

BOIL IT DOWN. Whatever you have to say, my friend, Whatever witty, or grave, or gay, Condense as much as ever you can, And say it in the readiest way...

For if you go spluttering over a page When a couple of lines would do, Your butter is spread so much, you see, That the bread-brook plainly flows...

When writing an article for the press, Whether prose or verse, just try To settle your thoughts in the fewest words...

And let them be crisp and dry; And when it is finished and you suppose It is done exactly so, Just look it over again and then Boil it down.

For editors do not like to print An article lazily done, And the general reader does not care For a couple of yards of song...

THE WISH OF A YOUNG LADY. Wanted—a hand to hold my own, As down life's vale I glide; Wanted—an arm to lean upon, For ever by my side.

Wanted—a firm and steady foot, With step secure and free; To take its straight and onward pace Over life's path with me.

Wanted—a form erect and high; A head above my own; So much, that I might walk beneath Its shadow, over me thrown.

Wanted—an eye, within whose depth Mine own might look, and see, Uprising from a guileless heart, O'erdown with love to me.

Wanted—a lip, whose kindest smile Would speak for me alone; A voice whose richest melody Would breathe affection's tone.

Wanted—a true, religious soul, To please purpose given; With whom mine own might pass along The road that leads to Heaven.

A Bad Boy. Teacher—“You must never say Devil, it is a bad word.” Inquisitive boy—“When is it bad?” Teacher—“You try to find out.” Smart boy—I know why. Leave out the D, and it is evil; leave out the e, and you have r, or rile; leave out the r, and there is it or ill; then leave out the i and you will have l, hell; so it is bad anyway.

Men of decision—Judge. A feathered fraud—the gull. Foot rule—Avoid tight shoes. An enormous swell—a balloon. A quiet spirit—a whiskey still. A favorite exclamation—A lass! Every honeycomb has a man in it. Cold comfort—Ice in hot weather. Children's wear! Who'd think it!

An auctioneer's motto—Buy and buy. The over curious are not over wise. Best stable butter—Billy the goat. A seamstress's exclamation—“A hem!” The end of the world—to me! money. Imposing figures—Booked accounts. Cross-eyed men are naturally sighted. The tobacco chewer's music—Spittane. Something for ladies' ears, only—Ear-rings.

What makes a pair of boots? Two boots. England wants to collar Russia, but can't find the collar. Choose those companions who administer to your improvement. It is said that him dusted over potatoes will prevent their decay. Truth, though it always lies between two extremes, does not always lie in the middle. A gargle of sulphur and water has been used with success in some cases of diphtheria. Patient rubbing with sweet oil will remove finger marks from polished furniture. To train up a boy in the way he should go, it is necessary to switch him off occasionally. Who is the best man? The furniture dealer. He keeps chairs and lounges about all the time. The girl who said she would not marry the best man living, compromised by marrying one of the worst. In Arkansas neckties are cheap. The crowd puts one around your neck, slings it over a tree, and it doesn't cost you anything. An anecdote of Mr. Gerrit Smith relates that on one occasion, when a visitor had overstayed his welcome and had become a pretentious nuisance, Mr. Smith in the morning prayed for a blessing to descend upon “our visiting brother, who will this day depart from us,” and he departed.

What is the difference between a delinquent printer and a mad landlady? One tramps the track and the other tracks the tramp. A Texas editor accepted a position on a Baltimore paper, and the first week he was arrested three times for libel, had striking arguments with four offended individuals, who came in to horsewhip him, and was stabbed between the shoulder-blades one night as he was leaving the office. At the expiration of ten days he resigned his position. He said editing a newspaper in Baltimore was too tame work—not enough variety and excitement in it for him; and he had concluded to return to Texas, where an editor's duties were more varied and required a knowledge of pistol practice.

A countryman paying his first visit to Glasgow, met with particular attention from a friend who accompanied him during the day to the various curiosities of the city. In the evening he took him to the theatre. Andrew had never seen a play, and had no idea of the sort of entertainment to be got there. They had not been long seated before the curtain rose, and the first scene commenced with the appearance of a domestic squabble. From “words they came to blows,” and confusion reigned on the stage. While the battle raged, Andrew very coolly turned to his friend, and whispered, “Well as weel gang hame, for I see naething will be done here the night, as they have ceased to act among themselves.”

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