whom he paid his addresses. 'Pray, Miss D.,' said he, 'what time do you prefer?' 'Oh!' she replied, carelessly, 'any time will do, but *the quicker the better.*' The company smiled at the rejoinder, and the gentleman took her at her word.

HOLDING A HORSE.

'Here, fellow, hold this horse.' 'Does he kick?' 'Kick!—no! Take hold of him.' 'Does he bite?' 'Bite!—no! Take hold of the bridle, I say.' 'Does it take two to hold him?' 'No!' 'Then hold him yourself.'

THE BOOT ON THE WRONG LEG.

An Irishman having legs of different sizes, ordered his boots to be made accordingly. His directions were obeyed; but as he put the smallest boot on his largest leg, he exclaimed petulantly, 'Confound the fellow! I ordered him to make the one larger than the other, and instead of that, he has made one smaller than the other.'

A BULL.

An Irish gentleman going to the post-office, inquired if there were any letters for him? 'Your name, sir,' said the clerk. 'There is a good one now,' said the Hibernian, 'why, wont you see it on the back of the letter?'

BAD BETTER THAN NONE.

A married woman was telling a staid lady, somewhat on the wrong side of fifty, of some domestic troubles, which she in great part attributed to the irregularities of her husband. 'Well (said the old maid), you have brought these troubles on yourself. I told you not to marry him. I was sure he would not make you a good husband.' 'He is not a good one, to be sure, madam (replied the woman), but he is *a power better than none.*'

COBBETT AND THE GOOSE.

When Cobbett kept a stationer's shop at Philadelphia, and was writing under the name of 'Peter Porcupine,' a young sub went to buy some quills, and thinking to pass a joke upon Peter, asked him if they were not *Porcupine's* quills? Upon which Cobbett, taking up the redcoat's money, drily replied, making at the same time a very profound bow, 'Oh, no, sir! they are a *goose's.*'

MOTHER WIT.

An Irishman, while on his passage to this country in search of harvest work, was observed to *walk* up and down the deck at a brisk pace, occasionally giving a look at the Captain whenever he came in sight, as if to attract his observation. On being asked by the steward for his passage-money, when nearing the port of destination, Pat replied, 'Arrah, honey, be aisey now, sure the master won't do such a dirty trick as charge a poor shearer, who has *walked the whole way.*'

AN IMPUDENT IMP.

An irregular apprentice frequently keeping late hours, his master at length took occasion to apply some weighty arguments to convince him of the 'error of his ways.' During the chastisement, he continually exclaimed, 'How long will you serve the D——?' The boy replied, whimpering, 'You know best, sir: I believe my indenture will be out in three months!'

HOW TO AVOID QUARRELS.

The late Mr. John Jones being asked by a friend 'how he kept himself from being involved in quarrels?' replied, 'by letting the angry person have all the quarrel to himself.'

DON'T YOU WISH YOU MAY GET HIM?

The editor of the Florence Inquirer (American paper) gives the following notice to one of his friends — 'The gentleman who took out of our library the number of Graham's Magazine, is respectfully invited to call again in about two weeks, and get the number for August.'

BASHFULNESS.

'Sally,' said an amorous lover, speaking the other day to his intended, 'give us a kiss, will you, Sally?' 'No, I shan't,' said Sally; '*help yourself.*'

ASKING A BLESSING.

A minister went to dine at the house of one of his hearers, whom he was in the habit of visiting. Dinner being placed on the table, the master of the house requested the minister to ask a blessing. It was no sooner done, than a prattling boy, about seven years old, asked the following appropriate question: 'Papa, what is the reason we always have a blessing asked when Mr. — dines with us, and never at any other time?'

VERY FUNNY.

'Father, do they light up railway carriages at night with gas?' 'No, my dear, with *train* oil.'

THE SAGE AND THE SIMPLETON.

As the late Professor Hamilton was one day walking near Aberdeen, he met a well-known individual of weak intellect. 'Pray,' said the Professor, 'how long can a person live without brains?' 'I dinna ken,' replied Jemmy, scratching his head, 'how auld are ye yoursel?'

SHORT AND SHARP.

'You had better ask for manners than money,' said a finely-dressed gentleman to a beggar who asked for alms. 'I asked for what I thought you had the most of,' was the cutting reply.

SHERIDAN.

