

bugle he falls in and undergoes a critical examination by the adjutant. He is then dismissed and has hopes that he has gotten off. But, alas! his expectancy is turned to dismay when he learns that he has to do sentinel duty at night. He falls in with the relief at the proper time, and after being posted inspects each room. Then he begins his weary march, back and forth the length of the hall. Suddenly he hears a noise and turns in time to catch a pillow. He then starts in the direction from which the pillow came, but another hits him, and for a moment he is besieged by pillows. Then all is quiet. In steps an officer with the question, "Know your orders?" The poor sentinel, try as he may, is now so confused he can not think of a single one, and of course gets reported.

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#### NO THROWING OFF.

E. C. ERHARD.

An old negro was one day returning from the field when a bear suddenly took after him. He started out as fast as he could run, and just before he reached his house his wife Dinah stuck her head out and began to yell, "Run, Rastus, run!" After Rastus was safely in the house he said to Dinah, "What you stan' dar in dat doah an' yell, 'Run, Rastus, run' fur? Didn't you kno' I wasn't gwine to thro' off in a race like dat?"

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#### AN EXPLANATION.

H. F. MATHEWS.

A negro preacher explained that the Red sea was frozen over, and so afforded a passage for the Israelites; but the ice broke when Pharaoh with his iron chariots drove upon it and drowned him and all his army. One of the congregation arose and asked for an explanation. "I'se

been studyin' gography and de gography say dat be very warm country—where day have de tropics, and de tropics too hot for freezin'. De point to be splained is 'bout breakin' through de ice."

The preacher straightened up and said: "Brudder! glad you axed me dat question. It gives me a chance to 'splain it. You see dat was a long time ago—in the old time, fo dere was a gography; fo dere was any tropics."

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#### ECONOMICAL WAY OF RAISING CHICKENS.

GUY A. BLOUNT.

An east Texas chicken peddler who was not making as much money as he thought he ought to make raising chickens, decided that if he could find a more economical way of feeding his chickens that it would increase his profits.

He started out by mixing a little sawdust with the meal that he fed them on. He kept on putting in a little more sawdust and a little less meal, until he was feeding them on nothing but sawdust. After he had been feeding his chickens this way for a time, he set an old hen on a dozen eggs. When the eggs hatched out and he went to look at his chickens, he found that eleven of them had wooden legs and the other one was a woodpecker.

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#### A DOUBTFUL RETRACTION.

R. H. MANSFIELD.

There was once a colored preacher who, in delivering a forceful sermon on the sin of theft, said: "I see before me twelve chicken thieves, including Erastus Johnson."

Johnson was naturally incensed at this, and threatened the minister with personal violence. The minister's friends persuaded Johnson to promise that if