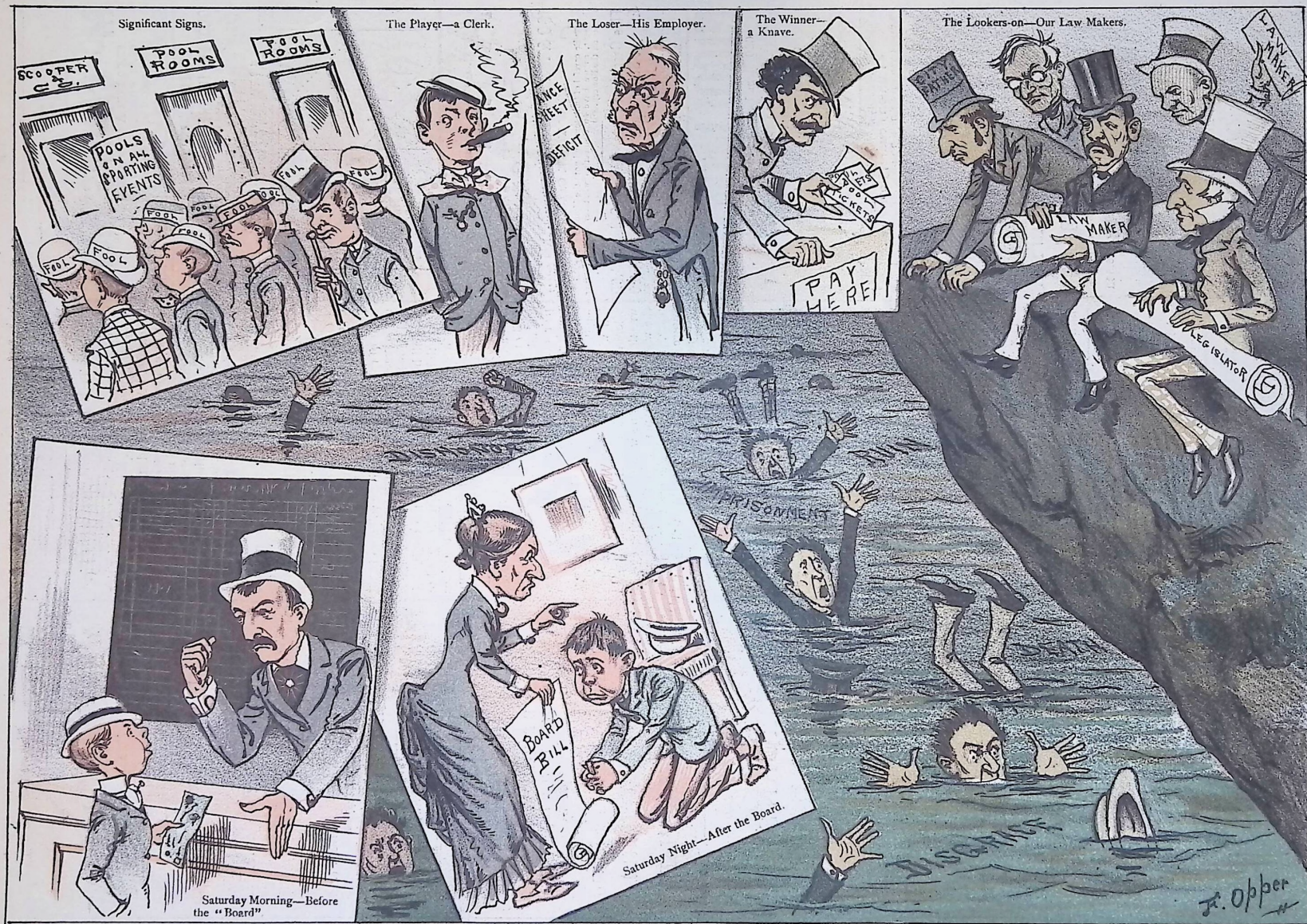


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One may fritter away his existence in chasing the follies of our day and generation, and have naught to look back upon but a choice assortment of robust regrets, but if he will stop in his mad career to read an English pun, his attention will be called to the solemn thought that life is after all but a tearful journey to the tomb.

Death and disaster on every hand may fail to turn the minds of a thoughtless world to serious matters, but when the London funny man grapples with a particularly skittish and evasive joke, with its weeping willow attachment, and hurls it at a giddy and reckless humanity, a prolonged wail of anguish goes up from broken hearts, and a sombre pall hangs in the gladsome sky like a pair of soldier's trousers with only one suspender.

If the lost and undone victim to the great catalogue of damning and enervating dissipation will for a moment turn his mind to the solemn consideration of London *Punch*, and wrestle with it alone where the prying eyes of the world cannot penetrate, though unused to tears, the fountains of the great deep in his nature will be opened up, and he will see the blackness of intense darkness which surrounds him, and be led to penitence and abject humanity.

The mission of the English humorist is, to darken the horizon and shut out the false and treacherous joy of existence—to shut out the beauty of the landscape and scatter a \$2 gloom over the glad green earth.

When we pass from earth and our place is filled by another sad-eyed genius whose trousers are too short and who manifests other signs of greatness, let no storied urn or animated bust be placed above our lowly resting place, but stuff an English conundrum so that it will look as it did in life, and let it stand above our silent dust to shed its damp and bilious influence through the cemetery as a monument of desolation and a fountain of unshed tears, and the grave robber will shun our final resting place as he would the melon patch where lurks the spring gun and the alert and irritable bulldog. *Laramie City Boomerang.*

THE White House needs a thorough overhauling in the way of plumbing; but the Secretary of the Treasury is averse to doubling the national debt during his term of office.—*Norristown Herald.*

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