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SHORT STORIES.**THE BIRD.**

"So, y'see," explained the bookie, "if the 'orse starts at twenty to one, you get twenty quid and your own back. Now d'y' understand?"

"Oh, yes," piped Clarence, "I quite see that; but supposing the horse starts at a quarter to one, what do I get—ten?"

BROKE.

She: "It's funny you should be so tall. Your artist brother is short, isn't he?"
He (absently): "Yes, generally."

THE HIGHEST FORM.

Jill: "He's an awfully clever man."
Jack: "Not a bit of it! He only makes people think so."
Jill: "Well don't you call that clever?"

AMBIGUOUS.

On a humble tombstone in Austin, Texas, is the following inscription:—
Here lies the remains of my beloved husband, who was kicked to death by a mule.

Well done, good and faithful servant.

TOO GREAT A RISK.

Little Willie stood peering down at his new baby sister, whom the nurse was singing to sleep.

"Nurse," he whispered finally, she's nearly unconscious, isn't she?"

The nurse nodded in the affirmative and sang on.

"Then, don't sing any more, or you'll kill her."

VERY TART.

The editor of the woman's page was on his vacation, and the sporting editor had stepped into the breach.

"Well, what do you think of this?" he snorted, and held up a perfumed note. Here's a silly woman wants to know how to make a lemon tart. As though a lemon wasn't tart enough already!"

THE BEST WAY.

"How will you have your eggs cooked?" asked the waiter.

"Make any difference in the cost of 'em?" inquired the cautious customer with a brimless hat and ragged beard.

"No."

"Then cook them on the top of a slice of ham," said the customer greatly relieved.

TOO MUCH FOR HIM.

The following amazing incident occurred at a hairdressers in a small town in Lancashire.

Customer: Well, Shears, what did you think of the bishop's sermon on Sunday? I saw you in church."

Barber: Yes, sir, I was there; but, to tell the truth, there was a man sat in front of me whose hair wanted cutting so badly that I couldn't hear a word."

ONE GOOD TURN.

"I declare," complained Mrs Poddles, "I shall certainly have to punish the children."

"What have they been up to now?" inquired her husband.

"They have upset my sewing room. Nothing is where it should be. Needles, reels of thread, scissors, darning wools, everything has been poked away into the most unexpected corners. It is perfectly exasperating."

Mr Poddles surveyed his wife with a benignant air. "That wasn't the children, dear," he said. "I did that."

"Whatever for?"

"Oh, merely in return for your help. After you straightened up the papers and books on my desk so beautifully, I thought it was no more than right that I should return the compliment by putting your sewing room in order. So I did."

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