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[6]

Zur,—Krismas is past an ago, an the Nue Yur is hupon us, an I wish the Hedditur an awl the rayders ov the *Journal* the komplementes ov the sayson. As yu may think, there issen much a duin in this loanly plase, but still, there's a vu things tu remind us ov it. There's vover holidays vor the sarvints an zo aun, Krismas Day an the day arter, Nue Yers Day, an Old Krismas Day. Moast vokes git zomethin hextra vor the time ov the yur. In the old times the laburers wud go tu the farm howzes Krismas mornin, an hev toste an sider; I mind hevin zom wanse, but I didden like it, an thort if that was hot I'd yerd so much abowt, innyboddy was welcom tu my share. In them days the graytest trayt moast ov the pore vokes had was som wite brayd, wich thay awl tride vor git at this sayson. Zom wud by a haf bushell, an som ov the wimmin wud go owt in the herrishes an pick hup the yers ov whayt that was lowster'd abowt in harvest, an keep a bit ov it avaur that time, an som that was a bit better hoff than the rest mite git a bit ov vlesh, but that wassen very minny. There's no klubbs yer, nor no publick charitys; there yused tu be tew pownd a yer gied away amangst the pore, left by Mrs. Bligh and Mrs. Rowe, but 'tis a lost now be som mayns. Moast ov the vokes hev larned vor trist tu ther awn gittins, an I think, pon the hoal, thay git aun jist so well as thay du in other plases,

ware thay luke hup tu others. Jist tu let yer rayders naw hot thay had tu kontend way in the past, let me tellee that I wanse nawd a man, when he left work pon Kriskas eve, he had his haf bushell ov whayt, toke it abowt dree miles tu the mill, an wayted his turn vor grend, an wen he got hoam twas past midnite. Then his wive sot tu vor bake it, an aginst hur had a dude that 'twas time vor git hup, as hur had tu wayt vor the brayd tu plummy, I am thankful to say, Zur, that things be different now, an noboddy is a put tu zitch strites vor git a bit of wite brayd.

Tho this is a quiet plase, the Kriskas singers went arownd in the nite tu let us naw the time ov rejoysein was arrived, an thay singed abowt the gude tidins that the angels brawt wen Christ was born. Well, Zur, that was very well, but I am sorry tu say there's a cloud hanging auver the plase, as law hath a bin resorted tu tu settel som disputes betwayn different partys. Law is gude an hess cudden live wayout it, I spose, but tis a hexpensive peese ov masheenery tu work. The lawyers, tew, be verry well in ther plase, but sartinly thay wanty vor git work, an wen innyboddy goeth tu min, wy thaym like the spider way the fly. Tis verry seldom thay tell the vokes thayve got no kase. I was tu a korte wan time ware thay was talkin away wan agin the tether, an wan ov the lawyers sed the case was sitch as niver hoft tu hev bin brawt thare. I thort tu mezal, I wonder if he wud hev sed so if the tether party had himployd en? Vor awl thay sim tu differ zomtimes I beleeve thaym verry well agreed. Zom time ago thare wis a kase brot avaur the magistrates not verry var vrom yer, and thare wis tew lawyers wan aich zide, wan wis kald Tom, and tether Joe. Tom had a hoss, but Joe hadden, zo thay both rode in Tom's carridge, and wen thay got tew the plase, hew shude be standin tew the kauder ov the strayt but Joe's klyent, an wen he zeed mun he loked zo black as thinder. Wen thay wis in the korte thay kut away wan agin the tether, a'moast like thay wis gwain tu feert. The enf ov it wis thit Tom got the kase. Wen twas auver Joe's klyent zed he naw'd twas a contrayg thing, vor thay both kom'd in wan gig.

I think, zur, tis a pity thet nayburs kant settel littel matters wayout gwayn avaur the magistrates an jidges, but vokes be sometimes hobstinet, an speshally wimmin, an the kase thet hath a bin aun yer reminds me ov anether I yerd abowt a little wile ago:—

Tew men yurs ago lived neer wan anether,  
Twas thare joy an deelite tu be wan way the other,

The Salamanca Corpus: "Welcombe" (7th January 1886)

An oft ov an evenin thay mite be see walkin  
In the fields, an pleasantly chattin and talkin.  
Vor yers, this went aun wayout innything new,  
Aich trusted the tether, boath wis faythful an true,  
It was hoften remark'd hot wis wan's wis the others,  
An thay wis regarded by minny as brithers;  
Wan day, as is hoften the kase among frends,  
Wan wanted tu borrow, the tether he lends.  
The sum wis a florin, not large the amount,  
But a frendly transackshun nor plased tu akownt,  
'Tis a verry old saying, if wan goes tu borrow,  
He is safe avaur long, tu hev trubble an sorrow.  
Som time passed away, no munny wis payd,  
Wen the lender sez "Friend, thet det's no defrayd,"  
The tether reeply'd "As the munny's not mine,  
I'll return ivery penny if you'll gie me the time."  
Weeks drifted along, nort but prommisses yet,  
Sez the lender "I wish you wud pay off thet det,"  
An agen an agen he zed "My gude frend,  
If thet florin's not payd ower frendship must end."  
Verry zune thare's a rupter, hard zayins be yused,  
An sad tu relate thay aich other abuzed;  
At length thay agreed thet on som sartin day,  
The lender shude kal, an the borrower pay.  
Well, the day came, arownd the visit was made,  
Still no cash wis forthkomin, but a promise hinsted  
Thet in zeven day's time he wud sartinly pay,  
An no moar should the lender go empty away.  
The days passed away, naythur pleasant nor quick,  
But he goes at the time his money to seek;  
Arter awl the man's kindness hew wud hev beleev'd,  
Thet he vown'd wen he kald he wis grossly deeseev'd.

