

THE FRUGAL PAST

A Pair of Trousers Went a Long Way in the Good Old Days.

WAIL OF A MAN IN A GROUCH.

His Wife's Reckless Gift to a Tramp of One of His Battered Castoff Garments Moved Him to a Touching Discourse on the Vice of Extravagance.

"A poor man came to the door this afternoon and asked if I had any old clothes I could spare."

"I gave him those gray trousers of yours, as they were too badly worn out for you to use them again."

"The next time you undertake to distribute my raiment among the proletariat, Mrs. Jamesworthy," returned her grouch husband,

"I had expected to get two seasons' wear out of those trousers, and I had a sentimental fondness for them, as I wore those trousers on that red letter day when, three years ago, I stood in the White House and proudly shook hands with the illustrious president of this great and glorious republic."

"I'd never think of giving away anything of yours without your approval, Mrs. Jamesworthy. Time and again I have been tempted to call in some poor but respectable widow with a large family to support and give her your false hair, which has become an eyesore to me, as I find it lying around wherever I go, but I felt it would be doing you an injustice and refrained."

"Your action is a fair sample of the extravagance which keeps men forever walking in the shadow of the poorhouse. I have no doubt that my sainted mother would roll over in her grave if she could know of such doings."

"When they were too far gone for further use mother made them over so the older son could wear them, and when he had used them five or six years there still was enough sound material in them to make a pair for the youngest son."

"You may make as many faces as you please, Mrs. Jamesworthy, and point the finger of scorn until the cows come home, but that doesn't change the fact that it was economy of this sort that kept our parents in ignorance of such things as the bankruptcy court and the associated charities."

"After this, please, you will call me into executive session before giving away any of my habiliments, Mrs. Jamesworthy,"—Walt Mason in Chicago News.

Concrete Bells.

The peculiar vibratory or nonvibratory properties of concrete are strikingly shown in bells made of this material. A bell cast in concrete will ring almost like a metal bell, but a slight touch of the hand serves immediately to stop vibration and the resulting sound. This is due to the lack of homogeneity from the standpoint of sound transmission.—London Standard.

On the Go.

"My husband is not home two nights a month."

"He is the minister—always being called away to see people."—Kansas City Journal.

WALKING TO ASIA.

This Is Not Difficult When Bering Strait Is Frozen.

On Aug. 15 we sailed through Bering strait and were at last in the arctic. The straits are thirty-six miles wide, with East cape, a rounded, dome shaped mass of black basalt, on the Asiatic side and on the American side Cape Prince of Wales, a headline of sharper outline, but neither so lofty nor so sheer.

The Eskimos constantly cross from continent to continent in small boats. In still weather the passage can be made in a light kayak with perfect safety. The widest of the three channels is that between Big Diomedede and East cape, and is, I should say, not more than fifteen miles across.

TRUE TO THE END.

And After Many Years Came Her Tragic and Pathetic Reward.

A number of years ago some miners in Wales, in exploring an old disused pit, found the body of a young man dressed in a fashion long out of date.

The miners were puzzled at the circumstances. No one in the district had been missed within their remembrance, and at last it was resolved to bring in the oldest inhabitant, an old lady over eighty years old, who had lived single in the village all her life.

When she was taken into the room where the dead man lay a strange thing occurred. The old lady fell on the corpse and kissed it and addressed it by every term of endearment spoken in a bygone generation.

The old lady and young man had been betrothed sixty years before. Her lover had disappeared mysteriously, and she had kept her faith during the long interval.

The miners removed the old lady to her house, and that night her faithful spirit rejoined that of her long lost lover.—London Telegraph.

Wise Eskimos.

Everything in the Eskimo dress has a reason for its existence, writes Captain Roald Amundsen in "The North-west Passage." The members of Captain Amundsen's expeditions had become accustomed to the Eskimo dress and had adopted it, but many of them thought it ridiculous for grownup men to go about wearing fringe to their clothes, so they cut it off. I had my scruples about this, says the author, as I had already learned that most things in the Eskimo's clothing and other arrangements had their distinct meaning and purpose.

Astronomy.

If there were any money to be made in astronomy everybody would be studying it. About all we can see in figures, and these are so big that they stagger the understanding. Every child in the United States knows how to find the north star from the pointers of the dipper, but no child can appreciate the statement that this star is distant from the earth 210,000,000,000,000 miles—two hundred and ten trillions!

Right in His Face.

A group of grieving depositors stood on the sidewalk before the closed doors of a recently defunct bank. It wasn't a merry scene. One man who had lost his all was trying to brace up a colored grandpa whose white wool bobbed up and down into the folds of a bandanna.

The Wrong Heart.

"Mr. Bubkins," said the proud father, shaking the young man warmly by the hand, "let me tell you that you are a man after my own heart."

A Popular Role.

Girl (to prominent actor)—I suppose there is some role you take special interest in. Actor—Yes, my dear young lady, the payroll.—Boston Transcript.

We never have leisure enough to stave for the things we do in haste.

MURDER TRIALS.

Holland Has a System of Its Own For Dispensing Justice.

A learned and capable jurist has asserted that the French method of legal procedure, which, contrary to our own, presumes an indicted person guilty until he is proved innocent, comes nearer dispensing actual justice than our own system.

The Dutch do not have juries, and there is no battle of wits among counsel. All questions, whether by the prosecution or the attorney for the accused, are put to the witness through the judge after he has weighed the justice of the interrogation.

This feature of their system has some pronounced advantages over our own. It eliminates the practice of confusing the witness or the accused by misleading questions. It renders impossible the abominable practice in our courts known as the "browbeating" of witnesses, which unfortunately is permitted to an extent that causes the intelligent observer's blood to boil at times because of its unfairness and cruelty.

VENUS' HOT AND COLD.

One Half the Planet Burns, While the Other Half Always Freezes.

Venus, the "evening star" of the poets, the most brilliant object in our western sky, that planet which revolves around the sun in a path inside ours, must if inhabited have beings of a very different type from ourselves.

As Venus is more than 23,000,000 miles nearer the sun than we are, it must be twice as hot on her day side as it ever is at our equator. And on her night side, where a ray of sunlight has never shone, it must be so cold that the air is liquefied, if not solidified.

Seen through a small telescope or field glass Venus often appears like a crescent. Then are visible the projections that can be nothing but mountains of great height.—New York World.

Scared Out of the Duel.

One day M. Edmond About called upon Grisier, the most celebrated fencing master of his day. "I am in a quandary," said About, "I allowed myself yesterday the pleasure of a joke in bad taste, and a duel is to be the result. I know nothing whatever about fencing, and, as you can see, I am fat. Will you give me a lesson, so that I may not make myself too ridiculous?"

Birds as Large Eaters.

It may not be thought that of all animals birds are among the largest eaters. This means, of course, in proportion to their weight. Some birds are known to consume two and one-half times their weight of food in twenty-four hours. The heron, which has a light weight of four pounds in spite of its size, is a striking example.

Effects of Time.

Mr. Evans entered a New York restaurant and saw a friend seated at one of the tables.

Always Counting.

"Your husband says that when he is angry he always counts ten before he speaks," said one woman.

"Yes," answered the other, "I wish he'd stop it. Since he got dyspepsia home seems nothing but a class in arithmetic."

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