

# Bellefonte, Pa., August 5, 1910.

Antiquity of Shorthand.

Shorthand is apt to be looked upon as an essentially modern art. The predecessors of Pitman-Byrom in the eighteenth century. Mason in the seventeenth-are dim and distant figures beyond which it seems useless to venture. Cicero dictated his orations to his freedman, T. Tullius Tiro, and was inconsolable when temporarily depriv ed of his services. He complained i a letter to a friend that, while """: takes down whole phrases in a few signs, Spintharus this provisional substitute only writes in syllables." We need not, however, suppose that the "nota: "ironianae" were actually 13vented by the freedman in question As M. Guenin points out, the Roman created very few of the arts of peace. contenting themselves, as a rule, by copying from the Greeks. M. Guenin. however, indicates the banks of the Nile as the cradle of the art.-T. P.'s London Weekly.

A Benevolent Censor.

ingly under its rules, for with all his willfulness there never was a more biddable man in things you could show him a reason for. He never made the least of that trouble which so abounds for the hapless editor from narrower minded contributors. If you wanted a thing changed, very good, he changed it; if you suggested that a word or a sentence or a paragraph had better be struck out, very good, he struck it out. His proof sheets came back each a veritable "mush of concession." as Emerson says. Now and then he would try a little stronger language than the Atlantic had stomach for, and once when I sent him a proof I made him observe that I had left out the profanity. He wrote back: "Mrs. Clemens opened that proof and lit into the room with danger in her eye. What profanity? You see, when I read the manuscript to her I skipped that." It was part of his joke to pretend a violence in that gentlest creature which all the more amusingly realized the situation to their friends.-W. D. Howells in Harper's

Mark Twain's Profanity.

When Mark Twain began to write for the Atlantic Monthly be came will-

## Odd Shaving Habits.

Magazine.

A trio of young ladies spent some It is said that of men who shave weeks last year at an out of the way themselves not one in fifty can use the village in the mountain region. They found the village postmaster a quaint old character, whose ways were as original as they were startling, so that the daily trip to the postoffice became age man a real event.

"Is there any mail for us, major?" asked one of the young ladies as she appeared at the window one morning. "No; they ain't a thing for you all this mawnin'. Miss Mary," was the reply. "They wasn't nothin' come for you but a letter that looked like advertisin', an' so I opened it, and sure enough it was jest some advertisement about somethin' or other, and I says to myself, says I. 'Now, Miss Mary don't want to tote such stuff as that home with her,' and so I throwed it in the waste box."-Youth's Companion.

#### Snuff and a Crook.

Robert Pinkerton once told a story of his father, the founder of the detective agency, which illustrates the elder Pinkerton's caution. A noted criminal was detained in Pinkerton's Chicago office. The elder Pinkerton left the room and when he returned took the precaution of holding a revolver in front of him ready for use. He saw the criminal standing by the door with a snuffbox he had picked up from Pinkerton's desk in his hand. "This is good snuff," affably re-

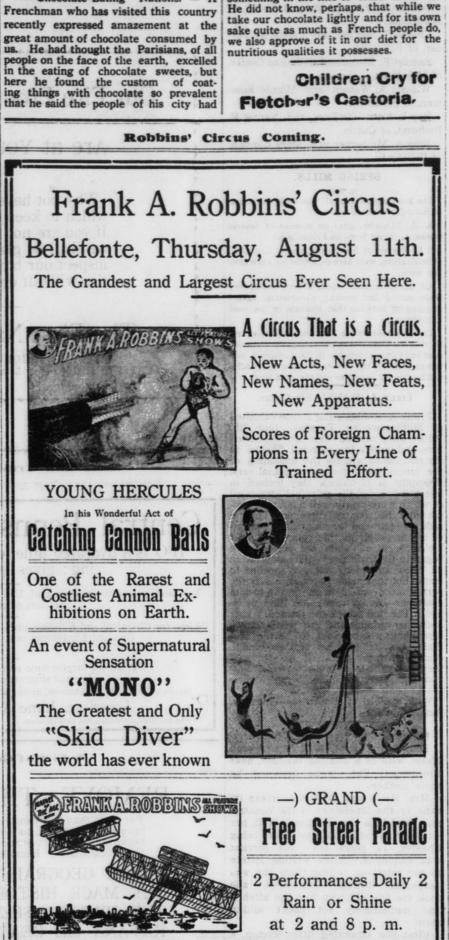
marked the crook as he took a sniff. "For the eyes or the nose?" asked had intended to blind him in an effort to escape "Well," remarked the criminal, "I'm

razor with both hands, and to this may be added other curious facts about the shaving habits of the aver-There is the president of a trust company in New York who, he tells his friends, always shaves himself standing in a corner of the room and facing the wall. He was a poor country boy and. like most boys, bought a razor on the sly. There was no mirror in his bedroom and rather than let his people know what he was about he faced the wall and scraped away by sense of feeling. Unce accustomed to this method he never needed a glass.

There is a United States senator, formerly a farmer, who for many years shaved himself sitting on a milking stool and looking at his reflection in a bucket of water. That was what he did as a boy and man on the farm, and he says that he couldn't shave standing up .- New York Tribune.

