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SHORT STORIES.**— A WAY OUT. —**

It was a travelling stock company, and nobody had received any salary for several weeks. In a state bordering on desperation the junior "lead" burst into the manager's sanctum.

"Unless you give me a shilling for a shave it will be absolutely impossible for me to appear to-night as Romeo," cried the actor, "My beard is a nine days' growth."

"Well, there's no need to worry about that," replied the manager calmly, "we'll play 'Bluebeard' this evening."

— CURATES' GOSSIP. —

A bashful curate found the young ladies in the parish too helpful. At last it became so embarrassing that he left.

Not long afterwards he met the curate who had succeeded him.

"Well," he asked, "how do you get on with the ladies?"

"Oh, very well indeed," said the other. "There is safety in numbers, you know."

"Ah!" was the instant reply, "I only found it in Exodus."

— HIS MIND WANDERED. —

An old farmer was dying and was giving a few parting injunctions to his wife. "Don't forget, Maria," he murmured, "that Tom Smith owes me ten pounds."

"Poor dear," she remarked to the neighbours who had assembled to share her grief, "sensible to the last."

"And don't forget Maria," went on the dying man, "that I owe old Jones twenty pounds."

"Oh, poor thing," cried the widow-to-be "he's wandering again."

— THE FORBIDDEN WORD. —

A millionaire jam manufacturer, having retired from business and married an earl's daughter, was ashamed of the trade where-by he had piled up his fortune.

One day he wrote to an neighbour an impudent letter complaining of the way in which the other's servants were trespassing on his grounds.

The neighbour wrote back:—

"Dear Sir,—I am very sorry to hear that my servants have been poaching on your preserves. P.S.—Excuse my mentioning your preserves."

— CROWNED IT. —

A country schoolmaster had two pupils, one of whom was a favourite. One morning it happened that these two boys were late, and were called to account for it.

"You must have heard the bell, boys. Why did you not come?"

"Please sir," said the favourite, "I was dreaming I was going to California, and I thought the school bell was the steamboat bell as I was going in."

"Very well," said the master.

"And now, sir," turning to the other, "what have you to say for yourself?"

"Please, sir, I—I was just waiting to see Tom off."

— RATHER LOUD. —

A certain Welshman possessed a very fine bass voice, in which he took an honest pride. Meeting a friend one day he confided that he had had a remarkable dream.

"Dreamt I was in 'Eaven," he said. "Oh, but it was fine! There was such a choir as you've never seen. Five thousand supernanoes, five thousand altoes, five thousand tenors—all singin' at once double forte. Oh, magnificent! But all of a sudden the conductor stop the lot—like that he did; and he said to me me 'Not quite so loud in the bass John Jones.'"

**"Man wants but little here below —"**

BUT THAT LITTLE HE WANTS GOOD
—AND "H.B."

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MAY OR MAY NOT BE, HE IS CON-
SISTENT IN HIS DESIRE FOR POSSES-
SION OF CLOTHING THAT IS GOOD
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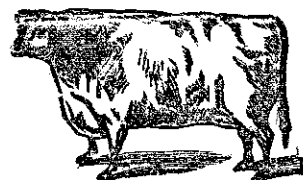
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