

19.
JOE MILLER'S

JESTS.

BEING

A COLLECTION

OF

The most brilliant Jests and most pleasant
short Stories in the English Language,

The greater Part of which are taken from
the mouth of that facetious Gentleman
whose Name they bear.

Stirling, Printed by C. Randall. 1818.

THE MUSEUM

1812

A COLLECTION

OF THE
MUSEUM
OF THE
MUSEUM

JOE MILLER'S JESTS.

JOE MILLER going with a friend one day along Fleet street, and seeing old Cross the player, who was very deaf, and unwilling that any one should know it, on the other side of the way, told his friend he should see some sport; so beckoning Cross with his finger, and stretching open his mouth as wide as ever he could, as if he halloed to him though he said nothing, the old fellow came puffing from the other side of the way. What a pox do you make such a noise for, do you think one can't hear?

Joe Miller another day sitting in the window at the Sun Tavern in Clare street, while a fishwoman was passing by, crying, Buy my fish, buy my maids! Ah you wicked creature, said Joe, are you not content to sell your own soul, but you must sell your maids' also.

A person of quality coming into a church where several of his ancestors lay buried, after he had praised them very much for worthy men, Well, said he, I am resolu-

am resolved, if I live to be buried as
them as possible.

One man told another, who used not
be clothed very often, that his new
was too long for him: That's true, ansv
ed the other, but it will be longer befo
get another.

A poor man who had a tarmagant w
after a very long dispute in which
was resolved to have the last word,
her, if she spake one crooked word mo
he would beat her brains out: Why th
Ram's Horns, you rogue, said she, if I
for it.

A certain country Squire asked a M
ry Andrew why he played the fool?
the same reason, said he, as you do,
want: you do it for want of wit, I for w
of money.

A weishman bragging of his fam
said, that his father's effigy was set up
Westminster Abbey; being asked whe
abouts, he said, in the same monume
with Squire Thynne, for he was
coachman.

A certain lady finding her husband t
familiar with her chambermaid, turn
her away immediately. Hussy, said sh

5

I have no occasion for such fluts as you, only to do what work I chuse ~~not~~ to do myself.

A gentleman asked a lady at Tunbridge, who had made a very large acquaintance among the beaux there, what she would do with them all? O, said she, they pass off like the waters. And pray, madam, said he, do they all pass the same way?

A very harmless Irishman was eating an apple pie with some quinces in it. A-rah now, dear honey, said he, if so few of these quinces give such a flavour, how would an apple pye taste made all of quinces.

A young gentleman playing at question and commands with some pretty young ladies, was commanded to take a garter from one of them; but she, as soon as he laid hold of her petticoat, ran away into the next room, where was a bed: Now, madam, said he, I bar squeaking. Bar the door, said she.

An Irish Lawyer of the Temple having occasion to go to dinner, left this direction in the key hole, Gone to the Elephant and Castle, where you will find me, and if you cannot read this, carry it

to the stationer's and he will read it for you.

Two Oxford scholars meeting on the road with a Yorkshire Ostler, they fell to bantering him; and told him, that they would prove him to be a horse or an ass. Well, said the ostler, I can prove your saddle to be a mule. A mule said one of them how can that be? Because, said the ostler, it is something between a horse and an ass.

An English gentleman happening to be in Precknock shire, used sometimes to divert himself with shooting, but being suspected not to be qualified, was sent for by one of the little welsh Justices. His Worship told him, unless he could produce his qualification, he should not allow him to shoot there. and he had too little manors. Yes sir, said the gentleman any one may perceive that. Perceive what? cried the Welshman. That you have too little manners, cried the other.

The chaplain's boy of a man of war being sent out of his own ship on an errand to another, the boys were conferring notes about their manner of living. How

often do you go to prayers now? Why answered the other, in case of a storm, or the apprehension of any danger from an enemy Aye, said the first. there is some sense in that; but my master makes us go to prayers when there is no more occasion for it, than for my leaping over board.

A certain lady at Whitehall, of great quality, but very little modesty, having sent for her linen-draper to bring her some Hollands, as soon as the young fellow entered the room, O sir, said she, I find you are the man for business, for you no sooner look a lady in the face, but you have the yard in one hand, and is lifting up the linen with the other.

King Henry the Eighth designing to send a nobleman on an embassy to Francis the First, at a very dangerous juncture, he begged to be excused, saying, Such a threatening message to so hot a Prince as Francis the First, might go near to cost him his head. Fear not, said Old Harry. if the French King should offer to take away your life, I will revenge it by taking off the heads of the Frenchmen now in my power. But of all these heads

replied the nobleman, not one would fit my shoulders.

