

## CREDULITY OF MAN.

TWO GOOD STORIES ILLUSTRATING  
A BROKER'S THEORY.

Some Men Will Believe Almost Anything  
Without Logical Investigation If Some-  
body They Happen to Know Appears to  
Be in Earnest.

They wandered from subject to subject in a listless way over their coffee and cigars, as men often do when they have enjoyed a good dinner, until the broker got on his favorite hobby—the average man's credulity. His companion, a lawyer, disagreed with him, and that at once started them on a lively argument. After a few minutes of general discussion the broker said:

"Well, I'll give you an instance. It is a pretty good story anyhow, and perfectly true, almost incredible as it seems. In the town where I was born there lives an old river captain named Stewart, who is a great practical joker. The proprietor of one of the two hotels in the place is a rather pompous and conceited old man. Stewart walked into the office of the hotel one day a few years ago, and drawing out a one dollar bank note asked the proprietor if he could change an eleven dollar bill. The old fellow said 'yes,' and took the bill, which, sure enough, had the number eleven in the corners, and just glancing at it handed the amount in change to Stewart.

"The joker had added another figure in ink to the numbers on the bill, and as the proprietor did not like to acknowledge that he had never seen an eleven dollar bill before he had only glanced at it casually before putting it in the drawer. Stewart walked out of the hotel and told all the men he met about the joke.

"About fifteen minutes after Stewart went away a man walked in and said to the proprietor:

"Mr. Kennedy, I understand that you have an eleven dollar bill here. May I look at it? I never saw one."

"Kennedy produced it, and the man marveled over it for several minutes. Before he got through examining it another man walked in and asked to see the bill, and then another and another. Finally Kennedy's curiosity became excited, and he thought he would see what the bill really looked like. He saw at once how it had been 'fixed,' and his face was a study. The boys shouted with laughter, and the old fellow had to acknowledge that the cigars were on him, and he set them up like a man."

"Hum! that was funny," commented the lawyer.

"Well, here's another instance," said the broker. "Stewart went to a picnic one day with some men, and one of them had on a brand new hat he had just bought in the city. It was an almost white derby, and it at once attracted Stewart's attention.

"Well," he said, going up to the young man, "you've got one of those new hats, have you? Let's look at it?"

"The fellow took it off with some show of pride and handed it over for inspection.

"I saw one of them hats the other day in the city," said Stewart to the little group of men who had gathered around him, "and I had half a mind to get it, but as I was in a hurry I didn't stop. They are something entirely new. They don't burn, you know. I'd like to have that hat. What'll you take for it?"

"I don't want to sell it," answered the owner, grinning with pleasure at being the object of so much attention. "I didn't know it was fireproof though. Are you sure about it?"

"Oh, yes," replied Stewart confidently. "Sell it to me and I'll show you."

"No, if you're sure I'll try it myself." And the young countryman walked over to a wood fire, followed by the crowd of men who had been gaping with wonder at the reported qualities of the new hat.

"How will I put it in?" he asked Stewart, who stood near by with a look of intense interest on his face.

"Oh, chuck it right in. It can't hurt it," replied the joker.

"So the innocent victim threw his hat into the fire, which of course made short work of it. The man's face was convulsed with rage and astonishment, and his temper was not improved when the crowd of men burst into a roar. He looked around for Stewart, but that gentleman had discreetly disappeared."

"Oh, come off! Go and tell that to the marines as your 'experience.' You can't make me believe such fairy stories," said his auditor.

"Those stories are perfectly straight. I knew the men myself."—New York Tribune.

### Excess of Conscience.

Professor Palmer, of Harvard, discussing the teaching of morals in the public schools, says that excess of conscience has desolated New England like a scourge. Conscientiousness becomes a moral disease and takes the place in the spiritual life of nervous prostration in the physical life. People who are always fingering their motives, and unwholesomely preoccupied with deflecting their acts, lose spontaneity, sense of proportion. But what is more important to human society is their tendency to become bores, whose virtues are worse than their vices. A better rule of conduct is that of a person who says, "I've made reasonably sure that my instincts are all right, so I let my acts take care of themselves."—New York Evening Sun.

### A Shrewd Business Man.

First Manager—Some prima donnas want the earth.

Second Manager—That is so. I once engaged one who demanded all the receipts of the house, but still I made money.

"How did you make out to do that?"

"I married her when the season was over."—Texas Siftings.

### Fond Recollection.

She—You haven't brought me a box of candy since we were married.

He—Yes, but think of the tons I brought you before we were married.—New York Weekly.

## THE FLY EATING PLANT.

A Curious Operation of a Vegetable Devouring Animal Life.

One species of the drosena has its leaves rounded, while the other has them elongated, but both alike have them reddish in color and covered with short hairs or filaments. At the end of each of these hairs there is an enlarged gland which secretes a tiny drop of what appears to be harmless dew. Harmless, however, the liquid is not, for to most insects, especially small flies, the drosena is a most insidiously baited trap. The liquid is in reality a sweet, sticky substance, and if the very smallest fly does but touch it ever so lightly it sticks there and dies. The manner in which the plant afterward actually digests the bodies of the flies it entraps is interesting in the extreme.

