

# WITS AND HUMORS

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CHUNG HWA BOOK CO., LTD,

SHANGHAI, CHINA

1931

## 卷 頭 語

本書悉採自本局所出版之“中華英文週報”。約計陳方漢君四十九篇鮑維湘君五篇余康君二篇王煥文蕭朝政君各一篇。篇幅既不失之於冗長，文字亦簡明而實用。所敘事實，無不突梯滑稽，新穎有趣。且附有譯文，極便領會，可爲初中學生課外閱讀之用。

# WITS AND HUMORS

## OBSERVING AN ELEPHANT

### 盲人說象

Long long ago, in ancient India, there were seven blind men who used to meet for the purpose of increasing their stock of knowledge. One day they were speaking about an elephant: but, as none of them had ever seen one, they did not know what kind of a thing it was. So they decided to go to a certain place where there was an elephant, and to investigate.

They went to this place and began their investigation. The first blind man put out his hand and touched the elephant. “Ah!” said he, “an elephant is just like a tree.” The second one touched

上古的時代,印度有七個盲人常聚集攏來研究學問。一天他們談論一只象;但因他們當中沒有一個人看見過象,所以他們不曉得牠究竟是一樣什麼東西。於是他們決定到一個有象的地方去實地調查。

他們到了這個地方就着手調查。第一個盲人伸出了他的手摸了這象的腿說道,「呀,一只象正像一顆樹」。第二個盲人摸了這象的

the elephant's trunk and cried out, "Why; an elephant is just like a snake." Another one touched the tusk and exclaimed, "It is quite like a spear." Another touched the tail and said, "It is evidently a kind of rope." Then another one touched the ear and declared, "You are wrong, my friends: an elephant is a kind of fan."

Then they returned home, and spent the rest of their lives in endless arguments about the elephant.

鼻就叫道,「喂,一只象正像一條蛇」。又一個盲人摸了這象牙就叫道,「牠十分像一根矛槍」。又一個盲人摸着象的尾巴說道,「牠分明是一種粗繩」。然後又一個盲人摸了這象耳就斷言道,「我的朋友們,你們都錯了;一只象是像一種扇子」。

於是他們回家;終生的時光都消磨於這象的辯論了。

## GREEDINESS PUNISHED

### 貪婪被懲

A miser once lost a bag containing one hundred pounds. He was in great distress, and promised ten pounds reward for its recovery. A poor man picked up the bag and carried it to the owner. But the mean

一個吝嗇的人,一次遺失了一個錢袋,內有一百金磅。他焦急的不得了,懸賞十個金磅作為尋着的酬金。一個窮人尋着了這錢袋,拿到物主這裏來,但是這個

miser tried to cheat him out of the reward. He said that the bag really contained one hundred and ten pounds when he lost it. The finder went to a judge, and the case was brought up for trial.

The bag had never been opened, and was found fastened as securely as when it was lost; so the judge now ordered it to be opened and all the coin counted out before him. Then he turned to the greedy miser saying:—

“Your bag contained one hundred and ten pounds?”

“Indeed it did,” said the crafty old man.

“Well, then, this is not yours, as it contains only one hundred,” said the judge.

He then ordered the bag to be given to the honest man who found it.

可鄙的吝嗇人想欺騙他，不給他酬金。他說他遺失這錢袋的時候，裏面實在有一百一十個金磅。這位尋着的人到審判官那裏去告狀。這案子就提起審問。

這錢袋並沒開過，紮得同遺失的時候一樣牢固。所以這位審判官吩咐把這錢袋打開，當他的面把裏面的錢數清楚。然後他轉身對這貪嗇的人說：—

「你的錢袋裝有一百一十個金磅麼？」

這個狡滑的老人說，「是確的。」

這位審判官說，「照此看來，這錢袋不是你的，因為裏面祇有一百個金磅。」

於是他就吩咐把這錢袋賞給這位尋着牠的誠實人了。

## NO ROYAL ROAD TO READING

## 讀書無捷徑

A countryman who had never been to school was anxious to learn to read. He always noticed that the minister put on his spectacles when reading the Bible in church, and the thought struck him that if he had a pair of spectacles, he too would be able to read. When he next visited the town, he called at an optician's shop and asked to be shown some spectacles.

He put on one pair, and tried to read a newspaper which he had brought in his pocket. But the spectacles did not help him at all, and he asked for a more expensive pair. The shopman brought down several others, but none satisfied him. At last the master of the shop grew impatient and muttered:—

一個從來沒有進過學堂的鄉下人很想學習讀書。他常常看見牧師在禮拜堂裏讀聖經的時候帶上他的眼鏡，他心裏想倘若他有一副眼鏡，他也能够讀書。他後來到城市裏的時候，就到一家眼鏡店，請拿出眼鏡來看。

他帶上眼鏡，試讀他衣袋裏帶來的張報紙。但這眼鏡絲毫不能幫助他，他隨要一副更貴的，這店夥拿下幾副別樣的，但沒有一副使他滿意。末後，這店裏的東家不耐煩，發出怨言道：—

“I don't think the fellow can read a word.”

The peasant overheard this remark, and answered, “Of course, I can't. If I knew how to read, I shouldn't need spectacles. I want spectacles *to show me how to read.*”

「我想這個人一字不識。」

這鄉下人聽見了這話，就回答道，「自然，我不識字。倘若我識字，我就用不着眼鏡了。我要眼鏡教我識字的。」

## A PROMISING BOY

### 一個有屬望的童子

One day a father was asking his little son about his school. “What are you learning now?” he inquired.

“Oh, we are learning lots of things,” said the boy, “reading and writing and arithmetic and spelling and geography and all kinds of things.”

“That's good,” said his father, “and do you always learn your lessons, and do as your teacher tells you?”

一天一個父親問他的小兒子學堂裏的情形，他問道，「你現在學什麼呢？」

這童子說，「啊，我們學習許多事情，讀，寫，算，拼法，地理，和各種的事情。」

他父親道，「那是很好，你是常常學習你的功課，依你先生所說的話做去麼？」



“Oh, yes,” said the boy, “I always do that.”

“That’s right,—that’s what I always did when I was a boy. Well, now, what position are you in your class?”

“I’m second,” said the boy.

“Second?” said his father in surprise. “Well, that’s much better than I expected. Here I’ll give you this sixpence as a reward.”

“Oh, thank you,” said the boy, and he put out his hand for the sixpence.

“By the way,” said his father, “how many boys are there now in your class?”

“There are two,” replied the boy.

這童子說，「啊，是的，我常常那樣做。」

「那是不錯，——我做小孩子的時候就是那樣做，你現在在你班裏是居在怎麼地位呢？」

這童子說，「我是第二。」

他的父親很詫異道，「第二麼？好，那是比我所盼望的好得多，現在我給你六辨士作為獎金。」

這童子說道，「啊，謝謝你。」他就伸出他的手來接這六辨士。

他的父親說，「我順便要問你班裏有多少小孩子？」

這童子回答道，「兩個。」

## AN IMPERFECT DEFINITION

### 一個似是而非的釋義

A mother was once sitting by the fire and giving a lesson in grammar to her son. She

一次一個母親坐在火傍，教她的兒子一課文法，她對他講解了什

explained to him about nouns and verbs and adverbs and conjunctions and exclamations, etc.; and the boy seemed to understand quite well. At last his mother told him about abstract nouns; but the boy somehow could not understand the meaning at all.

“What kind of a thing is an abstract noun?” asked the boy, “can’t you make it more easy?”

“Well,” said his mother, “an abstract noun is something you can think about but cannot touch.”

“Something I can think about but cannot touch,” echoed the boy. “Well, then,” said he, pointing to a red-hot coal in the fire, “that piece of hot coal must be an abstract noun, for it is something I can think about, but cannot touch.”

麼是名詞，動詞，副詞，接續詞，和感嘆詞等等；這小孩子似乎很懂得，末後他的母親告訴他什麼是抽象名詞；但這小孩子對於這意思，略有幾分不能領會。

這小孩子問道，「那種物件是抽象名詞呢？你不能解說明白些麼？」

他的母親說，「好，抽象名詞是你能够想到而不能摸着的東西。」

這小孩子也跟着說，「我能够想到但是不能摸着的東西。」他指着火裏一塊燒紅的煤炭道，「那塊熱炭必定是一個抽象名詞，因為那是我能够想到但是不能摸着的東西。」

## A SMART BOY

## 一個機變的童子

Once upon a time there was an old priest, and he was very fond of a certain kind of cake. So he always kept a supply of this cake in the house; but as he was rather selfish and greedy, he didn't allow any one to eat this excellent cake except himself.

Now, this priest had a son who was also very fond of cake; and knowing this, the priest thought of a plan to prevent the boy from taking the cake during his absence. So he told the boy that the cake contained a dangerous poison, and that if the boy ate it he would probably die.

Well, one day when the priest was out, the boy found a number of these cakes in the drawer and they looked so

昔時有一位老牧師，他很喜歡一種餅子，所以他常常預備一些在他的家裏，但是因為他是很自私而且貪食的，除他自己以外，他不准任何人吃這種好餅子。

牧師有一個兒子，他也很喜歡餅子；牧師知道這事情，就想到一個方法，在他出外的時候，可使這小孩子不拿餅子吃。於是他告訴小孩子說餅子裏含有一種危險的毒質，倘若吃了，恐怕要死。

一天牧師出外去了，小孩子在抽屜裏尋着了許多這樣的餅子，這些餅子實在很好看，使

nice that he couldn't resist the temptation. He took the cakes and ate all of them.

