

Editorial Pleasantries. Two editors quarreled, and one referred to the other's early career in his paper.

"As for our contemporary," he wrote, "what can we expect from a man who was five years ago hawking from door to door with a donkey, and an ill conditioned beast at that?"

His rival did not deny it, but in his next issue appeared the following:

"Our contemporary says that five years ago we were hawking from door to door with a donkey, and an ill conditioned beast at that. He is quite right. We were so occupied. But we are surprised to find the donkey has such a good memory."

Easy Oysters. During a discussion on finance in the United States senate one of the speakers traced the history of the various mediums of exchange, their development and changes from the days of barter to the days of gold and silver.

"I call to the attention of the senate," he said in the course of the speech, "that at one time the medium of exchange was oyster shells. Oyster shells were used for money."

"Delightful!" broke in the late Senator Hoar of Massachusetts. "If that system only prevailed now we could order half a dozen oysters on the half shell and pay for them with the shells."

Henty's Young Critic. G. A. Henty, the writer for youth, frequently got letters from admirers all over the world asking for his autograph and offering criticisms of his books. In a story of the peninsular war he made two boys disguise themselves by staining their faces with iodine. Shortly after the book was published he received a letter from a boy, who said he was a chemist's assistant, stating that while that special incident was represented as taking place in 1808 iodine was not discovered until 1811, three years later.

A Story of Browning. Browning himself couldn't always explain his meaning at first reading. Dr. Furnivall, founder of the English Browning society, frequently consulted the poet as to the meaning of some passage in his works. "Bless me," Browning would say, "I really have forgotten what I did mean, and as I haven't got a copy of my works by me I really can't enlighten you. Just lend me the book, there's a good fellow. I'll look it over at my leisure and try to find out what was in my mind at the time."

The Inquisitive Antelope. An antelope is as curious as a woman. If the hunter will lie down in the grass and wave a red handkerchief a band of antelopes will keep circling around until within reasonable distance for a safe shot. After completing a circle the antelopes halt suddenly and bring down one fore foot with a vigorous stamp on the ground, and at the same instant they make a sort of snort that sounds like a half whistle. That is the propitious moment for peppering them with rifle balls.—Exchange.

Folding Linen in Holland. Folding linen is an accomplishment in which each one of the women in Holland is expected to be proficient before she becomes mistress of a home. In Holland especially the folding of linen requires considerable skill and training. Much of their fabric is of the finest texture and quality, and they fashion the various pieces in ironing into birds, animals, flowers and all manner of artistic shapes. Their linen closets are often shown to visitors with the same pride that china closets are shown elsewhere.

Only Once. Two old ladies, both of whom were well cared for, were once conversing about their affairs. One was a jolly old lady, while the other was of a sour disposition.

"Well, well," said the jolly one, "it's pleasant to be old. We get the best of everything—the easiest chairs, the best places, the tenderest morsels!"

"Yes, yes," sighed the other, forced to admit that her life was an easy one, "that's all very true, but what's the use? We can't be old but once."—Youth's Companion.

Driving the Fact Home. There are various methods, diplomat or brusque, of notifying an unsatisfactory employee of his dismissal. The most picturesque and original of methods was that which Uncle Jimmy Gilbert used to use in his printing office. When a new man came Uncle Jimmy drove a nail in the wall for him to hang his hat and coat on.

Some morning the man would come to work and find the nail driven in up to the head. He knew that he was through then.

A LIFE IN A DAY. Let every dawn of morning be to you as the very beginning of life; let every setting sun be to you as the close of that life; then let every one of these short lives leave some sure record of some kindly thing done for others or some goodly strength or knowledge that you have gained for yourselves.—John Ruskin.

Laying a Ghost. In an English country home there was an ordinary cupboard door that always mysteriously creaked open at five minutes before midnight unless it was kept locked, and when it was kept locked it groaned and rattled instead precisely at the same hour. Then came along a spook expert, who discovered that at five minutes before midnight the fast express train passed along the highroad a mile away from the house and set in motion some vibratory wave that acted upon the cupboard and scared a household.

The Great Circus. The famous Coliseum in old Rome, massive as it was, was a mere toy in comparison with the great circus, which filled the valley between the Palatine and the Aventine hills. The Coliseum is said to have been able to seat 80,000 people, while the seating capacity of the great circus was, at different periods, 150,000, 250,000 and lastly 380,000 spectators. The great circus was probably the most stupendous building ever erected for public spectacles.

A Poor Specimen. "My husband hasn't any spunk at all," said the complaining woman. "Maybe he's trying for the peace prize," replied the comforting neighbor.

"Well, supposing he won it, somebody would give him a whipping and take it away from him."—Washington Star.

Narrow Escape. As he was about to sink for the third time he, of course, recalled everything in his past life. Suddenly his countenance radiated joy.

"Ah," he exclaimed, "now I remember what it was my wife told me to get downtown today! I needn't drown, after all."

Accordingly he swam ashore.—New York Post.

