

An American tells this story of his own experience:
One day last fall, in company with an eminent clergyman of London, I was taking my way toward the Thames Tunnel, when we were stopped by an ignorant vendor of pictures, who seemed to know my companion.

"Buy some of these pictures of the people of London, sir," said he, "and you can give them to your American friend to take home with him."

"I was in a hurry, but my wonderment would have stopped me if I had been thinking of a life."

"How in creation did you know I was an American?" I asked.

"Why, I couldn't mistake that," the picture-vendor replied, with a quiet laugh. "You're American all over."

I purchased a picture and then asked him to explain himself.

"I would know you by your soft beard," he said. "That is an American fashion."

"Well—if it were not for that?"

"Your boots would betray you. No body but Americans wear square toes."

"Well—what else?"

"Your chin whiskers. Englishmen always wear the mutton-chop style."

"Well—anything more?"

"If you would be offended, sir?"

"Not at all; I am seeking for information."

"I should know you by your thin, peaked face."

"Well, my friend," I said, "I fancy you are at the end of your catalogue here. Suppose that I were a stuff, high-crowned hat, round-toed boots, mutton-chopped whiskers, and had a face as red and chubby as any in Britain—would you be able to know me for an American, then?"

"Certainly I should, as soon as I heard you speak," the fellow triumphantly answered. "You Americans invariably pronounce every sentence with a 'well'."

My English friend laughed long and loud at the man's adroitness.

"I believe he is more than half right," he said. "See if your nationality is not detected everywhere you go."

It was even so. In Paris I was importuned to buy a photograph of Lafayette, because he was "the friend of Americans;" in Genoa a dirty vagabond was clamorous to exhibit to me the house where Columbus was born, because he discovered the "sign of the great country;" and at Alexandria the climax was capped by a ragged little descendant of the Pharaohs, who besought me to take a ride on his donkey.

"Strong donkey—fast donkey—nice Yankee Doodle donkey!" with his irresistible appeal in the only English words he knew.

WHAT HINGED UPON A MOMENT.

Not long ago, I walked the streets of old Leicester, in England, taking an antiquarian's interest in the scenes around me. At one moment I gazed at a bit of Roman wall; and the next, a Norway arch met my view. A little farther, and the associations were connected with the last of the Plantagenets; for, yonder, Richard III. slept the quiet before the battle of Bosworth Field; here he crossed the river Soar as he marched with his army to the conflict; and here his remains lie buried.

And I could almost hear the clash of armor and see the ill-favored visage of Richard, as I gave myself up to the historic memories which rush through my mind. But there was a spot of deeper interest than these. I looked on the battered walls of Leicester, and noted the breaches which were made by the besieging army of Cromwell; and, a few paces farther, I stood where a red-coated young royalist soldier was posted within the walls as sentinel, who, handling his musket awkwardly, was removed from his post, and another man placed there instead. Had that fatal ball sped on its way one moment sooner, there would have been lost to the world one of its most loved and honored names; for, in that case, the name of John Bunyan would never have been as a bright jewel in the coronal frame; one moment sooner and the great old dreamer of Bedford Jail would have been cut off, and his glorious vision of the pilgrims to the Celestial City would never have charmed generations of men of every land and tongue.

It is possible to estimate too highly the worth of that one moment, which spared the life of that wild, wicked young man; for the reformation of character spared him for a life so devoted, and a work so great.

Can we contemplate an incident like this without wondering with great admiration at the providence of God?—*Christian Banner.*

Our trying to love an object is like our trying to laugh when we are not pleased; the more we try, the less shall we succeed. The trying part of the process implies it is a thing we do not prefer.

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