When the priest returned and found the cakes gone, he was very angry with the boy, and said, "Why did you eat those cakes when I was out?"

"I'm very sorry," replied the boy, "but I felt very lonely and unhappy while you were out, and knowing that the cakes were poison, I ate all of them in order to commit suicide."

他不能抵抗引誘,於是他就拿出這些餅子並且吃完了。

待這位牧師回家,查得餅子沒有了,他對於這小孩子很是發怒,並說道,「我出外的時候,你爲什麼吃了那些餅子呢?」

這小孩子回答說,「我很抱歉的,但是你出外的時候,我覺得很寂寞不快樂,我曉得餅子是毒藥,就吃完了來自盡的。」

## ONE TOO MUCH FOR HIM

### 多出一個給他

A boy who had been to school for a year and a half, and who had been working a good deal at arithmetic, came home one summer for his holidays.

一個童子進學堂了一年半,對於算術很用功,某夏季因暑假回家,

One evening there were two roast chickens on the supper table; and the boy, who thought himself very smart, said to his father:—

“I can prove to you by arithmetic that those two chickens are three.”

“Oh!” said his father. “How do you manage that?”

“Well, this is one, and that is two, and, of course, one and two make three,” said the boy.

“How very clever!” exclaimed his father. “Then your mother will take the first one; I shall eat the second, and you may have the third.”

一晚在晚餐桌上有兩隻燻雞;這童子想自己很聰明,對他父親說道:—

「我可以用算術對你證明那兩隻雞是三隻。」

他父親說道,「呵,你怎樣算的?」

這童子說道,「好,這是一,那是二,當然一和二是三。」

他父親叫道,「好聰明呀!那麼,你母親吃第一隻;我吃第二隻,你得第三隻。」

## DOING AS THE BIRDS DO

### 同鳥一樣

Once there was a very sleepy-headed young student who always got up very late

一次有一個很好睡的青年學生,早晨總是起來得很遲,他的老

in the morning. His teacher often scolded him for his laziness, and one morning when scolding him as usual, the teacher said, "You lazy fellow!—wasting your valuable time in bed, instead of studying your lesson. Look at those little birds out there: they get up with the sun every morning; while you are idly sleeping in bed. You had better take birds for your teachers, and do as the birds do."

Well, that evening when the teacher went round for inspection, he found the student in bed already, although it was only about six o'clock.

"Here! what's this?" cried the teacher, "what do you mean by wasting your time here in bed?"

師因爲他懶惰常常罵他,一天早晨這老師照常罵他的時候說道,「你這懶人——在牀上虛度你的寶貴光陰,不去研究你的功課。看那外面的小雀子:牠們每天早晨同太陽同時起來;在那時候你是正在懶惰地睡在牀上。你不如把雀子做你的老師,效法牠的榜樣。」

好,那天晚上這位老師到各處巡察的時候,他查得這學生已經上牀了,雖然那時纔是六點鐘的光景。

這位老師叫道,「在這裏!這是什麼。你在牀上虛度你的光陰是什麼意思?」

“You told me to take the birds for my teachers,” said the student, “so I am doing as they do.”

這學生說，「你教我  
把雀子當我的老師，所  
以我同雀子一樣早睡。

## THE CHARACTER FOR “TIGER”

### 虎 字

A certain young man in China was very much afraid of dogs. One day he met a friend and was talking to him about his great dislike for dogs. He said to his friend: “Do you happen to know of any way by which I can prevent dogs from biting me?”

“Yes,” replied his friend, “there is a very simple method: all you have to do is to write on the inside of your hand the character for “tiger”. Then, when the dog comes to you, open your hand suddenly, and when the dog sees the “tiger” character, it will get frightened and run away.”

中國某青年人很怕狗，一天他遇着一個朋友，並且對他談論他不喜歡狗的事情。他對他的朋友說，「你曉得有什麼方法可使狗不咬我麼？」

他的朋友回答說，「是的，有一個簡單的方法，你可在你手裏寫一個「虎」字，狗來到你面前的時候，立刻把你的手放開，狗看見這「虎」字，就會驚嚇跑走。」

A few days after this, the young man again met his friend, and the young man was very angry. "Why did you tell me such a lie?" said he. "I tried the method you told me, and look how I got bitten by a dog."

"That is very strange," replied the friend. "Where were you when you got bitten?"

"I was in the foreign settlement," replied the young man.

"Ah, I see," said his friend, "then it must have been a foreign dog."

"I suppose it was," replied the young man.

"That accounts for it," said the friend. "Of course if it was a foreign dog, it couldn't read Chinese."

過了幾天這青年人又遇着他的朋友，這青年人是發怒的。他道，「你爲什麼告訴了我這樣一個謊話，你所告訴我的方法我已經試過了，看我被狗咬得怎樣了。」

這朋友回答道，「那是很奇怪，你被狗咬的時候你是在什麼地方呢？」

這青年人回答道，「我是在外國租界內。」

他的朋友說「啊，我明白了，那麼牠必定是一隻洋狗。」

這青年人回答道，我猜想牠是洋狗。

這朋友道，「就是這個緣故，倘若牠是一隻洋狗，自然不懂中文。」



## THE ARTIST AND THE TWO CATS

## 美術家的兩隻貓

A certain artist was very fond of cats, and in his house he had an old cat and a young kitten.

One day a friend came to see him, and while he was talking to the artist, he happened to notice two holes at the bottom of the room door. One of the holes was large and the other small.

“What are those two holes for?” he enquired.

“Oh, those holes are for the cats,” replied the artist. “I made those holes so that the cats can come in without opening the door.”

“But why did you make two holes?” asked the friend. “Wouldn't one hole be quite enough?”

某位美術家很喜歡貓。在他家裏他有一隻老貓和一隻小貓。

一天一位朋友來看他，他和這位美術家談話的時候，他恰巧看見兩個洞在這房門底下。一個洞是大，一個洞是小。

他問道，「那兩個洞是爲什麼用的？」

這位美術家回答道，「呵，那些洞是爲貓的，我做那些洞使貓毋庸開門就能進來。」

這位朋友問道，「但你爲什麼做兩個洞呢？一個洞豈不爲麼？」

“But how could the big cat go through the small hole?” asked the artist.

“Well,” said the friend, “but the *little* cat could go through the *big* hole, couldn't he?”

“Upon my word!” replied the artist, laughing heartily, “I never thought of that.”

這位美術家問道，「但這大貓怎麼能走進這小洞呢？」

這位朋友說道，「唉，但這小貓能走進這大洞，是不是呢？」

這位美術家大笑答道，「講實話，我從來沒有想到那個。」

## AN AWKWARD FIX

### 難乎爲情

A gentleman once went to pay a call at a certain house. The servant told him that her master was having his hair cut, and asked him to wait a few minutes. Then the servant brought tea and cake into the room and went away. Very soon one of the children in the house came and took away a piece of cake; and after a very short time he

一次一位先生走到某家去拜訪，那家僕人告訴了他道她的主人在剪頭髮，並請他等幾分鐘。然後那僕人拿了茶和餅到這房間裏就出去了。不久這家裏的小孩子們有一個來拿了一塊餅去；過了片刻他又來拿一塊，又

came and took another and then another piece, until the cake was nearly all gone.

The gentleman was very much troubled for fear that the people in the house would think that he had eaten so much cake, so at last he decided that when the child came again he would frighten him away. Then he went and hid behind a screen to wait for the child to come. Very soon he heard the footsteps of someone coming into the room, so he put his fingers in his mouth and pulled it out at the sides; squinted and rolled his eyes round; and making a terrible face, jumped out from behind the screen.

Unfortunately, however, this time it was not the child that entered the room, but the lady of the house.

一塊，一直等到幾乎一齊拿完了。

這位先生是很煩惱，因為他恐怕這家裏的人想他吃了這麼多的餅。所以後來他決定等小孩子再來的時候要嚇跑他。於是他躲在一個屏風後面，等這小孩子再來。不久他聽見人的腳步聲走進房來，所以他把他的手指放在口裏把口的兩腮大張；斜着眼睛望來望去；並做出一副可怕的鬼臉，從屏風背後跳出來。

但不幸這次進這房間的不是小孩子，乃是這家主婦。

## A BOASTER CAUGHT

## 慢夫受窘

A man was once travelling on a ship from New York to Liverpool. He was a great boaster, and was always boasting about his skill in shooting. One day the captain of the ship got a bottle, and placed it on a rail at the stern of the ship. Then he said to the man: "Look here! I don't believe you can hit this bottle at a distance of twenty yards."

"I guess I can hit it all right," said the man.

"Well," said the captain, "I'll tell you what I'll do: if you can hit it three times out of six shots, I'll give you ten dollars."

"Done!" said the man. "You'd better get the ten dollars ready."

