MISTAKE, BUT WORKED WELL

Unintentionally Friendly Letter to Bullet-Proof Debtor Brought Quick Results From Him.

A lawyer who had drifted out of the regular line into a collection practice day that he had his stenographer sign them and would himself read over the carbon copies the following day if he bad habit, which was that as it came to the close of a day and he had become weary of nagging people he before her, would fill in the proper name.

It chanced that she, like most good stenographers, decided to get married, and she brought her sister into the new stenographer had typed that letter exactly as it was dictated and sent it out in the mail the night be-

All that day the attorney expected Mr. Samuel Smith to show up with fire in his eye and a pistol in his hand. He shivered when the office door opened and he left for home very early in the afternoon. The next morning, however, he received a letter from "Sammy," which started off "Dear Billy" liam), and which went on to say, "If

account. The new method had brought grati dare to adopt it as a regular practice; on the contrary, his dictation since has been notable for its exactitude.

Nettles as Substitute for Cotton.

has been going on in Europe for a long time, and many experiments have been made with the common netfrom the woody stem. In a method of treatment that has been worked out length and breadth of the rarge!" in the last two or three years, the dried nettle stems are boiled about the loosened fibers are then separated in a machine with revolving brushes. but Muir remained to study its ef-The material is then subjected to a fects. Among other things, he kept der high pressure. The product is a ments. mass of yellowish fibers, free from gum, that can be bleached, combed, and spun into lustrous white yarn. This is claimed to have the smoothness and softness of flax, with a strength even greater than that of brilliant damask, and can be usedalone or with other threads-for upholsteries, ribbons, and a variety of fabrics.

Year's Sleep in Prison. A remarkable case of lethargy is reported from one of the towns in South Russia. A certain Moisselyinko was put on his trial in March of last year on the charge of having committed an armed robbery, but in the midst of the proceedings he dropped to the floor in what was supposed at the time to be a fainting fit, but which afterward proved a lethargic sleep.

In this condition the prisoner has lain till March 8 of the present year. He has evidently been all the time in complete possession of his wits, but was unable to move a limb, open his eyes or take food. When his eyelids were raised the pupils could be seen, and he was all the time fed by arti-

ficial means. During his sleep he has lost some normal and healthy sleep.

Titanic as a Synonym for Large. Marion made it a practice to use all the new words she heard of in sentences. The other night she was listening while her mother read of the disaster of the Titanic.

"Mother," she said, "what does Ti-

tanic mean?" "Titanic." her mother replied, "means very large, or big."

Marion was thoughtful for a minute. Then turning to her mother she said:

"I can use it in a sentence." "How?" asked her mother. "The Titanic ship hit an iceberg Titanicer than itself," said Marion.

Justified. Judge-What have you to say for

such a brutal manner? Prisoner-Your honor, he asked me if my name was Ismay. Judge-Discharged.

"NOBLE EARTHQUAKE."

Impressive Description of Shocks in Yosemite Valley Which Gave Birth to a New Mountain Avalanche Talus While He Looked.

"A noble earthquake! A noble dictated so many dunning letters every earthquake!" exclaimed John Muir, when he was awakened at half-past two o'clock of a moonlit morning in the Yosemite valley. For years he thought it necessary. He had another had believed that the many great avawould grow facetious and instead of earthquake at least three centuries for dominies to put up their money dictating the names of the debtor prop- before, and here was his chance to on sporting propositions. It is but erly would vary the monotony by say- make some observations. Never be- fair to the preacher, however, to say ing "Dearest Skin" or "Darling Mr. fore had he enjoyed a storm of this that the other man did the banter-Smith," knowing that his stenog- sort, but the strange, thrilling motion rapher, having the correspondence could not be mistaken, and so he ran out of his cabin, both glad and frightened as he made his exclamation.

