

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 dictated so many munning letters every day that he had his stenographer sign them and would himself read over the carbon copies the following day if he thought it necessary.

It chanced that she, like most good stenographers, decided to get married, and she brought her sister into the office to succeed her.

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 new method had brought gratifying results, but the attorney did not 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.

The search for a cotton substitute has been going on in Europe for a long time, and many experiments have been made with the common nettle, which has been a promising plant on account of the strength of its fiber and its ready growth wild under the most discouraging conditions.

Year's Sleep in Prison.

A remarkable case of lethargy is reported from one of the towns in South Russia. A certain Molisselyinko was put on his trial in March of last year on the charge of having committed an armed robbery.

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.

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 Titanic 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 yourself for beating this man in such a brutal manner?

Prisoner—Your honor, he asked me if my name was Ismay.

Judge—Discharged.

WHEN MUIR REJOICED

NATURALIST WRITES ABOUT A "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 earthquake!" exclaimed John Muir, when he was awakened at half-past two o'clock of a moonlit morning in the Yosemite valley.

"The shocks were so violent and varied, and succeeded on another so closely," he writes in the Century, "that I had to balance myself carefully in walking, as if on the deck of a ship among waves, and it seemed impossible that the high cliffs of the valley could escape being shattered."

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."

Pedigree Was Fine, But—

Though nepotism has been known to get good railroad jobs for young men, there is one passenger official in 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.

Planting the Poppies.

When the daffodils are in flower the garden begins to regain the attractions which it lost in winter, and the tasks which the spring imposes are entered on with zest.

Two very common mistakes should be avoided. One is sowing too thickly and the other sowing too deeply.

Paradoxical Display.

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 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."

RECORDED QUEER BET

LOSER PAID GUINEA A DAY FOR THREE YEARS.

Mass 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 McGregor, an attorney of Edinburgh, Scotland, at the Belvedere.

"The wager was between a knight, who was also a member of parliament, and a clergyman, for in that day it was not considered scandalous for dominies to put up their money on sporting propositions.

"A splendid bet it was for the reverend gentlemen, 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.

"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.

Young Financier.

It appears that there is more or less humbug about the traditional slowness of the messenger, the fabulous laziness of the office boy—and all that sort of stuff.

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.

"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 Park.

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, saying: "Dot's de boy! Dot's de boy! I haf him myself seen from my upstairs window down."

Where the Danger Lay. Poorman—When you call on Miss Applegate, beware of the bulldog, or you'll get nabbed.

Richman—That's all right; the bulldog and I are good friends. It's Miss Applegate I'll look out for.

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