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Mainly About People.

Of Gladstone, Henry Labouchere once remarked: "I do not object to Mr. Gladstone's occasionally having an ace up his sleeve. But I do wish he would not always say that Providence put it there."

Congressman Charles N. Fowler of New Jersey recently visited one of his constituents in Union County, and found him trying to give some medicine to his little son, who had eaten too many green apples, while a Christian Science neighbor was assuring the boy that there was nothing at all the matter with him. "I think I ought to know," groaned the boy; "I guess I've got inside information."

In refusing to grant a private interview to a certain politician, who is always trying to give him advice and information on important matters of legislation, President Roosevelt is said to have remarked: "It is always most distressing to me to be obliged to talk to that man. I find myself constantly expecting him to revert to his arborescent ancestors, grow a tail, and swing gracefully from the chandelier without interrupting the conversation."

It is related that on one occasion Judge Roy Bean of Texas, who is better known as "the law west of the Pecos River," held a coroner's inquest on a Mexican who had been found dead near the Pecos River. The jury brought in a verdict of accidental death. The crowd was dispersing when the judge called them back. "There is another matter to attend to," he said; "on this man's body was found fifty dollars and a six-shooter. It is contrary to the laws of Texas and to the peace and dignity of the State to carry concealed weapons. Therefore, I confiscate the revolver and fine the deceased one dollar. The costs of the case are just forty-nine dollars, which just settles his estate."

A good story is told of the quick-witted Irish lawyer, Baron O'Grady, who on one occasion was trying a case in a country court, outside of the walls of which a fair was in progress. Amid the miscellaneous herds of animals were a considerable number of asses, and one of these commenced to bray loudly. At once the chief baron stopped the advocate, who at that moment happened to be pleading. "Wait a moment, Mr. Bushe, I cannot hear two at once." The court roared, and the advocate flushed. Presently, when the judge came to sum up, another ass struck in and the bray resounded through the court. Up jumped Mr. Bushe at once, with his hand to his ear. "Would your Lordship speak a little more loudly? There is such an echo in the court that I cannot hear distinctly."

During a visit to the South with an eclipse expedition, some years ago, an eminent American professor met an old negro servant, whose duty it was to look after the chickens of the establishment where he was staying. The day before the eclipse took place the professor, in an idle moment, called the old man to him and said: "Sam, if to-morrow morning, at eleven o'clock, you watch your chickens, you will find they will all go to roost." Sam was skeptical, of course, but when at the appointed time next day the sun in the heavens was darkened, and the chickens retired to roost, the negro's astonishment knew no bounds. He approached the professor in awed wonder. "Massa," he asked, "how long ago did you know dat dem chickens would go to roost?" "Oh, a long time," said the professor, airily. "Did you know a year ago, massa?" "Yes." "Then dat beats de debil!" exclaimed the astonished old man; "dem chickens weren't hatched a year ago!"

Booker T. Washington recently told a gathering of negroes that one of the great faults of his race was a disposition to exhibit knowledge under any and all circumstances, and asserted that, until the negro learned not to display his vanity, he was useless in any confidential capacity. By way of illustration, he told a story which, he said, might be or might not be apocryphal, but which was good enough to be true. General Sherman had been told that the soldiers of a negro regiment in his command were very lax when on sentry duty, and showed a fondness for passing doubtful persons through the lines just to indulge their power to do so. To ascertain if this were so, he muffled himself one night in a cloak, and tried to get past a black sentry. After the "Who goes there?" the "A friend," and the "Advance, friend, and give the countersign," had been exchanged, Sherman replied: "Roxbury!" "No, sah!" was the polite but firm response. "Medford!" "No, sah!" "Charleston!" Sherman next tried. "No, sah! No, sah!" said the negro, determinedly. Then he added: "Now, seen heah—yo' can go fru' th' whole blamed joggafry; but Massa Sherman he done say that nobody can get pas' me wifout sayin' 'Cambridge!'"

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