"The shocks were so violent and varied, and succeeded on another so closely," he writes in the Century, the office to succeed her. The first "that I had to balance myself carefull day of dictation that the attor- fully in walking, as if on the deck ney put in after the sister's advent of a ship among waves, and it seemed chanced to be one of his humorous impossible that the high cliffs of the ones, and he started a letter to a bul- valley could escape being shattered. let proof debtor named Samuel Smith In particular I feared that the sheer-"Dear Sammy," and then proceeded to fronted Sentinel rock, towering above tell Sammy" his opinion of him. The my cabin, would be shaken down, and next morning, on looking over the car- I took shelter back of a large yellow bon copies, he was horrified to find pine, hoping that it might protect me from at least the smaller outbounding boulders."

The most impressive part of his description is of the sounds. "It was a calm, moonlight night," he says, "and no sound was heard for the first minute or so save low, muffled, bubbling underground rumblings, and the whispering and rustling of the agitated trees, as if Nature were holding her breath. Then suddenly out of the strange silence and strange motion (the lawyer's given name being Wil- there came a tremendous roar. The Eagle rock, on the south wall about you had addressed me in such friend- half a mile up the valley, gave way, ly style before you would have had and I saw it falling in thousands of the money sooner," and inclosed was the great boulders I had so long been "Sammy's" check for the whole studying, pouring to the valley floor in a free curve luminous from friction, making a terribly sublime specfying results, but the attorney did not tacle—an arc of glowing, passionate fire, fifteen hundred feet span, as true in form and as serene in beauty as a rainbow in the midst of the stupendous rock storm. The sound was so tremendously deep and broad and earnest that the whole earth, like a living creature, seemed at last to have The search for a cotton substitute found voice, and to be calling to her sister planets. In trying to tell something of the size of this awful sound, it seems to me that if all the thuntle, which has been a promising plant der of all the storms I had ever heard on account of the strength of its fiber were condensed into one roar, it and its ready growth wild under the would not equal the rock roar at the most discouraging conditions, with a birth of a mountain talus. Think, then, of the roar that arose to heaven culty has been in separating the fiber at the simultaneous birth of the ancient canyon taluses throughout the

The Indians and many of the white men left the valley in terror of this half an hour in dilute soda lye, and earthquake, the final rumblings of which were not over for two months, number of alternate boilings in dilute a bucket of water on his cabin table lye and thorough washings, both un- to learn what he could of the move-

Pedigree Was Fine, But-.

Though nepotism has been known to get good railroad jobs for young men, there is one passenger official in hemp. The yarn has been made into Kansas City with whom family connections do not go very far.

A few days ago the official in question was in quest of an additional man

for his office. A friend, learning of his desire, took occasion to write a letter indorsing a

young man of his acquaintance. The letter contained some glowing testimonials of some of the things accomplished by the young man's ancestors and relatives. But it didn't very far with the passenger official, when sent the following laconic

deply to the young man's indorser: "Judging from your letter, the young man you recommend must have a good pedigree. However, I merely desire a clerk now, but if I conclude to start a stock farm later, I will let you know and will be glad to give the young man a chance."-Kansas City Journal.

Planting the Poppies.

When the daffodils are in flower the garden begins to regain the atweight, but he has kept throughout tractions which it lost in winter, and the external appearance of a man in the tasks which the spring imposes are entered on with zest. Among the most important is the sowing of annuals. Two very common mistakes should be avoided. One is sowing too thickly and the other sowing too deep-An annual such as a Shirley poply. py, when well grown, will occupy a square foot of ground at least, yet in that space dozens, if not scores, of seeds are often sown. The result is a tremendous waste, not only of seeds, but also of plants, for all that do grow must be spoilt, unless they are thinned

Paradoxical Display.

quickly and severely.

Miss Mary Garden, at a dinner at Sherry's in New York, said of a beautiful girl who was wearing one of the ultra-decollete dinner gowns of the 1912 season:

"When you see a pretty girl in such yourself for beating this man in a low cut gown as that you have a remarkable paradox before you-the paradox of a person who displays simultaneously very bad taste and very good form."

