

BARRYNORE'S KEEN WIT

Stories That Depict the Actor's Epigrammatic Power.

WAS ALWAYS READY WITH A REPLY

Quick Retort to a Young Woman Who Wanted to Taste Absinth—Narrow Escape From Death in a Texas Town—One of His Harmless Practical Jokes Represented on a Clothing Merchant.

The late Maurice Barrymore, the brilliant actor, was a man who never slept so long as there were entertaining companions ready to talk and listen. A man who was never at a loss for an answer, says the Chicago Tribune. If his witticisms were collected they would fill a book and lose half their charm. Probably he never uttered many of the clever things attributed to him, but there were many which he made up. Some were bitter as gall, and a few had no more sting to them than a butterfly, but all of them showed that he possessed a remarkable mind.

He was essentially a combatant and a chivalrous man. He loved a fight, intellectual or physical, for its own sake. Once when he was lired with rage over a reflection cast upon a woman he knew a friend asked him why he restrained himself.

"Every blow struck in defense of a woman is a debt to her reputation," was Barrymore's reply.

He was once at a table with a young woman who wanted to taste absinth. She wrinkled her brows for a few moments and then said:

"It is like something I had when I was a child. I mean it's just like paragon."

"You are quite right," remarked Barrymore. "Absinth is the paragon of second childhood."

He once had a dispute with a beautiful lady in the St. James cafe who declared, "If I had you in Texas I'd blow your head off." "Then your courage is a matter of longitude," observed Barrymore sweetly. He was once on his way to the theater when he was held by him with three other men. "I am an actor, broken down by overwork, seeking health and rest," he said. "I am a business man, going to the market for the savings bank." "I am an engineer, also broken down by overwork," said the second. "And you, sir, are in the same boat with us?" he asked the third. "No, I am not. I am going to the hills for pleasure. I don't work. I am a gentleman." "And finally on a vacation," added Barrymore.

When Steele chafed, said Barrymore that he would never become a great actor until he experienced a great sorrow or a thrilling experience the next time in a flash. "Write a play for me, Steele, and I shall get both."

In 1878 Barrymore organized a comedy to play "Diplomacy" on the road, besides himself, were John Drew, Benjamin C. Porter, Ross Davies, Mrs. George Drew Barrymore, Miss Ellen Cummings and Signor Magnoni and his wife. While the company was at Marshall, Tex., Barrymore had a very narrow escape from death as a result of an affray which cost Ben Porter his life. While waiting for their train Barrymore, Miss Cummings and Porter went to a railway restaurant and were sitting at the lunch counter when a local bully named Curry, who was employed as a detective by the railroad company, swaggered in and tried to get Barrymore out of the restaurant using the most offensive language. Barrymore tried to persuade him to desist. Curry asked him if he was anxious to get into a fight himself. "No," said Barrymore. "I am not armed." "Nor am I," said Curry. "Will you swear it?" "Yes."

Barrymore springing from his seat and pulled off his coat to fight when Curry drew a revolver and fired point blank at the actor. The bullet hit Barrymore's left shoulder, broke the scapula and lodged near the spine, making a six weeks' stay in the hospital necessary. Curry then walked up to Porter and shot him in the heart, inflicting a wound from which he died instantly. John Drew, who was in a room above the restaurant with the other members of the company, was roughly treated by Curry when Drew went down to ascertain the cause of the disturbance. Curry was tried for the murder of Porter and was acquitted, the district attorney informing Barrymore, who was a witness, that there were not fewer than eleven murderers on the jury that listened to the testimony.

"Maurice Barrymore sometimes used to perpetrate harmless practical jokes of the Theodore Hook type," said Wilson Lockaye to a New York Times reporter. "One afternoon Barry while walking down Sixth avenue, in New York, with a friend halted abruptly and disappeared into a ready-made clothing store. The friend followed and found him addressing the store-keeper:

"Will you please take that suit of clothes out of the window?" he asked.

"The clothes?" inquired he who was to have a sale, quickly complied.

"Thank you," said Barrymore, turning on his heel.

"But don't you want to look at it?" queried the merchant.

