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SHORT STORIES.

CHEAP.

It is the invariable custom in a certain part of the country for each guest at a golden wedding to give the old people something made of gold.

The custom was explained to a Hebrew gentleman there, who proposed to attend the golden wedding of a couple he had known for many years.

"Ah, yes," said the Jew, "very good, very good. I think I gif a goldfish."

EASILY IDENTIFIED.

The old gentleman from Slocombe-on-the-Mud was glad to meet an acquaintance in the Strand.

"Old Josiah Loganberry came up to town with me this morning, but we've missed each other somehow," he said, after a few minutes' chat. "If you happen to see him just tell him I've gone to the city, and will meet him at the station at five o'clock."

"But I do not know him," replied the other man. "How shall I identify him?"

"If you see a red-headed old chap at Trafalgar Square, or Piccadilly Circus, or one of the other busy places, running out into the street to get across and then running back again, and starting and stopping, and jumping sideways and hopping round like a frog on a hot brick, that's Josiah!"

VANITY VANQUISHED.

A soldier, recently demobilised, was rather vain, and had several photographs taken of himself in different poses while he was in uniform. He showed these photographs to a friend.

"Which of these do you consider best, Jack?"

"Well," said his friend, who was rather disgusted at his vanity, "personally, I think the best one of you is the one in which you are wearing the gas mask."

THE ALARM.

"Ah," said the head clerk, "I'm glad to notice that you're arriving punctually now, Mr Slocombe."

"Yes, sir. I've bought a parrot." "A parrot? What on earth for? I told you to get an alarm clock."

"Yes, I did; but after a day or two I got used to it, and it didn't wake me. So I got the parrot, and now, when I go to bed, I fix the alarm clock, and put the parrot cage on top of it. When the alarm goes off it startles the parrot, and what that bird says would wake up anybody."

JAM ALSO SOARS.

The family were discussing the high prices of provisions generally, when a small boy butted into the conversation.

"Jam has gone up, too," he remarked. "Ma keeps it on the top shelf now."

And then it suddenly dawned on his youthful perceptions that he had injured his case by talking too much.

CAUGHT.

A young bridegroom after the wedding was all over and the bride's old father had gone off to the club, began to search anxiously among the wedding gifts.

"What are you looking for, dear?" said the bride.

"That three-hundred-pound cheque of your father's," he said anxiously. "I don't see it anywhere."

"Poor pope is so absent-minded," said the bride. "He lit his cigar with it."

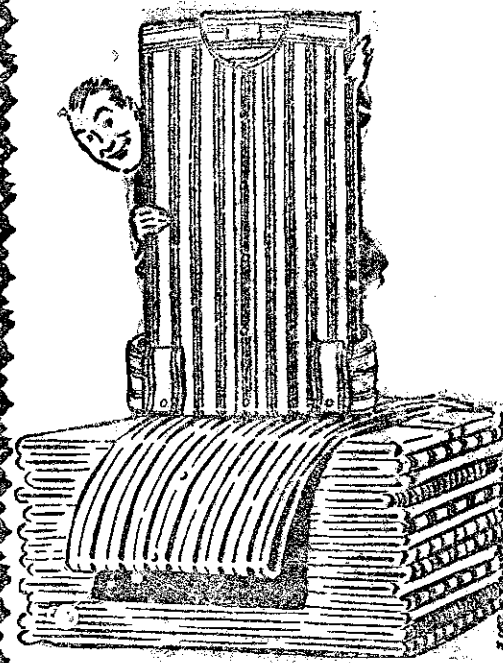
WAITING.

Chatty Waiter (glancing out of window)—The rain'll be 'ere in a minute or two now, sir.

Customer—Well, I didn't order it; I'm waiting for a chop.—Boston Transcript.



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