#### "Tolerance" In Coins.

The mint allows a certain degree of "tolerance" in coins. For example, the gold double eagle's standard weight is 516 grains, and the "tolerance" allowed is half a grain. A coin of this denomination may weigh as little as 5151/2 grains or as much as 516½ grains, but never less than the first nor more than the second figure. The standard weight of the silver half dollar is 192.9 grains, and the tolerance allowed is 1.5 Pinkerton, who knew that the crook grains. This coin may weigh as little as 191.4 grains and as much as 194.4 grains, but never less than the first nor more than the second figure. The sorry to say that the nose gets it this standard fineness of all gold and silver coins is 900. In the gold coins a devia-



-Chocolate-Eating Nations. - A something in the line to learn from us.

Frenchman who has visited this country

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Appius Claudius.

(the blind), was a Roman statesman called five cent nickel coin is really who lived during the third century be- only 25 per cent nickel, the rest being fore the Christian era. He was a Ro- copper. One cent pieces are 95 per man censor, 312 to 308, and consul. cent copper and 5 per cent tin and 307 to 296. He commenced the Appian way and completed the Appian aqueduct. From his Roman jurisprudence, oratory, grammar and Latin prose date their beginning. He abolished the limitation of the full right £130,000, or \$650,000, and the grand old of citizenship to landed proprietors. man immediately set about the mighty In his old age he is said to have be- | task of paying it; but, notwithstanding come blind, whence his cognomen the most heroic efforts on his part, he "Caecus." He was the author of never succeeded in paying it all. He works in both prose and verse, of did the best he could, but he had to which almost nothing is known.

No Pure Water.

Owing to the extremely solvent powers, pure water is never found in mature, the nearest approach being found he was a free man, and in this belief in rainwater, which, as it is formed in be happily remained till his death .the upper regions of the atmosphere. is the purest that nature supplies, but in descending it brings with it whatever impurities are floating near the surface, which in the neighborhood of cities are always numerous; hence perfectly pure water is hardly to be found. even the artificially distilled being only approximately so.

#### Where to Begin.

"Look here." said the reforming husband; "we must have things arranged in this house so that we shall know just where everything is kept."

"With all my heart," sweetly answered his wife. "and let us begin with your late hours, my love. I should very much like to know where they are kept."-Stray Stories.

A Boomerang.

"Call that art!" exclaimed a would be critic, pointing to a painting in a studio. "If that daub is a work of art. then I'm an idiot!"

"The latter part of your statement." rejoined the artist calmly. "would seem to furnish conclusive proof that it is a work of art."

Rivals.

She-John is a very considerate sort of fellow, isn't he? He (the rival)-Oh. yes, very! He has that keen tact and loving sympathy which a chauffeur displays toward a helpless cripple.-Life.

#### Blank Verse.

Poet-You published a poem of mine last week. You pay according to the kind of verse, don't you? Editor-Yes. George, give the gentleman a blank check.-Judge.

A Good Reason. "What makes you think, sir, that I will not be able to support your daughter?"

"Well, I haven't been able to myself."

this is allowed and in the silver coins Appius Claudius, surnamed Caecus of only three one-thousandth. The so

Grocerics.

Sir Walter Scott's Debts. The Ballantyne failure threw upon Sir Walter Scott the responsibility for depend solely upon his writings, and the task was more than mortal man could accomplish. As his powers failed he became possessed of the idea that all his debts were paid and that

New York American.

Better Dream On. "Isn't that a perfect dream of a hat?" she demanded of the man by ber side.

"I said," she repeated after some seconds of silence. "isn't that a dream of a hat?"

Still silence from the man. Then she ventured reproachfully: "Why don't you say something?" "My dear, you seemed to enjoy your dream so that I was afraid of waking you up," the man then replied.

### The Psalms.

Many years ago a new clergyman was taking Sunday duty in a remote hamlet among the Yorkshire wolds. After morning service the old clerk came up to him and observed: "So ye calls them 'Sauums,' do ye? Noo, we never knew what to make o' that 'ere P. We allus calls 'em 'Spasms.' "-London Scraps.

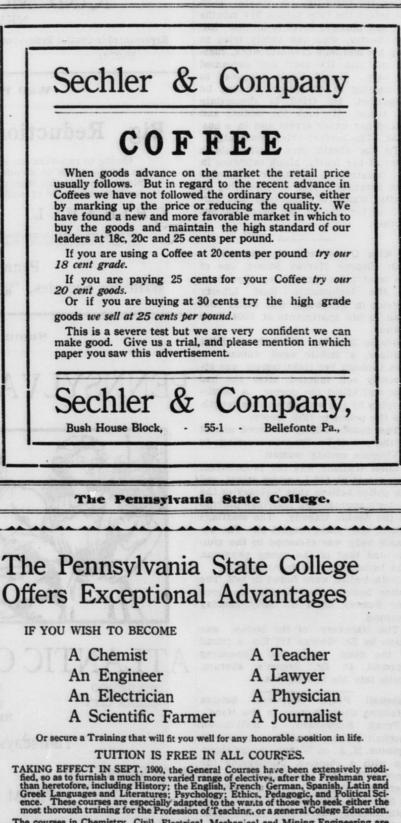
Grit. Grit is the grain of character. It may generally be described as heroism materialized-spirit and will thrust into heart, brain and backbone, so as to form part of the physical substance of the man.-Whipple.

#### Same Effect.

Innis-Do I love her? Why, man, I can't sleep nights for thinking about her. Owens-That's not proof positive. I get the same effect from my tailor's bills.-Boston Transcript.

Discouraging. Jester-Poor old Skinflint has his troubles! Jimson-What! Why, he's making barrels and barrels of money. Jester-I know, but the price of barrels has gone up.

Happiness is not found in self contemplation; it is perceived only when it is reflected from another .- Johnson



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