"No, no," replied Barry; "no, no. I merely read your polite sign. 'Any Suit Taken Out of This Window by Request.'" Much obliged."

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STORIES OF JULES VERNE.

An Instance of the French Novelist's Love For Boys.

An interesting story has been passed around in French literary circles in regard to the contract by which the late Jules Verne, the famous French novelist, issued two books a year, says the New York Times. It is said that this contract was made forty years ago and called for two stories a year for a remuneration of 20,000 francs per annum, or about \$4000.

It is said that, despite the enormous circulation of his works, which have been translated even into Persian and Japanese, Jules Verne never received a penny more than his stipulated salary. His publisher, however, gave the author valuable presents from time to time.

One of the peculiar traits of Jules Verne was his love for the boys for whom he wrote. On one occasion he recalls that when he was writing "Hannibal, England, and I," a letter written in a boyish hand on the table, he said in his quaint French-English:

"Here, I am M'sieu' Verne. I thank you for your invitation. Let us next put some more coal on the fire and tell stories."

Jules Verne's life, peaceful, successful and eventful as it seemed, had nevertheless its three tragedies, says the Philadelphia Press. The first occurred when his nephew, who adored him and was adored by him, came to see him at Amiens one day and after muttering something wildly drew a revolver and fired, wounded him in the left leg and landing him for life. The wound never closed, and Mr. Verne could never again indulge himself in the travels which were both so dear to his heart and so helpful to his work.

This tragedy was in a way connected with the other great grief of his life. The young man, who had suddenly gone mad, when asked why he had shot at his uncle, replied, "My attract attention to him and increase his chances of becoming an immortal of the world."

He and all the world knew that the one unsatisfied ambition of the aged author's life was to become one of the forty academicians of France, but the academy has always ignored his name when proposed for membership, alleging that his works were "not literature."

It bitterly disappointed the old man, especially as he knew what careful workmanship he bestowed on his novels, sometimes rewriting one book ten times.

Last of all, in his age, blindness, at first partial and then complete, attacked him. Nevertheless, he did not wholly surrender to affliction and continued to write his novels, in their thir-

"Yes!"

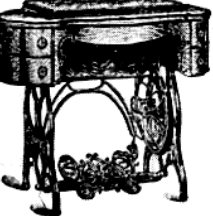
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FASHIONS FOR MEN.

Styles in Neckwear and Shirts For Spring and Summer.

Embroidered cravat will be quite a factor in neckwear this season, says the Clothier and Furnisher. They are shown with neckties in all desirable shades and white grounds, and they are handsome.

The demand for all sorts of plain fabrics in shirts is greater than ever. Some very handsome two-toned mixtures are shown in many combinations, which increases the assortment one can buy. The same effects, having "small" or "striking" figures, are also now and closely related to plain goods, and they are selling well.

It is predicted that Windsor will start again this spring and become as popular as they once were. It is certain that as an outing tie, for turn-down collars, whether the collar is on the shirt or buttoned on, it is an ideal article of dress.

Wash neckwear will consist of the coming season largely of embroidered chestnut and Oxford cloths. The range will be very extensive, the possibilities of a varied assortment being very large.

Mottled shirts and those on the snowflake order seem to be very popular. Light blue, olive green and walnut brown are especially desirable. Hair line stripes and fine checks on those grounds are quite new and are taking well.

Shirts with white bodies and Marshall beams and cuffs are again introduced. The buttons and cuffs are white, with broad cuffs and printed with colored figures, which consist largely of small flowers, sprays or leaves.

The Chicago Examiner.

THE EXAMINER, the leading morning paper of Chicago, has just announced a unique Proverb Educational Contest, in which it proposes to give away 50 prizes to successful contestants, ranging in value from \$250 to \$2500. First prize, \$2500, total amount to be given away, about \$250,000, nearest commencing February 25th and containing one well-known proverb daily for fifty days.

This contest will create a widespread interest, and THE EXAMINER is advising that orders for the new issue of the newspaper at once, or send one for a

three months' mail subscription, and get the home and general newspaper published, addressing all orders to THE CHICAGO EXAMINER, Chicago, Ill.

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