

OUR FUNNY FELLOWS OF THE PAST.

By L. A. Miller.

The funny fellows of today are not nearly so numerous as they were some years ago. Apparently funny men, like dogs have a short life. A few have attained lasting fame, but the greater number are short lived. Some flashed like meteors across the literary horizon, lighting up the cold, gray clouds of reality for a moment, then died out leaving the clouds colder and darker than before.

Then there are those whose fun is woven into a woof of fact so deftly that the bright colors and pleasing figures cannot disappear in a flash. This is called fun, but it is not; at least not in the sense that fun is generally considered. It is a true picture with the high lights placed on unusual spots. The effect is much the same as that produced by touching up the sallow spots on the human face with bright colors.

Exaggeration is not humor. The ludicrous effect produced may provoke a laugh, but it is of short duration. You may laugh once or twice at a fool who gets off a highly exaggerated expression, but you soon forget it, or it becomes stale, and you do not want to hear it again.

The same is true with funny pictures. An outlandish cut will often amuse for a moment, but there is nothing about it that is worth remembering. In fact, persons possessed of any refinement at all want to forget such things as quickly as possible. They are unpleasant companions for an idle or quiet hour. A carefully drawn caricature, however, is different. It merely emphasizes the leading characteristic, thereby recalling forcibly the more familiar features of the subjects.

Among the early funny fellows was "Sut Lovogood." His forte was in getting into bad boxes, after the style of Peck's Bad Boy. The hornet was his principal ally, and he rarely failed to get into a nest himself, or get his old dad or mam, or the old mule into it. There was an earnestness about these sketches that led the average country boy to imagine that they were founded on fact. So popular did they become that a school exhibition without a "Sut Lovogood" was a dead failure. The future, however, died out, the fun dwindled down to a few stale dregs and was thrown aside.

The fame of "Doesticks" was more enduring. He was quite versatile and made a great many friends. His trouble was a disposition to write too much. His stuff was found everywhere, and of all grades. It seemed that he had an idea that art that was necessary to render an expression really funny was for "Doestick" to shape it. He was ambitious to make the world laugh, not so much for the good it would do the world as for the good it would do him, in a financial way. The consequence was that he wrote columns and pages of the veriest trash, which sickened the geese that were dropping the golden eggs into his coffers, and they finally ceased their lay. It is said that "Doesticks" berated the world for a lack of appreciation; classed all those as fools who did not laugh whenever he spoke, and finally died in the firm belief that he was a much neglected, if not a much wronged man.

Among the first of the well known sentimental humorists to strike the general public hard, was Artemus Ward. He wrote not merely for the sake of saying funny things, but to caricature people and fashions. His "wax figgers" gave him an excellent opportunity to exhibit prominent people in their true forms and colors. He laid aside all conventionalities, called things by their right names and presented them just as they appeared to him. If a man had any characteristic traits they were made very prominent, no matter whether they were complimentary to the man or not. While he rarely used the real names of his victims, the public had little trouble in recognizing in the apparently crude, yet most deftly mottled "figgers" the leaders of all prominent movements of the day. His lectures on Mormonism probably did more towards establishing the character of that institution in the public mind than all else that ever was written or said about it. He exaggerated greatly, it is true, but only where it was needed. His effort was not to distort or to falsify, but to emphasize facts and make them stand out boldly.

Thomas Nast certainly ranked next to Artemus Ward as a caricaturist. His work was all with the pencil. Nevertheless he was one of the funny fellows. Those who remember his marvelous work during the Tweed campaign in New York, will probably be unable, though they try ever so hard, to recall a single instance where he failed to make a good portrait of his subject. The secret of his success was the fact that he drew the figures true to life; not as a camera would have shown them, but as they appeared when their true characters were known. So carefully had he studied his subjects that he could almost portray their thoughts, and so clear was his conception of the characteristic features that he could make them recognizable if only an eye, a nose, or a tuft of hair were visible. At first glance there was something funny about these sketches, but the smile which they provoked soon faded when the figures were seen to be true to life. That which was supposed to be mere idle fancy, became solemn fact. James G. Blaine, General Butler, General Grant and other noted men would be recognized more readily today from Nast's sketches than from any other pictures ever published. Not that he gives the outlines of the faces more correctly, but because he emphasizes their prominent features. Who does not remember Butler's "off eye," Blaine's puffy nose and bulging eyes, and Grant's firm grip on his cigar? Every one of these contained more of the men than could possibly have been crowded into a photograph.