'How is it,' said a gentleman to the late Richard Brinsley Sheridan, 'that your name has not an O attached to it; your family is Irish, and no doubt illustrious?' 'No family has a better right to an O than our family,' replied Sheridan, 'for we O (owe) everybody.'

HOOKS AND EYES.

George Colman being once asked if he knew Theodore Hook—'Oh yes,' was his reply, 'Hook and I (eye) are old associates.'

QUESTIONABLE.

Schoolmaster:—'Robert, compare the adjective *cold*.'
Robert:—'Positive, *cold*: comparative, *cough*: superlative, *coffin*!'

A SLIGHT MISTAKE.

Never did Paddy utter a better bull than did an honest John, who, being asked by a friend, 'Has your sister got a son or a daughter?' answered, 'Positively, I do not yet know whether I am an *uncle* or an *aunt*.'

TIT FOR TAT.

A lady approaching the vale of years, but still retaining personal attractions, exclaimed in triumph to her maid, 'What would you give, child, to have my beauty?' 'Almost as much as you would to possess my youth, madam,' replied the girl.

CAN'T OBLIGE YOU AT PRESENT.

In one of the engagements during the war in Egypt, a poor Frenchman, falling into the power of a Highland sergeant, screamed out the only English word he was master of, 'Quarter! quarter!' 'She'll no hae time to quarter ye the noo,' replied Donald, 'she'll just cut ye in *twa*!'

AN EAR FOR MUSIC.

A little girl being asked if she had an ear for music, replied, 'Yes, I believe I have; for I heard the sound of a fiddle when a man was playing on it at least two hundred yards off.'

A HINT FOR THE 'BLUES.'

Milton being asked whether he would instruct his daughters in the different languages, replied, 'No; one tongue is sufficient for a woman.'

A COMMANDMENT.

The evening before a battle, an officer asked Marshal Toiras for permission to go and see his father, who was at the point of death. 'Go,' said the Marshal, who saw through his pretext; 'honour thy father and mother, that thy days may be long in the land.'

BRIGHT.

A person being asked which luminary he preferred, the sun or the moon, replied—'The moon, because it affords light at night, when it is needed; whereas the sun only gives light at day, when we don't want it.'

BENEFITS OF HABIT.

A benedict, upon being asked whether he was seriously injured when a steam-boat boiler exploded, replied, 'that he was so used to be blown up by his wife, that mere steam had no effect on him.'

PRECOCITY.

'Mamma, are all vessels called *she*?' 'Yes, my dear.' 'Then how are all the national ships called men-of-war?' 'Jane, put that child to bed.'

THE ART OF SHOPPING.

'What's the price of this article?' inquired a deaf old lady. 'Seven shillings,' said the draper. 'Seventeen shillings!' she exclaimed, 'I'll give you thirteen.' 'Seven shillings,' replied the honest tradesman, 'is the price of the article.' 'Oh! seven shillings,' the lady sharply rejoined: 'I'll give you FIVE!'

A FEARFUL HUSBAND.

'If I'm not home from the party to-night at ten o'clock,' said a husband to his better and *bigger half*, 'don't wait for me.' 'That I won't,' said the lady, significantly, 'I won't *wait*, but I'll *come* for you.' He returned at ten precisely.

A POSER.

As a teacher was employed the other day in learning a sharp urchin to cipher on a slate, the pupil asked his instructor—'Whaur does a' the figures gang till whan they're rubbit oot?'

BODILY STRENGTH.

A friend of ours says, he is growing weaker and weaker every day. He has got so weak now that he can't *raise* five dollars.

BAD TIMES.

The times are so hard, and payments are so rare, that the girls complain that the young men cannot even *pay* their addresses.

A CASE OF DISTRESS.

A poor Yankee, on being asked the nature of his distress, replied, 'that he had five *outs* and one *in*, viz., *out* of money and *out* of clothes; *out* at the heels and *out* at the toes; *out* of credit and *in* debt.'

A HANDSOME MAN.

The editor of the Newbury Journal is said to be so handsome, that he is forced to carry a club to keep the women off!

PHILOSOPHY.

Experimental philosophy—asking a man to lend you money.

Moral philosophy—refusing to do it.

SHADE OF THE DEPARTED.

One of the American papers gives an account of a lounge in his editorial office, who had been in the habit of sitting so long, that when he died his shadow was found fixed upon the wall!

A 'CUTE LAD.

