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Democratic Matchman.

Bellefonte, Pa., Fed. 9, 1900.

Feasting on Snails.

The Prince and the Cook That Set the Fashion for the Crustaceans at the Tables of Epicureans—The Frog as a Culinary Tidbit.

The snail as an article of diet generally is associated with the French nation. As a matter of fact, it is a dietetic legacy from the ancient Romans, who were, according to John Bull, from whose traditions of the table the American nation is almost emancipated, "navvies feeders." The taste for snails must have lingered among the peasantry of "All Gaul" for centuries after the departure of the Roman eagles, but it was not until 1814 that the tables of culture and refinement in France adopted them formally. The man who had the audacity to make an aristocrat of the snail was the Prince de Talleyrand-Perigord, a member of a family noted even unto this day for originality bordering on whimsicality and for darning, or perhaps "nerve" might be a good word, in the illustration of that originality.

Talleyrand-Perigord, after the return of Louis XVIII, entertained the Emperor Alexander I of Russia at a great political dinner. The prince had in his service the best chef in Paris, whom he had bribed by the promise of higher wages to leave his former master, Cambaceres. The cook was named Anacreon. The prince collected a delicious dish of snails which he had eaten in Vienna (though merely in passing it may be mentioned that he would not have recognized that city by that name). He summoned Anacreon and gave him orders on the subject. The chef-cook—as the prince soon found out—was not only aware already of the possibilities of the snail, but had made a specialty of it as an article of food while he had been directing the kitchens of other masters. He accepted the suggestion that the dish should be presented "a la bourguignonne."

The diners, among whom were many celebrities, hailed the preparation with enthusiasm and ate of it with expressions of unbounded delight. With it was handed around a neat card, headed "Escargots a la bourguignonne—plat d'Anacreon." "Plat d'Anacreon" means "Anacreon's dish" or "Anacreon's mess," according to taste. Either translation is good. This event naturally set the fashion for this crustacean—for it was the shell snail and a highly bred shell snail, and not the yellow white, slimy, naked slug that was and is "treated" with first rate culinary honors.

A small farmer is a "cultivator" well recognized in France, and the term is associated with men of wealth and talent—the one acquired by and the other exhibited in successful snail raising. In our own country or in Britain a farmer who was addressed as "Mr. Snailfarmer" would be likely to feel insulted. In "la belle France" he would bow and, if only a roots and corn farmer, would say: "Pardon, but I have not that high honor—to be a farmer of snails. Would that I were."

A small farmer was quizzed recently by a French writer. The escargot man was in the National library at Paris, reading with ease Greek and Latin works, when the reporter found him. On being drawn into conversation the snail farmer reluctantly desisted for awhile from reading and, with evident annoyance at the untoward disturbance, rapidly gave the desired information.

He cultivates the snail in the department of La Sarthe. The products of Burgundy are still in the lead, but the results obtained are dependent upon the method of "snailing" followed there is not really, after all, much choice. The snails are picked from the hedges and other places where they abound at the end of the summer and are then "parked" in some grassy inclosure, arranged in such a manner as to prevent all possibility of escaping. The fattening plot has to be specially chosen, must be shady and sunny and curvated with the greatest care. All kinds of delicate and sweet-scented herbs are favorable to the process, such, for instance, as thyme, mint, sage, chervil, marjoram, etc. When autumn gives place to chilly days and frosty nights the inclosure is strewn with fine moss, dried leaves, etc., among which the snails take shelter and literally shut themselves up in their shell, closing it by means of a calcareous substance which they secrete. This is the time when they are ready for the market, and they are then collected and stored in dry cellars, to be sent off as required.

Another essentially French dish is the one which is covered by the poetic title of "Nymphes de Bourgoigne." It was under this pseudonym that Escoffier, that past master in culinary matters, offered this dainty to English diners and really can claim the merit of having overcome some of the British repugnance to the same.

Long before the day when Escoffier produced a masterpiece which conquered at least those English guests who willingly partook of it and asked for more the innocent batrachian nearly spoiled an entente cordiale between England and Spain. In 1808 the commander of the Ranger had orders to settle some questions with the consul of Spain in some port on the Guinea coast. After business transactions had been completed the traditional invitation to dinner was sent out and accepted. Among other dishes there appeared the one that made Delmonico famous under the pompous title of "Batraciens mubbissans a la Louisiane." When the vol-au-vent had passed round and been enjoyed three times by the British officers, some guest had the unlucky thought of asking what composed this excellent course. On being told that frogs made up the luscious preparation the commander, so the story goes, returned to his ship and in the greatest wrath informed the foreign office that the British flag had been insulted by the Spanish consul. Sir Patrick Campbell, who proceeded to Sierra Leone to arrange the dispute, was told the whole truth. Not only did he hear the facts, but having partaken himself of the insulting vol-au-vent declared the question settled and added his name to the number of Englishmen who could honestly approve of "Froggy's" good taste in culinary matters.—New York Press.