一次一人乘船從紐約到利物浦去，他是一個誇口大家，常常自誇他的槍法如何精練。一日這船主尋着一個瓶子，就把牠放在船艙的欄杆上。然後他對這人說：「看這裏！我想你在二十碼的距離不能擊中這瓶子。」

這人說道，「我想我能擊中牠。」

這船主說，「好，我要告訴你我怎麼做：倘若你放六槍擊中三槍，我就給你十塊錢。」

這人說，「可以。你頂好快把十塊洋錢預備好。」

“But,” said the captain, “if you don’t hit it three times, you must give me ten dollars.”

“All right,” said the man.

He got his gun and measured twenty yards. Then he fired at the bottle and hit it. And of course the bottle broke and fell into the sea.

“Now, give me another bottle,” said the man.

“Oh, no,” said the captain, “I said I would give you ten dollars if you would hit *that* bottle *three times*. If you can’t do it, give me the ten dollars.”

這船主說，「但是你若不能擊中牠三次，你必須給我十塊洋錢。」

這人說，「可以。」

他拿了他的槍，並量了二十碼，然後他對着瓶子就開槍，就射中了牠。這瓶子當然破了，落到海裏去了。

這人說道，「現在再給我一個瓶子。」

這船主說，「呀，不行。我說了倘若你能擊中那瓶子三次我給你十塊洋錢，若是你不能做到，就給我十塊洋錢。」

## A CLEVER DOCTOR

### 智 醫

One day a certain doctor went with his assistant to visit a sick man.

“I feel very sick to-day, doctor,” said the man. “Can you tell me what is the matter

一天某醫生同他的助手去醫一個病人。

這人說道，「醫生，我今天覺得病很重，你能告訴我是什麼緣故。」

with me?" "Yes," said the doctor immediately. "You have been eating too many oysters. The sick man confessed that he had eaten many oysters, and was much surprised at the skill of the doctor in finding it out so quickly.

When the doctor and his assistant left the house, the assistant said to the doctor: "How did you know that he had been eating oysters?"

"It was very simple," said the doctor, "because I saw the oyster shells under the bed."

The assistant, a few days after this, was called to the bed-side of another sick man. Remembering what the doctor had done before, the assistant looked under the bed when he went into the room; and found a saddle there.

麼?」這位醫生立刻說,「是的,你吃了太多的牡蠣。」這病人自認是吃了太多牡蠣,並且對於這醫生立刻就曉得這事的技術是很詫異。

這位醫生同他的助手走出這屋的時候,助手對醫生說道「你怎麼曉得他吃了牡蠣呢?」

這位醫生道,「那是很簡易的,因為我看見牡蠣壳在牀底下。」

過了幾天這助手被請到別一個病人牀邊去看病。他記起這位醫生以前所做的事,走進房間的時候就向牀底下望;他看見有一個馬鞍子在那裏。

“Doctor,” said the sick man, “I feel very unwell today. Do you know what is the cause of my illness?”

“Yes,” replied the assistant, “and it is no wonder that you feel ill—you *have eaten a horse!*”

這病人說，「醫生，我覺得今天很不爽快。你曉得我的病源在那裏麼？」

這助手回答道，「是的，你害病是不足奇怪，因你吃了一隻馬下去！」

## A CLEVER THIEF

### 黠 賊

Jack, a little boy, was one day sitting in his court-yard, when he saw a stranger come in.

“Who are you?” he asked of the man.

“I’m your uncle,” answered the latter, “My name is Nobody.”

Seeing some clothes the man took them and ran away.

“Mamma,” cried Jack, seeing this, “some one takes away our clothes.”

“Who is he?” asked the mother.

一天年幼的傑克在院裏坐着，他見一個不相識的人進來。

他便問道：「你是誰？」

這人答道：「我是你的伯父。我的名字叫沒有人。」

這人見了些衣服便拿着跑了。

傑克見了這種情形，便喊道：「媽媽，有人把我們的衣服拿去了。」

他母親問道：「是誰呀？」

“Nobody!” replied Jack.

The mother, thinking that her child was joking with her, smiled and said, “My dear, how are you playing there?”

“Some one takes away our clothes.” cried Jack more loudly.

“Who is he?”

“Nobody!”

Again smiled the mother and said, “Do not trouble me again, my dear. I’m making you a suit of new clothes.”

“Some one takes away our clothes!” shouted the lad, almost weeping.

The mother hastened out of the room, and found that there was really some one who stole the clothes away.

“Who stole the clothes away, did you see?” asked the mother in a hurry.

“Nobody!” returned the lad.

傑克答道：「沒有人。」

他母親以為他是同

她開玩笑，便微笑道：

「吾愛，你作什麼玩耍。」

傑克更加高聲的喊道：「有人把我們的衣服拿去了。」

「誰呀？」

「沒有人。」

母親又笑了笑說道：

「吾愛，不要再擾我了。吾正給你作一身新衣裳呢。」

傑克差不多哭了喊道：「有人把我們衣服偷去了！」

母親急忙走出屋來，她看見果然有人把衣服偷去了。

她便急忙問道：「你看見誰把我們的衣服拿去了？」

傑克道：「沒有人。」



## HOW TO SELL CROWS

## 售 鴉 妙 法

I'll tell you a story about a cunning bird-seller. Well, one day this bird-seller went out with two large bamboo baskets on his shoulder. On the top of each basket there was a large black hen. He pretended to be a little foolish, and went about the town crying, "Crows for sale; don't you want to buy a crow?"

People thought he must be a fool to sell hens, thinking that they were crows. One man seeing this, thought he would get a hen for the price of a crow, and that it would be very cheap. So he said to the bird-seller, "What is the price of your crows?" "Fifty cents a piece," replied the seller. Then the man gave him fifty cents and was about to take a large hen from the top of the basket.

我要告訴你們一個狡猾賣鳥者的故事。一天此賣鳥者擔了兩個大籃子在他肩上走出去。每個籃子上有一個大黑雞。他假裝呆笨的在城裏走着叫道。『賣鴉。你們要買一隻大鴉麼？』

大家想他把雞當鴉賣是一個呆子。一人看見這事，以為可以照鴉的價錢買隻雞，那是很便宜，於是他對賣鴉者說，『你的鴉是什麼價錢。』這賣鴉者回答說，『每隻五角錢。』然後這人給他五角錢就要從這籃子上面拿一隻大雞。

“No, no,—not that,” said the seller, putting the money in his pocket. “Crows are here inside,”—and he handed out one, saying: “Is it possible that you don't know the difference between a hen and a crow?”

這賣鴉者，把錢放在他的衣袋裏說道，「不是，不是——不是那個，鴉在這裏面，」他拿了一隻出來說道，「你豈不知道一隻雞和一隻烏鴉的分別麼？」

## THE MILLER AND THE THIEF

### 磨坊主與賊

One dark night a miller was robbed of a sack of flour. He made up his mind to capture the thief, if a second robbery were attempted. So he hid himself in an empty flour sack two or three hours every night, and waited for the robber to come. At last the expected robber did come. The miller heard him open the window and cautiously enter the room.

The thief began looking round for something to carry

一個磨坊主人在一黑夜被賊偷去了一包麵粉，他決定捉住這個賊，倘若他下次再來偷。所以他每夜躲在一個空麵粉袋裏兩三個鐘頭，等這個賊來。末後他盼望的賊果真來了。這磨坊主人並聽得他開了窗小心的進這房間。

這賊開始四處尋找些東西帶走；末後他找

off; and at last he seized the very sack that the miller was in, and tried to lift it on his shoulders. Then the miller cried out, 'Aha! I have caught you at last, you rascal!' but the burglar only laughed quietly to himself.

Then the thief took a piece of thick cord from his pocket, and tied the mouth of the sack with the miller inside, and leaned it against the wall. After that he carried off everything of value that he could find, and left the miller to spend the night helplessly tied up in his own flour sack.

着磨坊主躲在裏面的那個麵粉袋,並把牠舉起來放在他的肩上.於是這磨坊主大聲叫道,「呀,你這流氓,我到底捉住了你!」但這夜賊靜悄悄的自己笑着.

然後這賊從他的衣袋裏拿出一根粗繩,把這磨坊主在裏面的麵粉袋口紮起來,並且把牠放得靠着牆,後來他就把他所能尋着有價值的物件都帶走了,並且讓這磨坊主人無可奈何地在麵粉袋裏過了一夜.

## A WHALE

### 一尾鯨魚

A shoemaker, getting on well in the way of business, became proud. One day there were a lot of customers in the shop, when the shopboy

有一個鞋匠,因為生意方面漸漸地興隆起來,就此有些自豪.一天鞋舖裏來了多位顧

came in to say that the mistress bid him say dinner was ready.

“What’s for dinner?” asked the shoemaker.

“Herrings, sir,” answered the boy.

“All right,” said the shoemaker, and when he went in to dinner he reprimanded the boy for not mentioning something decent and big, telling the boy, in future, always to mention a good feed when there were any people in the shop. A few days after the boy came to say that dinner was ready.

“What’s for dinner?” asked the shoemaker.

“Fish, sir,” answered the boy.

“What sort of fish?”

“A whale, sir!” replied the boy.

客,這時恰巧他的學徒走進去說,店主婦吩咐他來報告飯已造好.

鞋匠問道: [有些什麼飯菜?]

學徒道: [師傅, 只有一些魚.]

