

A MAN OF MYSTERY.

Peculiar Life of Metastasio, the Celebrated Italian Poet. Metastasio (1698-1782), the celebrated dramatic and operatic poet, spent fifty-five years in Vienna with the Martinis family without ever learning German or wishing to learn it.

ETIQUETTE IN SIAM.

On Hands and Knees Before the King Was Long the Custom There. Perhaps the most revolutionary reform carried out by the late king of Siam was the abolition of the arbitrary rule of etiquette which forbade an inferior in rank to raise his head above that of a superior or even level with it.

The Change That Was Wrought.

The little man was explaining to his audience the benefits of physical culture. "Three years ago," he said, "I was a miserable wreck. Now, what do you suppose brought about this great change in me?" "What change?" said a voice from the audience.

Two Collars on a Dog.

Having bought a dog that he admired, a man undertook to buy a dog collar. The dog had a neck nearly as big as his head, and the dealer advised the man to buy two collars.

Collected Some Alimony Also.

She—This is Mand's third husband, and they all bore the name of William. He—You don't say so! Why, the woman is a regular Bill collector.—New York Times.

It is a great evil as well as a misfortune to be unable to utter a prompt and decided no.—Simmons.

Which Was Far Worse.

Williamson—Does your wife always have the last word? Henderson—Well, if she doesn't, old fellow, she looks it.—Smart Set.

SIGNED IN A HURRY.

Curious Incident That Brought the Savages to Terms.

The ambassador who would protect his country's rights must exercise tact and call into use the deepest learning. And, after all, his plans may be frustrated or unexpectedly furthered by some happening entirely beyond his control.

During one of those terrible storms which periodically sweep the shores of Formosa an American vessel was wrecked and the crew eaten by the aborigines. The nearest American consul thereupon journeyed inland to the savage territory in order to make terms with the cannibals for future emergencies.

Unfortunately the chiefs refused to listen and would have nothing to do with the agreement prepared for their signature. The consul was irritated by their obstinacy. He had a bad temper and a glass eye, and when he lost the first the second annoyed him.

FORCE OF LIGHTNING.

An Ordinary Stroke Is About Equal to Fifty Thousand Horsepower.

Frequently surprise is expressed at the effect of a stroke of lightning which splinters a large tree or wrecks a tall chimney, but if the enormous power developed by an ordinary stroke of lightning is taken into consideration the wonder will be that the effect is so small.

Scientists estimate that an "ordinary" stroke of lightning is of 50,000 horsepower. That is force sufficient to drive the largest battleship ever built at top speed.

The average electromotive force of a "bolt" of lightning is about 3,500,000 volts, and the current is 14,000,000 amperes. In such a "bolt" there is energy equal to 2,450,000 volts, or 3,284,182 horsepower.

Nothing to Do.

The following bit, quoted from Lord Cromer by Helen Barrett Montgomery in her "Western Women in Eastern Lands," presents a picture of the life of the Egyptian lady that reads of statistics might fall to convey: The seclusion of women exercises a most baneful influence on eastern society.

An Englishwoman once asked an Egyptian lady how she passed her time.

"I sit on this sofa," she replied, "and when I am tired I cross over and sit on that."

Wit Not Appreciated.

Stubbs was feeling his way to the kitchen stove in the dark when he fell over the coal scuttle.

"What's that?" growled Stubbs as he rubbed his shins.

"Why, a range fender."

And what Stubbs said about woman's wit was plenty.—New York American.

A Crazy Spell.

The opera was "Trovatore." Though I no more may hold thee, Yet is thy name a spell, sang the basso to the prima donna. And it was. Her name was Soprohnia Czechlinskiewicz.—Judge's Library.

Stung!

"I would like to exchange this five dollar opera bag for a five dollar chatting dish."

"Sorry, miss, but those opera bags have been marked down to \$3.98."—Washington Herald.

The Recipe.

Mrs. John—I do wish I had a good recipe for falling hair. John—Most women nowadays just pick it up again and hang it on the back of a chair.—Youngstown Telegram.

Spoiled in the Making.

Behold, when a man on a trolley car removed his hat the other day little Willie observed that he was bald—yes, very bald, for not a single hair was left on his head.

"Say, mamma," finally remarked Willie, turning to his mother, "just look at that man there."

"Hush, dear," returned mamma. "He will hear you. What's the matter with him?"