A Prince laughing at one of his nobles whom he had employed in several embassies, told him he looked like an owl. I know not, said the courtier, what I look like, but this I know that I have had the honour several times to represent your Majesty's person.

A Mayor of Yarmouth, in ancient times, being by his office a Justice of the Peace, and one who was willing to dispence the laws in the wisest manner, though he could hardly read, got himself the statute book, where finding a law against firing a beacon, or causing one to be fired, he read it, Frying bacon, or causing one to be fried; and accordingly went out the next night upon the scent, and being directed by his nose to the carrier's house, he found the man and his wife both frying bacon, the husband holding the pan, while the wife turned it. Being thus caught in the fact, and having nothing to say for themselves, his Worship committed them both to prison without bail or main-prize.

A country fellow was subpoenaed for a witness upon a trial on an action of delamation; he being sworn, the Judge bade him repeat the very same words he had heard spoken. The fellow was loath to speak, and hummed and hawed for a good space; but being urged by the Judge, he at last spoke. My Lord, said he, you are a cuckold. The Judge seeing all the people begin to laugh at him, called to him, and bid him speak to the Jury, there were twelve of them.

A gentleman speaking of Peggy Yates the famous courtesan, who had always an abundance of fine cloaths, said she was like a squirrel, for she was always covering her back with her tail.

A gentleman said one day at table, that he could not endure a breast of mutton. You said to the other day, said another, of a breast of veal. Very true answered the first, I do not love the breast of any thing but that of a woman, and that goes against my stomach.

A woman was growing big with child, who had two gallants, one of them with a wooden leg; the question was put, which of the two should father the child,

He who had the wooden leg offered to decide it in the following manner: If the child says he, comes into the world with a wooden leg, I will father it; if not, then it must be yours.

A gentleman who had been a shooting brought home a small bird with him, and having an Irish servant, he asked him if he had shot that little bird? Yes, he told him. Arrah, by my shoul, honey, replied the Irishman, it was not worth the powder and shot, for this little thing would have died in the fall.

The same Irishman being at a tavern, where the cook was dressing some carp, he observed that some of the fish moved, after they were gutted and put into the pan, which much surpris'd honest League, Well, now by my faith, said he. of all the christian creatures ever I saw, this same carp will live the longest after it is dead.

A certain gentleman happening to turn up against a house to make water, did not see two young ladies looking out at a window close by, until he heard them, when he asked them what made them so merry? O,

said one of them, a little thing will make us laugh.

A young fellow riding down a steep hill, doubting the foot of it was boggish, called out to a clown that was ditching, and asked if it was hard at the bottom? Aye, answered the countryman it is hard enough at the bottom, I'll warrant you. But in half a dozen steps the horse sunk up to the saddle girths, which made the young gallant whip, spur, curse, and swear. Why you whore-son of a rascal, said he to the ditcher, didst thou not tell me it was hard at the bottom, Aye, said the ditcher but you are not half way to the bottom yet.

An Englishman and a Welshman disputing in whose country was the best living; said the Welshman, there is such noble housekeeping in Wales, that I have known above a dozen cooks employed at one wedding dinner. Aye, replied the Englishman, that was because every man toasted his own cheese.

A person being near his end, a woman who lived in the neighbourhood sent her maid to know how he did; he bid the girl tell her mistress, he hoped he was

going to the New Jerusalem. Ah! dear, said she, I think the air of Islington would do you more good.

A young lady who had been married but a short time seeing her husband going to rise pretty early in the morning said, What my dear, are you getting up already; pray lie a little longer and rest yourself. No my dear, replied the husband, I'll get up and rest myself.

One losing a bag of money of about fifty pounds, between the Temple Gate and Temple Bar, fixed up a paper, offering a reward to those who took it and should return it. Upon which the person that had it came and wrote underneath it to the following effect: Sir, I thank you for the offered reward, but indeed you really bid me to my loss.

One sailor coming to another on a pay-day, desired to borrow twenty shillings of him. The monied man fell to telling out the sum in shillings, but a half-crown thrusting in its head, put him out, and he began to tell again; but then an impertinent crown piece was as impudent as his half brother had been, and again interrupted the tale; so that taking

up a handful of silver, he cried, Here Jack, give me a handful when your ship is paid off, what a pox signifies counting of it.

