"Word of honor?"

"Word of honor."

He looked at me with doubt in his insolent eyes. "After all, what do I know about your honor?" said he.

"Upon my word, Sir," I cried angrily, "you take very great liberties! I have never been so insulted in my life."

He seemed more interested than annoyed at my outbreak. "Round headed," he muttered, "brachycephalic, gray eyed, black haired, with suggestion of the negroid. Celtic, I presume?"

"I am an Irishman, Sir."

"Irish, Irish?"

"Yes, Sir."

"That, of course, explains it. Let me see, you have given me your promise that my confidence will be respected? That confidence, I may say, will be far from complete. But I am prepared to give you a few indications which will be of interest."

To be continued next Sunday

SPOONERISMS

BY WILLIAM S. WALSH

SPOONERISMS is a recognized and accepted word used in the best circles of English society, even though it has not yet found its way into the dictionaries. Derived from the last name of the Rev. William A. Spooner, warden of New College, Oxford, it characterizes a kind of blunder that is habitual with that man,—the unconscious interchanging of the first letters or syllables of words with what are often direfully humorous results.

The most famous of all the stories about him tells how he once thundered out from the pulpit, "Jel[illegible] was not on the side of the kinkering [illegible] meaning, of course, conquering King [illegible]

At another time he [illegible] envisled his audience by boldly stating [illegible] he held concealed a fully wormed fish [illegible] formed wish) in his bosom.

At a university [illegible] given at the time of Queen Vic[illegible] Diamond Jubilee he proposed "Thr[illegible] for the queer old dean," and sh[illegible] given with a will, in spite of the old Queen whom he had wished [illegible] her, but of the queer old dean who [illegible] often himself.

Exasperated [illegible] would be humorist informed him that he [illegible] meaning any new complaint of a feeble [illegible]

To another [illegible] been mainly occupied in wasting two [illegible] at college he condemned, "You [illegible] incorrigibly lazy and, to top it all, [illegible] tasted two worms."

On another [illegible] in giving out the hymn to his [illegible] he transformed the title, "This [illegible] all a fleeting show" into, "This was [illegible] fleeting shoe."

In quoting [illegible] text, "Bow not thy knee to an idol," [illegible] it, "Bow not thine one idle."

[illegible] a stranger sitting [illegible] "whispered he, "[illegible] pew this pie!"

Also he once [illegible] as blithesomely in [illegible] windy day, as he was walking in Oxford, his hat [illegible] pick it up; but at [illegible] burned by. He set [illegible] and never stopped until he had caught [illegible] the luckless hen on Magdalen Bridge [illegible] there he solemnly tried to put [illegible] on his head.

SUCH are the blunders in word [illegible] and deed that have been attributed to the "dean of Spoonerism." Must we accept them all as genuine? No, we are to believe a writer [illegible] who informed that paper that [illegible] at church congress, a well known [illegible] and to him, as Mr. Spooner passed in procession:

"Hail [illegible] Spoonerisms may [illegible] how Liddon is no [illegible] Liddon is no [illegible] it is. Liddon and [illegible] under a tree and make the [illegible] of our best, which is always attributed to the Spooner, is "From Ice-and's Gle[illegible]"

SPOONERISMS at all events existed before Spooner himself was born. Some [illegible] may be found in Moore's Diary. There is the story, for example, of an old actor named Parker who used always to say the "[illegible] pup," instead of the "poisoned pup." One night, when he spoke it right, the audience said, "No, no!" and called for the other reading. Another actor mentioned [illegible] Moore made a great hit with the [illegible]

How sharper than a serpent's *thanks* it is.
To have a *toothless* child.

John Kemble was one night performing a favorite part in a country theater, when he was interrupted from time to time by the squalling of a child in the gallery. At length, angered by this rival performance, Kemble walked with solemn step to the front of the stage, and, addressing the audience in his most tragic tones, said: "Ladies and Gentlemen, unless the play is stopped the child cannot possibly go on."

The English "Once a Week," in April, 1871, told the following as a true story of recent happening: "There was a confirmation held at M—, and the Bishop stayed at the house of a gentleman in the neighborhood, where the men servants were a butler, a very young footman, and a page (commonly called the boy). The Bishop, before church, went into the library to write some letters. When he had written them he rang the bell. The episcopal summons was answered by the youthful footman, who was in a great state of nervousness, as he was going to be confirmed by his Lordship that morning. The Bishop benignly asked, 'Can anyone take those letters down to the post this morning?' to which query the footman, in a very solemn tone of voice replied, 'The Lord, my boy!' Of course he should have said, 'The boy, my Lord.'"

AMERICA itself is not without its Spooners and its consequent Spoonerisms. It was of a member of the Shakespeare Club of New Orleans that the following story is told. At one of the amateur performances for which the club is famous he played the part of a lord in waiting, and it devolved upon him to say:

"The Queen has swooned."

What he actually said as he faced the mimic King after an elaborate salute was, "The swoon has queened."

There was a roar of laughter. He waited patiently until it had subsided, and tried again, "The sween has swooned."

Again the house roared, and the stage manager, in a voice that could be heard all over the theater, cried, "Come off, you fool!"

But the ambitious amateur refused to surrender, and in a rasping falsetto he cried out as he was assisted off the stage, "The coon has sweened."

THERE must have been at least three Spooners in the Western court where the following scene is said to have taken place:

"How far is it between these two towns?" asked the lawyer.

"About four miles as the flow cries," replied the witness.

"You mean as the cry flows."

"No," put in the Judge, "he means as the fly crows."

And then they all looked at one another, feeling that something was wrong.

A SORT of conscious Spoonerism was that brilliant jest credited to Dean Briggs of Harvard. During the year when the slogan, "To hell with Yale!" first became popular among Cambridge undergraduates the dean, in company with Dr. Edward Everett Hale, was hurrying on his way to a great football game between Yale and Harvard.

"Where are you going?" asked another member of the faculty.

"To yell with Hale," answered Dr. Briggs.

Chatter Concerning Cheese

BY FRANKLIN O. KING

This World is like a Big Round Cheese, and It is Populated with all Sorts and Conditions of Humanity. Some of us are Helpful, some Harmful, but Many of Us are Merely like Mud on a Wagon Wheel—we neither Help the Wheel go Round, nor add very Much to the Appearance of Things. A Few of us Think We are the "Whole Cheese," but We're Not, and Few besides Ourselves have Inflated Ideas regarding our Importance. The Trouble with Most of Us, however, is our inability to take Life Seriously, and a Tendency to Underestimate Our Own Intrinsic Worth. More Men have Lost Out through "Cold Feet," than by Reason of "Swelled Head."

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