鞋匠道: [好的!] 當他去吃飯的時候,他訓責那個學徒,因為怪他不說幾樣珍貴而大的東西;並且告訴他以後當店裏有人的時候,總要說好飯菜. 幾天後,那個學徒又跑來報告飯已備好.

鞋匠問道: [有些甚麼飯菜?]

學徒道: [師傅, 魚呀!]

[甚麼魚呢?]

[師傅,一條鯨魚呀!]

“TOO MANY COOKS SPOIL THE BROTH”

人多價事

A young man was once invited to a dinner party, so he went to a fashionable tailor and ordered a fine suit of clothes. On the evening before the dinner party, the clothes were sent to his house; but unfortunately when he put on the trousers, he found that they were about three inches too long. He was very much annoyed about this, and he went and told his mother and two sisters about it.

Well, after he went to bed that night, his mother quietly went to his room and cut off three inches from the trousers. Shortly after this the elder sister, without knowing what her mother had done, also went and cut off three inches.

一個青年人一次有人請他聚餐,他於是到一個時髦縫工那裏去定做一套衣服,在聚餐的前一天晚上,這衣服就送到他的家裏去了。但不幸他穿上褲子的時候,他察見長了三寸光景,他因此很懊惱,並把這樁事去告訴他的母親和兩位姊妹。

那天夜晚他上牀就寢之後,他的母親靜悄悄的走到他的房間裏去,把這條褲子剪去了三寸。過了片刻,這位姊妹不知道她的母親所做的事,也走去剪脫

At about midnight the younger sister woke up, and remembered about her brother's disappointment. Then, thinking that everyone must be asleep, she also went and cut off three more inches from the unfortunate trousers. Next day the young man had a considerable surprise.

三寸。在半夜的時光，這位妹妹睡醒了，就記起她哥哥失意的事情，於是她以為大家都睡着了，也走去把這條不幸的褲子又剪脫了三寸，次日這青年人很是詫異。

## TALKING TO A FISH

### 與魚談話

One day a negro went to a fish shop to buy a fish for his dinner, suspecting that the fish was not as fresh as it ought to be. He picked one of these and after examining it carefully, he held it up to his nose and smelled it.

The fishmonger, conscious that his goods would hardly bear such close observation, cried out, "Here! what's this?"

一日，一黑人至魚肆買魚以治膳，疑魚不新鮮。遂取其一，檢視之，持之近鼻嗅之。

魚販明知其貨不能經若此之詳察，因呼道，「什麼。汝為何嗅

Why do you smell that fish,— do you think it has gone bad?"

"I did not smell it," replied the negro.

"Then what were you doing with your face so close to the fish?" inquired the shopkeeper angrily.

"I wasn't smelling the fish; I was only talking to it," replied the negro.

"Talking to it," said the fishseller, "why, what on earth did you say to it?"

"I ask him if there was any best news from the sea, that's all," replied the negro.

"Well, and what did the fish say to that?" asked the shopkeeper.

"He said he didn't know the latest news, because he had not been to sea for three weeks."

此魚，難道魚已腐敗嗎？

黑人應道：「我並不嗅魚。」

魚販忿然說：「然則您面近魚至此是何存意？」

黑人復應道：「我非嗅魚不過與之一談罷了。」

魚販說：「汝與魚語則您與牠究作何語？」

黑人說：「我不過問牠近日海中有何佳音。」

魚販曰：「好，那麼魚說些什麼？」

「魚說牠不知最近的消息，因牠未入海中已三星期了。」

## “IT TASTES SO NICE”

## 其味甚佳

One evening a party of friends were having a social meeting. After talking about all kinds of things, at last they began to talk about what they wished for most.

“What I wish for most is this,” said one, “I wish I were a great statesman, with power and wealth and fame.”

“Well,” said another, “I wish that I were a very rich man, with fine houses, and plenty of servants and horses and all kinds of luxuries.”

Then other friends told what they wished for,—each one telling about what he wished for most. At last one of the friends who was a rather simple-minded fellow began to speak. “What I

一天晚上一羣朋友開一個交際會，談論了各種的事情以後，他們末後談到他們最希望的事情。

一個人說，「我最願望我是一位大政治家，有權力金錢和名望。」

又一個人說，「好，我願望我是一個很富的人，有華屋，有許多僕人和馬和各種的奢華品。」

於是別的朋友說他們的願望，每個人說出他最願望的事情。最後有一位朋友是很愚直的，便開口說道，「我最願望是做一隻野



would like best," said he, "is to be a wild duck." The friends all laughed very much when they heard this. They said to him, "What a strange wish! Why do you wish that you were a wild duck?"

The simple-fellow replied: "Because it tastes so nice."

鴨。<sup>1</sup> 朋友們聽見他講這話都大笑了。他們對他說道：「一個很奇怪的願望呢！你爲什麼緣故願望做一隻野鴨？」

這位愚直的人回答道：「因爲其味甚佳。」

## A MAN FOND OF SLEEPING

### 一個貪睡的人

Once upon a time there was a man who was very fond of sleeping. In fact he used to boast about his power to sleep at all times. He had a friend who was also famous for being a great sleeper. One day the friend came to call on him, but the servant reported that her master was still in bed and sleeping.

"All right, I'll wait for him," said the friend. So he

昔時有一個人很喜歡睡覺。所以他無論何時總是誇大其辭講他睡覺的能力。他有一位朋友，也是著名善睡家，一天這位朋友來拜訪他，但僕人說他的主人還在牀上睡着。

這位朋友道，「不要緊，我可等候他，於是

sat down on a chair to wait, and while waiting he fell asleep. Very soon the master of the house woke up, and went downstairs to meet his visitor. But seeing that the visitor had fallen asleep, he did not like to wake him up, so he sat down and soon fell asleep also.

Then after a short time the visitor woke up, but seeing his friend sleeping he did not like to awaken him either; so he also went to sleep again while waiting. After a while, the master of the house again woke up, but seeing that the visitor was asleep, he also decided to sleep a little more while waiting. This was repeated again and again until at last it became evening, and it was time for the sleepers to go to bed.

他坐在一張椅子上等候。在等候的時間他就睡着了，過了片刻，這家主人醒了，走下樓來會他的客人。但看見這位客人已經睡着了，他不願意喚醒他，於是他坐下來，不久的功夫也睡着了。

過了一霎時光，這位客人醒了，但他看見他的朋友睡着，他也不願意喚醒他；於是他在等候的時間，也再睡着了。過了些時；這家主人又醒了。但他看見這位客人是睡着了，他打定主意，在等候的時間再睡一下。這樣的情形重復了又重復，到後來天色晚了，又是貪睡人上牀就寢的時候了。

## WHAT A PITY!

## 惜 哉

Once there was a certain lazy fellow who was very fond of wine. He was also a sleepheaded fellow, and always got up very late in the morning. Well, one day when he was lying asleep in bed, he dreamed a very pleasant dream. He dreamed that a friend had given him a large bottle of very excellent brandy. He thought it would be nice to drink some hot brandy, so he made a fire and prepared to make the wine hot. Just when the brandy was ready, and when he was about to pour some of it into a cup, *don!*—he was suddenly awakened by the sound of the twelve o'clock gun. He rubbed his eyes and looked for the brandy, but alas! it was all gone.

昔時有一個懶人很喜歡喝酒。他也是一個歡喜睡覺的人，早晨往往起來得很遲。一天他正在牀上熟睡的時候，他做了一個快樂的夢。他夢見一個朋友給他一大瓶很好的白蘭地酒。他想到喝熱的白蘭地是很好的，所以着了一個火，預備把酒溫熱。正在白蘭地酒備好，並且將要倒些酒到杯子裏去的時候——欸！他忽然被午砲醒驚了。他擦擦他的眼睛，就尋找白蘭地酒，但是，噯呀！牠是不見了。

“Ah! what a pity!” he cried,  
“what a fool I was to wait to  
make it hot. I ought to have  
drunk it cold.”

他叫道，「噫！可惜  
呀。我真是一個蠢  
子，等酒弄熱，我應該  
就冷的喝了。」

## PUTTING OUT A FIRE

### 熄 火

A rather foolish cook was  
one day cooking dinner for  
her master when she suddenly  
discovered that the wooden  
wall behind the stove had  
caught fire. She at once ran  
to her master's room, and told  
him that the kitchen was on  
fire. The master on hearing  
this rushed downstairs to the  
kitchen below. He found that  
the fire was not so large, and  
he also found that there was a  
large pot full of boiling water  
on the stove, with which the fire  
could easily be put out. So he  
turned to the servant and said:  
“Well, why didn't you put out  
the fire with this water?”

一天一個很愚蠢的  
厨役替她的主人備餐，  
她忽然看見爐子後背  
板壁上着了火。她立  
刻跑到她主人的房間  
裏，告訴他廚房裏起了  
火。主人聽到這話就  
急忙下樓到廚房裏去，  
他看見火並不旺，並見  
有一大壺開水在爐子  
上，用這壺水是很容易  
把這火撲滅的。所以  
他轉身對僕人說道：  
「喂，你爲什麼不用這  
水來撲滅這火呢？」

“It wouldn't put it out, sir,”  
replied the servant.

“What?” cried the master,  
“don't you know even that  
water will put out fire?”