A very humourous countryman having bought a barn in partnership with a neighbour of his, neglected to make the least use of it, while the other had plentifully stored his part with corn and hay. In a little time the latter came to him, and conscientiously expostulated with him about laying out his money to so little purpose. Why, neighbour, said he, pray never trouble your head, you may do what you will with your part of the barn, but I will set mine in fire.

A gentleman asked Nancy Rochford, why the Whigs in their mourning for Queen Ann wore silk stockings? Said she, because the Tories wear worsted.

The famous Tom Thynne, who was remarkable for his good house keeping and hospitality, standing one day at his gate in the country. a Leggar came up to him, and craved a mug of his small beer. Why how now, said he, what times are these, when beggars must be choosers; I say bring this fellow a mug of strong beer.

Some gentleman going into a bawdyhouse tavern by Charing Crofs, found a great deal of fault with the house and the wine, and fending for the mafter, told him it was bad ftuff and very weak, it may be fo, faid he, for my trade does not depend upon the ftrength of my wine, but that of my tables and chairs.

A profligate young nobleman being in company with fome fober people, defired leave to toast the devil. The gentleman who fat next him, faid he had no objection to any of his Lordfhip's particular friends.

A gentleman faid of a wench who constantly plied about the Temple, that if ſhe had as much law in her head as ſhe has in her tail, ſhe would be one of the ableſt council in England.

A certain lady of quality ſending her Irish footman to fetch home a pair of new ftays, ſtrictly charged him to take a coach if it rained, for fear of wetting them. But a great ſhower falling, the fellow returned with the ftays dripping wet; and being ſeverely reprimanded for not doing as he was ordered, he faid he had obeyed her orders. How then answered the lady,

could the stays be wet if you took them into the coach with you? No, replied honest Teague, I know my place better I did not get into the coach, but rode behind as I always used to do.

Two honest gentlemen who dealt in broom meeting one day in the street, one asked the other how the devil he could afford to undersell them as he did, when he stole the stuff, and made the brooms himself? Why, you silly dog, replied the other, I steal them ready made.

A young gentlewoman who had married a wild spark that had run through a plentiful fortune, and was reduced into straits, was innocently saying to him one day. My dear I want shifts sadly. How can that be, replied he, when we make so many every day.

An Irishman having been obliged to live with his master some time in Scotland, when he came home again, some of his companions asked him how he liked Scotland? I will tell you now, said he, I was sick all the while I was there, and if I had lived there till this time, I had been dead a year ago.

Mr. Dryden once at dinner, being by a lady offered the rump of a fowl. he refusing it, the lady said, Pray Mr Dryden take it, the rump is the best part of the fowl. Yes Madam, said he, and so I think it is of the fair.

A factious teacher of arithmetic who had long been married without being able to get his wife with child; one said to her, Madam, your husband is an excellent arithmetician. Yes, replied she, only he cannot multiply.

A cowardly servant having been out a hunting with his master, they had killed a wild boar. The fellow thinking the boar stirred, betook himself to a tree; upon which his master called to him, and asked him, What he was afraid of, as the boar's guts were out? No matter for that, said he, his teeth are in.

A butcher in Smithfield, who lay upon his death bed, said to his wife, My dear, I am not a man for this world,

therefore I advise you to marry our man John, he is a lusty young fellow, and fit for your turn. O dear husband, said she, if that be all, let it never trouble you, for we have already agreed upon that matter.

When his late Majesty in coming from Holland happened to meet with a storm at sea the captain of the yatch said to the chaplain. Doctor, in five minutes more we shall be with the Lord: The Lord forbid, answered the Doctor.

A taylor sent his bill to a lawyer for money. The lawyer bid the boy tell his master, that he was not running away, but very busy at that time. The boy comes again, and telis him he must needs have the money. Did you tell your master, said the lawyer, that I was not running away. Yes, answered the boy, but he bid me tell you that he was.

One Irishman meeting another, asked, What was become of their old acquaint-

tance Patrick Murphy? Arrah! now, dear honey, answered the other, he was condemned to die, but he saved his life by dying in prison.

One asked his friend, Why he being such a proper man himself, had married so small a wife? Why friend said he, I thought you had known that of evils we should chuse the least.

A gentleman having sent for his carpenter's servant to knock a nail or two in his study, the fellow after he had done it, said Sir, I hope you will give me something to make me drink. There is a pickle herring for you, said the gentleman, and if that does not make you drink, I will give you another.