A gentleman sent a lad with a letter to the Baltimore post-office, and money to pay the postage. When he returned, he said, "I guess I did the thing slick; I see'd a good many folks putting letters into the post-office through a hole, so I watched my chance, and got mine in for nothing."

DIALECT.

Edinburgh v. Aberdeen.—A gentleman from Aberdeen was awoke one night lately in a hotel in Prince's street, Edinburgh, by an alarm of fire. Upon going to the window, he called out 'Vautchman, far eist?' The watchman thanked him, and went towards the Register Office, where he found he was going in the wrong direction, and returned. On repassing the hotel, he was again called to by the Aberdonian, who bawled out, 'Vautchman, far was't?' On looking up to him the watchman replied, 'Ye're a d—d leein soonril : ye first tell'd me it was far east, an' noo ye say it's far wast ; but I tell ye it's neither e' tane or e' tither,' cause its owre i' e' Coogate.'

PHRENOLOGY ILLUSTRATED.

A professor of *craniology* passing the other morning through a churchyard near town, while they were opening some old graves, took up several skulls, and affected to distinguish very accurately the characters of their owners. 'This, now,' said the professor, 'belonged to a philosopher.' 'Like enough, your honour,' replied the gravedigger, 'for I see it's a bit *cracked*.'

A SENTENCE.

A fellow in Dublin had once committed some trifling offence, for which the judge pronounced the following sentence :—

Judge.—'The sentence of the Court is, that you shall be flogged from the Bank to the Quay.'

Prisoner (hastily interrupting the Judge).—'Thank you, my lord, you have done your worst.'

Judge.—'Not yet ; *and back again*.'

A SAILOR'S JOKE.

A sailor who had been fighting and making a riot, was taken, first to a watch-house, then before a justice, who, after severely reprimanding him, ordered him to find bail. 'I have no bail,' said Jack. 'Then I'll commit you,' said the justice. 'You will !' said the sailor, 'then the Lord send you the rope that stops the wind when the ship's at anchor.' 'What do you mean by that?' said the justice ; 'I insist on an explanation of that phrase.' 'Why,' said Jack, 'it's the hanging rope at the yard-arm.'

BROAD HINT.

'Thomas,' said a sponging friend of the family to a footman, who had been lingering about the room for half an hour to show him to the door, 'Thomas, my good fellow, it's getting late, isn't it? How soon will the dinner come up, Thomas?' 'The very moment you be gone, sir,' was the unequivocal reply.

HOW TO MAKE MEN BRAVE.

Sir Thomas Fitzgerald, famous for flogging, had raised a regiment of pardoned peasantry in the sister kingdom, which he called the 'Ancient Irish.' He and his corps were sent on foreign service. On his return he boasted frequently of their bravery, and that no other troops were so forward to *face* the enemy. 'No wonder,' said Ned Lysaght; 'thanks to your flogging, they were *ashamed to show their backs.*'

THE SHAME-FACED IRISHMAN.

An Irishman being asked, a few days since, to take a *mutton chop* with a friend, declined the invitation, saying, 'that he had ate so much mutton of late, he was ashamed to look a *sheep in the face.*'

EXTRAORDINARY DESPATCH.

The editor of an American paper, in describing the rapid sale of his journal, assures those who choose to believe him, that it goes off like *greased lightning!*

VICE-VERSA.

As a canal-boat was passing under a bridge, the captain gave the usual warning by calling aloud, "Look out!" when a little Frenchman, who was in the cabin, obeyed the order by popping his head out of the window, which received a severe bump, by coming in contact with a pillar of the bridge. He drew it back in a great pet, and exclaimed, "Dese Americans say, 'Look out!' when dey mean 'Look in!'"

A DEPUTY WANTED.

'I can't speak in public—never done such a thing in all my life,' said a chap the other night at a public meeting, who had been called upon to hold forth, 'but if anybody in the crowd will speak for me, I'll *hold his hat.*'

HOW TO GET A LIFT.

'Pray,' said Mr. — to a gentleman he overtook on the road, 'will you have the complaisance to take my great-coat in your carriage to town?' 'With pleasure, my dear sir; but how will you get it again?' 'Oh, very easily,' replied the modest applicant; 'I shall remain in

SINGULAR RESEMBLANCE.

An American, speaking of his niggers, said, 'Cæsar and Pompey are so much alike that you can't tell the one from the other, *specially Pompey.*'

A CURIOUS FACT.

