

The All Around Genius That Would Just Fill the Bill.

The following is quoted from the American Magazine and is signed by H. Lee:

"Here's the whole thing in a nutshell," said Brown to me. "I am now twenty-eight years old, have my own business and have brought it to such a state that I have decided to take a partner."

"Take one," answered I. "There's the rub," he gave back. "My partner must be such an all around knowing one that I'm afraid I'll have hard work to fill the position."

"My partner must be able to make laws and to enforce them, must be able to carry out complicated chemical work, must be a skilled mechanic, must know something of economics, must be able to buy wares of all kinds with due consideration of my finances and must be able to do tailoring of a kind if necessary."

"Hold on, Brown," said I. "Are you dippy, as the vulgarians say?" "No," replied he. "I want a wife. Look around among your friends and see if any one among them could do all that a good housewife should be able to do. She must make just laws for the family and enforce them. She must understand the complicated processes of cooking, making, mending, washing, ironing and otherwise caring for the clothing of a family require mechanical skill. Bringing up a child properly requires far more knowledge and wisdom than selling dry goods of standard makes and prices year after year. Where are more science and skill required than in the kitchen? And if the wife does not know how to do all of these things how can she direct the work of her paid help, especially if the help knows less than she does?"

"My dear boy," said I. "do the way 90 per cent of us do—marry and trust to luck."

Canary Islanders Who Would Have Made Good Ball Players.

In this age of athletics one might think that no people ever showed so much interest in feats of muscular might and skill as those who have perfected football, but modern games, and even the games of the Greeks at Olympia, may have been more than matched by the sports of peoples now held in light esteem. We have the accounts of excellent authorities for the contention that the athletic training of Canary Islanders makes even the college giants of today seem weak and effeminate.

These islands came into subjection to Spain about the time Columbus discovered America. The conquest was due solely to the superiority of European weapons and not to better skill and prowess. Native soldiers were trained athletes developed under a system that held athletic sports to be an important business, like military drill.

Spanish chronicles have left accounts of sports of the Islanders. From babyhood they were trained to be brisk in self defense. As soon as they could toddle the children were pelted with mud balls that they might learn how to protect themselves. When they were boys stones and wooden darts were substituted for bits of clay.

In this rough school they acquired the rudiments of warfare which enabled them during their wars to catch in their hands the arrows shot from their enemies' crossbows.

After the conquest of the Canaries a native of the islands was seen at Seville who, for a silver piece, let a man throw at him as many stones as he pleased from a distance of eight paces. Without moving his left foot he avoided every stone.

Another native used to defy any one to hurl an orange at him with so great rapidity that he could not catch it. Three men tried this, each with a dozen oranges, and the islander caught every orange. As a further test he hit his antagonists with each of the oranges.—St. Louis Republic.

Stopping Hiccough.

Hiccough is a distressing and sometimes a dangerous complaint. Many times a swallow of water will stop it. If simple measures fail the following has been found very efficacious: The nerves that produce hiccough are near the surface of the neck. They may be reached and compressed by placing two fingers right in the center of the top of the breastbone between the two cords that run up either side of the neck and pressing inward, downward and outward. A few minutes' pressure of this kind will stop the most obstinate hiccough.—Dr. Charles S. Moody in Outing.

A Gentleman and Boots.

The "first gentleman in Europe" got the very worst definition of a gentleman from his valet when driving down to Brighton. The prince regent was arguing about the gentleman and finally turned to his valet. And the valet replied that a gentleman was one who did not clean his own boots. It was a funny reply. One likes better the demand of the Duke of Wellington. "Give me men who can sleep in their boots."—London Graphic.

Snubbed.

Hamm—Do you recognize the profession? Ticket Man—Yes, but if you'll stand out of the line quietly I won't give you away.—Cleveland Leader.

A Friendly Greeting.

"How did you enjoy your vacation?" "Fine! It made a new man of me!" "I congratulate your wife."—Exchange.

When You "See Stars."