WHEN MUIR REJOICED RECORDED QUEER BET

NATURALIST WRITES ABOUT A LOSER PAID GUINEA A DAY FOR THREE YEARS.

> Made Wager with Clergyman Based on Expectation of Napoleon's Death and Finally Was Released From it by a Jury.

> "One of the most curious bets I ever heard of was made in England a hundred years ago," said Angus Mc-Gregor, an attorney of Edinburgh, Scotland, at the Belvedere.

"The wager was between a knight, lanche taluses leaning against the who was also a member of parliawalls of the valley at intervals of a ment, and a clergyman, for in that mile or two, had been caused by an day it was not considered scandalous ing, and this was the knight's singular offer: That if anyone of a crowd present would put up 100 guineas (something over \$500) he would give to such person one guinea a day during the remainder of the lifetime of

Napoleon Bonaparte. "In making such an extraordinary offer he evidently thought the great Corsican had but a few days to live. Before the others in the company could recover from the shock of the strange proposal, the clergyman shouted out that he would accept the terms and then and there the wager or deal was consummated, there being witnesses to the act of the minister in putting 100 guineas into the challenger's hands.

"A splendid bet it was for the reverend gentleman, but a miserably poor one for the other, who had to surrender a guinea every day and this he continued to do for the better part of three years. Along toward the close of 1814 the knight wearied of his losing game. As you American say, he began to have cold feet. At first he tried to beg off, but the parson would not listen to his entreaties. A bet was a bet he contended, and the fact that he was ahead to the tune of some 900 guineas made him not in the least compassionate. Boney might live a good while longer and that daily rev-

enue was very sweet. "As a last resort the knight refused to pay any longer, and the parson brought suit before a judge. Eloquent and learned counsel spoke on both sides, but it must have been that the advocate for the defendant knight produced the most convincing argument in telling the jury why his client

should not be made to pay any longer. "In the first place," said the lawyer, his client had not in the beginning made the bet seriously; it was a sort of jocular proposal, but once being made the proponent was too game to back out. Secondly, it was contrary to public policy to give legal sanction to such a bet. Napoleon was Britain's most dreaded foe and for a British subject to have a procuring interest in prolonging the enemy's life was a horrid and untenable thought. The jury took the same view and freed the knight from further payments."-Baltimore Ameri-

Young Financier.

It appears that there is more or less humbug about the traditional slowness of the messenger, the fabulous lazi ness of the office boy-and all that sort of stuff. At any rate, there is a young fellow in Cleveland who may be said to be abreast of the age in which he lives. He works in a downtown office building, but he has a rapidly growing account in a savings

bank. The other day our young hero went to his bank to make a deposit of 50 cents. The teller, with more than his customary haughtiness, informed the boy that the bank would not receive deposits of less than \$1. The kid didn't waste any time arguing about it. He walked over to the desk, wrote a check for \$1 and presented it at the paying teller's window. It was honored, of course. Then the little

financier said: "I wish to deposit \$1.50." And that deposit was accepted. And the teller ground his teeth. Haec fabula docet-that you can deposit a cent if you have an account .-

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Got Right One That Time. "Crack" went the baseball bat, and "crash" went the big windowpane of a kosher butcher in East Eighty-sixth street as the ball found its mark, says

the New York Daily Mail. Like a flash, out darted the butcher and with multitudinous outcries started in pursuit of half a dozen small boys, who were legging it for dear life in the direction of Carl Schurz

His chase would have proved fruitless had not a policeman, by one of those miracles that occasionally happen, come around a corner just ahead of the fugitives and proved nimble enough to grab one of them.

The prisoner, knuckles in eyes, protested that he hadn't "done nothin" and there was growing a doubt as to the value of the capture until a powerful female voice descended from an upper window across the street, say-

"Dot's de boy! Dot's de boy! I hat him myself seen from my upstairs window down."

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