

FATHER STUMPED THEM.

A Test in Mental Arithmetic That Worried the Students.

They had a schoolboy and schoolgirl party at a Brooklyn man's house the other night. Father and mother were permitted to mingle with the young folks for awhile after the edge of the first fun had worn off. There were games that the elder folks knew nothing about, and they sat like wallflowers.

Finally a game of arithmetic was started by a boy who is considered the best cipherer of his class in the high school. After several problems had been given of an odd nature, over which there were much laughing and puzzling, father dared to speak up. Said he:

"Boys and girls, they used to give us this example in mental arithmetic when I went to school. I suppose it will be easy for you, but it's the best I can suggest to take part in the game." And he recited this problem:

If a third of six were three What would a fourth of twenty be? The score of boys and girls present went at it. They wrinkled their brows, and they pursed their lips. The use of pencil and paper was not permitted.

The mathematician had not been among the first to try an answer. He was plainly a little perplexed. He asked to have the problem repeated and wanted father to reassure him that it was a mental arithmetic example. Finally he, too, gave an answer. But father shook his head.

"Well, then, papa, for goodness' sake tell us what it can be," said his daughters.

"The answer is seven and a half, and I'm surprised to see that I'm able to stump all you high school stars," grinned father. "Come, mother, we may as well depart. They don't play the same arithmetic games that we did."

The high school mathematician at first declared that father was in error. But next day he admitted that the answer was correct and that all had been stumped.—New York Sun.

AN OLD TALE OF TWO CITIES.

Travel From New York to Philadelphia in Stage Wagon Days.

In the New York Gazette or Weekly Post Boy of May 9, 1703, appeared this notice:

To the Public: That the Stage-Waggons, kept by John Burnhill, in Elm-Street, in Philadelphia, and John Mercereau, at the New-Blazing Star, near New-York, continues their Stages in two Days, from Powles-Hook Ferry, opposite New-York, to Philadelphia; returns from Philadelphia to Powles-Hook in two Days also; they will endeavor to oblige the Public by keeping the best of Waggons and sober Drivers, and sets out from Powle-Hook and Philadelphia, on Mondays and Thursdays, punctually at Sunrise, and meets at Prince Town the same Nights, to exchange Passengers, and each return the Day after:

Those who are kind enough to encourage the Undertaking, are desired to cross Powles-Hook Ferry the Evenings before, as they must set off early. The Price for each Passenger is Ten Shillings to Prince Town, and from thence to Philadelphia, Ten Shillings more, Ferriage free: There will be but two Waggons, but four sets of fresh Horses, so it will be very safe for any Person to send Goods, as there are but two Drivers; they may exchange their Goods without any Mistake.

Persons may now go from New-York to Philadelphia, and back again in five Days, and remain in Philadelphia two Nights and one Day to do their Business in: The Public may be assured that this Road is much the Shortest, than any other to Philadelphia, and regular Stages will be kept by the Public's obliged humble Servants, JOHN MERCEREAU and JOHN BARNHILL.

To Prevent Exaggeration. There was once a gentleman who, having killed a man, presented himself to the editor of a newspaper. "I have come," he said, "to tell you about a painful occurrence at my house. My brother-in-law and I had an argument, and I stabbed him, and then, in the excitement of the moment, I cut his throat. Knowing what exaggerated stories are apt to get into the newspapers, I thought I had better step around and tell you exactly what did happen."—London Spectator.

Ice Peaks of New Zealand. In southern New Zealand the line of perpetual snow is much lower than it is in the Alps of Europe. It varies, of course, in different parts of the range; but, generally speaking, a mountain 12,000 feet in New Zealand carries as much snow and ice as one of 15,000 feet in the Swiss Alps, and New Zealanders point with pride to glaciers comparable to the Aletsch and the Mer de Glace.

Just to Prove it. "You have squandered my entire fortune."

"Well, before we were married you asked me if I would love you as well if you were poor, and I said I would, and I have made you poor to convince you I told the truth."—Houston Post.

His Genius. "Why do people think he's a genius? Nobody can understand what he's talking about." "No, but he can make people believe that he does."—Exchange.

SHOW PAST IN ITS TRUTH

Buildings Which Have Survived Are the Most Valuable Historical Records the World Has.

It has been said that history was the written order of things. No doubt what had been written was of enormous value, but it was not all, and even where we had a literature of the past it was in some cases not the greater part of what conveyed the past to us, said Prof. Flinders Petrie, in London, the Philadelphia Public Ledger states. Where should we be in the understanding of the ancient Greeks if there were no statuary and no sculpture? How could we understand their magnificent sense of accuracy, precision and refinement if there were no architecture to study? Many years ago, with regard to the great question of the restoration of the Parthenon, the objection was made that no person could ever get to know precisely how the columns were put together.

Professor Petrie thought it was only a question of measurements, and he bought a lathe in Athens and did some careful measurements. To his intense surprise he found he could not detect the errors. There were none. He thought he was going to deal with tenths of an inch, but he found he had to deal with hundredths. How the Greeks did it, he did not understand. He could not comprehend the physical means of doing it on that scale. That was only an instance of how much a building could teach them. Who could appreciate the accuracy, the sense of perfection and the sense of beauty, if we had not these material remains?

Then, if they looked a little later, let them consider how miserable was the greater part of the histories of the emperors. What did they understand of Rome? They understood the Coliseum—the majesty of it and the cruelty of it—they could understand the magnificent temples, the great architecture, and they could see from that what Rome was far better than by reading all the imperial historians. And if they looked a little later what was there in the whole writings of the thirteenth century which gave them such a perfect picture of the medieval mind as Salisbury cathedral?

