

IT WORKED ON HIM.

A Slight Variation from the Usual Serpentine Narrative. I saw a young man light a long Hungarian cigar the other evening and throw himself back in a chair to enjoy the smoke and conversation, says a New York Herald writer. The Hungarian cigar is something like a Pittsburgh toby, only it is twice as long as the Pittsburgh article, and before you get through with it is also twice as strong. The young man was more interested in the conversation than in the cigar, apparently, so he laid the latter down on the edge of the table a moment, as he talked. The waggish gentleman next to him slyly took the cigar and cut off about three inches of the fire end and began to smoke it, replacing the body of the weed. When the young man got through with his story, at which all the rest laughed extravagantly, he picked up the cigar again and pulled at it. His face wore a puzzled look as he glanced at the end and saw it had apparently never been lighted. But he struck a match and lighted it again. After a few pulls he laid it down to answer the pleasantries, whereupon the man on the other side drew his knife and neatly cut the fire end off and dropped it in the cuspidor. The expression on the face of that story-teller when he picked up that cigar and again essayed to smoke was something too funny to describe. He gave two or three vigorous puffs at it, then stopped and looked at the fresh end, while the other fellows were interested in almost anything else at the moment.

As soon as the would-be smoker saw that his cigar had not been lighted he turned a little pale, shoved his unemptied glass aside, and with a hasty apology and a story of an alleged forgotten engagement, bolted for the street, amid the demoniacal glances of the cruel men left behind. Thus doth conscience make cowards of us all.

DID NOT WISH TO BE EMPEROR.

Old William L. Was Quite Content with the Throne of Prussia. Rev. Dr. Bernard Rogge preached the sermon in the Versailles palace January 18, 1871, when the German empire was proclaimed, and ever since he has been known throughout central Europe as the consecrator of Germany. In a lecture given by him in Vienna recently he told of a remarkable interview which he had with the king of Prussia three days before the great ceremony. King William requested him to make the sermon short and exclude from it as far as possible all references to the house of Hohenzollern and its head.

"For I have not done it," said old William. "God in His providence accomplished it. I shall find it difficult to accustom myself to my new title of emperor. My own wish was that at my advanced age I might avoid the honor, although my son might be called to accept it; but matters have turned out in such a way that I can no longer do anything but take it." When received on the same day by the crown prince, later Emperor Frederick, Rogge got a few more instructions as to the nature of his sermon. The crown prince pointed to the great hall where the ceremony was to be held and remarked: "When I first saw the palace on the 19th of last September I said to myself: 'There is the place where the founding of the German empire will be proclaimed.'"

CLEOPATRA'S PEARL.

Some Doubts About Its Being Dissolved in Wine. Readers will easily call to mind the story which is told of Cleopatra to illustrate her luxurious habits of living, that she dissolved in her wine a precious pearl. No one seems yet to have questioned what must have been the effect upon the drink, says Youth's Companion, but Mr. Lewes questions quite pointedly the possibility of such solution. We are very sheep in our gregariousness of error. When one bold or stupid nuttun takes a leap, all leap after him. It is rare to find men doubting facts, still rarer to find them doubting whether the facts be correctly coordinated. Our books are crowded with unexamined statements, which we never think of examining.

Do we not all believe that the magnificent Cleopatra, regardless of expense, dissolved in her wine cup a pearl of great price, as if it had been a lump of sugar? Is not the "fact" familiar to every one? Yet, if you test it, you will find the fact to be that pearls are not soluble in wine. The most powerful vinegar attacks them but very slowly, and never entirely dissolves them, for the organic matter remains behind, in the shape of a spongy mass larger than the original pearl.

No Sinecures.

A man named Winks recently denounced the bishop of Manchester, Eng., for accepting a princely income while so many better men were starving. The bishop made the following answer to him: "You taunt me with the amount of my income. Perhaps it may astonish you to be made acquainted with the following facts: I live as plainly as any workman, and I believe I work harder and more hours than nine out of ten workmen, and yet I am compelled, by the expenses incident to my office, to spend one thousand pounds a year more than my official income."

Don't Speak English.

It is hard to be called upon to see the point of a joke without being given sufficient time to see it in. A gentleman with a serious face said at a recent small gathering of people: "What are we coming to? Statistics show that in Massachusetts there are thirty thousand persons, all natives of the United States, who cannot speak the English language!" "Impossible!" everyone exclaimed. "It is true, nevertheless," persisted the grave-faced man. "And native Americans, you say?" "Certainly—and all under two years of age!"

AFRAID OF THE CAMERA.

Futile Efforts of a Hunter to Photograph an Indian Bison. The dislike of some people to the photographer's chair may be due to a natural shrinking from anything like personal publicity, or, more likely, to feelings of wounded vanity, because the camera persists in representing them as they are, rather than as they imagine themselves to be. Neither of these considerations can be supposed to have influenced the Indian bison of whom Mr. E. H. Elliott tells the story, says Youth's Companion.

Mr. Elliott is a devoted sportsman, but also a lover of wild animals as living beings. At one time he desired to secure pictures of the Indian bison, an animal which, so his regret, is growing less and less common under the persecution of reckless hunters. To this end he sent one of his European employes out to photograph a solitary bull, choosing for the purpose a bit of grassy ground in a detached piece of jungle. Sure enough, a bull came slowly along, grazing as he went. He approached within ten paces of the man. The opportunity was of the very best. But, as ill-luck would have it, the bison looked up just as the photographer removed the cap from the camera. At sight of the lens—which he perhaps mistook for the glaring eye of some new kind of tiger—he whirled about and rushed madly into the jungle, leaving the photographer disappointed.