The proprietor of the perpetual motion, lately exhibited at Boston, has absconded without even paying the man who *turned the crank in the cellar!*

SHARP RETORT.

A Yankee and a Patlander happening to be riding together, passed a gallows. 'Where would you be,' said Jonathan, 'if the gallows had its due?' 'Riding alone, I guess,' said the Irishman.

PRODIGIOUS.

By a series of interesting experiments lately made in Philadelphia, a woman's tongue has been found capable of moving one thousand nine hundred and twenty times in a minute! Think of that and weep!

EITHER WAY WILL DO.

'Will you have me, Sarah?' said a young man to a modest girl. 'No, John,' said she, 'but you may have me if you will.'

JUSTICE AND HIS PRISONER.

'Sirrah,' said a justice to one brought before him, 'you are an arrant knave.' 'Am I, sir?' says the prisoner; 'just as your worship spoke, the clock struck two.'

A LOGICAL POINT.

'I wonder,' said a woman of humour, 'why my husband and I quarrel so often, for we agree uniformly on one point: he wishes to be master, and so do I.'

CONJUGAL AFFECTION.

A gentleman having a horse that started, and brot his wife's neck, a neighbour squire told him he wish to purchase it for his wife to ride upon. 'No,' says t other, 'I will not sell it; I intend to marry again myself!'

A SHREWD ANSWER.

A countryman being a witness in a court of Justice was asked by the counsel if he was born in wedlock. 'No, sir,' answered the man, 'I was born in Devonshire.'

AN ELEGANT COMPLIMENT.

Dr. Johnson treated Mrs. Siddons, who called upon him in Bolt-court, with the most marked politeness. Frank, his servant, could not immediately bring her chair. 'You see, madam,' said the Doctor, 'wherever you go, how difficult it is to find seats.'

MILTON AND MR. HOYLE.

Milton, that glory of British literature, received more than above £10 at two different payments for the copyright of 'Paradise Lost;' yet Mr. Hoyle, author of a treatise on the game of whist, after having disposed of all the first impression, sold the copyright to a bookseller for 20 guineas.

A GREAT SECRET.

A person reading in a newspaper an advertisement offering a reward for some lost family documents, and being at the end of it a common announcement, that the notice was 'not to be repeated;' an old woman who had been attentively listening, exclaimed—'What! no to be repeated; eh, sirs, that maun be a great secret.'

LOT'S WIFE.

A Highlander who has charge of a number of female workers in a public work near Glasgow, finding lately that business was increasing too fast for the number of his workers, informed his employer that, 'If we'll no get more haunds, we'll juist hae to stick a'thegither.'—'Stick a'thegither!' says the master; 'why, Donald, man, I never heard of any one doing that except Lot's wife.'—'Lot's wife,' says Donald, 'wha was she—did she'll wrought in the wark?'

SCRIPTURE BIOGRAPHY.—(WHO WAS JESSE?)

An old schoolmaster, who usually heard his pupils once a-week through Watts' Scripture History, and afterwards asked them promiscuously such questions as suggested themselves to his mind, one day desired a young urchin to tell him who Jesse was; when the boy briskly replied, 'The Flower of Dumblane, sir.'

GINGER YILL.

A short time since, a bailie of Glasgow invited some of his electioneering friends to dinner, during which the champagne circulated freely, and was much relished by the honest bodies; when one of them, more fond of it than the rest, bawled out to the servant who waited, 'I say, Jock, gie us some mair o' that *ginger yill*, will ye!'

INTERESTING QUESTION.

At a debating club, the question was discussed, whether there is more happiness in the possession or pursuit of an object? 'Mr. President,' said an orator, 'suppose I was courtin' a gal, and she was to run away, and I was to run after her; wouldn't I be happier when I catch'd her than when I was running after her?'

EQUIVOCAL ADVERTISEMENT.

The following notice might have been seen some time ago stuck up in a corset-maker's shop window in Glasgow—'All sorts of ladies stays here.'

A BARGAIN.

The following laconic epistle may be seen in the window of a coffee-house in Featherstone-street, City-road:—'Stolen, from this window, a china cup and saucer; the set being now incomplete, the thief may have the remainder a bargain.'

AN EXCELLENT GRACE.