The man who when struck violently on the head says he "saw stars" is not far from telling the truth. The fact is that there is a phosphorescent power in the eye which does not attract a person's attention under ordinary conditions, but which is distributed and reveals itself whenever the head gets a sudden shock and sometimes even in the act of sneezing. A blow on the head results in a pressure of the blood vessels upon the retina, causing either total darkness or a faint blue light which floats before the eyes, and it is in this faint blue light the imagination discerns the thousands of fantastic forms and figures that by general acceptance are termed stars; hence, while the astronomical display so frequently mentioned may be said to be entirely a creature of the imagination, there is at least some foundation for the idea. The true nature of the sensation is never very apparent, even to the victim, for the simple reason that it is invariably experienced under circumstances which render a searching introspective investigation out of the question.

An Odd Nugget of Gold.

There have been many large and oddly shaped gold nuggets found in the United States and elsewhere, but the oddest of them all was that discovered at the Midas mine, on Sulky gully, near Melbourne, Australia, in 1887. The nugget was flat and almost the exact counterpart in contour of a colossal human hand held open, with the exception of the thumb and forefinger, which were closed together in a manner so as to make it appear that the thumb was holding the finger in place. Its greatest length was twelve and a half inches and its greatest breadth eight inches. It was of the very purest gold, with but a little of foreign substances adhering, mostly between the "fingers," and weighed 617 ounces. It was found in the north-west main drive of the Midas mine, 120 feet below the surface of the earth and at a spot only fifty feet from where the famous Lady Brassey nugget was discovered the year before. It weighed fifty-one pounds of pure gold.

Mme. Rejane at Rehearsal.

Mme. Rejane at one of her rehearsals was endeavoring to impress upon a young actor the necessity of a tragic expression.

"Put yourself in his place," she said. "But I have never been through such an experience," the other pleaded.

"Well, then," retorted the actress, "imagine you have lost 300 or 400 louis at bacarat and that you have been dismissed from the company."

His face fell. "There you have it," said she. "Keep that expression and you will win."

For a young woman who could not weep to order she tried a heroic cure. "Very well, I will take the part away from you. You are not pretty enough."

This had the desired effect, and the floodgates opened.

"Weep like that and you will be the hit of the piece," exclaimed Rejane triumphantly.—London M. A. P.

Balzac and Black Coffee.

Balzac was addicted to the use of strong black coffee and depended upon it as a nervous stimulant during the hours which he devoted to composition. Its effect he has himself described in these words:

"The coffee falls into your stomach, immediately everything starts into action. Your ideas begin to move like Grand Army battalions on the battlefield, and the battle opens. Memories arrive at a run, standards flying; the light cavalry of comparisons breaks into a magnificent gallop; the artillery of logic dashes up and unlimbers; thoughts come rushing up as sharpshooters; characters spring up on all sides; the paper becomes covered with ink, for the struggle has begun and ends in torrents of black water like the battle in black powder."

Burns as a Tax Collector.

In the olden days candles were taxed articles, and it was the duty of Robert Burns as an excise officer to see that the tax was not evaded. He generally looked the other way, however, as when passing through the kitchen one night at William Lorimer's of Keenishall, where the goddess was busy making candles, he merely remarked, "Faith, madam, ye're thrang the night," and passed into the parlor.—St. James Gazette.

The Mountains Bother Them.

The British have had heaps of trouble in Siam to make the natives understand that the world is round instead of flat. Indeed, the native teachers keep on teaching the children that it is flat, and when argued with they reply, "If it isn't flat why do the mountains stand up as they do instead of rolling downhill?"

A Financier's Observation.

"He spends money like a prince," said the man who makes trite comparisons.

"Perhaps," replied Mr. Dustin Sax, "only most members of royal families I have met in my banking experience are more anxious to borrow money than to disburse it."—Washington Star.

A Paradox.

Little Willie—Say, pa, what is a paradox? Pa—Well, my son, a coal stove is one kind of paradox. It won't burn until it is put up; then it won't burn until it is shaken down.—Chicago News.

A Difference.

"I am told that Jones is a regular leech. Is that true?" "No; I would hardly say that. A leech, you know, never gets stuck on himself."

