Mere Forms of Law.

[From the Times.]

One of the officials of Justice alley was the other day called upon by an old gray headed farmer and his wife, together with a neighbor, and outside the door they hitched an old, half blind horse whose cash value was reckoned at the sum of $25.

"You see," explained the old farmer, "nabur Jones wants to buy the old hoss out there, but he wants a bill o' sale signed by wife and I.—We want you to draw up one for us."

The justice reached down one of the printed blanks, filled it out, and then said:

"Now, you listen while I read this over and see if it is all right. All ready, now."

"Know all men by these presents. That——"

"Presents! Why, I'm not going to present him with that hoss!" interrupted the farmer.

"And we don't want any presents from him, either!" added the farmer's wife.

"That's all right—only a legal form," exclaimed his honor. "Listen now!"

"County Wayne——first part——consideration——sum of $25——grant——bargain and sell——party——second part——his executors, administrators——"

"I haven't got any executors or administrators!" interrupted neighbor Jones.

"No; all he's got is a wife and two girls!" added the owner of the horse.

"All form—all mere form," explained the justice, and then he went on:

"And assigns forever——covenant and agree——defend the same——heirs, executors and administrators——"

"William, I shall never sign no such paper!" suddenly exclaimed the farmer's wife as she rose up.

"Nor I either," stoutly replied the husband.

"Why, I'd shake in my boots every time I met a constable!" he explained.

"It is all mere form according to law," explained his honor. "All bills of sale read this way."

"Looks to me as if it was sort o' tangled up," said neighbor Jones.—"The old hoss is blind of one eye, and so how can they warrant him."

"And what has this hoss sale got to do with his heirs and convenants?" inquired the old man.

"I won't sign—I won't have anything to do with it!" exclaimed the wife, as she walked around. "We've always kept clear of the law, and we hain't going to get into no scrape and lose our farm now—not if we know it!"

The more the justice tried to explain, the bigger the words sounded, and the trio finally walked out of the office.

While they were unhitching the horse along came a house painter, and when he had heard their story he picked up a piece of paper in the alley, pulled out a stub of a pencil and wrote:

"We hereby sell this horse to John Jones for $25 cash down. We raised him from a colt, and his name is Andrew Jackson."

The paper was signed by the parties, passed over with the horse, and as the farmer received the money he said:

"That's all there is to it, law or no law, and it didn't take two minutes. Why, I'd taken Andrew Jackson back home and knocked him in the head, afore I'd put my name to that paper binding us to keep on convenanting and agreeing and agreeing and assigning and administering a whole life-time on one old one-eyed hoss!"

Before marriage:
With wonderous care
She seeks the mirror
And bangs her hair.

After marriage:
With angry glare
She grabs her slipper
And bangs her heir.

—"My only reason for opposing his election as pastor is that the hair upon his head stands erect." That reason was given to the Richmond Religious Herald by one who objected to making the Rev. E. L. Magoon a doctor of divinity. What was in his head was of less consequence than what was on it.

—In Adair county, Mo., the other day two young fools concluded to have their pictures taken with pistols drawn on each other. They had each cocked their pistols, and while the photographer was arranging them in a proper position one of the pistols was discharged by him, the ball striking the man opposite just above the left lung.

—Most Londoners are familiar with the two cats who box so cleverly, and who have been exhibited for some years in the streets. A concert of cats was once exhibited in Paris, the animals being arranged in rows, and mewing in turn to a monkey who beat time for the performers. This was called a "Concert Miaulant." It is said that the animals were trained by having had their tails pulled every time a certain note was struck, and that the disagreeable remembrance caused them to mew each time they heard the sound again.—[Globe.

—An Oil City man traded off his gun for a dog, because he wanted to "get something to boot."—[Oil City Derrick.

—"I'll pass the butter," as the fellow said to himself as he shied around a ram in the pasture lot.—[Kokomo Tribune.

—The apple may be the oldest fruit, but we know of an elder berry.—[Steubenville Herald.

—"Thousands have tried it and will never use any other," is the significant and pathetic encomium of a cough balsam which circulates in New England.—[Detroit Free Press.

—"What is mother doing tonight?" is the title of a new song that will soon be popular wherever there is a girl and a piano. While a fair flower was singing it for her Adolphus, the other night, the old lady walked into the parlor and remarked, "Well, if you must know, I'm a darnin' your stockin's."—*Middletown Transcript.*

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