

Humorous Department.

SUCH IS LIFE

Some Stories They Tell on the Preacher and the Deacon.

Strange how the laity likes to tell jokes on the clergy. And they range all the way from yellow-legged chicken to women. This one involves women, and an old Irish priest. And no Irishman is too sanctimonious to laugh at it:

The Irish priest was seated each morning at breakfast with two flippant collegians.

One morning when the three sat down, one of the collegians opened the morning paper, glanced at it, and with a look of mingled amazement and horror handed it to his college mate.

"What is it, boys?" asked the old priest.

"Well, it seems incredible, but the paper reports the Holy Father is going to remove the discipline which prevents priests marrying."

They waited for the explosion. But the old priest only said slowly: "Musha, the mischief bother him. Why didn't he do it 50 years ago!"

And then if it isn't the clergy the deacon is likely to be made the party to some unchurchly action. Usually, when it's the deacon liquor is involved. Witness this story which was sprung for the delight of the prince of Wales up in Canada:

A stranger had hit the dominion after most of it had gone dry, and he sought a native for the location of a speakeasy.

"Nothing doing," said the native, unless you've been bitten by a snake.

"Small chance for me," said the stranger, "I never had a snake bite."

"Oh, but Deacon Lyander, up on the hill has a nice tame snake and its bite is perfectly harmless," cheered the native.

Forthwith the stranger, found his way to Deacon Lyander and asked of the snake and the price of a snake-bite.

"Yes, I have a snake and he will bite you for a dollar," quoted the deacon. "But he is booked up six weeks ahead."

The real live, red-blooded sky pilot appreciates a joke as much as anyone, as many a soldier of the great war learned from association with the priests and preachers who went to the front.

One of this type delights to tell this one on himself:

He was crossing an icy field with the officer of the day in one of the winter campaigns when the officer slipped and fell.

"The wicked stand upon slippery places," quoted the chaplain.

"I see they do, but I can't," flashed back the officer.

This one on a man of the cloth who is noted as a lecturer with a list of sensational subjects originated without malice:

He appeared in a small town chalet and was duly introduced by the chairman as follows:

"The Rev. Mr. Blank will now address us on 'The Devil,' and I am sure that the speaker is full of his subject."

And here's another one on the clergy's right hand—for surely the man who passes the collection box is first aid to the pastor:

An English clergyman was astonished one day, while officiating for a friend in a remote moorland church, to see the old verger abstract a half-crown from the collection plate before presenting it at the altar rails.

After the service he told the old man that his crime had been discovered. The verger looked puzzled. Then a sudden light dawned on him:

"Why, sir you don't mean that old half-crown of mine? Why, I've led off with it this last fifteen years."

Such is life.

American participation in the northern Russia hostilities in and around Archangel resulted in a total of 553 casualties according to a complete record which the war department gave out last Thursday. The force sent to Archangel consisting of the Three Hundred and Thirty-ninth Infantry and the Three Hundred and Tenth Engineers arrived there in August, 1918 and was withdrawn in June, 1919. Of the total casualties given 109 were due to deaths in battle 35 to deaths from wounds, 81 from disease and 19 from accident and other causes. There were 305 wounded and four prisoners, all of whom were released.

Strike Wanted.—"My daughter practices five hours a day," said Mr. Cumrox.

"Surely she will become a great artist."

"I hope so. Anyway, I hope she'll soon get far enough along to join a musical union and strike for shorter hours."—Washington Star.

Tobacco smoke is one of the pet abominations of the former German kaiserin, so that the exiled Wilhelm, the once most highest, has to go into the garden of Castle Bentinck when he wishes to enjoy his cigar or cigarette.

Mrs. M. A. Hayes of Texas, has been appointed to take charge of the offices of the Southern Rice Growers' association in London, England.

It Was.—"Are you a lawyer?" asked the wrathful visitor.

"I am, sir. What can I do for you?"

"I'm in the grocery business. A woman called me a profiteer. Is that word actionable?"

"It certainly is—if she can prove it."—Birmingham Age Herald.

Heaven knows!

"Ah! that must be why he always looks so worried!"—The Passing Show.

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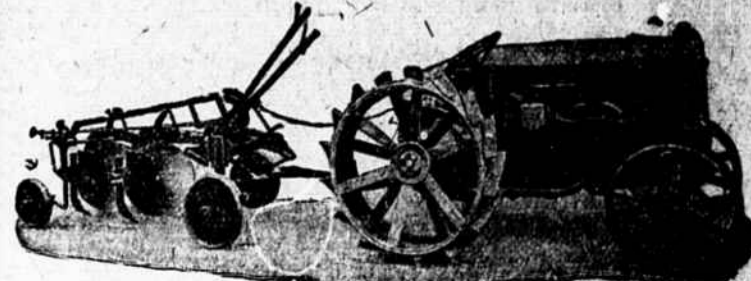
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