

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., January 6, 1911.

MARK TWAIN'S CLOTHES.

The Great Humorist Always Had a Relish For Personal Effect.

At the time of our first meeting Mark Twain was wearing a sealskin coat, with the fur out, in the satisfaction of a caprice or the love of strong effect which he was apt to indulge through life. Fields, the publisher, was present.

I do not know what droll comment was in Fields' mind with respect to the garment, but probably he felt that here was an original who was not to be brought to any Bostonian book in the judgment of his vivid qualities. With his crest of dense red hair and the wide sweep of his flaming mustache Clemens was not discordantly clothed in that sealskin coat, which afterward, in spite of its own warmth in it, sent the cold chills through me when I once accompanied it down Broadway, and shared the immense publicity it won him.

Clemens had always a relish for personal effect, which expressed itself in the white suit of complete serge which he wore in his last years and in the Oxford gown which he put on for every possible occasion and said he would like to wear all the time. That was not vanity in him, but a keen feeling for costume which the severity of our modern tailoring forbids men, though it flatters women to every excess in it.—W. D. Howells in Harper's Magazine.

Better Late Than Not at All.

The pastor of the little country church had been much annoyed by having the members of his congregation struggle in long after the service had begun. One Sunday morning, when he felt that further forbearance with this fault was impossible, he decided to rebuke some conspicuous offender. About twenty minutes later than the proper hour there entered a mild mannered little woman, one of the regular attendants of the church, but quite incorrigible in her tardiness. The minister looked up, fixed her with his spectacles and remarked:

"Sister, you are very much behind time. I hope you will not be so late in getting into heaven."

The little woman looked up, smiled sweetly and without a trace of confusion replied placidly:

"I shan't care about that, doctor, so long as I get there."

And now the pastor feels that the smile that went round the church somehow spoiled the effectiveness of his reprimand.—New York Tribune.

Chinese and the Morse Code.

Difficulties of the Chinese language were ably demonstrated when the problem arose of adapting it to telegraphy. How was it possible to apply the Morse alphabet to a language which has no alphabet at all, but consists of nearly 44,000 characters? Then it was impossible to treat Chinese phonetically, writing down the sound of the Chinese words in European letters and translating them into Morse dots and dashes, because no such system could deal with the Chinese niceties of intonation. The ingenious solution came from a Danish professor. He simply codified the 7,000 commonest Chinese characters, representing each by numerals. Thus the Chinese word for "cash" became 6030 in the code, and the operator had only to send the code signal for that.

Rachel's Onion.

I was amused by the observations of a retired actress who sat beside me at the Conservatoire examinations and in an undertone thought aloud as the recitations went on.

"Why so much weeping and wringing of the hands?" she said of a candidate attempting Andromaque. "How she spoils her nice young face in attempting to force tears from her eyes! At this distance nobody could scent an onion in her pocket handkerchief. Rachel resorted to that trick in 'Adrienne Lecouvreur,' and the tears flowed freely without facial contortions. I heard it said that as she left the stage she gave the onion she held to Prince Napoleon to eat in salad and that he did so."—Paris Letter to London Truth.

Insurance Gambling.

The Britisher's favorite gambling is insurance gambling. He will take out a policy against anything, from the death of the king to the loss of a horse race by a thoroughbred. Marine insurance gambling by those who have no direct interest in the safety of a ship or its cargo grew into such abuses that parliament was compelled to pass a drastic act to prevent such gambling on marine accidents and losses by those not otherwise concerned.

Social Sights.

"Mrs. Jangle says she can remember when that fashionable Cumrox family didn't know where the next meal was coming from."

"Well," replied Miss Cayenne, "it's evident she didn't invite them to dine with her then, so there's no reason why they should invite her now."—Washington Star.

Audible Sleep.

"Is Mrs. Schnorer in?" asked the caller.
"Yes, ma'am," answered the maid of all work in the boarding house. "She's at present in her room."
"Are you sure?"
"Yes, ma'am. I just overheard her taking a nap."

HIRED APPLAUSE.

The Great Rachel Made the Claque Earn Its Money.

Speaking of applause in theaters, a theatrical man relates the following concerning the great actress Rachel:

"It seems that upon a certain opening night Rachel received enthusiastic applause, but on the second night it felt deeply grieved and bitterly complained that the claque was not doing its duty. The leader of the hired 'applause makers' on hearing of her displeasure wrote her a letter in which he endeavored to excuse himself from any blame.