Other caricaturists have done clever

er work, notably those connected with Puck, yet there is a coarseness about them, a mistaken conception or misunderstanding of the spirit of the subject, that detracts greatly from the force of many of the pictures.

Among the candidates for public favor none seemed to be making more headway than Life. They always showed a fairness, directness and keenness, which not only pleases, but edifies as well.

Mark Twain, when he first began the funny business, struck a popular vein, but he worked it out. "Innocence Abroad," the first of his more pretentious works, was the best of the lot. Had he quit book-making when that was finished he would have been more famous than he is today. Realizing the best of his work was the best he ever did. There was no straining after funny situations, but merely the noting down of such as occurred to him without effort.

Of all the more agreeable, jolly and popular of our sentimental humorists none outrank "Bob Burdette." As a rule funny fellows are bilious and cranky, but he is neither. He laughs and talks and sings as if there was nothing but sunshine over and around him. However, he was not a funny fellow, or at least never professed to be one. He was always regarded as a natural artist and devoted himself to sentimental word painting. He rarely caricatured by adding additional color to the already prominent features of his subjects, but rather by changing the high lights and brushing off the false colors, thereby showing them in new lights. Bob, as he is familiarly called, had a faculty that is possessed by few humorists; that is, a way of getting up under the jacket and nestling close to the heart. He causes tears and laughter to mingle like sunshine and showers; recalls halcyon days to the old, and fills the hearts of the young with bright anticipations. He always dealt justly with his subject, even if it were a mule, so that neither man or beast would be able to face him in the final judgment and say he did them a wrong. It was not because he was afraid to hurt anybody, but because he didn't want to do anything that he could not recall with pleasure.

Easy to Lose Way in British Guiana Bush British Guiana bush is a dangerous maze. Savages find their way by means of secret marks, but a tenderfoot enters at great risk. The country is five times the size of England, and there are not more than ten white men who have gone into the wilds of the interior, according to D. Bannerman Clarke, M. A., general manager of the Aranka Gold, Ltd., of Georgetown, British Guiana. "The natives," he says, "have the most marvelous sense of direction and find their way through the jungle with unerring precision. They have a sort of sign language. They make marks on trees which only they understand, and if some one has followed the natives he can always tell how large the party was, whether they went and just when they passed the given spot, by these curious marks on the trees made with cutlasses. They also leave marks for their own guidance when they turn about and start homeward. Once you know the bush and its hidden sign language it is almost as easy to get about as in the open, but if a tenderfoot gets lost he is in a hopeless maze and has very little chance of getting out alive."

Europeans Like Codfish It is a somewhat strange coincidence that no codfish swim nearer the Mediterranean sea than the banks of Newfoundland or Iceland. The dwellers in that part of the world, however, eat cod, salted, and cooked in many and varied forms. New England for many years got its salt from Italy and paid for it with codfish, sometimes with Old Medford rum. Those days are past. The French explorers who followed close upon the heels of Columbus discovered the virtues of Newfoundland cod. Lately curing plants have been established on the Mediterranean shores of France—to save one handling since the Mediterranean peoples eat so much of it, also because the salt is conveniently dried out from the very salty water of the Mediterranean.

Unable to Oblige An actor was stopped one day by a pretty girl, who plinned a yellow chrysanthemum in his buttonhole, gave him a dazzling smile and hurried off without a word.

The actor went on his way and that evening received a note from the girl, reminding him of the afternoon's romantic episode and asking him to send her two seats as a memento of the occasion.

The actor, with a grim smile, snatched up a postcard and wrote the pretty girl these lines:

"I should be delighted to send you two seats you ask for as a memento, but on personal investigation at the theater I find that they are all nalled down."

Record Cold June A vivid account of the cold June of 1816 has been unearthed at Weston, Vt., in the yellowed pages of an ancient account book which belonged to one Simeon Spaulding. "The six of June it snowed from 8 o'clock in the morning to 3 o'clock in the afternoon like a snowstorm supposed to run as much as four or five inches of snow if it had not melted, and the night following it froze the ground one inch deep, and continued froze the seventh day where the sun did shine all day, and the eighth day morning it snowed about two hours and the ground was white in many places."