The Salamanca Corpus: "Welcombe" (7th January 1886)

Zo he hies tu a lawyer, his greef tu honfold,  
Wich in substance is jist as avaur hath bin towld.  
The man sez "Ower frendship heth bust like a bubbel,  
An I want yu tu put the deecayer tu trubbel."  
The lawyer hinqur'd if he'd yerd the hoal kase,  
And sez he muss naw ivery thing thet tuke plase,  
The man zed "The hoal ov the story I've towld,  
But wan thing, zur, an thet issen fit tu honfold,  
Wen press'd vor the statement, he softly reeply'd,  
"I fully hintended this portion tu hide.  
If the fellaw was pore, he mite hev been sivel,  
But he sed I shant pay, an yu go tu the Divel."  
"Well," hinqur'd the lawyer, "Hot next did yu du,"  
Then, hanserd the man, "I kom'd strite hoff tu yu."

Auver the Mustow zide is Gooseham Mill, an thares a smal stream ov watter rinth down vrum Welcombe that thay thort som yurs ago wud be yuseful in dry seysons vor help turn the Mill, but thay cudden git it thare way owt turnin it akross Mr. Hedden's Medda, wich he konsented vor let mun du vor haf a krown a yur, an thay agreed tu it, an payd vor som time, but Mr. Hedden didden wanty for he hard hupon mun, an dedden make min pay vor yurs. In the meynwile the awner ov the mill dide, an the widda let the mill tu somboddy helse, an he went wayowt axin, an digged owt a fresh channell vor the watter (gutter hess kal it). Wen Mr. Hedden demanded payment he was willin, but the landlady wudden let en du it, zo Mr. Hedden went tu kownty korte vor establish his rite. The kase was yerd at Holsworthy some months ago, and the Deputy Judge deesided in Mr. Hedden's favour. As the proper Jidge wassen there, the humman's lawyer perswaded hur tu move vor a nu trial, zo laest month thay awl moved hoff tu Holsworthy agen, and Jidge Bere was there, an as inny wan mite think, he deesided that watter muss pay vor passing, like thay zed sometime ago wen wan Gladstone wanted vor put on moar tax pon the beer, that the taytotalers hoft tu yay moore taxes. Well, Jidge Bere zed if the watter was wuth hevin 'twas wuth haf a krown a yur. Thay playded the statute ov limmitashuns. I spose thay mayned be that, that Mr. Heddon's rite was

limmited tu the law, and didden hexten tu the watter. The humman zed hur lawyer perswaded hur tu defend it, very likely!

There is another kase aun yer in the parish, that is a rite of way affair tew, only this is a futepath hinsted ov a watter way, but as 'tis hot thay kal *sub judice*, I spose I mussen zay north abowt it jist now. I hop thicky Judice hathen got no konneckshun way the other Judice that hess rayd abowt. Somboddy was tellin an old humman abowt en wan day, an how the Jews killed Jesus Christ. Hur zed hur'd niver yerd ov it avaur, but that as 'twas zo long ago, an zo vur away, hur haup'd twassen tru. Hur niver did like min, an niver bort nort ov min when they kom round way thare old box zilling things, an hur was shore hur shudden now, arter yerin ov that.

The path in dispute is dru a hude, belangin tu Mr. Walker, an he hath tride vor stap the vokes vrum passin, an deenyth thit 'tis public, an hath himpoyed a lawyer be the name ov Peter vor help en. I hexpect 'tis beekaws vokes ov that name doant mind deenyng inny thing. Thare's a gude dayl ov hot thay kal *feelin* abowt it. Praps I mite zay somethin moar konsarnin it wen 'tis setteled.

Be hot yu zay in yer paper this week, I zee awl the fules doant live yer, vor old superstishes kustoms prevayl in other plases, an moar than thay du yer. A vu yurs abo auver in Hartland, thare was somthin a matter in a sartin family, an thay went tu a witewitch, an he towld min they was witched, and the fust wan they wud meet wen they got hoam was the wan that had dude it, an the wan they meet was the man's mother, an it caws'd a lot of honplessantness, an estrangement, an the pore old sawl greevth abowt it dredful, tu think hur son an his wive shude hev turn'd agin hur, an hur is left a widda tew now, an pore craytur hur is nearly brawken hearted abowt it. I think 'tis verry rong aw mim vor make disturbances in familys. I doant think I iver told how they yused to kure fits down in thayse pairts. Zay if a man was trubbel'd way min he wud go tu church an kollekt a penny aich vrum 30 wimmin as they passed owt, an the laest wan wud gie the man haf a krown, and then he wud hev a ring cut owt ov it, an ware pon his vinger. I've a zeed it a dude mezel in owr church; and thares a humman livin yer now thit gied the man the half krown, an I zeed en ware the ring minny times. They thort it did gude, an I think it did vor a time, at layst it satisfyd his mind, but the fits return'd agen. Praps the ring was like the helektrick belts hot they zill, they onny act vor a lit wile. I hev lately had a hintervuew way a humman that bless'th vokes vor different haylmints, an I



**The Salamanca Corpus: "Welcombe" (7th January 1886)**

axed hur how the kures was effected. Hur reeplyd that hur didden naw nort abowt that. Hur larn'd the words vrum a buke that was hur granny's, an wen hur zed min awver vokes they was zune better, but hew was the medium was beeyond hur comprehension, an wither 'twas God or divel, or aythur, or neythur, hur didden naw.

Yours truly,

R. GILES

Welcombe, Jan. 2nd, 1886.