Not Sure. A young society woman was having a chat one evening with a young man whom she had just met. They were in the conservatory.

"Which do you admire the more," inquired the young belle, "black eyes or blue?"

"Well, really," replied the young fellow slowly, "the light is so dim here I can't say now."—National Monthly.

Climax of a Giddy Whirl. "Well," mused six-year-old Harry as he was buttoned into a clean white suit, "this has been an exciting week, hasn't it, mother? Munday we went to the zoo, Wednesday I lost a tooth, Thursday was Lily's birthday party, Friday I was sick, yesterday I had my hair cut, and now here I am rushing off to Sunday school!"—Lippincott's.

None For Her. "Pop!" "Yes, my son." "When a person sees wood it means they say nothing, don't it?" "Yes, my boy." "And do women ever saw wood?" "No. Women believe that sawing wood is a man's work."—Yonkers Statesman.

Setting it Right. "In your paper this morning, sir, you called me a 'bum actor.' I want an explanation." "I shall be happy to explain, young man. That word 'actor' was inserted by the proofreader, who thought I had omitted it accidentally. I shall take care that it doesn't happen again."—Chicago Tribune.

Her Mouth Was Closed. Jack—Miss Peachy started to say something about the impropriety of kissing the other evening, but she didn't finish. Tom—Why not? Jack—Because I took the words right out of her mouth.—Chicago News.

Entirely Too Cool. "Was your husband cool when you told him there was a burglar in the house?" asked Mrs. Hammer. "Cool," replied Mrs. Gabb, "I should say he was cool. Why, his teeth chattered."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

The Other Half. Royal Marine (engaged in coaling ship)—When I joined the corps the sergeant 'e ses to me, "It's 'arf soldier'n an' 'arf yachtin'." 'e says. I suppose this is the bloom'n yachtin'!—London Punch.

When He Missed It. The baldheaded man was asked if he missed his hair much. "Only when some fool question makes me so mad I want to pull it," he replied pleasantly.—Philadelphia Ledger.

The Declaration. The original title of the Declaration of Independence was as follows: A declaration by the representatives of the United States of America in general congress assembled.—Magazine of American History.

AS YOU MAKE YOUR LIFE Just as you look on the things that are seen or unseen your life will be commonplace or heroic, your labor drudgery or service, your mind a fountain of bitterness or sweetness, your outlook a dead wall or the eternal horizon.—Ian Maclaren.

Almost Got It. "Is there any difference in the meaning of the words 'nautical' and 'marine'?" asked Mr. Malaprop. "Not much," replied Mrs. Malaprop. "One is a cinnamon of the other."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Happy Hunting Ground. She—When a woman wants a husband, you don't suppose she goes and looks in a club for one, do you? He—Well, if she's a married woman the chances are that she does.—Yonkers Statesman.

A Shameful Omission. Amid all the humane enterprises of this wonderful century there has been no society yet formed for the protection of young men from young women.—From "One Man Returns" by Harold Spender.

"Seeing" Plants. Professor Darwin is right. Plants can see—some plants. Take corn and rye, for instance. With proper treatment these plants sometimes see double, and frequently they see things that aren't there.—New York Telegraph.

Gets on Her Nerves. Surveyor—This town is only two years old; that's why my wife hates to live here. City Friend—How's that? Surveyor—She's already pointed out as one of the older residents.—Chicago News.

Doing Better. "When you get out of here," said the sympathetic visitor, "I presume you will try to do better." "Oh, yes," answered the bigamist. "None of the women I married before had much money."—Baltimore Sun.

DUTIES. Do the duty that lies nearest to you. Every duty that is bidden to wait returns with seven fresh duties at its back.—Charles Kingsley.

Limited Love. "When your parents first refused me your hand I was so wretched that I wanted to throw myself out of the window." "And why didn't you?" "It was so high."—Lustige Blatter.

An Eye Closer. Griggs—I say, old man, what's good for insomnia? I haven't closed my eyes for five nights. Colonel—You want to have a boxing match. The first time I tried it I remember my eyes were closed for a fortnight.

They Were Not Encouraged. "I don't see why that young man doesn't propose." "I think, pa, that the chances of his doing it would be fully as good if you wouldn't leave your boxing gloves around where he can see them."

Power of Wealth. "Wombat's wife wants to go on the stage." "Well, he's rich enough to build a theater for her." "Yes, and to hire an audience."—Louisville Courier Journal.

He Dodged. Mr. Meek—Did you trump my ace? Mrs. M.—Yes. What of it? Mr. M.—Nothing, my dear. I'm glad it was you. If one of our opponents had done it we'd have lost the trick.—Cleveland Leader.

The Waiting Game. "Pop." "Yes, my son." "Do you believe everything comes to him who waits?" "No; sometimes you must 'go to it,' my boy."—Yonkers Statesman.

SMILE THEM AWAY. He who smiles and laughs away The little trials of life today Shall live to smile and laugh away A greater trial another day.

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