One day, at the table of the late Dr. Pearce, (Dean of Ely,) just as the cloth was removing, the subject of discourse happened to be that of an extraordinary mortality amongst the lawyers. 'We have lost,' said a gentleman, 'not less than *six* eminent barristers in as many months.' The Dean, who was quite deaf, rose as his friend finished his remark, and gave the company grace:—'For *this*, and every other *mercy*, the Lord's name be praised!'

STUTTERING SOLDIER.

A soldier about to be sent on the late Spanish expedition, said to the officer directing the drafts, 'Sir, I cannot go, because I—I stut-utter.' 'Stutter!' says the officer, 'you don't go to talk, but to fight.' 'Ay, but they'll p-p-pick me on g-guard, and a man may go ha-ha-half a mile before I can say, who-who-who goes there?' 'Oh, that is no objection, for there will be another sentry placed along with you, and he can challenge if you can fire.' 'Well, b-b-but I may be taken and run through the g-g-guts before I can cry qu-qu-quarter.'

PROMPT ANSWER.

Chateanneuf, keeper of the seals of Louis XIII., when a boy of only nine years old, was asked many questions by a bishop, and gave very prompt answers to them all. At length the prelate said, 'I will give you an orange if you will tell me where God is?'—'My lord,' replied the boy, 'I will give you two oranges if you tell me where he is not.'

BAYLE'S OBSERVATION.

Bayle was asked if a woman could keep a secret. 'There is one secret,' said he, 'and that is the only one they can keep—their age.'

HIGHLAND SIMPLICITY.

Last week, a young girl, fresh from the West Highlands, came on a visit to a sister she had residing in Glasgow. At the outskirts of the town she stopped at a toll-bar, and began to rap smartly with her knuckles on the gate. The keeper, amused at the girl's action, and curious to know what she wanted, came out, when she very demurely interrogated him as follows:—'Is this Clasco?'—'Yes.'—'Is Peggy in?'

A TAILOR'S GOOSE.

A dashing foreman to a tailor in Glasgow, dining in a mixed company, wished to impress those present with the immense importance of his services to his employers. 'Though I say it, that should not say it,' quoth snip, 'if it was not for me, our people could not carry on their business.' 'I can very well believe you,' said one of the party, 'I never yet heard of a tailor who could carry on his business without his goose.'

A KING AND A PHILOSOPHER.

George III., while walking one day at Windsor, met a smart little boy, who was dressed in a suit of new clothes. The king, addressing him in his familiar way, said, 'Well, my little boy, to whom do you belong?' The boy knew the king, and answered, 'An't please your Majesty, I belong to one of his Majesty's beef-eaters.' The king was so well pleased with the little fellow that he said, 'If you bend on your knee I will allow you to kiss my hand.' 'Nay,' said the boy, 'I can't do that, for it would dirty all my new breeches.'

QUESTION FOR QUESTION.

A clergyman in Stirlingshire, catechising a number of his parishioners, asked a man of the name of Peter, 'How many years did the children of Israel sojourn in the wilderness?' To which he replied, 'Forty years.' 'But can you tell me, sir,' said Peter, 'how many knives the children of Israel brought back with them from Babylon to Jerusalem?' The clergyman paused and pondered, but could give no answer. 'Well,' said Peter, 'they just brought back twenty-nine knives; you will find it in Ezra i. 9.'

THE LAWYER OUTWITTED.

A lawyer and his clerk riding on the road, his clerk desired to know what was the chief point of the law. His master said, if he would promise to pay for their suppers that night he would tell him, which was agreed to. 'Why, then,' said the master, 'good witnesses are the chief points in law.' When they came to the inn, the master bespoke a couple of fowls for supper; and when they had supped, told the clerk to pay for them, according to agreement. 'Oh, sir,' says he, 'where is your good witness?'

IGNORANCE OF FEAR.

A child of one of the crew of his majesty's ship Peacock, during the action with the United States vessel, Hornet, amused himself with chasing a goat between decks. Not in the least terrified by destruction and death all around him, he persisted till a cannon ball took off both the hind legs of the goat, when, seeing her disabled, he jumped astride her, crying, 'Now I've caught you.'

A COMMON CASE.

'Doctor,' said a person once to a surgeon, 'my daughter has had a terrible fit this morning; she continued full half an hour without knowledge or understanding.' 'Oh,' replied the doctor, 'never mind that, many people continue so all their lives.'

