

THA MERRICKEN DOCTOR

Wen I wur a prentice bwoy at Zalsbury, ther wur a main girt consternayshin in tha Market one Tuesday. A Merricken Doctor drove up, we a splendid pair a hosses ael in zilver-mounted harness an a gran Mail Phaeton Carridge, we tha iren work ael zilver-plated; as well as tha two girt lamps we ther roun veaces nearly as bigs a barrer wheel. On tha hinder sate, zat a vootmin ael in scarlet livery, we big zilver buttons a shinnin like diamonds; a wur blowin a zilver trumpet, ta track vokes attention. An you mid be zure, a purty girt crowd a voke zoon got roun tha carridge ta hear what twer ael about. A took up his stan near tha cattle vountin, an then stood up on top a tha carridge sate, an begun ta spout away a good un; “Vrens,” a zed, “I calulate, I'm jist come auver vrim Merricker, to taak to ee, a leetle about yer various ailments. Zunce I've a bin in your countery; I've a vound you English voke be afflicted, an tormented, we dree classes a people you can very well do athout. That's tha Doctor, tha Laayer, an tha Passen. Tha Laayer lives out a yer quarrels; Tha Passen out a yer superstyshins; an tha Doctor out a yer fancied ailments. Now I'll jist tell ee, how ta do wieout any on em; When ya valls out we yer naybur; ar any biddy else, pull off yer cwoat, tuck up yer shirt sleeves an av a good roun ar two we em; then sheak hans, adjourn to tha nex Public House an licker up. You'll vind this a much cheaper an better remedy than gwain to a Laayer who'll charge ee zix an haightpince var every question you da ax, as many on ee da know, no doubt. Then as to tha Passens. Rade well, an study tha gran Woold Book, an act up to it be livin, an let live, an dooin unto others as ya'd wish to be done by; take

my word var it, gennelmin, this is tha grandest religion out. Then as to tha Doctors; well, I dere zaay, teak em on tha whole, yer English Doctors beant a bad lot a fellers; bit thame human ya know, an as a rule, trate you an yer ailments, accordin to tha laingth, ar waite a yer puss; yeant that rite? Ah, you know it is my vrens. Well, gennelmin, I'm come here today to tell you, you've no need of a doctor at all, that is, if you will bit lissen to me an teak my advice. I have in this leetle box zom lozengers, which I guarantee if taken as directed, will cure every ailment human nater is subject to. In tha United States of Merricker, millions of these boxes av bin zould; an tis a vact that zunce ther happy introduction, tha death-rate has fallen one haaf. Gennelmin, vacts spake var therzelves, no one can gain zay it. Do you think var a moment, that I cood visit this zity in this manner, wur I an imposter, an my remedies quack remedies. No, gennelmin, I'm a duly qualified medical practioner, with tha highest deploma awarded be tha great an enlightened zity a Chcikager. An thease life givin lozengers are the result of long years of patient research an practice in medicine. Gennelmin, I'm fully aware, that on a market day, time is important with you, therefore, I shill not detain you with longer speech, other than to zay, I shall attend this market every other Tuesday var dree months, an any purchaser of a box of thease lozengers, who will come to me an zolemnly declare, he ar she, has not received any benefit vrum them; I will guarantee ta return tha price of them two shillins an zixpence, an further, will give him ar she, one shillin to boot for their trouble; But I mist impress upon you, tha great necessity of strictly carryin out tha instructions printeed on ache box, an in no case whatever, to take any more than four lozenges per day, which will av tha desired effect in

tha mwoast stubborn cases of whatever nater.”

Well, you'd ardlly believe how tha voke wur car'd away be tha manner in wich thease yer vlow a oratery wur delivered. He an his vootman had as much as thay cood do var two hours, in handin out tha boxes an pocketin tha haaf a crowns, in vact a zould out nearly ael a had, an atter thanken on em, var ther girt mark a convidence in he an his remedies, an promisin to be ther agean thic day vartnite, a wish'd em good day, an drove off out a Zalsbury as vast as his hosses cood goo. Bit do ee think he ever come back agean? not he, an when tha vartnite wur up, underds a buyers of his lozenges wur waiten about varn ta turn up. Bit tha bird had vlow'd, an thay zoon begun ta zee tha'd a bin done. “Well, Jarge,” I yeard one countrymin zaay to anodder, “did tha Merricken man's lozenges do thee reumatism any good?” “not a mossel,” a zed, “aelthough I took vawer a day as he tould I, till thay wur ael gone; an ta tell ee tha truth, Willum, I h'ant a got a bit a vaith in em neither, specily as I yeard ower blacksmith, Zam Vroud, zay, as how he's two leetle bwoys vound out tha box an ate up tha lot tha day atter he'd bought em, an diden veel nar bit tha wuss neet better vor't. Pen on it ther's nuthen in em bit shuggar mixed up we a drap a zummat ta smill like a chemist shop. Drat tha feller, I wish I cood clap me eyes on un, I'd shew un up avore ael tha market voke; Bit a diden turn up ya zee.”