The Light of the Stars.

Various endeavors have been made to estimate the light of the stars. In the northern hemisphere Argelander has registered 324,000 stars down to the nine and a half magnitude, and with the aid of the best photometric data Agnes M. Clerk's "System of the Stars" gives the sum of the light of these northern stars as equivalent to 1-440 of full moonlight, while the total light of all stars similarly enumerated in both hemispheres, to the number of about 900,000, is roughly placed at 1-180 of the lunar brightness. The scattered light of still fainter celestial bodies is difficult to compute. By a photographic method Sir William Abney rated the total starlight of both hemispheres at 1-100 of full moonlight, and Professor Newcomb from visual observations of all stars at just 728 times that of Capella, or 1-89 of the light of the full moon.

It is not certain, however, that the sky would be totally dark if all stars were blotted out. Certain processes make the upper atmosphere strongly luminous at times, and we cannot be sure that this light would be totally absent.—Harper's Weekly.

A Dutch Fishing Fleet.

If the traveler wants to get a real glimpse of picturesque Holland, a glimpse which shall long be a happy memory, let him journey to the old fishing village of Scheveningen, not far from The Hague. Its fishing fleet is an imposing one and is best seen at night, when the boats are drawn up on the beach. Each has a number, and these are painted on the sides in such large figures that they can be read at a considerable distance. At night when the fishermen begin to come to land the women of the village walk down to the beach with their knitting in their hands to meet them. They wear their wooden shoes, some of which are made to look especially clean by an application of whitening, and they make a merry clatter as they go. Industry is characteristic of the women of Holland in all walks of life. They must always be at work of some kind, and it would seem as if more knitting needles must be used in Holland than in any other country in the world.—E. J. Farrington in Interior.

The Old Time English School.

Until comparatively recent times public school boys in England had many hardships to endure. As late as 1834 a writer who spoke from experience said that "the inmates of a workhouse or a jail were better fed and lodged than the scholars of Eton." Boys whose parents could not pay for a private room underwent privations that might have broken down a cabin boy and would be thought inhuman if inflicted on a galley slave.

"They rose at 5, winter and summer, and breakfasted four hours later, the interval being devoted to study, after they had swept their rooms and

made their beds. The only washing accommodation was a pump. The diet consisted of an endless round of mutton, potatoes and beer, none of them too plentiful or too good.

"To be starved," says this writer, "frozen and flogged—such was the daily life of the scions of England's noblest families."

A Losing Game.

"By having a record kept at the cashier's desk of pay checks which patrons fail to turn in I sometimes make up my losses," said the proprietor of a large restaurant. "Today a man got a check for 65 cents. To the cashier he presented one for 25 cents. The latter, glancing at his missing check card, discovered that it was one of the listed ones. Detaining the man, he notified me. After being confronted with the waiter the man wanted to pay both checks. I ordered a policeman summoned. The man's pleading led me to show him the list of missing checks, which amounted to something like \$80, saying that I didn't know but that he was the cause of them all. He offered to pay the lot if the matter would be dropped, and this proposition I accepted."—New York Sun.

Couldn't Forget It.

"Saturday night some miscreant jugged off a whole cord of my wood, and somehow I can't forget about it," declared Silas.

"Have you tried to forget it?" inquired his friend.

"Yes. Sunday morning I went to church, hoping I could get it off my mind, and before I had been there five minutes the choir started in singing 'The Lost Chord.' So I got out."—Judge.

Reckless Gambling.

"I'm afraid my husband is developing the gambling instinct," sobbed the bride.

"What's the matter, dear? Has he been playing poker?"

"No, but yesterday he offered to match pennies with Brother Frank to determine which one should pay the car fare."—Detroit Free Press.

Getting Down to Business.

Mistress to new servant—"There are two things, Mary, about which I am very particular. They are truthfulness and obedience. Mary—Yes'm, and when you tell me to say you're not in when a person calls that you don't wish to see which is it to be, mum—truthfulness or obedience?"

Defined.

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He who loves goodness harbors angels.—Emerson.

Shoes.

Shoes.

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