FOREST FIRES.

CAUSES.

The time is hoped for when all forest fires caused by the hand of man will have ceased. However, so long as forest fires occur man must stand firm and resolute in his convictions that they must be extinguished as quickly as possible.

A forest fire in its infancy is not difficult to extinguish. On the other hand let a headway be gained, and a stiff breeze is fanning it, then the task becomes difficult and dangerous.

The time has come when in the Penn Forest district an incendiary fire is almost unheard of. Impressive teaching and successful management of the forests is bearing fruit. Great strides have been made toward making the State forests a resting place for man. Man is becoming educated to the point where he is not going to destroy that resting place.

Forest fires, of course, are set by careless hunters, careless fishermen, and careless tourists. This is because of the fact that their mind is centered too strongly upon the sport they are pursuing, and not enough upon the thing that gives it to them.

Railroads in the Penn Forest district are the chief source of the forest fire problem. Of the 19 fires during the spring of 1924 in the Penn district 15 were caused by railroads. Splendid co-operation, however, is being received in clearing the rights-of-way, in keeping locomotives well spark-screened, and in helping extinguish fires caused by them.

Brush burners have in the past been responsible for many severe forest fires. Igniting brush in a dry, grassy field adjoining forest land is a mighty dangerous and often times an expensive thing to do, if there is a possibility of the wind fanning it into the forest. Great care must be exercised in burning brush. There is very little danger, however, on a calm day if one is vigilant and careful.

FIRES CLASSED AND EXTINCTION OF EACH.

Forest fires may be divided into four classes. The tree fire, surface fire, underground fire and crown fire.

A tree fire represents the case where a single tree is affected. It is usually a dead, dry snag caused by the unskillful sportsman like trick of smoking game or bees, or possibly struck by lightning or maybe a spark from a nearby engine. This kind of fire is not difficult to extinguish. If water is available the tree may be saturated, or it may be cut down and felled or smothered out.

The surface fire, most common in the Penn district, may occur at any dry season of the year. Usually in the spring before the leaves appear, and in the fall after they drop. Fanned by a strong wind the surface fire may reach great proportions, especially if there has been a delay in attacking it. Attack upon a surface fire must be made at the point called the head or "header." Here the flames are traveling more rapidly than at any other point. If there is no wind the fire burns comparatively slow. A satisfactory attack in this case is to make a clean path, encircling the "header" first, as close to the fire line as possible. Except in very unusual cases the fire will burn itself out upon reaching the path. If there is a wind the surface fire is doubly hard to extinguish and backfiring must be resorted to. There should be sufficient men to attack upon all sides. The men should be divided into crews, each crew assigned a portion of the line. At least three good men from each crew should lead, raking a path clear to mineral soil, as near to the fire line as deemed safe. The rakers should see to it that enough material is allowed along the line that the men following with a torch can successfully start backfires. After the torchmen should come the guards, bearing spray tanks if water is available. The task of the guard is an important one. He is in position to determine the result of the backfire. His judgment as to the safety of the line is depended upon. The guard should not leave any portion of line until he knows it is safe. To save, many times, is sacrificed by starting backfires. It should be remembered that just enough area be backfired that when it meets the main area, the surrounding unburned land will not be endangered.

Underground fires occur only in cases of very severe drought, and are usually the result of surface fires. They burn beneath the general surface of the soil. They burn very slowly but with intense heat, and cover possibly only two or three acres a day. These fires can be extinguished only by digging a trench deep enough to prevent spread. If water is available the trench should be flooded.

Crown fires, the most fierce and deadly of any, seldom occur in Pennsylvania. When they do occur it is when there is a high wind and the woods are very dry. Everything is consumed in its path, and man is helpless to prevent the spread. Natural conditions as to topography and growth are the most effective means in checking it.

HARDSHIPS AND DANGERS. The hardships and dangers attended in fighting forest fires are many. To get food for fire fighters in many cases is a problem. As a rule fires occur many miles from a village where food is available. This means sometimes many hours of strenuous labor without it.

Whenever possible canteens are furnished fire fighters. But many fires occur where there is no water for miles. In fighting fires man suffers thirst quickly because of the intense heat, but many have collapsed before water can be furnished.