“Yes,” replied the servant,  
“I know that *cold* water will  
put it out, but this water is  
boiling hot, so it is no use for  
putting out fire.”

這僕人回答說，「先  
生，那水不能熄火的。」

東家大聲叫道，「怎  
麼？你連水能熄火的  
事情都不知道麼？」

這僕人回答道，「是  
的，我知道冷水能熄  
火，但這水是滾熱的，  
所以用來熄火是無益  
的。」

### THE LAZIEST OF THE THREE

#### 三個人中頂懶的人

Once upon a time a gentle-  
man was taking a walk in the  
country, and he found three  
beggars lying by the roadside.  
The gentleman was fond of a  
joke, so he said to the beg-  
gars:—

“Which one of you is the  
most lazy? I'll give twenty  
cents to the laziest one.”

Then one of the beggars  
replied, “Give the money to  
me, sir, I haven't done any  
work for six months.”

某時一位先生在鄉  
間散步，他見三個乞丐  
臥在路傍。這位先生  
喜歡說笑話，所以他對  
這些乞丐說：—

「你們當中算那個  
頂懶？我要把兩角錢  
給頂懶的人。」

於是乞丐中一人回  
答說，「把這錢給我，先  
生，我已經六個月沒有  
做工了。」

“No, no,” said the second beggar, “you must give it to me, sir; for I have done no work for a whole year.”

Well, while these two were disputing, the third beggar turned over in a weary manner, and said sleepily: “Come over here, sir, and put the money in my pocket for me.”

He won the twenty cents.

第二個乞丐說，「不行，不行，你必須把這錢給我，先生；因為我已經一年沒有做工了。」

這兩個乞丐正在爭辯的時候，第三個乞丐疲倦似的樣子，翻轉身來，說道：「到這裏來，先生，替我把錢放在我的衣袋裏。」

他得着了這兩角錢。

## A SPARROW INTERPRETER

### 麻雀通事

A gentleman returning to Japan from Java, brought with him a number of Java sparrows. He gave them to a certain nobleman who was very fond of birds.

One day when the servant of the nobleman was cleaning the cage, he accidentally allowed one of the sparrows to escape. The servant knew that his master would be

一位先生從爪哇回日本，帶了許多爪哇麻雀。他把這些麻雀送給了一位很喜歡鳥雀的貴人。

一天這位貴人的僕人清潔雀籠的時候，他偶然放走了一隻麻雀。這僕人曉得他的主人查出了這樁事情

angry if he found this out, so he got an ordinary Japanese sparrow, and put it in the cage in place of the missing one.

Very soon after this, the nobleman came to look at the birds, and found the common sparrow in the cage. He called his servant and said:—

“How did this common sparrow get in here? It is just a common Japanese sparrow.

“Yes, sir,” replied the servant, “that is so; but as the other sparrows are all foreigners, I thought they would need an interpreter.”

會發怒的，所以他尋着一隻平常的東洋麻雀放在籠子裏充那隻失去的數。

不多時，這位貴人就來看雀子，看出這籠子裏的普通麻雀，他喚他的僕人說道：—

「這隻普通麻雀怎樣會進這裏來的？牠是一隻普通的日本麻雀。」

這僕人回答道，「是的，先生，那是不錯；但是因為其餘的麻雀都是外國人，我想牠們要一位通事呢？」

## WIND UP YOUR CLOCK

### 開 鐘

A workman, on coming home in the evening, was asked by his wife to look at the clock. She complained that it had been silent all

一個工人傍晚回家，他妻子請他看鐘。她出怨言說牠全日沒有走。並且她說不出緣

day, and she couldn't tell the reason. Her husband took it down, and examined it carefully. Then he took off the hands and face, and looked at the works with the aid of a magnifying-glass. Next he blew into it with the bellows, oiled the wheels, and then put it back again. But still it would not strike; so at last he gave it up, and went off to bed.

Next morning at breakfast his wife said to him, "George, I think I can tell what is amiss with our clock."

"Well, what is it?" he asked sharply.

"It wants winding up," said his wife.

故。她的丈夫拿了牠下來。並仔細察看一番。然後他拿下針和鐘面來，用一個顯微鏡察看機器。於是他用風箱吹風進去，把輪子上了油，並把牠還復原狀。但牠仍舊不打；所以末後他放開了牠，走上牀去睡了。

第二天早晨的早飯的時候，他妻子對他說道，「喬治，我想我能說出我們的鐘什麼地方不對。」

他嚴厲的問道，「好，是什麼呢？」

他妻子說道，「牠因須繙發條的緣故。」

## WHY HE COULDN'T DRINK THE SOUP

### 何 故 不 能 飲 湯

A gentleman once went to a foreign restaurant and ordered dinner. The waitress

一次有一位先生到了一家外國酒館，點了菜。那個女堂倌端了



brought a plate of soup and putting it before him on the table, went away. Immediately the gentleman called her back, and said: "Here! I can't drink this soup." "Oh, I'm sorry," said the girl, and she took away the soup and brought another kind. After a minute the gentleman called her back again saying, "I can't drink this soup, I tell you."

"Oh dear! Oh, dear!" said the girl, and she hurried away and brought a fresh plate of soup, and putting it before him started to go away again. "I can't drink the soup, I tell you," cried the gentleman once more. This time the girl got quite angry, and went and told the master of the restaurant about it. Then the master of the restaurant went over to the gentleman's table

一碟湯來遂放在他面前桌上就走開了。這位先生立刻叫她來並且說道：「這裏！我不能喝這湯。」這姑娘說道，「呀，我很抱歉。」她就把那湯拿去，並且又端了一種湯來。過了一會，這位先生又叫她回來說道，「我告訴你，我不能喝這個湯。」

這姑娘說道，「噫呀！噫呀！」她就跑開。去端了一碟新鮮的湯來，放在他的面前，又動身走開。這位先生又大聲叫道，「我告訴你，我不能喝這湯。」這次這姑娘十分生氣，遂將這事告訴了酒館的主人。然後酒館的主人走到這位先生的桌子

and enquired: "Excuse me, sir, may I ask why you can't drink that soup?"

"Yes," replied the gentleman, "I can't drink it because *I've got no spoon.*"

面前問道：「先生，對不起，我要問你爲什麼緣故不能喝這湯呢？」

這位先生回答說是的，我不能喝那湯因爲我沒有得着調羹。」

### "NEVER MIND ABOUT ME"

#### 不 要 顧 我

Once upon a time there was a hasty, quick-tempered gentleman who was always in a hurry. One day he had some important business to attend to at a certain place, so he started to walk very quickly. While hurrying along the street, he began to fear that he would be late, so he started to run as fast as he could. Just then he saw a jinrikisha that was empty, so he jumped in and told the 'rikisha-man to go as quickly as possible. "Hurry up! Hurry

一次有一位鹵莽急性的先生，他是常常匆忙的，一天他有些緊要的事情在某地方要做，所以他動身走得很快。當他沿街匆忙走的時候，他忽想恐怕他將遲到。所以他就拼命的跑。正在那個時候他看見一輛空的人力車，於是他就跳上去並叫這車夫趕快走，他不停的叫着，「快些！快

up!" he kept crying, and so the jinrikisha-man went hurrying along at full speed.

Unfortunately, however, the 'rikisha-man tried to run too fast, and finally the 'rikisha was upset and the hasty gentleman was thrown out. Even then, however, he was still in a hurry as usual, so while lying there in the street, he cried out to the riksha-man: "It is very important business. Make haste! Hurry up! *Never mind about me.*"

些! 所以這車夫就拼命的跑。

但不幸這車夫跑得太快,到後來這車子就翻了。這位匆忙的先生就從車中跌出,但在那時候他仍然同平常一樣匆忙,所以當他躺在街上的時候,他對車夫叫道:「那是很要緊的事情。趕快!快些!不要顧我。」

“WHERE AM I?”

“我在那裏呢”

Once upon a time there was a certain bad priest who became a robber. An officer was sent to arrest the priest and take him to prison. Well, the officer went and captured the priest, and started to take

從前有一個歹和尚做了強盜。一位官員奉命去緝捕這和尚並且要把他拘押起來。於是這位官員去捉着這和尚,並就把他關在

him to the prison; but this time it had become late at night, so they stopped at a hotel to rest until morning. This officer was very fond of wine, and after dinner in the evening, he drank so much that he finally became intoxicated and fell asleep. The priest seeing that the officer was intoxicated, decided to escape. Before doing so, however, he took out his razor and shaved off all of the officer's hair; and having done this, he ran away and made his escape.

Next morning when the officer woke up, he remembered his duty, and looked around for his prisoner the priest. "Where is that priest?" he cried. He looked everywhere, but of course he couldn't find him. At last he

監牢裏。但已夜深，他們暫在客棧裏歇息以待明晨再走。這位官員很喜歡喝酒，晚餐之後，他飲了許多的酒，他酩酊大醉就睡着了。這和尚看見官員酩酊大醉，就決計逃走。但他在逃走以前，他拿出了他的剃刀，把這位官員的頭髮一齊剃去了；他做了這事以後，就飛奔的逃走了。

明天早晨這位官員醒了的時，他記起了他的任務，就四方尋找他的犯人和尚。他大聲叫道，「那和尚是在那裏？」他到處尋遍了，但終找不着他。後來他放他的手到他的

put his hand to his head and cried out, "Oh! *here is the priest*,—but WHERE AM I?"