Dredgers.
What is called the dredger of any employment will be most faithfully performed by the one who takes the most comprehensive view of the whole work. Seen in its true relations, it obtains a dignity which saves it from contempt, and the superior man will willingly perform any task which a lesser one would shrink as being beneath him.

Candy Store Ways.

When I was a young man over 40 years ago, pistol shooting was one of my most admired sports, and I spent hours and days in practice to become proficient. For a long time I followed the usual practice of 'sighting'—that is, looking over sights placed on the barrel, but one day I, as many would say, accidentally discovered how to take aim without sighting and to shoot accurately in any position, and it came about in this way. I saw a red squirrel a short distance away, down by the side of a fence, and my mother being with me, I called her attention to it, but as it was nearly concealed in the grass she could not see it, so I said, 'Now look along my finger,' at the same time pointing with the index finger of my right hand, and she, as requested, looked along my finger as you would in sighting a pistol, when she remarked, 'You are pointing directly at it.'

I immediately caught it as by inspiration that there was something worth remembering, and the next day I put the idea into practice and soon found myself an expert in accuracy. The method I pursued was this: I used a single barrel pistol of fair weight and length, and, grasping the stock firmly in the hand, used the second finger on the trigger, placing the index finger along the side of the barrel and used that for pointing at the mark, it taking the place of sighting. I soon found by practice that I could shoot from any position if I could only get a chance to point my finger at the mark.

To assist me in holding by finger directly in line with the bore of the barrel until I got familiar with it I fastened a loop or guide for the finger alongside the barrel, but I only required this a short time. The idea is that if you point your index finger at any object you will find the mark accurately, and practice will improve your ability to point your gun where you want to place the shot.

This is one of the great secrets in rapid and accurate pistol shooting, for you can take aim as quickly as you can point your finger, and it does not require raising the arm. Let the arm rest by the side of the body, bend the elbow, point your finger, and you have an accurate aim by practice. This is only one of the many positions, but gives an idea how it is done. I prefer a single shot pistol that pulls fairly easy and is of good, fair weight. If you use a cylinder pistol, then you must protect the finger from the escaping powder fumes between the barrel and cylinder by wearing a thick leather finger guard.

Each One Had His Hobby.

W. F. Cody had in one of his companies a Westerner, "Bronco Bill." A certain missionary had joined the aggregation to look after the morals of the Indians. Thinking that Bronco Bill would bear a little looking after also, the good man secured a seat at his side at the dinner table, and remarked pleasantly: "This is Mr. Bronco Bill, is it not?"

"Where were you born?"

"Near Kit Eullard's mill, on Big Pig-con."

"Religious parents, I suppose?"

"Yaas."

"What is your denomination?"

"My what?"

"Your denomination?"

"O-a-h-y-aas. Smith and Wesson."

Women in Persia.

Life is sad in Persia, especially the woman's life. The law of Islam allows each man to have four wives. His wives he may divorce at will. Our word "bosch" is the Turkish word by which a Moslem divorces his wife. It doesn't count if he says it only once or twice, but if he says it three times the woman must go, and there is no recourse. There are no words for wife and home in Persia. There are no homes and few wives. It is curious to hear a handsome woman say, "I have told my husband if he marries another woman I shall poison him, and I intend to do it." Or to ask a woman about her home life and get the answer: "Love my husband? Oh, yes, I love him. I love him as much as a sieve holds water."

Trivial Cause of a Bloody War.

In the year 1654 a Polish nobleman became obnoxious to the laws of his country by reason of his having committed a crime. He fled to Sweden, whereupon John Casimir, king of Poland, wrote to Charles Gustavus, king of Sweden, demanding the surrender of the criminal. The king of Sweden on reading the dispatch, noticed that his own name and titles were followed by two "et ceteras," while the name of the king of Poland was followed by three. The missing "et cetera" so enraged the king of Sweden that he at once declared war against Poland. The war was carried on with great bitterness until 1660, when a peace was signed at Oliva, near Dantzic. A contemporary writer (Kochowski) poured out his lamentations on the war in these terms:

"How dear has this 'et cetera' been to us! With how many lives have these two potentates paid for these missing eight letters! With what streams of blood has the failure of a few drops of ink been avenged!"—Collier's Weekly.

Colleges of Commerce.

No business man can be too well trained.

No business man can have too well trained workers in his service.

The best training for a business man is the ability to think.

It is useless impossible to determine in advance what business a man in college will enter.

It is therefore usually wise not to emphasize strongly the element of mere knowledge in preparing for a business training.

Irish Advice.

"Never be critical upon the ladies" was the maxim of an old Irish peer remarkable for his homage to the sex. "The only way that a true gentleman ever will attempt to look at the faults of a pretty woman is to shut his eyes."—Collier's Weekly.

For Dickinson Seminary.

A. E. Patton, has subscribed \$1,000 to a scholarship in Dickinson Seminary, Williamsport, and Mrs. Elizabeth Jackson, of Berwick, has given \$500 for the same purpose.