When an unusually bad fire is attacked sleep is an uncertain thing. The flames must be extinguished as quickly as possible, and for this reason rest is not enjoyed until the flames are under control. Men have gone forty-eight hours or more without sleep in many cases.

There is danger always in performing this hazardous duty, and many lives have been lost in the past. There is always the possibility of being surrounded by the flames. In hurrying over rocky and treacherous forest land one is apt to receive severe injury to the body.

The fact that men show a willingness and concern in helping combat the flames of a forest fire indicates indeed a true and loyal citizenship. (This is the third of a series of four very illuminating articles on reforestation, written by J. R. Mingle, of the Penn Forest District, of Milroy. The second article will appear in next week's issue of the "Watchman.")

Panorama of Events in Newspaper Pages

Since a professor in one of the leading western universities (Wisconsin) has drawn attention to the important place occupied by newspapers as historians of the times and urges their study upon the public generally and upon schools and colleges as textbooks of information of current events, it may not be immodest slightly to emphasize the truth of the professional opinion.

No newspaper man yields his just pride in the product of his toil. As put into the hand of the reader, the newspaper is a daily monument to an industry, intelligence and organization genius which is all but incomparable in any other sphere of human manufacture. However, let that go.

It is as the exhibitor of the vast panorama of world events that the public is concerned with the newspaper, says the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin. For an insignificant sum and with no effort by himself, the reader sees pass before him on the printed page the multitudinous activities of men, great and small, the performances of nature, benign and malign to the interest of human kind. Many-eyed Argus did not see and repeat a title of what the sleepless and all-embracing eye of the press observes and instantly reports for the information or entertainment of its readers.

History in the making is there daily written, and to the man who can relate cause and effect, who can forecast from a seemingly insignificant event printed in the columns of his newspaper a whole chain of consequences, culminating in some alteration of affairs that will profoundly affect the lives of millions of people, the study of his news sheet is a fascinating pursuit.

The man who really reads a modern newspaper and does not merely skim through it, receives a liberal education in the arts and sciences, the humanities, the psychology of human nature, and is informed upon a variety of things which only a few years ago no one man could hope to know. The university of Wisconsin professor is quite right; the newspaper is well worth study.

Learning to Cook

A bride of three months lives in a flat and has become very friendly with her neighbors. She strolled into a company of other women who have their habit in the same building, sat down and said she was tired. Of course another woman asked what she had been doing.

"Just prepared dinner for my beloved," she said, "and for one who never cooked before it was some task."

"How did the beloved like it?" another neighbor asked.

"He was proud of me," replied the bride, glowing through her weary countenance. "Review the menu," came a chorus. "All right," came back from the bride: "Sliced tomatoes, boiled eggs, canned corn, lettuce, chocolate, dried beef and hot rolls from the bakery. I tell you it's no easy job to learn to cook in three months."

Historic Indian Dead

Dick Morgan, an Indian who died recently, was a historic character of Alaska. It was recalled by the Rev. A. P. Kashevarov of Juneau.

Morgan, whom the United States naval authorities had employed as a policeman nearly fifty years ago, was sent with a message from Capt. L. A. Beardslee to settle differences that had arisen between the Kockwotah and Ganadi tribes north of Sitka, says the Detroit News. Morgan informed that the chiefs of the warring factions that they were to preserve order and to permit the white man to go through the Yukon passes. Morgan captured February 12, 1880, with word to Captain Beardslee that the Indian factions would remain peaceful and that the white men could enter the country without fear. As a result of this parley the Chilkat country was opened to miners.

How He Would Die

Edmund Gosse, the essayist, relates Walter Tittle in the Century Magazine, for a long time has been served by the same barber, who is a great comfort because he does his work well and in utter silence.

"One day," said Mr. Gosse, "he astonished me by an inclination to talk. Asking me to pardon him for any seeming presumption, he proceeded:

"I merely wanted to remark, sir, that I have been hoboservin' your 'air, for a rather longish period. Time was when I thought as 'ow you might lose it, but now, sir, I am sure you will die in your 'air. Yes,' he repeated, 'you will die in your 'air, sir.'"

Dogs as Rescuers

Mrs. Ruby Pettis, who lives on a ranch near The Dalles, Ore., was planned under a heavy wagon which turned over when she was on her way to town. Her two dogs, Jacks and Pup, immediately dug a hole under her head and body, thus enabling her to breathe and saving her life. She was unable to extricate herself and was not rescued for fifteen minutes, when a neighboring rancher came along.

