

The Most Desolate Spot.

Perhaps the most desolate spot on earth is a tiny storm swept islet in Bering sea nearly midway between Alaska and Siberia.

Strange Fuels.

"I have eaten mutton cooked on a fire of broken mummy," said the sailor. "It was in Egypt, and the mummy was stolen out of a tomb."

Pawnshop Art Sales.

"One of the most indefatigable painters in Philadelphia has almost exclusively a pawnshop trade," said a pawnbroker the other day while discussing the many tricks of his business.

What Ailed the Speech.

At the close of one of the sessions in the trial of Warren Hastings when most of those engaged had gathered in the anteroom Dr. Parr stalked up and down the room in his pedantic, pompous way, growling out praises of the speeches of Fox and Sheridan, but saying not a word about Burke's.

His Shaky Seat.

A small Canadian ventured into the room while his eldest sister was entertaining a masculine caller. "Mr. Harris," the youth finally interrupted, "I wish you would take me with you some day."

Eloquent Silence.

There are silences of all sorts, as there is speech of all sorts. There are silences that set one's teeth on edge—it is always a relief to break them—and there are silences that are gentler, kinder, sweeter, more loving, more eloquent than any words and which it is always a wrench to interrupt.

Not to Be Fooled.

"He wanted me to order a basket of champagne," declared indignant Mr. Nurtich. "Well?"

"I may be ignorant, but I know that champagne comes in bottles."—Washington Herald.

The Bride's Way.

Friend—Is the bride you're working for getting to be a good housekeeper? Cook—No; she hasn't learned to keep out of the kitchen yet.—Detroit Free

How He Got Even.

During civil war times Gilman Fay, a local character known by all as Gil, being in need of groceries and household necessities, went to the general store in Fayetteville, kept at that time by Colonel Dexter Fay, to make his purchases.

A Bluff With a Cork Leg.

"Cork legs are not bad in their way," said the man who had one. "Some people are rather sensitive about theirs, but I'm not. I even have a little fun with it sometimes."

Stories of Brahms.

Many stories are told of how the composer Brahms treated pianists and singers who were eager to get his criticism. If one of these aspirants for his favor was fortunate enough to find him at home and be received, Brahms' first concern was to seat himself on the lid of his piano, a position from which he rightly deemed few would have the temerity to oust him.

The Treacherous Lioness.

"Lionesses are far more dangerous than lions," said an animal trainer. "Their tempers are more uncertain. They are more treacherous. They are more wily. If a lion is in a bad humor, he shows it. He growls and snarls and lashes his sides. You know what is in the wind and prepare accordingly. But a lioness in a bad humor is as affectionate as a girl. She brushes, purring, against your leg, and she minds you with the joyous alacrity of a good fox terrier. Then, as soon as your back is turned, whizz—a yellow streak shoots through the air, and you are on your back, and she is at your throat. With all the cat tribe it is the same. Whenever you hear of a trainer mauled or mangled, be sure it was a female, not a male, cat that did the deed."

Greenland's Glaciers.

Nearly all the Greenland glaciers and tongues from the internal ice cap terminate in vertical faces from 100 to 1,000 feet high, presenting facilities for investigation. The vertical faces reveal pronounced stratification on the basal ice, even earth materials in the bases carried by the ice being arranged in layers. Fine laminations were seen twelve or twenty to an inch. The layers are sometimes twisted and contorted and even "shoved" over each other. The glacier movement at the ice border is a foot per day to a foot per week.

Force of Example.

"Talk about the instinct of the lower orders! I built a little two story house for our parrot not long ago, and the very next morning after I put her in it she looked out of the window and greeted me in a very profane fashion." "Why should she do that?" "Complaining about the house, I fancy."

His First Love Affair.

Mrs. Rose—Did your husband ever have more than one love affair? Mrs. Pose—Oh, only one, I believe! Mrs. Rose—And that was when he fell in love with you? Mrs. Pose—Oh, dear, no! He had fallen in love with himself long before he had met me.

Women in Medicine.

First Lady Doctor—He is sleeping now and is certainly recovering. He proposed to me this morning. Second Lady Doctor—Indeed! He was probably delirious.—Boston Transcript.