Two gentlemen, one named Chambers and the other Garret. riding by Tyburn, said the first, This would be a pretty tenement if it had a garret. You fool, says Garret don't you know there must be chambers first.

19.
A lawyer being sick, made his will, and gave all his estates to fools and madmen; being asked the reason for so doing, he answered, From such I had them, and to such give them again.

An Irish gentleman being with some ladies in a nobleman's garden, where was a large iron roller, told them he thought it was the largest iron rolling stone that he ever saw.

Two Irishmen having travelled on foot from Chester to Barnet, were much tired and fatigued with their journey, and the more so, when they were told that they had still ten miles to London. By my shoul & St. Patrick, cries one of them, it is but five miles a piece, let's walk on.

Gun Jones, who had made a handsome fortune from a very mean beginning, happening to have some words with a person who had known him for some time, was asked by the other, How he could

have the impudence to give himself so many airs, when he knew very well that he remembered seven years ago, when he had hardly a rag to his arse. You lie, firrah, replied Jones, for seven years ago I had nothing but rags to my arse.

A traveller coming into the kitchen of an inn, in a very cold night, stood so close to the fire, that he burnt his boots. An arch wag who sat in the chimney corner, said to him, Sir, you'll burn your spurs presently. My boots you mean I suppose, said the gentleman. No sir, replied the other, they are burnt already.

A great courtier for a long time having none but daughters, his wife prayed very earnestly that she might have a boy; at last they had a boy, who when he came to man's estate proved but simple: Thou prayedst so long for a boy, said her husband, that at last thou hast got one who will be a boy as long as he lives.

A country clergyman meeting a neighbour who ne'er came to church, although

19
an old fellow about sixty, he gave him some reproof on that account, and asked him if he never read at home? No, replied the clown, I cannot read. I dare lay, said the parson, you don't know who made you? Not I, in troth, cried the countryman. A little boy coming by at the same time, Who made you, child? said the parson. God, sir, said the boy. Why look you there, quoth the clergyman, are you not ashamed to hear a child five or six years old tell me who made him, when you who are so old a man cannot? Ah! said the countryman, it is no wonder that he should remember he was made but the other day, and it is a long while, measter, since I was made.

After the fire of London, there was an act to regulate the buildings of the city; every house was to be three stories high, and there were to be no balconies backwards. A Gloucestershire gentleman, a man of great wit and humour, just after this act passed going along the street, and seeing a little crooked gentlewoman on the other side of the way, he runs over to her in great haste; Lord, madam said,

he, how dare you walk thus publicly in the street? And why not, pray sir? answered the little woman. Because replies he, you are built directly contrary to the act of parliament; you are but two stories high and your balcony hangs over your house of office.

A certain boy was boasting in company that he had every sense in perfection. No, said one who was by, there is one you are entirely without, and that is common sense.

Dr. Tadloe, who was a man of a very enormous size happening to go thump thump, with his great legs through the street where the pavours were at work in the middle of July, they laid down their hammers. Ah! God bless you, master, cries one of them, it is very kind of you to come this way; it saves us a great deal of trouble this hot weather.

Three or four roguish scholars walking out one day from the University of Oxford, espied a poor fellow by Abingdon asleep in a ditch, with an ass by him, la-

den with earthen ware, holding the bridle in his hand ; said one of the scholars to the rest, if you will assist me, I'll help you to a little money, for you know we are bare at present. So they consented. Why then, said he, we'll go and sell this fellow's ass at Abingdon as the fair is to-morrow, therefore do you take the panniers off and put them upon my back, and the bridle over my head, and then lead the ass to the market, and let me alone with the old man. This being done accordingly in a little time after, the poor man awaking, was strangely surpris'd to see his ass thus metamorphos'd. O for God's sake ! said the scholar, do take this bridle out of my mouth, and this load off my back. Zounds how came you there ? replied the old man. Why, said he, my father, who is a necromancer, upon an idle thing that I did to disoblige him, transformed me into an ass ; but now his heart is relented, and I am come to my own shape again ; and I beg you will let me go home and thank him. By all means, said the crockery merchant, I do not desire to have any thing to do with conjuration, and so set

the scholar at liberty, and he went immediately to his companions, who were by that time making themselves merry with the money they had sold the ass for, But the old fellow was obliged to go next day to seek for a new one at the fair, and after having looked at several, his own was shewn to him for a very good one. O! O! said he, what have he and his father quarrelled again already No, no, I will have nothing to say to him.

FINIS.