A Natural Soda-Water Fountain.

During boring operations near Siederan, in Wurttemberg, Germany, the men suddenly struck a powerful carbonic acid spring. The hole was being cut through blue clay, in a width of 24, and, lower down, of 12 inches. The stream did not come out in full power all at once, but it suddenly increased so much that the men thought best to retire as quickly as they could, leaving their tools to take care of themselves. The fountain rose to a height of 80 feet with a roar. Even the next day nobody could approach close, as the atmosphere was fully charged with carbonic acid. A few men who ventured too near had to be rescued by their companions, being overpowered by the suffocating gas. For several days the power of the well did not diminish. It is a pity that the respective machinery and appliances for catching the acid cannot be fixed in a hurry when the eruption is at its best. But often the first experiments do not repay, because the fountain becomes exhausted or the gases find another outlet.

The Army and Navy Chaplains.

Much erroneous information has been published recently about the chaplains in the army and navy. They are thirty-four chaplains in the army, four of them colored. Their pay is \$1,500 a year with a ten per cent. increase for each five years of service. They are of the following denominations: Methodist 12; Episcopalians, 9; Presbyterians, 5; Roman Catholic, 4; Baptists, 2; Christian, 1. There are twenty-four chaplains in the navy. Their pay for the first five years service is \$2,500 a year, and for the second five years, \$2,500 when at sea. It is \$500 a year less when on leave or waiting orders. The naval chaplains are divided denominationally as follows: Methodists, 9; Episcopalians, 5; Catholics, 3; Baptists, 2; Presbyterians, 2; Disciples of Christ, 1; Unitarian, 1; Universalists, 1. These figures are from the official records.

Reminded.

Mrs. Lakeside—I saw something to-day that called up a vague recollection of my first marriage.

Mrs. Lakeside—Did you? What was it?

Mrs. Lakeside—My first husband. I hadn't seen him for years.

No Vulgar Haste.

Mistress—Delia, I don't like to speak to you about it, but you're too fond of sleep. You don't get up early—

Cook—Shure, ma'am, I'm no fonder av it than the next wan. It's only that I do do slow slip r than mosht.

Accumulating Information.

"What is the price of this lovely antique chair?" asked the shopper.

"Thirty-seven dollars, madam," answered the dealer.

"Thirty-seven dollars!" exclaimed the lady in astonishment. "Why, I didn't suppose it was worth half that much."

"Yes," said the dealer, "but it was worth, madam," replied the conscientious dealer. "You asked the price."

Cause and Effect.

"Those long coats give a girl a very stunning appearance," said Huxley.

"Yes," replied Gravelly, "and the bill correspondingly stuns the father who pays one."

The Odor of Sanctity.

Hettie—What a grand air Mrs. Pouter puts on!

Clara—Naturally. She thinks herself in the odor of sanctity.

Hettie—The odor of sanctity must be a very disagreeable one, I should say, by the way she turns her nose up.

To Cure Lagrippe in Two Days.

Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. Grove's signature on every box. 25c. 41-6m.

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J. M. DOWER & ORVIS, Attorneys at Law, Bellefonte, Pa., office in Pruner Block. 44-1

C. MEYER—Attorney-at-Law. Rooms 20 & 21, Crider's Exchange, Bellefonte, Pa. 44-49

F. K. REEDER & H. C. QUIGLEY, Attorneys at Law, Bellefonte, Pa. Office No. 14, North Allegheny street. 43-5

N. SPANGLER—Attorney at Law, Practicing in all the Courts, Consultation in English and German. Office in the Eagle building, Bellefonte, Pa. 40-22

JAS. W. ALEXANDER—Attorney at Law Bellefonte, Pa. All professional business will receive prompt attention. Office in Hale building opposite the Court House. 42-22

DAVID F. FORTEY, W. HARRISON WALKER, FORTNEY & WALKER—Attorneys at Law Bellefonte, Pa. Office in Woodring's building, north of the Court House. 14-7

H. S. TAYLOR—Attorney and Counselor at Law. Office, No. 24, Temple Court fourth floor, Bellefonte, Pa. All kinds of legal business attended to promptly. 40-49

W. C. HEINLE—Attorney at Law, Bellefonte, Pa. Office in Hale building, opposite Court House. All professional business will receive prompt attention. 30-16

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Physicians.

W. S. GLENN, M. D., Physician and Surgeon, State College, Centre county, Pa., Office at his residence. 35-41

A. HIBLER, M. D., Physician and Surgeon, offers his professional services to the citizens of Bellefonte and vicinity. Office No. 20 N. Allegheny street. 11-23

D. R. JOHN SEBRING JR., Physician and Surgeon, Office No. 15, South Spring St., Bellefonte, Pa. 43-38-19

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Through travelers on the railroad will find this an excellent place to lunch or procure a meal, as all trains stop there about 25 minutes. 24-24

Virtue in Incompetency.

Fox—How do you manage to keep a servant girl so long?
Drake—Ours is so stupid she could not get a job anywhere else.