Diamonds and Peaches

"Grow" on Same Tract

The territory in which Nashville, Ark., is located makes a bid for fame in being the home of the world's largest peach orchard, with 5,000 acres in trees, and also the home of the only diamond mine in North America. There is a \$1,000,000 peach crop in sight there this year, which will be considerably more than the annual production of the diamond mine, but the latter draws the largest number of tourists, says the Philadelphia Ledger.

The diamond mine was discovered by John Huddleston in 1907. He found it on a 160-acre tract in Pike county, about 14 miles northeast of Nashville, which he had bought because he believed there was gold to be found there. Huddleston was a farmer, but all his life had been interested in minerals. The first two "pebbles" found by Huddleston proved to be steel-blue gems, one weighing one and three-eighths carats. The third he found was a yellow stone, weighing one-half carat, and this he sold for \$100.

Without waiting to prospect further, Huddleston sold his land for \$36,000 to Little Rock interests, this being the exact amount necessary to purchase a certain farm he had in mind. He laments that if he had kept his property he probably would be a millionaire some day. Those who have been connected with the diamond mining industry here since its start say that because of the high luster of the Arkansas gems in their rough state, Pike county diamonds surpass even those of South Africa. This luster comes from their extreme hardness.

The production of this diamond field to date is estimated at 5,000 carats, the stones running in size from one-eighth to 2 1/4 carats. The diamonds occur in peridotite, which resembles burned lime in that it slakes upon exposure to air. To recover the diamonds from the peridotite two methods are employed, one being simply to spread the ore on the ground and allow it to decompose, after which it is washed in large revolving pans, and the other is to grind the ore at once and then proceed with the washing process. In the washing process the material is flushed over a grease board with water, the diamonds adhering to the grease, while the residue is carried over into the waste pile.

Adventure

It was night. Four men opposed her. Three of them were absolutely heartless. One carried a club. "Oh you brutes!" she exclaimed. "You wretched, despicable brutes! Not even carfare are you leaving me. But I might have expected such treatment from you, for you are men and all men are alike. Give them the slightest chance, or excuse to get the best of a woman and each and every one of them will grasp at that chance with alacrity and glee. Ah, yes," she continued. "Ah, yes, 'tis the woman who pays and pays and pays." As she spoke of paying I saw her flush—just a poor sickly spade flush that was not even a straight. And what chance, I ask you has a flush against four kings in the great American game of poker?—Edward E. Cole, in Judge.

Thinks Sun Will Split

The sun spots which have attracted the attention of astronomers for many years are spreading and will ultimately cause the sun to split into two pieces, according to David Todd, the well-known astronomer. He thinks that later we will have two suns instead of one, each moving in its own orbit. But it would probably be many years, declared Doctor Todd, before any effect of this split would be noticeable on the earth. However, other scientists do not seem to be much impressed with the theory. Dr. C. G. Abbot, of the Smithsonian institution, thinks the notion is not well founded. —Pathfinder Magazine.

French Girl's Dot

There is no law in France providing that a girl must have a dot before she can be married. The dot is merely a prevailing custom which dates back many centuries. It is the marriage portion which a woman brings to her husband. The husband may use the interest or income from the dot for the upkeep of the household, but the principal remains the property of his wife. The custom is so consistently observed in France that if a father cannot supply a substantial dot his daughter is placed in a disadvantageous position in respect to her opportunities for marriage.—Exchange.

Mirrored Vision

Sam Tiana, a fourth-grade pupil in Fairmont, W. Va., public school, has a mirrored vision. Sam sees backward, reads backward and writes backward. The teacher has to hold his writing to a mirror to read it. Instinct has taught the youth to take care of himself. When he is crossing a street he realizes that a car which seems to be going away from him is actually coming toward him. When Sam sees steps which seem to lead up, he steps down or goes around them.

New Light in Turkey

No light other than wax tapers was allowed by the sultan of Turkey to be burned in that country prior to 1908, except in his own palace. Since the revolution, modern lighting methods have been introduced to brighten the nights and dark days for the populace. Constantinople is now being generally electrified.

FARM NOTES.