He ventured to give these as illustrations of the value of the material civilization side by side with the civilization of the people, because he thought they would enable them to grasp perhaps more clearly how much they could ascertain and feel and know about the civilization of which they had material remains. They enabled them to understand the feelings, sentiments and ideals of those bygone men from their literature. The question of material evidence might seem a dead and dull thing, but he ventured to think they were as much a key to the mental designs and powers as any other form of expression.

Remembers Flora Temple.

Spectators at the United shoe machinery trial yesterday in the United States district court enjoyed the repartee between Judge Putnam and Frederic P. Fish of counsel for the defense, says a Philadelphia paper. Attorney Fish was arguing on the patent question involved in the anti-trust suit against the United company, and as a means of illustrating a point remarked: "You can put a race horse in a plow and you can put a plow horse in a race."

Here Judge Putnam interrupted to say: "Flora Temple was a plow horse." "Yes," responded Attorney Fish, "but she soon got out of it. I remember seeing her in a box car at Taunton."

"Why, I didn't think you were that old," replied Judge Putnam. "Oh, Lord," replied Attorney Fish, "you don't know what an old fellow I am. I remember Flora Temple well, and I know what her time was, too. It was 2:27."

By this time the whole courtroom (full of lawyers and spectators was in roars of laughter, and Judges Dodge and Brown, sitting with Judge Putnam, joined in the merriment.

Cat Trees Peanut-Thief Squirrel. Policemen are reputed to have a penchant for fruit-stand peanuts, but the Judiciary square squirrels cause the Greek who conducts the store opposite City hall the most anguish, as they are a thieving lot. Hourly they cross the street on foraging expeditions, but one nearly came to grief, says an exchange.

The squirrels became so bold in preying on the peanuts that the Greek recently installed a large cat as guardian of the stand. While the cat apparently was snoozing on the shady side of the stand an unsuspecting squirrel slipped up. The feline leaped and so did the little thief, the latter up a small tree.

For nearly two hours the terrified squirrel hung on a limb with Thomas keeping a sharp vigil below. A fox terrier came along about noon and drove puss into the store. The squirrel snatched a peanut and ran back to the park in triumph.

Petroleum for Germany. Petroleum deposits of considerable extent have been discovered near Eitape in the southwest of German New Guinea, and the whole territory has, subject to the consent of the imperial council, been declared a close reserve in order that no mining claims may be established by private individuals or concerns. It is expected that the reichstag will vote \$125,000 to be spent by the local authorities in boring and prospecting. Nothing definite so far is known concerning the quality of the petroleum or the extent of the supply.

MUSICAL HEADS AND FACES.

They Have a Shape All Their Own, Says a German Scientist.

That all musicians are "freaks," so far as their physical appearance goes, is the opinion of Dr. Paul Sohn, the German scientist. Not only this, but he finds that, regardless of their race or nationality, all persons of marked musical ability show a close resemblance to one another in the shape of their heads and faces. The head and countenance of the typical musician often look very much like those of the lion or the sphinx.

The peculiar shape of a musician's head is due, Dr. Sohn believes, to the gradual expansion of the sound center of his brain and the consequent change in the conformation of his skull. This is why the heads of Wagner, Beethoven, Robert Schumann, Richard Strauss and other great musicians all have an eccentric, abnormal and sometimes fantastic appearance. A musician's sound center develops abnormally because it is there that everything in his life finds its motive.

The musical head and face are of a primitive type, because musical genius is a reversion to the time when men communicated their ideas by means of more or less inarticulate sounds. But, although the musician's physical appearance is barbarous in its lack of beauty and regularity, it contains no hint of degeneracy.

The typical musical head is characterized by the horizontal breadth of the forehead, the broad nose and chin and the wide, extremely mobile mouth. The brow often overhangs greatly, as was so notably the case with Beethoven. The eyes are lustrous, but bear a separated, dreamy expression. The hands are broad and strong.

"Musicians," says Dr. Sohn, "are absolute slaves to their sense of sound, and it is this that not only affects their physical appearance, but makes them mentally so nervous and excitable. The main feature of the musical intellect is that mental excitement seeks a different outlet from that in the case of ordinary men."—New York American.

MARK TWAIN AS A LINGUIST.

His Grim Vow After He Firmly Decided to Learn French.

When Mark Twain was a young reporter, working on the San Francisco Call, he made up his mind to learn the French language. He did not want to go to the expense of a teacher, and so he bought a grammar and conversation book and set to work. Before breakfast he pored over the lessons; late in the evening he was at it again, and every available moment of the day he employed with equal assiduity.

He soon began to look about for opportunities to make use of his new accomplishment. Accordingly he began to eat at a French restaurant once a week. One day as he and his roommate were coming out of the restaurant they found on the sidewalk just outside the door a Frenchman. He was asking first one passerby and then another the way to a certain street, but no one understood him. That was Mark's chance. The Frenchman looked at him with wistful eyes and began to talk. Mark listened attentively. Three or four times the stranger was compelled to repeat his question, then Mark seemed to catch his drift. But he had scarcely spoken half a dozen words in reply, when the Frenchman fell to the sidewalk in a dead faint.

The true cause of the stranger's fainting may never be known. Very likely he was fatigued, and perhaps he had been put out of this very restaurant because of his seedy appearance. But, whatever the cause, the joke was on Mark for once. Mark's roommate was careful enough of his friendship not to tell the incident at the office of the Morning Call, but he teased the rising humorist a good deal about it. When the fun had lasted long enough Mark set his jaw, and with unlimited determination written on his features announced: "I'll learn French if it kills every Frenchman in the country!"—Youth's Companion.

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Horse Fountains Reopen.

Horse watering fountains maintained by the Women's Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals will again be placed in use very soon. There are 39, all of which were closed on June 1st because of an epidemic of glanders. That epidemic is over and the prohibition has been removed.

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