

O'CONNELL'S COOLNESS.

A Story of the Irish Liberator and a Falling Floor.

Daniel O'Connell was once addressing an enormous meeting in Kings-town, and the crowd was so large that fear was felt for the safety of the building. As he was about to speak a gentleman ascended the platform and said, trembling with fear: "Liberator, the floor is giving way! The beams are cracking, and we shall all fall through in a few minutes." It is not given to many men to live through such moments as O'Connell lived through as he rose to address the meeting nor to preserve such magnificent courage in the face of great peril. Warning the man to keep quiet, the liberator said, "I find this room too small to contain the number who desire to come in, so we must therefore leave it and hold the meeting outside." A few rose to leave, but the hall was still packed, and then O'Connell said: "Then I will tell you the truth. You are Irishmen and therefore brave men. The floor is giving way, and we must leave this room at once. If there is a panic and a rush to the door, we shall all be precipitated into the room below, but if you obey my orders we shall be safe. Let the dozen men nearest the door go quietly out, then the next dozen, and so on until all have gone. I shall be the last to leave." The Irishmen followed the advice, the hall was quickly cleared, and as O'Connell walked across the floor the broken beams gave way.—Oxford Chronicle.

Some British Lawmaking.

It may surprise some folks to learn that plenty of British laws have been drawn up so carelessly and written in such muddled language that they are quite useless for their intended purpose.

One of the acts passed in George III's reign, for instance, states that the proceeds of penalties were to be given half to the informer and half to the poor of the parish. The absurdity lies in the fact that the only penalty which could be inflicted was one of transportation for fourteen years.

In 1865 a well known Q. C. created a lot of amusement by proposing an amendment worded as follows: "Every dog found trespassing on inclosed land unaccompanied by the registered owner of such dog or other person, who shall on being asked for his true name and address may be then and there destroyed by such occupier or by his orders." This gem of meaninglessness was, however, not passed.—London Tit-Bits.

Never shut the fowls up in such close quarters that they cannot take enough exercise to promote digestion. Hens treated in this way will soon become too fat to lay.

For Financial Purposes.

Before the collection was taken up at a negro place of worship the minister announced that he regretted to state a certain brother had retired to rest the night before without locking the door of his fowl house to find in the morning that all his chickens had vanished.

"I don't want to be personal," he continued, "but I have my suspicions as to who stole dem chickens. If I'm right in dose suspicions dat man won't put any money in de box which will now be passed round."

There was a grand collection, not a single member of the congregation feigning sleep.

"Now, brederen," announced the minister, "I don't want all yoah dinners spoilt by wondering where dat brother lives who don't lock his chickens up at night. Dat brother don't exist, mah friends. He was a parable for purposes ob finance."

Cause of Yawning.

Yawning is commonly caused by a temporary deficiency of the air supply in the lungs. When the body is weary with hard and continuous work or mental study, lassitude from the effects of close, heavy air or intense heat, or perhaps from the peculiar state of the health, the respiratory process is sometimes involuntarily stayed for a few moments. To compensate for this stoppage of breathing nature steps in to the rescue and sets up a spasmodic action in the muscles of the mouth, throat and chest, which produces a deep inspiration which takes the form of a yawn.

An Old Church Knecker.

The grotesque knocker on the sanctuary door of Durham cathedral, which bears a rather distinct resemblance to a lion, is said to be of the twelfth century. The hollows for the eyes may have been formerly filled with crystal or enamel, or, as it had been suggested, the open eyes may have been contrived to emit light from within the church, so as to guide the hapless being seeking sanctuary by night to the welcome haven of safety.—Chambers' Journal.

"Told Him Goodby."

"I know that article was written by a southerner," said the astute city editor, and when some one asked why he explained: "A southerner would have put it, 'I said farewell,' or 'I said goodby,' but never 'I told him goodby.' Your southerner always has it 'I told him goodby.'"—New York Press.

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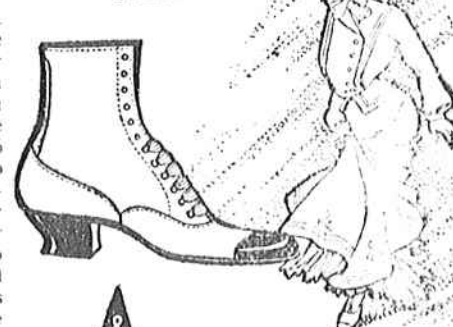
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