Within a short time of the capture of a fly—so excessively sensitive are the glands—all the filaments growing around the one which has made the capture commence to bend inward, covering the luckless insect until it is securely within the grasp of the relentless plant. Each gland then pours out upon the body a digestive liquid, not altogether unlike the gastric juice of animals, and in the course of a day or two the fly is completely digested, the nutritive parts have been wholly absorbed by the plant and the filaments have bent back to their original position, ready to make another capture upon the first opportunity.

If, however, the substance caught by the leaf is of an indigestible nature, such as a grain of sand or a piece of stick blown by the winds on to the glands, the leaf does not remain closed more than a few hours. The number of insects thus caught must be very great. The plants themselves are very abundant in most upland bogs. Each plant has five or six leaves, and as many as thirteen dead flies have been found on a single leaf.

Curiously enough, Darwin, whose researches into the subject were of a most exhaustive and interesting nature, found that the leaves on his plants were killed when he gave them a surfeit of cheese and raw meat. The excessively sensitive nature of the glands almost surpasses conception. Darwin found that the absorption of only the 1-20,000,000th part of a grain of phosphate of ammonia or thereabout was sufficient to cause the filament bearing the gland to bend toward the center of the leaf.—Good Words.

### Good Advice on the Subject of Hats.

Some one has said that not one man in a dozen knows how to wear a dress coat, and it is quite as true that a large number of individuals do not have any idea how to wear a hat. One man can wear his hat at the back of his head and look well dressed, while another having his hat in that position would look as though he were recovering from a protracted round of dissipation. It is just the same with the other positions, on the top of the head, on either side or drawn over the forehead. It is knowing how to wear a hat which makes it look well, and the knowledge often enables the poor man to look more dressy in a cheap hat than his richer neighbor in a much more costly one.

The time the knowledge is a saving one is when buying a hat. A good salesman will take care that a customer gets a hat that will fit him when worn in that position which is most becoming to that individual, but unless this is taken care of by either purchaser or salesman there will be little satisfaction from the purchase and the hat will probably blow off at the smallest provocation. A hat that fits and is worn right seldom blows off, no matter how high the wind may be.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

### Living in Chambers.

Within late years a new style of house-keeping has come in. It is a step further than the "flat." Besides it is much more swell to live in "chambers" than to live in a flat. It is just the thing for young married people. They take a suite of two or three rooms and bath. There is no kitchen. They furnish the rooms to please themselves, and have of course their own latchkey, just as if it were a flat. The house has an office down stairs a good deal like a hotel. Here mail, etc., is received. A reception room is provided down stairs, where guests wait while their cards are brought to you.

The suites are all supplied with bells. A ring brings a boy, as at a hotel. You can get ice water or stationery as at a hotel. You can have them "ring a messenger" or send a telegram. A cafe down stairs supplies meals as you want them. The house supplies chambermaid service if you want it. A more complete way of living who could conceive?—Washington Post.

### Sprung from Hunters.

Traditions and folklore among the people of mountainous Kentucky are evanescent and vary widely in different localities. It appears that the people are sprung in part from the early hunters who came into the mountains when game was abundant, sport unfeeling and living cheap. Among them now are still hunters, who know the haunts of bear and deer, needing no dogs. Even yet they prefer wild meat—even "possum" and "coon" and groundhog—to any other.—Blue Grass Region of Kentucky.

### A Tender Heart.

Little Johnny—I guess I'll get rid of that dog I found. He's too much of a fighter. He's always hartin' other dogs.

Fond Mother—My little cherub does not like to see the poor dogs hurt, I know.

Little Johnny—No'm, 'cause some of the other dogs is owned by bigger boys than I am.—Good News.

### Stirring Him Up.

Husband—My physician tells me I must have a complete change of scene. I don't know but I'll have to run over to Europe.

Wife—That isn't necessary, dear; just take a day off and help me on my shopping.—Cloak Review.

# Great Reduction in Winter Goods.

A big cut in prices of Winter Goods that must be cleared out to make way for our Large Spring purchases. Call and be convinced that you can buy a Winter OVERCOAT or SUIT for less money than ever before. For the next 30 days we will show you genuine

## BARGAINS.

Our Line is smaller than it was, although there is still a large Stock to select from. Don't miss the opportunity to secure a BARGAIN from the old OLD RELIABLE CLOTHING HOUSE of

## D. LOWENBERG.

## THE "MAN WHO SMILES."

"There is a man in our town"  
He's not so wondrous wise,  
But in selecting goods for sale,  
The BEST he always buys.

He has a line of IMPLEMENTS  
With which no fault is found,  
But through the Country far and wide,  
Their praises still resound.

Farm wagons of the "KEYSTONE" make;  
The finest grade on Earth  
One glance at which will serve to show  
Their undisputed worth.

Binders, Mowers, Drills and Rakes;  
Farm tools of every sort,  
A list of which would be too long,  
So we must cut it short.