頭上叫道，「呵！和尚是在這裏，——但是我在那裏呢？」

## FINE STOCKINGS

### 美 襪

A poor artist was invited to an evening party, and he accepted the invitation. It was the fashion in those days for gentlemen to wear knee-breeches and silk stockings. The artist, however, had only one pair of fashionable stockings, and he had no one to wash them for him. So he set to work and washed them himself; and then put them on top of the stove to dry. Unfortunately, however, when he looked at them soon afterwards to see if they were dry, he found he had burnt holes in them.

一位窮藝術家有人邀請他晚上赴會，他接受了這個請柬。那時男子穿短腿袴和長統絲襪是最時式。但這位藝術家祇有一雙時式的長統襪子，並且沒有人替他洗滌。於是他自己動手洗了；就放在爐子上烘乾牠。但不幸他轉身去看襪子乾了沒有的時候，他看見襪子上已經燒出洞了。

He was almost in despair; but after thinking a long time, he suddenly jumped up and got his paint box, and began to paint his legs. He did this so well, that it seemed as if he had on a pair of fine silk stockings. He went to the party and enjoyed himself very much, and no one found out his trick. In fact, many people remarked that his stockings seemed to fit very well.

他幾乎失望了,但想了許久,他忽然跳起來拿他的彩色盒,就動手畫他的腿。着色得非常之好,看起來好像他穿了一雙精美的長統絲襪一樣。他赴宴去了,歡樂的了不得,並且沒有一個人察出他的巧計。實在說,反有許多的人說他的襪子似乎穿得很適合的。

## UNEVEN SHOES

### 不平的鞋

One day a foolish, simple-minded fellow was going out of his house in a hurry. In fact, he was in such haste that, when putting on his shoes, he made a mistake and put on one very thick shoe and one very thin one. And as the

一天一個愚蠢而且腦筋簡單的人,匆促從他屋裏出來。他匆慌的連鞋子穿錯了。穿上一隻很厚的鞋,又一隻脚穿上一隻很薄的。

bottom of one of the shoes was thick, this shoe was naturally a good deal higher than the other. "This is very strange," said the foolish fellow. "I think the street must be uneven."

Soon afterwards, he met a friend who told him what was the matter, and advised him to go home and change his shoes. The foolish fellow hastened home, and put on the two shoes corresponding to the shoes he had just worn. Then he went out again, and found that the condition of his shoes was just the same as before.

"This is more and more strange," said he. "I went and changed my shoes, but these shoes are just as uneven as the ones I had on before."

因爲一隻鞋子的底很厚,這隻鞋子自然比那隻高好多.這愚蠢的人說,「這是很奇怪,我想這街必定是不平的。」

不久他遇見了一個朋友告訴他這個緣故,並勸他回家去換雙鞋子.這愚蠢的人趕快回家,穿上同他剛纔所穿的其他的兩隻鞋子,然後他又出來,覺得他鞋子的情形同先前無異.

他說,「這越弄越奇怪了,我回去換了鞋子,但這兩隻鞋子同我先前所穿的一樣不平。」

## SIMPLICITY

## 愚 蠢

A simple-minded country fellow once went to London to see the sights of the great city. He wandered about the streets, looking at many curious things to be seen there. At last he came to a large shop where stoves and such things were sold. He thought it would be a good opportunity to see the stoves, so he went into the shop and asked a salesman to show him some.

The salesman showed him many different kinds of stoves, and at last showed him a new patent one.

"This is a most excellent stove," said the salesman, "and if you use it you can greatly economize with your coal. In fact, if you use this stove you will require only half

一個愚蠢的鄉人有一次到倫敦去觀大城裏的景象。他在街上閒逛，觀望倫敦城裏許多奇怪的東西。末後他走到一家出賣火爐及此類的貨物的大店，他想這是看火爐的好機會，於是他就走進店裏去請店夥指給他看。

這店夥指示了許多種的火爐給他看，最後指示一個新得專賣權的火爐。

這店夥說，「這是一個頂好的火爐，倘若你用牠，你可節省許多煤炭，老實講，倘若你用這火爐，祇要用別種



as much as you would require in any other kind of stove."

"You say that if I buy one of these stoves I can save half of my coal?" asked the countryman in surprise.

"Yes," replied the salesman, "you will need only half the quantity of coal."

"Well, then," replied the countryman, "I'll buy two of them, and then I won't need to use any coal at all."

火爐所燒的煤炭一半就夠了。<sup>1</sup>

這鄉人詫異道，「你是說倘若我買一個這樣的火爐就能節省一半的煤炭麼？」

這店夥回答道，「你祇要用煤量的半數。」

這鄉人回答道，「好，我要買兩個火爐。就可一點煤炭都不用了。」

## THE HUNGRY BAG

### 餓 袋

One day a traveller went to a restaurant and asked the price of a dinner. The waiter in the restaurant told him that the price of a dinner was two shillings. "All right," said the traveller. He then took a seat at the dinner table, and placed his hand-bag on a chair by his side.

一天一位旅客到一家酒館裏去問了大菜的價錢，那酒館裏的堂倌告訴了他一客大菜的價錢是兩先令。這位旅客說：「好了」，他於是坐在大菜桌旁邊一個座位上，並把他的手袋放在他旁邊一個椅子上。

After dinner the waiter brought the bill and asked for four shillings.

“But,” said the traveller, “I have had only one dinner.”

“That is so,” said the waiter, “but your bag on the chair has occupied the place of another. So you must pay for it.”

The traveller paid the bill without any further remark. Then after paying the bill, he turned the bag on the chair and addressed it in the following words:—

“Well, my friend, I’ve paid for your dinner and now you shall have it.” So saying, he took from the table a cold chicken, a large beefsteak, a number of biscuits, two bottles of wine, and all the bread he could find. These articles he placed carefully in the inside of his bag and walked away.

大菜完畢以後，這堂館拿了帳單來要四先令。

這位旅客說，「但我祇吃了一客大菜。」

這堂館說，「那是不錯。但是你的袋子佔了別一個人的座位，所以你必须代牠給錢。」

這位旅客不再發言就付清這賬。他付了這賬以後，於是把椅子上的袋轉過來。並對牠說了以下的話：—

「好，我的朋友，我已代你付大菜賬；現在你必须要吃這大菜。」他這樣說着，就從這桌上拿了一隻冷雞，一塊大牛排，一些餅干，兩瓶酒，和他所能找着的一切東西。他仔細把這些東西放在他的袋子裏面就走開了。

## SAVING POSTAGE

## 節省郵費

One day a father called his little son aged seven. "Come here, Tommy," he said. "I want you to take this letter to the post-office, and post it for me. You are quite a little man now, so you won't make any mistake, will you?"

"No, papa," replied the little boy, "I'll be very careful."

"Well," said his father, "here is a penny, I want you to get a stamp, and post the letter."

"All right, papa," said the little boy, and he hurried away.

After about half an hour he returned, smiling and looking very pleased.

"Well" said his father, "did you post the letter as I told you?"

某日一個人叫他七歲的小兒子到他面前來，他說湯禮，到這裏來，我要你拿這封信到郵政局去，並替我寄出。你現在已長得很大了，所以你不會做錯，是麼？

這小孩子回答道，「不會做錯，爸爸，我是很小心的。」

他的父親說，「好，這裏是一便士，我要你去買一個郵票，寄這封信。」

小孩子說，「可以，爸爸，」他就匆忙的走了。

過了半點鐘，他回來了，笑嬉嬉的似乎是很高興的樣子。

他的父親說，「好，你已經照我告訴你的話把信寄出了麼？」

“Yes,” replied the boy, “and I saved the penny. When I got to the post-office, I saw a lot of people putting letters into a small hole; and when nobody was looking, I put your letter in without paying anything at all.”

這孩子回答說，「是的，並且我節省了這便士。我走到郵政局的時候，我看見許多人把信放進一個小孔裏去；我在沒有人看見的時候就把你的信放進去，並沒有付去分文。」

## SEEING A TELEGRAM

### 看電報

Many years ago when railways were first built in Russia, a peasant came to a station one day, and said he wanted to send a telegram to his mother.

The telegraph operator wrote the message for him, as the country fellow was unable to write; and then after receiving the money for payment, the operator promised to send off the telegram immediately.

“Thank you, sir,” replied the peasant; and then he went

多年以前在俄國初創鐵路的時候，一個鄉人走到火車站來，說他要拍一電報給他的母親。

這電報生替他把電文寫下因為這鄉下人不會寫字；這電報生收到了電報費以後，答應立刻把這電報拍出。

這鄉人回答說，「謝謝你，先生」；然後他

outside and sat down on the edge of the platform to wait for a reply.

After waiting some time, he returned to the office and cried out angrily:—

“Why didn't you send off that message as you promised to?”

“What do you mean?” replied the telegraph operator. “I sent off your message twenty minutes ago.”

“You are a liar,” replied the peasant, “I've been watching the telegraph wires for half an hour, and I haven't seen anything go yet.”