GRAMMAR FOR THE MILLION.

A young lady at school, engaged in the study of grammar, was asked if 'kiss' was a common or proper noun. After some hesitation, she replied, 'It is both common and proper.'

MODESTY.

There is a young man in Cincinnati who is so modest that he will not 'embrace an opportunity.'—He would make a good mate for the lady who fainted when she heard of the naked truth.

COOKERY-BOOK.

'Has that cookery-book any *pictures*?' said Miss C. to a bookseller. 'No, miss, none,' was the answer. 'Why,' exclaimed the witty and beautiful young lady, 'what is the use of telling us how to make a good dinner if they give us no *plates*!'

IRISHMAN'S NOTION OF DISCOUNT.

It chanced one gloomy day, in the month of December, that a good-humoured Irishman applied to a merchant to discount a bill of exchange for him at rather a long, though not an unusual date; and the merchant having casually remarked that the bill had a great many days to run, 'That's true,' replied the Irishman, 'but then, my honey, you don't consider how short the days are at this time of the year!'

MISS WILBERFORCE.

When Mr. Wilberforce was a candidate for Hull, his sister, an amiable and witty young lady, offered the compliment of a new gown to each of the wives of those free-men who voted for her brother—on which she was saluted with a cry of 'Miss Wilberforce *for ever!*'—when she pleasantly observed, 'I thank you, gentlemen; but I cannot agree with you—for really I do not wish to be *Miss Wilberforce for ever!*'

SENSIBILITY.

A lady who made pretensions to the most refined feelings, went to her butcher to remonstrate with him on his cruel practices. 'How,' said she, 'can you be so barbarous as to put innocent little lambs to death?'—'Why not, madam,' said the butcher, 'you would not eat them alive, would you?'

ADVANTAGE OF TIME.

A poor man being laughed at for wearing a short cloak, said, 'It will be long enough before I have done with it.'

THE NEGRO AND HIS LETTER.

A coloured man lately went to the post-office, and putting his nose close up to the delivery box, cried out, 'Louder!' The clerk supposing the negro to be deaf, and that he was making a request of him to speak louder, so that he could hear, asked him in a very loud tone the name of the person for whom he wanted the letter. 'Louder!' cried the negro. 'What *name*?' yelled the clerk. 'Louder!' again bawled the negro, who now supposed the clerk to be deaf. The clerk took a long breath, and with all his might again bellowed out in the negro's face the same question—'What *name*?' This was done in so loud a tone, that the echo seemed to return from the far-off hills. The negro started back in alarm, shouting to the very top of his big lungs—'Louder, sir, LOUDER! I told you *Louder!* my name is nothing else!' 'Oh, ah! oh, oh!' said the clerk, 'your name is Louder, eh? Didn't think of that; here's your letter.'

CHARGE TO A JURY.

An able and learned judge was once obliged to deliver the following charge to a jury:—'Gentlemen of the jury, in this case the counsel on both sides are unintelligible; the witnesses are incredible; and both the plaintiff and defendant are such bad characters, that to me it is indifferent which way you give your verdict.'

SEVERE REBUKE.

A French field-marshal, who had attained that rank by court favour, not by valour, received from a lady the present of a drum, with this inscription, *Made to be beaten.*

STAGGERING DRUNK.

A witness having sworn that a prosecutor was *staggering drunk*, the counsel, being anxious to ascertain exactly what he meant by the term, desired the witness to *put himself in the same position!*

A LONG RANGE.

A person of Chelmsford, more ingenious than scrupulous, paid an account by a bill at 2 months; but, on presenting it at the end of that period, the holder found it was drawn payable 2 months after *death*, instead of after *date*.

HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

Open your window at one end of the room, and your door at the other, on a stormy day, and your knowledge will be complete.

THREE WONDERS OF WOMEN.

The daughter of a respectable gentleman, aged twenty and possessed of no small share of personal attractions, said the other day, 'She wondered why she had not yet married.' This puts one in mind of the three wonders of beautiful women. First, at fifteen they wonder who they shall take; second, at twenty-five they wonder why they are not taken; and third, at thirty-five they wonder who they can find that will take them.

NECESSARY EVILS.

A gentleman was constantly in the habit of calling his servants, before their faces, 'necessary evils.' He quarrelled with one of them, who left him in a rage, said he was sick of service, and vowed that he would never enter it again. A few days after, his old master meeting him in livery, said, 'Poh! you are gone into service again after all!' 'Ah, sir, I have found that masters are 'necessary evils.'