"Everything is the matter with him," replied the youngster. "When the angels made him they put his head on upside down."—Philadelphia Telegraph.

His Blunt Critic.

Irving Bacheller was introduced one day by a mutual friend to a western mountaineer.

"Mr. Bacheller," exclaimed the friend to the mountaineer, "is an author of repute in the east."

"Oh, yes," drawled the mountaineer. "I know of him. I was locked up in my cabin here by the snow two winters ago, and I only had two books to read the whole five months, your book, sir," he said, turning to Mr. Bacheller, "and the Bible, and I read them through several times."

"Indeed!" said the author, a smile of satisfaction wreathing his face.

"Yes, sir," continued the old mountaineer, "and I never knew before how interesting the Bible was."—St. Paul Dispatch.

Grenada Was Bought Cheap.

The island of Grenada, in the British West Indies, was bought by the French in the middle of the seventeenth century, and the price paid was two bottles of rum.

So Absurd. Youth—Look here! This horse I hired from you runs on to the pavement every time he sees a motorcar.

Horse Dealer—Well, you don't expect a horse to run up a telegraph pole or climb a tree, do you?—New York Journal.

It Suited Him.

Silas—Say, did you ever see a golf ball just where you wanted it? Storekeeper—Yes; for the one on you is exactly all right for me. St.—Boston Transcript.

It requires very little trouble to find fault. That is why there are so many critics.—Holmes.

TRAINING SEALS.

These Dexterous Animals Easily Taught to Perform Tricks.

"The cardinal principle in training animals," says an animal trainer, "is not to attempt to make an animal do anything contrary to the nature of its particular species. To be successful a trainer must know enough about the habits of the animals he has under training to fit the tricks he would teach them to their natural bent."

"The seal is very easily taught. You begin with one seal, some small pieces of fish and a string. You let the seal sit on his pedestal, something he likes to do by nature; then you throw him one of the pieces of fish, and he naturally and easily catches it. Next you tie a piece of fish on the end of your string and swing it toward the seal. He catches this, too, and you keep moving away from him and swinging the fish to him from an increasing distance. Now you are ready to begin with the hat or cornucopia. You put a piece of fish in the bottom of it and toss it to the seal. The seal is dexterous by nature, and his nose, quickly detecting the fish in the tip of the cone, seeks it out. The cone catches on his snout, and the cone with fish and tosses the cone aside. Before long he comes to associate the cone with fish, and he will catch any number of similar ones and toss them aside when he fails to find what he wants."

"Balancing the big rubber ball is based on the same principle. The ball is soaked in fishy brine and thrown to the seal. He gets the odor and tries his best to get into the ball and find what he is after. This results in his balancing the ball on his nose, a feat with his supple neck and his natural feeding habits are all adapted, and then he gets his piece of fish as a prize."—New York World.

Cutting. "Miss Keenly has an awfully sharp tongue, hasn't she?" "I should say so! She's cut most of her friends off her list with it."

Goodness does not more certainly make men happy than happiness makes them good.—Lander.

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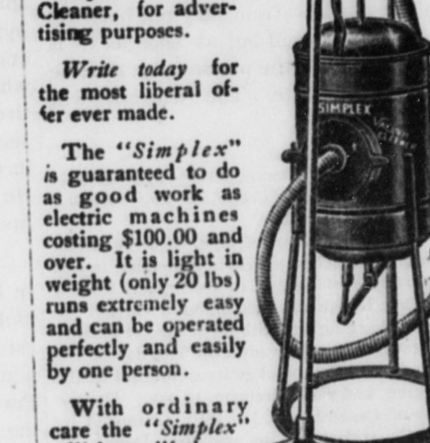
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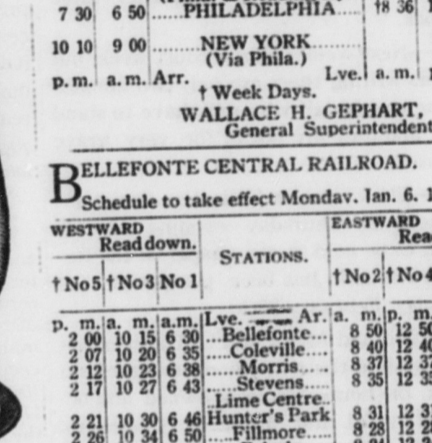
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