走到外面去坐在月臺的邊上等候回音。

等了些時候以後，他回到公事房大發雷霆的叫道：—

「你爲甚麼不照你所答應的把那電報拍出呢？」

這電報生回答道，「你是什麼意思？我已經把你的電報在二十分鐘以前拍出了。」

這鄉人回答說，「你是一個說慌的人，我呆看着這電綫已經半點鐘，我並沒看見什麼東西發出去。」

## KEEPING A SECRET

### 守 秘 密

The king of a foreign country had a favourite Prime Minister who died. All the courtiers were anxious to know who would be Prime Minister

外國某王有一位寵倖的首相死了。攏總的朝臣都亟亟的要曉得誰來繼任，但這王雖

in his place; but the king would not tell them, though he said he had made up his mind. One of the most powerful nobles asked to speak with the king in private; and when his request was granted, he said eagerly:—

“Pray Your Majesty, who is to be the new Prime Minister?”

The king looked at him for a moment and then said, “Can you keep a secret?”

“Oh, yes, Your Majesty,” replied the nobleman.

“Very well,” answered the king, “*so can I.*”

說胸有成竹,却不願告訴他們。一位最有權力的貴人請和王秘密談話。他的要求蒙允的時候,他急切的問道:—

「請問陛下誰將繼任首相?」

這王看他一下,然後說道,「你能守秘密麼?」

這貴人回答道,「呵,陛下我能。」

這王答道,「很好,我也能守秘密。」

## A TIMID OLD MAN

### 懦怯老人

An old man of a certain village, who had never left his native place before, was reluctantly compelled to travel by train to the capital

某村一老人從來沒有離開過他的家鄉,一日因有事情不能不坐

on some business. He had always a dread of railway travel, having up to this time refused to use a train under any circumstances.

On this occasion, however, he was prevailed upon to make the journey by train, but while in the railway carriage, he kept exclaiming: "I am sure something will happen!"—and so on.

Well, after he had been grumbling in this way for some time, the train suddenly entered a long, dark tunnel, when the old man shrieked out:—

"I knew it would happen! I am struck blind. I can't see anything at all."

火車到首都去。他平常總是害怕火車旅行，直到如今無論如何總不肯坐火車。

這次他是被人勸服坐火車出去旅行，但他在火車裏不住的叫道：  
「我知道必定要出事。」  
——一路如此的叫喊。

他這樣長吁短嘆了些時候，這火車忽然進一長而暗的山洞，這老人就大驚叫道：——

「我早曉得要出事呀！我眼睛打瞎了。我全然不能看見什麼東西咧。」

## NO TICKETS

### 無 票

One day a bad boy went to the ticket inspector on a train and said:—"Sir, there

一天一個頑童在火車上走到查票員面前說道：「先生，有兩個

are two men travelling on this train without tickets. I know that neither of them has a ticket."

"Aha!" said the inspector, "I'll see about that."

Then he went carefully through the train and examined all of the tickets. He looked carefully at every one, but he found that all the passengers had proper tickets. Then, seeing the boy who gave him the information he said:—

"Where are those two men who are travelling on this train without tickets?"

"They are on the engine," replied the boy. "One is the engineer and the other is the fireman."

旅客在這火車上沒有票。我曉得他們兩個沒一人有票。]

這查票員說道：「噯呀，我要去查明那事。」

於是他仔細到火車的前後查驗了攏總的票。他仔細看了每個人，但他查得攏總的旅客都有票。然後他看見報告這信息的孩子就說道：—

「車上沒有票的兩位旅客在那裏？」

這孩子回答道，「他們是在火車頭上，一個是機器師，還有一個是火夫。」

## NO NOSE

### 無 鼻

A very talkative little girl used to give much trouble to

一個很多話的女孩子常很麻煩的向她的



her mother by making remarks about visitors who came to the house. One day a gentleman was expected whose nose had been cut off in an accident. The mother was afraid that the little girl would speak about this when she saw the gentleman, so she called her daughter and said:—

“Now, Mary, when Mr. Smith comes this afternoon, you must remember not to speak about his nose. If you do so he will be very angry, and I shall be very much ashamed.”

In the afternoon Mr. Smith came to the house, and while he was sitting talking in the drawing-room, the little girl came in. She looked carefully at Mr. Smith's face, and then turning to her mother she cried out:—

母親評論到她家裏來的客人。一天她們知道一位先生要來，這位先生的鼻子是遭意外的事割去了。這母親恐怕這小女孩看見這位先生的時候說到這事，所以她叫她的女兒到她面前並且說道：—

「現在，瑪麗，司密士先生今天下午來的時候，你必須記着不可論到他的鼻子。倘若你論到他的鼻子，他便要生氣，並且我很難為情。」

在這下午司密士先生來到她家裏。當他坐在客廳裏談話的時候，這小女孩走進來。她仔細看了司密士先生的臉，就轉身向她的母親叫道。

“Mamma, you told me not to say anything about Mr. Smith's nose. Why, he hasn't got any nose at all!”

「媽媽，你囑咐我不要說到司密士先生的鼻子。呀，他真正沒有鼻子！」

## A GREAT QUANTITY, A GREAT SUM

## 此之謂大量大數

After his work, John hastened to a restaurant. He asked for a dish of beefsteak, and the waiter brought to him as he ordered.

約翰工作既畢，匆匆進一菜館，呼牛排一盤，侍者應之，迅即攜至。

Since there was a rather small piece, he exclaimed out in wrath, “That won't do, that's not enough for one morsel.”

盤中所有僅一小塊，彼憤呼曰：「是烏可者，此不足一嚼耳。」

However, the waiter smiled and held out a magnifying-glass to show him, added, “Be calm, Sir, you are all right. Yet if you look with this, it must be a great quantity.”

侍者但微笑以一放大鏡授之曰：「先生其毋噪；先生固是，然若以此視之，則為量固非細也。」

John was in silence, giving no reply.

After he had finished his dinner, he gave out one copper. The waiter was in wonder. He asked, "That won't do. That's not enough for one-tenth."

But John, returning the glass to the cunning attendant, said gently: "Be calm. You are all right. Yet if you look with this, it must be a great sum!"

約翰默然無以對。

餐畢，乃以一銅元付之。侍者大駭，急詢曰：  
「是烏可者，此不足什一值耳。」

但約翰從容歸還其放大鏡，靄然而言曰：  
「汝其毋噪，語亦良是，然若以此視之，則爲數固不尠矣！」

## TO DO UNCOMMON THINGS

### 非常之人始有非常之事

"My lad" said the grandpapa to little Tom, "I think you are old enough to market. Go and bring me some wine."

But Tom, having no money, hesitated. The old man asked for the reason which the lad truly told him. Whereupon, the grandpapa stated, "To

祖父謂小湯姆曰：  
「小子，余思汝年已長，足任買賣役，速往市中取酒畀我。」

湯姆因無錢，躊躇不敢行。老人問其故，湯姆以實告。於是祖父謂之曰：「以錢市物，

buy things with money is such common doings that everyone is able to. You are now reaching the age of nine. I wish you to buy without a single penny."

The little boy ran away. After a little while, he returned with an empty bottle. This was unexpected to the old fellow, who anxiously asked what the matter was.

But Tom was in no hurry, he answered calmly, "Grandpa, To drink wine is such common doing that everyone is able to. You are now almost approaching ninety. I wish you to drink without a single drop!"

盡人皆能之常事。汝今行且九齡。余所望於汝者欲不名一文而購得之耳。』

童子逕去。俄而携空瓶歸。殊爲老人意料所不及，因急詢其故。

但湯姆泰然答曰：「祖父，有酒而飲，盡人可能之常事也。汝今年且九十。余所望於汝者乃涓滴全無而能飲之耳！」

## AN OLD TORTOISE

### 老 龜

A man went one day to a shop and bought a live tortoise. He said to the shopkeeper, "I want to keep this

一天一個人到一家店裏買了一隻活龜。他對店主說道，「我要把這烏龜養在我的花

tortoise in my garden; is it quite healthy, and do you think it will live long?"

"Yes," replied the shop-keeper, "it's quite healthy; and you know a tortoise lives for ten thousand years."

The man took the tortoise home; but unfortunately the next day it died. He went back to the shop and said to the shop-keeper, "You told me the tortoise would live for ten thousand years; but it lived for only one day."

"When did it die?" asked the shop-keeper.

"It died to-day," replied the man.

"Then I suppose that to-day it became ten thousand years old," said the shop-keeper.

園裏;牠是很康健麼?你想牠可以活得長久麼?]

這位店主回答道:「牠是很康健;你知道的一隻龜可以活一萬年。」

這個人就拿這龜回家;但不幸牠第二天就死了。他回到店裏對這位店主人說,「你告訴我這烏龜可活一萬年;但牠祇活了一天。」

這位店主問道,「牠是幾時死的?」

這個人回答道,「牠今天死的。」

這位店主說,「那我猜想牠今天已滿一萬歲了。」

## NO MONEY BELOW

### 底下沒有錢

Once a foolish fellow received a present of ten dollars, and he was so delighted

一次一個愚蠢的人收到別人送給他的十塊錢,他歡喜的了不

that he didn't know what to do with himself. There was only one thing that interfered with his joy, and that was the thought that some robber might come along and steal his money. So he thought of all kinds of ways by which he could keep the money from being stolen.

