

Advantages of Wit.

"I have talked of the danger of wit: I do not mean by that to enter into commonplace declamation against faculties because they are dangerous; wit is dangerous, eloquence is dangerous, a talent for observation is dangerous, every thing is dangerous that has efficacy and vigor for its characteristics; nothing is safe but mediocrity. The business is, in conducting the understanding well, to risk something; to aim at uniting things that are commonly incompatible. The meaning of an extraordinary man is, that he is eight men, not one man; that he has as much wit as if he had no sense, and as much sense as if he had no wit; that his conduct is as judicious as if he were the dullest of human beings, and his imagination as brilliant as if he were irretrievably ruined. But when wit is combined with sense and information; when it is softened by benevolence, and restrained by strong principle: when it is in the hands of a man who can use it and despise it, who can be witty and something much better than witty, who loves honor, justice, decency, good nature, morality, and religion ten thou-

PUNGENCIES.

"Johnnie, how would you divide 13 apples equally among 14 boys?" "Make 'em into apple sauce, sir?"—*Life*.

"Marie, after we are married, what course shall you pursue to retain my love?" "Oh, Harry, I shall spend an awful lot of money on fine clothes and look just as pretty as I can."—*Chicago Record*.

The curator of a country museum, after displaying various articles of historic interest, took up a bottle and said: "This object is, as you may see, exceedingly interesting. The flask is filled with water, and is tightly corked. The water has remained there for five years. If the cork is not removed, it may stay there for five hundred years. Think how old it will be then!"—*Exchange*.

The four-year-old daughter of a popular New Hampshire clergyman was ailing one night, and was put to bed early. She said, "Mamma, I want to see my papa." Her mother replied, "No, dear: your papa must not be disturbed." Pretty soon she said again, "I want to



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sand times better than wit; wit is then a beautiful and delightful part of our nature.

"There is no more interesting spectacle than to see the effects of wit upon the different characters of men; than to observe it expanding caution, relaxing dignity, unfreezing coldness, teaching age, and care, and pain to smile, exorting reluctant gleams of pleasure from melancholy, and charming even the pangs of grief. It is pleasant to observe how it penetrates through the coldness and awkwardness of society, gradually bringing men nearer together, and like the combined force of wine and oil, giving every man a glad heart and a shining countenance. Genuine and innocent wit like this is surely the flavor of the mind! Man could direct his ways by plain reason, and support his life by tasteless food; but God has given us wit, and flavor, and brightness, and laughter, and perfumes, to enliven the days of man's pilgrimage, and to 'charm his pained steps over the burning marle.'"—*Sydney Smith*.

Easy Enough.—Johnson—"Jackson, how would you get into society?" Jackson—"Oh, if I felt like it, and had the clothes, and was invited, I'd go."

see my papa." The mother replied as before, "No: your papa must not be disturbed." It was not long before she uttered this clincher, "Mamma, I am a sick woman; and I want to see my minister!"—*Exchange*.

An old Scotch fisherman was visited during his last illness by a clergyman, who wore a close-fitting clerical waistcoat, which buttoned behind. The clergyman asked the old man if his mind was perfectly at ease. "Oo, ay, I'm a' richt; but there's just ae thing that troubles me, and I dinna like to speak o't." "I am anxious to comfort you," replied the clergyman. "Tell me what perplexes you." "Weel, sir, it's just like this," said the old man, eagerly. "I canna for the life o' me mak' oot hoo ye manage tae get intae that westkit."—*Exchange*.

Nothing New.

He emerged from the ruins of the wrecked train casually, dusted his clothing, and yawned.

"You appear to take the thing coolly," remarked a doctor.

"Oh, yes," he replied. "You see, I operate my automobile in a rocky country."—*Philadelphia North American*.

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