—Delicate experiments by government scientists have shown that fruits breathe, and that cold storage delays ripening by causing them to breathe more slowly than normally.

—Much of the strawberry bed with fallen leaves; clean out the raspberry patch and burn all old dead canes; remove old canes of currant and gooseberry bushes to give room for younger and more thrifty canes.

—A potato demonstration in Dauphin county recently revealed the fact that fall plowing for the crop gave an increased yield of 25 bushels per acre over spring plowing. The fall plowing was done very late.

—Street and shade trees can best be pruned in the fall while the leaves are still on the trees. In this way the effect desired can be more successfully worked out than when the tree is but a bare skeleton of branches.

—While the weather is pleasant is a good time to put all soil working tools used during the summer in shape for winter storage. Paint is necessary in most cases and moving parts and sharp edges should be coated with crank case drainings.

—Vegetable growers in the Philadelphia district seek spinach for holding over winter, between the first and fifteenth of October. The Savoy type is recommended. A straw or straw manure mulch should be put on as soon as the ground freezes.

—Sullivan county wool growers were saved over \$2000 through pooling their wool this year. There was almost 14,000 pounds in the pool, and it was sold for fifty cents a pound, whereas the non-poolers sold their wool at from 26 to 36 cents a pound.

—Control measures for the Mexican bean beetle, a most destructive insect pest of growing beans, recently found in Washington and Greene counties, this State, are being worked out by the Bureau of Plant Industry, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

—Early hatched pullets can often be carried through the fall season without molting by using electric lights. Plan to give such birds a thirteen or fourteen hour day. Morning lights will probably be most satisfactory. When lights are used for this purpose, care should be exercised in maintaining the body weight of the birds by feeding plenty of scratch grain.

—Pennsylvania State College agricultural home study courses offer a means for profitable use of long winter evenings that will soon be here. Thirty-seven courses are offered this year, ranging from bees to horses and garment making to house furnishing for the winter folks. A bulletin describing the courses may be secured from the Agricultural Correspondence Department at State College.

—The selection of seed corn ears in the field and their care against gloomy outlook for next year is advocated for Pennsylvania farmers by crop specialists of State College. Those farmers who have suitable ear left from last year's crop can consider themselves fortunate, for it is now practically assured that the present crop will not mature enough to develop the seed germ and keep it from frosting.

—Warning against cribbing corn that is not well dried has been issued from the college. If the crop is frost and the grower is not too great pressed for fodder, he should allow the ears to remain standing on the stalks without cutting, trusting to favorable weather to dry out the excessive moisture in the ears. If shock are used at all they should be small to allow as much air circulation through them as possible.

—Word comes from State College that entries for the second annual Standard Production Poultry show will close on October 14. The show is to be held at the College on October 23-25, under the auspices of the state poultry club and the college department of poultry husbandry.

That poultry men throughout the State are intensely interested in it only show of its kind held in Pennsylvania, is evidenced in the fact that about 2000 premium lists and entry blanks have been distributed to date.

Birds at this show will be judged for egg production and standard qualifications listed in "American Standard of Perfection." The Penn State poultry husbandry students in stager this show are taking an important step towards combining breed type with egg production. Copies of the premium list may be secured from the show secretary, Department of Poultry Husbandry, State College, Pa., from agents.

The specialists state that the first step to be taken this fall in controlling the insect is to plow under or burn all old bean stalks and vines just as soon as the crop has been harvested. It is found that thousands of the egg larvae, pupae and newly emerged adults may be destroyed in this manner. This fall clean-up will also kill other destructive insect pests that may be expected to live through the winter on crop remains.

Successful control measures such as spraying and dusting bean plan with chemical have been worked out in the southern States and there are every reason to believe that similar measures can be developed to give adequate control in Pennsylvania where conditions are obviously different from those in the south.

The Bureau specialists explain that the Mexican bean beetle is the most destructive insect to table bean known and that it was found in Pennsylvania in very small numbers a few weeks ago for the first time. This insect has been spreading northward from Alabama for the past few years at the rate of 100 to 200 miles per year. Since beans are not grown on a commercial scale to any extent in this State, the greatest loss will result in home gardens. Notical damage will not likely occur for several years, however, since the insect is still very light.

Persons desiring full particulars about the new pest can get the same by writing to the State Bureau of Plant Industry at Harrisburg.