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CONDENSED STORIES.

How Charles Hoyt Dismissed an Unsatisfactory Actor.

Julian Mitchell was for years stage manager for Charles Hoyt and, with Tim Murphy, Otis Harlan and Harry Conor, shares the honor of frequently reviving the Hoyt stories, says the New York Times. Mr. Mitchell's newest contribution concerns the actor to whom Hoyt on one occasion observed: "By the way, there is a part open in 'The Brass Monkey.' Do you



"HOW DID YOU LIKE ME?"

think you could play it?" And Hoyt named the character.

"Certainly, Mr. Hoyt," said the actor. "That part is just in my line."

"Well," said Mr. Hoyt, "I'll give you a chance at it. The company is up in New York state. You join it, and I will come up to Elmira and see how well you play it."

The day came, and Hoyt was on hand to see the performance. The actor was very bad, and after the play was over Hoyt went back on the stage to see him.

"Well, Mr. Hoyt, how did you like me?"

"Rotten," was the characteristic answer.

"To tell you the truth, Mr. Hoyt, the part is not just in my line."

HABITUAL CRIMINALS.

All Are Superstitious and Believe in Signs and Omens.

Habitual criminals are very superstitious. No pickpocket would dream of "working" unless he had in his pocket or somewhere about his person either a small piece of coal, chalk or "lucky stone" as a talisman against misfortune, according to an English writer. Even if the amulet fails them and they are captured with it in their possession they account for the fact by remembering that they have disregarded some other warning that was given them earlier in the day. For instance, should a thief be riding on top of an omnibus and the horse slip, he regards it as a warning that he must do no work that day. All habitual criminals regard the Bible with awe. To a man almost they will lie without motive, but when in the witness box they will do anything to evade kissing the book. A common mode of getting out of the difficulty is to kiss the thumb that is helping to hold the Bible instead of the actual book.

Should a pickpocket steal a purse containing foreign money he regards it as certain that before the year is out he will have traveled in strange lands. To find gold in a purse stolen at a wedding is a sure sign of good luck, while it is equally bad to "work" at a funeral. By every class of criminals funerals are regarded as tokens of ill luck. To meet one while on the way to a house where a burglary is to be carried out means that death or imprisonment awaits the attempt. There is an old man named Cowper, now in an English prison serving his twenty-eighth term of imprisonment, who is a perfect encyclopedia on criminals' superstitions. He firmly believes that he can never be sentenced again after his present term has expired, because twenty-eight has always been a lucky number with him.

If a burglar meets a sleeping dog, he regards it as a sure sign that he will be lucky for a long time. To see a flag flying over a private house is taken as an invitation "to crack the crib." Women who squint are immune from the attentions of the criminal classes. No burglar would break into a house if he knew that a maidservant who squinted was kept there. Similarly a pickpocket would have nothing to do with the possessions of a woman with a cast in her eye. A man in the habit of passing counterfeit coin will never attempt to get rid of any to a woman who squints.

A Hair Raising Story of a Shanghai Roster.



In For It.

"I think I know right from wrong," pleaded the defendant. "That doesn't matter," sternly replied the judge. "It is evident that you are ignorant of the law governing this case, and ignorance of the law can never be accepted as an excuse."—Chicago Record-Herald.

He Had Experiments.



Tommy—You said I shouldn't eat those cold mince pies in the pantry; that they would make me ill.

Mother—Yes, Tommy. Tommy (convincingly)—But, mamma, they haven't.

Emperor His Model.

The emperor and empress of Germany visited the little town of Mores recently, and a crowd gathered to welcome them. Noticing a young woman with an infant in her arms, the emperor asked her how many children she had.

"Six, your majesty," was the reply.

"Oh, that is too many," said the kaiser gravely.

The woman's husband, however, then stepped forward and said bluntly, "But you set us the example, your majesty."

Worked Aldrich.

Thomas Bailey Aldrich once received a pathetic letter in a feminine hand announcing the death of a little daughter and asking if he would not send in his own handwriting a verse or two from "Babie Bell" to assuage the grief of the household. Aldrich sent the whole poem and not long after saw it displayed in the shop of an autograph dealer with a good, round price attached.

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