At last he thought the best thing to do would be to bury the money in the ground; so he carefully buried the ten dollars in a field near his house. Even then, however, he was not satisfied, for he thought that possibly someone might think there was money buried there. So at last he made a notice-board, and placed it over the spot where the money was hidden. On the notice-board he wrote these words:—

得,連他自己都不知道  
怎麼辦法。祇有一樁  
事情使他不高興,就是  
想到恐怕有強盜來偷  
他的錢。所以他想盡  
了方法去藏這錢不要  
把人偷去。

末後他想最好的方  
法就是把錢埋在地下;  
於是他小心地把這十  
塊錢埋在靠近他屋的  
一畝田裏。就是這樣  
辦了,他還是不放心,  
因為他想或者有人想  
到有錢埋在那裏。所  
以後來他做了一揭示  
板,放在藏金的地方。  
他在這揭示板上寫了  
這幾個字:—

“There is no money buried under below.”

By next day the money was gone.

「這地底下沒有錢。」

到了第二天這錢已不翼而飛了。

## A BAD SON

### 逆子

Once there was a disobedient son who caused much trouble to his father by his bad conduct. One day his father called the son to him, and addressed him as follows:—

“My son, you never listen to what I say to you; and you don't seem to value my advice at all,—or me either for the matter of that. Don't you know that if I were gone, you couldn't get another father, not for all the gold in the world? You should remember that money can't buy a father.”

“That's quite true,” replied the son, “I know that there is no way of buying a father;

一次有一個忤逆的兒子，行爲不端，使他的父親大爲懊惱。一天他的父親叫這兒子到他面前，對他這樣說：—

「我的兒呀，你從來不聽我對你講的話；你似乎對於我的忠告很看不起，且爲這事情又看不起我。倘若我死了你不能再得着一個父親，就拿全世界的黃金都買不到的，你知道麼？你應當記牢金錢買不着一個父親。」

這兒子回答道，「那是的確的，我曉得沒有法子去買一個父親；但

but unfortunately it is equally true that there is no way of selling a father.

是不幸沒有法子去賣一個父親也是同樣的確呢。]

## QUICK WIT

### 急 智

One day a certain man who lived several hundred years ago, pointing to the picture of a tiger painted on the screen in his room said, to one of his retainers:—

“You see that tiger? Catch him and bring him to me.”

Hearing this the retainer answered: “All right, sir, I will. Please wait a little while till I make the necessary preparations.

After a little while he came back in hunting dress with a large rope in his hand, and said to his master:—

“Sir, now I will catch the tiger when he runs out from the screen. Please drive him out so that I can catch him.”

幾百年前某日有一個人,指着他房間裏屏風上所畫的一隻老虎,對他的一個僕人道:—

「你看見那隻老虎麼?把牠捉住帶到我面前來。」

這僕人聽見這話,回答說,「可以,先生,我當照辦,請等一下,讓我預備一切。」

過了片刻,他穿着打獵的衣服,手裏拿着一根粗繩走回來,對他的東家說道:—

「先生,這老虎從屏風裏走出來的時候,我就可以捉住牠。請你把牠趕出來。」



## KEEPING OUT OF DANGER

## 避 危 險

A naval officer told a landsman that his father, grandfather, and great-grandfather had all died at sea. "Then," said the landsman, "if I were you, I would never go to sea, lest you should share their fate."

"Well," said the officer, "where did your father, grandfather, and great-grandfather die?"

"Why, in their beds, of course," replied the landsman.

"If I were you, then," said the officer, "I would never go to bed, lest you should share their fate."

一個海軍軍官告訴一個住在陸地的人說，他的父親，祖父和曾祖父都死在海裏。這位住在陸地的人說，「然而假使我是你，我永遠不到海裏去，否則你會遭他們一樣劫數。」

這軍官說，「那末，你的父親，祖父，和曾祖父是死在那裏呢？」

這位住在陸地的人回答說，「噢，自然是死在牀上！」

然而倘若我是你，我永遠不到牀上去，否則你會遭他們一樣的劫數。」

## A SIMPLE FELLOW

## 一 個 愚 人

Once upon a time, a rather foolish fellow was riding on horse back; and on his shoulder he was carrying a heavy

有一次，一個很愚蠢的人騎在馬背上，肩上荷着一個很重的包。

package. Seeing this, a gentleman said to him: "Why do you take the trouble to carry that package on your shoulder? Why don't you put it down, and let the horse bear the weight?"

"How unkind you are!" replied the simple fellow. "The horse is already carrying me, and surely that is enough. I am not so cruel as to put this additional weight on the poor animal."

一位先生看見了這人，就對他說，「你爲什麼緣故耐勞把那荷包放在你肩上呢？你怎麼不把牠放下，讓這匹馬負這重量呢？」

這愚人回答說，「你怎麼這樣殘忍呀！這馬已經荷了我，必定是很吃力。我不忍心再把這重量放在這可憐的畜牲的身上。」

## TIT FOR TAT

### 同樣的報復

A college student once asked a friend to lend him a book for a short time.

The friend said, "All right, I'll lend you the book; but you must read it here. I can't allow you to take it out of my room."

一個大學的學生向朋友借一本書暫爲一用。

這朋友說，「可以，我把這本書借給你，但你必須在此地看，我不准你把這本書拿出我的房間去。」

The student was very much disappointed, and went away without the book.

Well, a few weeks later, this selfish fellow went to the student's room to borrow a bucket, as he wanted to get some water from the well.

"Would you mind lending me your bucket?" he enquired.

"All right," said the student, "I'll lend you the bucket, but you must use it here. I can't allow you to take it out of my room."

這學生很是失望，就沒拿書走開了。

過了幾個禮拜，這小氣的人走到這學生的房間裏去借一隻水桶，因為他要從井裏去汲水。

他問，「你肯把你的水桶借給我麼？」

這學生說，「可以，我把水桶借給你，但是你必須在此地用，我不能准你把牠拿出我的房間去。」

## A THREE LEGGED OSTRICH

### 一隻三腳的駝鳥

Young Albert came running home with a book under his arm.

"Why, what's that, Albert?" his mother asked.

"It's a prize, mother."

"A Prize? What for?"

年輕的亞爾巴，臂彎裏挾着一本書，很快的跑回家裏去。

他的母親問道：「什麼，這是什麼，亞爾巴？」

「媽媽這是一件獎品！」

「一件獎品嗎？怎樣得來的？」

“For natural history, mother. Teacher asked me how many legs an ostrich had, and I said three.”

“But an ostrich has two legs.”

“I know that now, mother, but the rest of the class said four, so I was nearest!”

「媽媽！上自然研究課的時候得來的。先生問我，一隻駝鳥有幾隻腳，我說有三隻。」

「可是一隻駝鳥，祇有兩隻腳呀！」

「我現在知道了，媽媽！不過這一級裏的人都說有四隻腳，所以我是最近些呀！」

## AN URGENT LETTER

### 一封快信

The mistress gave her maid-servant two letters to post in the pillar-box.

“Did you put those letters in the pillar-box?” asked her mistress a little time afterward.

“Oh, sure, ma'am, so I did,” said the servant: “and seeing as you've often told me that I've not been careful, I took pains to put in the box first of the two letters that you marked 'immediate!'”

主婦遞給她的女僕兩封信，叫她去投在郵箱裏。

不多時後，主婦問她的女僕道：「你把這兩封信已投入了郵箱吧？」

女僕道：「是呀！太太！我已經照辦了！並且我知道你常常說我是不細心，這次我很留意把這兩封信中的一封先投進郵箱，這是你寫着‘快信’兩個字的，好叫牠先遞出去呀！」

## TO SAVE ROOM FOR STAMP

## 節省郵票的地位

Merchant—Did you post my letter as I told you, John?

John—Yes, sir, but I had it weighed first, and as it was double weight I put another stamp on it.

Merchant—That's right. Only I hope you didn't put the extra stamp on so that it would obliterate the address.

John—Indeed, I didn't, sir. I just put it on top of the other stamp so as to save room.

商人：「約翰，我叫我寄的信，已寄出去了  
吧？」

約翰：「是的，先生，不過我先把這封信稱了一下，知道是超過信的規定重量一倍，所以我又貼了一個郵票。」

商人：「不錯，我希望你把另外加上的那郵票貼上去，沒有把通訊處蔽沒。」

約翰：「當然，不會這樣幹的，先生。我恰巧把牠貼在那一個郵票上面，那末節省些地位呀！」

## TELL HER NOT TO WAIT

## 叫她不要等了

The gentleman (in London for the first time): "Hi! policeman, I've just missed my wife. If she should come along, will you ask her to wait here for me?"

紳士：(初次到倫敦)

「嘿！警察，我和妻子各失了路，要是她經過這裏，你可叫她等在這裏好嗎？」

Policeman: "But how am I to know her?"

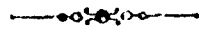
The gentleman: "Oh, to be sure; I hadn't thought of that. Well, tell her not to wait."

警察：「可是叫我怎樣認識她呢？」

紳士：「呀！一點不錯！我真沒有想到這事。那末你叫她不要等了！」

THE END

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編譯者 中華英文週報社

校閱者 馬潤卿

發行者 中華書局有限公司  
代表人 陸費達

印刷者 上海靜安寺路  
中華書局印刷所

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