A coward never forgave; it is not his nature.—French Proverb.

Andrew Jackson's Education.

During each winter for two or three years after he had reached the age of seven Andrew Jackson was sent to the old field school of a Mr. Branch. After this he attended the select school which a Presbyterian preacher, the Rev. Dr. David Humphreys, taught in the Waxhaw settlement. He appears to have been going to this higher school in the spring of 1780, when the inroad of Tarleton created a panic in that portion of the Carolinas.

As to education, therefore, it may be safely stated that Andrew Jackson enjoyed much more than the ordinary advantage of a backwoods boy of his time. At the age of ten he had become so good a reader that he was often chosen to read the newspaper to the assembled neighbors, and he remembered with pride in after years that he had thus had the honor of "reading out loud" the Declaration of Independence upon its arrival in the Waxhaws. For a lad of ten this was, indeed, something to remember with honest pride.—Thomas E. Watson in Watson's Jeffersonian Magazine.

Caustic.

Recently a wearied looking little mother, carrying a small baby, boarded a street car and took a seat next to two men who were earnestly engaged in conversation. Neither of the men was very handsome, and it must have required considerable nerve on their part to hand out their photographs among their friends unless the pictures had been previously retouched with sandpaper. In a few minutes the baby began to cry with a reliable yelp that could be heard above the din of the street baffle for half a block, and, with a grumpy glance at the youngster, one of the men arose and peevishly remarked to his pal: "I think we had better sit over here, Jim."

This ungallant act plainly embarrassed the little mother, but she was equal to the occasion.

"It won't do a bit of good to change your seats, gentlemen," said she in a finely sarcastic voice. "The baby can see you quite as plainly over there as he could here."

A Dying Glass.

In the glass collection at the Museum of Art in Dresden, Germany, there is a large drinking cup which stands apart from all other art objects under a heavy glass cover. It is of Dutch workmanship, and the inscriptions and style show that it was made early in the eighteenth century. The vessel is remarkable because it is known in the museum, says a Berlin paper, "as having consumption which can be communicated to other objects of glass. On that account it is isolated. There are remedies against this glass disease, which is usually developed because of defects in the glass mixture, but these have not been applied to the Dutch vessel in order that the progress of the wasting disease may be observed."

A Big Calculation in Water.

The ocean, sea and lake surface of our planet is estimated at something like 145,000,000 square miles, with an average depth of 12,000 feet, and is calculated to contain not less than 3,270,000,000,000 tons of water. The rivers of the earth are estimated to have a flow sufficient to cover thirty-six cubic miles of the above area each day. Now, if all the oceans were suddenly dried and the rivers could keep up their present rate of flow, which, of course, they could not without ocean evaporation, it would take 3,500 years to refill the basin.

Companionship of Books.

Will you go and gossip with your housemaid or your stable boy when you may talk with kings and queens, while this eternal court is open to you, with its society wide as the world, multitudinous as its days, the chosen and the mighty of every place and time? Into that you may enter always, in that you may take fellowship and rank according to your wish. From that, once entered into it, you can never be outcast but by your own fault.—John Ruskin.

Mislead the Pudding.

Dinner was late, but when the mistress started to make a mild remonstrance the new maid was on time with her excuse.

"Sure," she said, with an irresistible Irish smile as she placed the soup on the table, "sure, I mislead the pudding, and there I was hunting the house for it, and where would it be after all but in the oven!"

Shopping.

There is nothing finer for the temper than a new hat, no balm for hurt feelings like a fresh gewgaw. Ordering new frocks takes a woman out of herself. Cut a woman off her shopping, and the result may be disastrous.—London World.

The Polish He Needed.

"I stopped down the street," said the man who prided himself on being blunt, "to get a polish on my shoes." "Don't you think," asked his sarcastic companion, "that you began at the wrong end?"—Baltimore American.

As Usual.

Friend—You took your son into your establishment some months ago to teach him the business, I understand. How did it turn out?—Business Man (wearily)—Great success. He's teaching me now.—Chicago Journal.

A man is never so on trial as in the moment of excessive good fortune.—Wallace.

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