The Farmer's GRAIN he buys for CASH,  
For CASH, his Buckwheat Flour;  
And the highest Market Price he pays  
That lies within his power

Are you acquainted with this man?  
His trade extends for miles,  
He always tries to please his friends;  
He is "THE MAN WHO SMILES."

## D. W. KITCHEN,

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## AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS AND REPAIRS.

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## MAKING AND FITTING

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Price; and to prove Satisfaction is  
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### Learned Men Disagree.

That even honest doctors may sometimes disagree is an evident fact, and literature as in medicine there are two sides to a shield. When Professor B. H. Palmer was teaching oriental languages at Cambridge university, England, he received a note, badly written and in correctly spelled, asking if he could "read the inclosed document."

The document proved to be a paper written in Persian, and presented no difficulty whatever to the professor, who sent it back, saying that it was a warrant or ticket for certain goods, setting forth in the name of Allah the quantity, quality and make of the stuff.

A day or two afterward another letter came from the same correspondent. It contained a ten pound note and the words:

DEAR SIR—Hooray for old Cambridge! This was what the Oxford chap said it was.

"This" proved to be a copy of the "Oxford chap's" translation.

"This very curious and most interesting document," he wrote, "appears to be a copy of an ancient Persian inscription, probably taken from a tomb or a triumphal column. It is, however, very incomplete. It reads as follows: 'In the name of God. This was erected by [name uncertain] in the year [uncertain]. It is one thousand four hundred and seventy-five—long and seven hundred and thirty broad, and it'— Here the manuscript abruptly ends."—Youth's Companion.

### The Jewels of a Saint.

The idea of sanctity usually carries with it a suggestion of poverty, and it may seem a contradiction to refer to the jewels of a saint. It has been customary for painters who choose for their subjects saints or martyrs to treat them with the utmost simplicity. In a majority of cases they are depicted as devoid of ornament or decoration, and in the few exceptional instances, as when the subject of the picture is a ruler or king, the gems are few and purely symbolic, being sufficient only to denote the rank of the individual portrayed.

Raphael, who was perhaps the greatest painter of religious subjects the world has known, has in most of his works adhered strictly to this rule, but in the head of "St. Cecilia" is to be noticed a departure from it. A row of pearls, to which are attached three pendants, ornaments her gown at the neck, and this is her only jewelry. The hair is simply arranged and without a jewel of any kind. The single row of gems, themselves the emblems of chastity, emphasizes the exquisite simplicity of the face.—Jewelers' Weekly.

### An Unpardonable Offense.

A young woman condemns herself in the eyes of good society who is observed to enter alone with a young man a place for public refreshment, be the restaurant or tearoom ever so select. Bred under other conditions of a society so necessarily varying as that in our broad America, a stranger visiting New York, for instance, might readily and innocently make a mistake of this nature, and blush at finding herself condemned for it. In the same category of offenses is ranked that of maidens visiting places of public amusement under the escort of young men alone.

Many parts of the south and west allow this to be done with the smiling consent of good society, but in eastern cities it is considered a violation of the code of good form, and for the comfort, if not the convenience, of the girl considering it, had better be ranked among the lost privileges upon which social evolution may look back with fond regret.—Mrs. Burton Harrison in Ladies' Home Journal.

### Mr. Emerson Knew What He Wanted.

"Those who know Mr. Emerson best," said Miss Louisa M. Alcott, "were assured that what seemed the decline of his faculties in his latter years was largely but a seeming. It was only words he could not command at will. His very forgetfulness of the names of things would often give occasion for a flash of his quaint, shrewd wit. I remember once he started for his usual walk, when a light shower came up, and he returned for his umbrella.

"He could not remember the word umbrella, and we, who had not noticed the shower, had no clew to what he was searching for. Another walking stick was brought him, another hat, a fresh kerchief, only to be refused with that perplexed shake of the head. 'I want,' said he at last—'I want—that thing—that your friends always—borrow—and never—bring back!' Could any one fail to recognize that description?"—Boston Transcript.

### Overexercise.

Physicians are protesting against the overexercise taken by the slender, high strung people who would better be holding on to what little flesh they have, while it is next to impossible to stir up the lazy, heavy class to exert themselves enough to relieve them of their superfluous bulk. Nature does not safely guide us in this particular. Thin people are moved to be active and fleshy people to be lazy. The case calls for use of that brain power that plans and reasons and proves us higher than the monkey.—Newport News.

### His Lordship's Weight.

The present Earl Granville, some years since, when Lord Leveson, swallowed half a crown during the performance of some conjuring trick at a Christmas party. He was none the worse for the misadventure, although the family were somewhat alarmed at first. The late earl, on being asked after his son's health, told Lord Rowton that he had gained eleven pounds. "Ah!" replied the witty peer, "that makes £11 2s. 6d."—London Tit-Bits.

### Fine Threads.

If your nerves were steady enough to admit handling the silkworm's threads and you were to take a carpenter's rule and lay such threads side by side until they covered the space of an inch, you would find after completing the task that you had handled exactly 1,009 threads.—St. Louis Republic.