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ODES FROM THE ODD TOPICS SOCIETY

Howard G. Baetzhold, P.L.O.T.S.
Indianapolis, Indiana

*Butler’s Odd Topics Society meets every now and then to discuss Odd Topics of any nature. Professor Baetzhold is the Poet Laureate Odd Topics Society.*

On the Anniversary of the Jumping Frog Derby
of Calaveras County

Whenever I sit down to woo the muse
In order to fashion a pome for youse,
I think of Old Horace, wise ol’ duck
Who said that a pome should delight and instruct.

Today it was touch; inspiration had fled.
All I could do was to scratch my head;
But then the light broke! Today marks the date
When Jim Smiley’s frog first met his sad fate!

You all know the story, as told by Mark Twain—
How the champion jumper struggled in vain
To out-hop his foe. But, oh, he could not!
The stranger had filled him with five pounds of shot.

The story’s delightful—with that we won’t quarrel,
But what in the word should we find as a moral?
’Tis simple; in truth, can there be any doubt?
If you want to succeed, “Get the lead out!”