"Mademoiselle—I cannot remain under the obloquy of a reproach from such lips as yours," he began. "The following is an authentic statement of what really took place: At the first representation I led the attack in person not less than thirty-three times. We had three acclamations, four hilarities, two thrilling movements, four renewals of applause and two indefinite explosions. In fact, to such an extent did we carry our applause that the occupants of the stalls were scandalized and cried out a la porte!"

"My men were positively exhausted with fatigue and even intimated to me that they could not again go through such an evening. Seeing such to be the case, I applied for the manuscript, and after having profoundly studied the piece I was obliged to make up my mind for the second representation to certain curtailments in the service of my men."

"The writer thus goes on at some length to assure the actress he will try to make future amends and requests her to believe in his profound admiration."—Exchange.

TALKING IN FIGURES.

Significance of Certain Numbers in the Telegraphers' Code.

"In the telegraphers' code numbers have special significance of which the general public is not aware," remarked a veteran key night the other day. "Most everybody knows that 30 means 'good night,' or the end of a story, but few outside the profession know that 31 is also a code sign. Railroad operators, however, know that this call is a signal to the operator at the other end to come back and repeat train signals to the sending operator. It also has another meaning. 'Train order' to be signed by conductor and engine driver." Nineteen, on the other hand, means that the train order is not to be signed by conductor or engine driver. Twenty-four has also the latter significance on some roads.

"Five is simply an interrogation point and in the vernacular could be translated 'Anything doing?' Thirteen signifies 'Do you understand?' Twenty-five means 'busy,' but nobody seems to know how it came to have that significance unless perhaps it means that the operator is still in the midst of his work, being some distance away from 30.

"Seventy-three means 'best regards,' and newspaper men and operators employ this expression constantly. Of course 23 has come to mean in this numerical language just what it does in ordinary parlance, 'skidoo,' 'vamoose' or 'butt out' or any of the thousand and one other equivalents."—New York Herald.

The Governor's Quick Wit.

While talking to a former governor of Illinois, who was noted for the quickness of his wit, an English tourist spoke with special fervor of a sight he had seen in another state.

"I attended a Sunday service for the inmates of the state prison," he said, "and I learned that of the 209 persons now confined there all but twelve voluntarily attend religious services held in the prison chapel twice each Sunday."

"Most extraordinary," said the governor musingly. "I am sorry to say it is not so with us. But then," he added soberly, "in Illinois, you see, most of the respectable people do not come to prison."—Lippincott's.

Sign Language.

Brown and Jones were having their usual stroll and had just had a few minutes' conversation with Robinson, who was accompanied by his wife. After they had gone on some little distance Brown said to Jones:

"Did you notice that Mrs. Robinson never said a word?"

"Oh, yes," said Jones. "You see, she's deaf and dumb."
"Lucky chap is Robinson. But I suppose she can talk with her fingers?" asked Brown.

"I think so," replied Jones, "for Robinson hasn't a dozen hairs left on his head."

Settlement Work.

"Come into a fortune, didn't he?"
"Yes, a big one."
"What's he doin' these days?"
"He has become interested in settlement work."

"Well, that ought to keep him occupied for awhile; he owed everybody."—Houston Post.

His Night Work.

Cynical Friend—If the baby is the boss of the establishment and his mother is the superintendent, pray what position do you occupy? Young Father (wearily)—Oh, I'm the floor-walker.—Baltimore American.

Jewelry Galore.

Mrs. Horie—Covered with jewels, isn't she? Mrs. Doyle—Yes; it is hard to tell at first glance whether she belongs to the mineral or animal kingdom.—Life.

Want of care does more damage than want of knowledge.—Franklin.

The Tempter Won.

When the late Baron Nordenskjold was at Ceylon on the way home from his journey along the northern coast of Siberia he received a telegram from the Russian government asking him whether he would accept from the czar a certain decoration as an appreciation of his services to Russia. For many days the famous explorer wavered, as he was a member of Bjornstjerne Bjornson's Anti-decoration club, whose members were so firmly pledged never to accept any decoration from anybody. Nordenskjold, however, could not resist the temptation, so he replied to the telegram in the affirmative. It is not hard to imagine his disappointment when, upon reaching home, a friend of his, a high official, told him the following: "The Russian government was well aware of your antagonistic views in regard to decorations and had, therefore, placed in readiness 300,000 rubles to be paid you in the event of your refusing to accept the insignia, but before paying that sum they wanted to try your firmness. Russia is certainly grateful to you for your failure to live up to your pledge."

Death Was a Live One.

