



Not So Easily Played Upon, from "Harper's Weekly"

Date
published April 27, 1872

Primary Maker
Thomas Nast

Medium
Wood engraving on newsprint

Description
Captioned "U. S. G. 'Will you play upon this pipe?' / C. S. 'My lord, I can not.' / U. S. G. 'Tis as easy as lying: govern these ventages with your fingers and thumb, / give it breath with your mouth, and it will discourse most eloquent music. Look you, these / are the stops.' / C. S. 'But these cannot I command to any utterance of harmony; I have not the skill.' / U. S. G. 'Why, look you now, how unworthy a thing you make of me! You would play / upon me; you would seem to know my stops; you would pluck out the heart of my mystery; / you would sound me from my lowest note to the tip of my compass: and there is much music, / excellent voice, in this little organ; yet can not you make it speak. Why, do you think, I / am easier to be played on than a pipe? Call me what instrument you will, though you can fret / me, you can not play upon me': Hamlet, Act III., Scene II" typeset beneath title in black ink.

Dimensions
Composition: 10 × 9 in. (25.4 × 22.9 cm) Sheet: 15 15/16 × 11 3/16 in. (40.5 × 28.4 cm)