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SHORT STORIES.

GOOD SIMILE.

Boy: "Father, what is a pessimist?"
Father: "A pessimist might be likened to a fish that starves to death because he sees a hook in every worm."

THE PRESENT FASHION.

If you go to the ball or the opera, you'll find,
Of too many girls it is true,
As soon as she's out of short dresses,
she wants
To get out of long dresses too.

FULL VALUE.

Tommy: "Mamma, how much did you put in the collection box?"
Mother: "A shilling, my dear. Why?"
Tommy (yawning): "Well, this preacher gives an awful lot for the money."

FREE PERFORMANCE.

Tommy: "When does the tide come in?"
Old Salt: "Five-fifty-five, I've told you a dozen times!"
Tommy: "I know, but I like to see your whiskers waggle when you say five-fifty-five."

CORRECTED.

Little Annie was helping mother shell peas, when father peeped in, and remarked, "Hullo, shelling peas, little girl?" She looked up, replying rather scornfully, "Shelling peas, dad. How could I shell peas? I'm un-shelling them!"

THE RETORT DIRECT.

There was an old hunting man who lost patience with his gardener, and ordered him to leave at once.

Tom remarked stolidly that he considered it his place to remain.

"Go to hell out of that," stormed his master.

The old man leant on his spade handle.

"An 'if I do go, Master Harry," he said, "I'll just tell your father how ye've treated me."

PHYSIOLOGY UP-TO-DATE!

A class of boys in a country school have been studying physiology with remarkable results. They were ordered to write a composition on the "spine."

Many interesting papers were handed in on the subject, among them being the following:—

"The spine is a bunch of bones that runs up and down the back and holds the ribs. The skull sits on one end and I sit on the other."

TOO GOOD.

Customer: "I say, this rifle you sold me yesterday is no good."

Dealer: "What is the matter with it?"

Customer: "It shoots too accurately."

Dealer: "Why, isn't that just what you want?"

Customer: "I should think not, I'm the proprietor of a shooting gallery, and I give prizes to those who score a high number of points."

SOMETHING TO HOLD BY.

"Always be the same as you are now," he whispered to her tenderly, "and it is all I ask, my dearest one."

"And if I am, you will always love me?" she said quietly.

"Yes," he answered her, "always."

She looked beyond him—into space. Only she knew that ere long she would be quite different, for she was growing stout.

Then she smiled into his face. "And the more you see of me, the greater will be your love?" she asked.

"Yes," he answered. "I swear it!"

And thus she was comforted.

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