While on the way to the race track in New Orleans one day several winters ago an undertaker named Mr. Dooley passed a funeral procession on its way to the cemetery. Dooley had a friend with him, another Irishman, who exclaimed, "Sure, death always wins." There happened to be a horse entered that day named Death, and he won with ridiculous ease, Dooley winning a good bet on him. Dooley told all his friends of the incident, and they all went out to the course the next time. Death was entered. He won every time he started for thirteen races. It was near get-away day, when every one was packing up ready to take the last train for New York. The horse was sold that afternoon at an auction sale, and the buyer was Mr. Dooley. He hitched him a month later to a hearse, and the horse became frightened and ran away and was not stopped until the graveyard was reached. After the burial Dooley had the horse shot and buried near the cemetery. "You're a dead one now, Death," said Dooley, "but a live one in those thirteen races."—Baltimore American.

The Fashion of the House.

A servant girl happened to be engaged at a farmhouse where the mistress was known to have a hasty temper. On the first Saturday night the girl was at the farmhouse she was told by the mistress to clean the boots for Sunday. The mistress on coming into the kitchen later on saw that the girl had cleaned her own boots first. So she took them up and threw them into a tub of water that was standing by and bounced out of the kitchen. The girl said nothing, but when she had cleaned the other boots she threw them also into the water.

"Whatever possessed you to do that, girl?" asked the mistress on coming again in the kitchen.

The girl simply replied: "Well, ma'am, please ma'am, I thought it was the fashion of the house, ma'am!"—London Tit-Bits.

For Bitter Medicine.

Nauseous medicine has been ere now disguised in fruit and jelly, covered with sugar, drowned in wine and coffee, but it remained for a western woman to discover the taking of cream as an alleviation of the bitter taste. She says a spoonful of cream in the mouth before and after taking makes the worst medicine harmless. Certainly it is worth trying, though whether the effect will wear away for the habitual taker depend upon it.

Speaking Trumptets.

Alexander the Great is said to have used a speaking trumpet.

To know how to wait is the great secret of success.—De Maitre.

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Travelers Guide.

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Condensed Time Table effective June 17, 1909.

READ DOWN			READ UP		
No	1	No 5	No 3	No	6
	a. m.	p. m.	a. m.	p. m.	a. m.
7	08	11	2	08	11
7	15	11	2	15	11
7	20	11	2	20	11
7	25	11	2	25	11
7	30	11	2	30	11
7	35	11	2	35	11
7	40	11	2	40	11
7	45	11	2	45	11
7	50	11	2	50	11
7	55	11	2	55	11
7	00	11	2	00	11
7	05	11	2	05	11
7	10	11	2	10	11
7	15	11	2	15	11
7	20	11	2	20	11
7	25	11	2	25	11
7	30	11	2	30	11
7	35	11	2	35	11
7	40	11	2	40	11
7	45	11	2	45	11
7	50	11	2	50	11
7	55	11	2	55	11
7	00	11	2	00	11
7	05	11	2	05	11
7	10	11	2	10	11
7	15	11	2	15	11
7	20	11	2	20	11
7	25	11	2	25	11
7	30	11	2	30	11
7	35	11	2	35	11
7	40	11	2	40	11
7	45	11	2	45	11
7	50	11	2	50	11
7	55	11	2	55	11
7	00	11	2	00	11
7	05	11	2	05	11
7	10	11	2	10	11
7	15	11	2	15	11
7	20	11	2	20	11
7	25	11	2	25	11
7	30	11	2	30	11
7	35	11	2	35	11
7	40	11	2	40	11
7	45	11	2	45	11
7	50	11	2	50	11
7	55	11	2	55	11
7	00	11	2	00	11
7	05	11	2	05	11
7	10	11	2	10	11
7	15	11	2	15	11
7	20	11	2	20	11
7	25	11	2	25	11
7	30	11	2	30	11
7	35	11	2	35	11
7	40	11	2	40	11
7	45	11	2	45	11
7	50	11	2	50	11
7	55	11	2	55	11
7	00	11	2	00	11
7	05	11	2	05	11
7	10	11	2	10	11
7	15	11	2	15	11
7	20	11	2	20	11
7	25	11	2	25	11
7	30	11	2	30	11
7	35	11	2	35	11
7	40	11	2	40	11
7	45	11	2	45	11
7	50	11	2	50	11
7	55	11	2	55	11
7	00	11	2	00	11
7	05	11	2	05	11
7	10	11	2	10	11
7	15	11	2	15	11
7	20	11	2	20	11
7	25	11	2	25	11
7	30	11	2	30	11
7	35	11	2	35	11
7	40	11	2	40	11
7	45	11	2	45	11
7	50	11	2	50	11
7	55	11	2	55	11
7					