LOYALTY.

John, an old dragoon soldier of George the Third's time, was descanting lately to his wife Janet, and a few neighbours, on the virtues and familiarity of his sovereign, who had reviewed the regiment to which he belonged. Jane listened long with admiring patience but at length put this question,—'Was King George as great a king as Ahasuerus, John?' 'Ahasuerus!' exclaimed John, with great contempt, 'Ahasuerus! he wouldn't have made a quarter-master to him.'

THE POWER OF TRUE LOVE.

A girl in one of the midland counties, who has a swivel or screw eye, looked so long and affectionately on a gin bottle, that she actually drew the cork!

HYDROPATHY.

A hairdresser of London was the other day suddenly and unexpectedly cured of deafness under the hydropathic system. He was assisting at a fire, when the engine played into his ear and knocked him down. He arose with his hearing completely restored.

GROWING DESPERATE.

Col. Greene, of the *Boston Post*, an old bachelor, gives the following notice in his paper of the 12th of January: 'Notice.—The girls will please take notice, that leap year will end on the 31st instant.'

THE ALTERNATIVE.

Sir Walter Scott tells a story of a gentleman, who, irritated at some misconduct of his servant, said, 'John, either you or I must quit this house.' 'Very well, sir,' said John, 'where will your honour be ganging to?'

IRISH WIT.

An Irishman being asked what he came to America for, said, 'Is't what I came here for, you mane? Arrah, by the powers! you may be sure that it wasn't for *want*, for I had plenty of that at home.'

ROYAL WIT.

Lord Eldon told Miss Ridley, his niece, that the king, speaking to the archbishop, Dr. Charles Manners Sutton, of his large family, used the expression, 'I believe your grace has better than a dozen.' 'No, sire,' said the archbishop, 'only eleven.' 'Well,' replied the king, 'is not that *better* than a dozen?'

HINT TO EXQUISITES.

A celebrated Parisian dandy was ordered, a few days ago, by his physicians, to follow a course of sea-bathing at Dieppe. Arrived at that delightful bathing-town, he ordered a machine and attendant, and went boldly into the water. He plunged in bravely; but, in an instant after, came up puffing and blowing. 'Francis,' said he, 'the sea smells detestably; it will poison me. *Throw a little eau de Cologne* into the water, or I shall be suffocated!'

A NATURAL MISTAKE.

The late witty Samuel William Riley, author of *The Itinerant*, seeing a proud and solemn calf of sixty, swelling down Lord Street, Liverpool, accosted him, politely touching his hat, 'Excuse me, sir, stopping you in the street, but I just wished to inquire the rent of the house No. 10 Great George Street?' 'Sir,' replied his haughtiness, 'I have no house in Great George Street.' 'Oh! I beg a thousand pardons, sir,' said Mr. R., 'I thought all the town belonged to you!

HIGHWAYMAN AND SAILOR.

One of the Dover stages, on its way to London, was stopped by a single highwayman, who was informed by the coachman there were no passengers inside, and only one in the basket, and he was a sailor. The robber then proceeded to exercise his employment on the tar; when waking him out of his sleep, Jack demanded what he wanted; to which the son of plunder replied, 'Your money.' 'You shan't have it,' said Jack. 'No!' replied the robber: then I'll blow your brains out.' 'Blow away, then you land-lubber,' cried Jack, squirting the tobacco juice out of his mouth, 'I may as well go to London without brains as without money: drive on, coachman.'

IRISH PATRIOTISM.

At Waterloo, a Highland regiment and the Scots Greys met in the thickest of the fight, and raised the cry of 'Scotland for ever!' 'And ould Ireland *for longer*!' exclaimed an Irish dragoon.

DROWSY REPLY.

Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton tells a story of a certain merchant, who, sleeping in a commercial hotel, had given orders overnight that he should be called at a particular hour. Boots was punctual. 'The morning has broken, sir,' said he, drawing the curtain. 'Let it break and go to the mischief!' replied the sleepy trader; 'it owes me nothing!'

EVILS OF WAR.

One of *Punch's* friends who was present at the battle of Navarino, in the peaceful capacity of a passenger, received a cannon ball in his chest, which utterly destroyed a dozen shirts that were packed up in it!