GILDERS IN AMERICA.

Circumstances in the Reign of George IV. That Sent Master Workmen Here. It is a tradition among the gilders of this town, says the New York Sun, that they owe their peculiar skill to the redecoration of Windsor castle at the command of George IV. Every available gilder of London was busied for a long time in gilding the palace, and when the work was done many of them found that their places in the trade had been taken by apprentices. Unable to find work at home, many came to America, and some established themselves in New York. These men taught their art to Americans, and the gilders of this country are now among the best in the world. The trade languished for a time in the face of cheap processes and cheap materials, but the taste for first-rate gilding, whether it be picture frames, or furniture, or walls, has never really gone out. The trade has been split up into sub-trades, and just now the stencil fresco painters are quarreling with the gilders over the question as to which class of artisans shall do the gilding of interior decorations. The gilders, who regard their trade as an art, look upon that of the stencil frescoers as merely mechanical.

ONE OR THE OTHER.

The Natural Conclusion of the Victim of an Umbrella Thief. The following amusing story has been going the rounds of the London papers. Readers in this country will not appreciate the point to the joke unless they take into account the peculiar sentiment now prevailing in regard to the house of lords. A member of a fashionable club in London lost his umbrella at the club rooms. Being resolved to draw attention to the matter in an effective manner, he caused this notice to be put up in the hall: "The nobleman who took away an umbrella not his own on such a date is requested to return it."

The committee took offense at this statement, and summoned the member who had made it before them. "Why, sir," they said, "should you have supposed that a nobleman had taken your umbrella?" "Well," replied the member, "the first article in the club rules says that: 'This club is to be composed of noblemen and gentlemen,' and since the person who stole my umbrella could not have been a gentleman, he must have been a nobleman."

THREE OF A KIND.

Some Pointed Instances of the Irishman's Aptitude in Making "Bulls." In the coffee-room at a hotel in Dublin, an Irish gentleman said to a friend who was breakfasting with him: "I'm sure that my old college friend, West, at the table over there." "Then why don't you go over and speak to him?" said his friend. "I'm afraid to," replied the other, "for he's so very shy that he would feel quite awkward if it wasn't he." A barrister defending a prisoner in Limerick said: "Gentlemen of the jury, think of his poor mother—his only mother." About seventy years ago, the grand jury of the county of Tipperary passed the following resolutions: "First, that a new courthouse should be laid; second, that the materials of the old courthouse be used in building the new courthouse; third, that the old courthouse shall not be taken down until the new courthouse is finished."

Deifying a Chinese Woman.

It is possible for any Chinaman, or even any Chinese woman, to become a deity by paying for the honor. A few years ago a rich and devout Chinese lady died in Soochoo. Her friends thought that an apotheosis was no more than her due, and communicated with the priests, who interviewed the gods on the subject, and discovered that the god of the left little toenail had no wife. The old lady was accordingly married to his godship, and is now enrolled as the "goddess of the left little toenail." The honor cost the old lady's estate over five thousand dollars.

A Superstitious Monarch.

The shah of Persia is exceedingly superstitious. He always carries with him when he travels a circle of amber, which is said to have fallen from Heaven in Mohammed's time, and which renders the wearer invulnerable; a casket of gold which makes him invisible at will, and a star, which is potent to make conspirators instantly confess their crimes.

FINEST PARKS IN THE WORLD.

Australia Can boast of Finer Public Gardens Than Any Other Country. In no country in the world do people pay so much attention to their city and country parks as do the Australians, says a writer in the Cleveland Plain Dealer. As none of the large cities is ever visited by frost or snow all have great advantages over the cities of our northern states or of northern Europe. Adelaide, the capital of South Australia, has a park with botanical gardens which for beauty of situation, arrangement of grounds and variety of trees and plants is unequalled by any city in the world, unless it might be by those of Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane in the same country. These Australian parks are not simply ornamental, they are useful; the people use them, and, as they are free to all, their one objectionable feature is the fact that they are made the resort of "sun-downers," or tramps, and of other disreputable characters. One of the largest of these city parks, and it promises in time to be the most beautiful, is Centennial park, of Sydney, New South Wales. This park was purchased and surveyed four years ago, to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of Sydney, which, at the beginning, was a penal colony of England. The municipality has gone to great expense to adorn the park with scores of replicas of famous statues or the statues of famous men from all parts of the world.

It is very pleasant to an American, driving through this park, to see, near the entrance, a huge marble statue of Abraham Lincoln, which is a fac simile of the one in Union square, New York city. One of Washington is also to be seen. A little further on there is a heroic figure of Garfield, looking toward that of England's grand old man, Gladstone, across the way. There are also busts of Longfellow, Bryant and Sheridan, as well as life-size copies of many of the Rogers groups, such as "The Wounded Scout," "The Advance Picket Guard" and "The Last Cartridge." But it is not only America that is honored in this way. In driving through the Centennial park one sees Napoleon and Bismarck, the duke of Wellington, Gen. Havelock and King John of Abyssinia. The Australians have not only the parks in their large cities, but every town and village has its pleasure grounds, and the race track is to be found in every settlement. All the colonies also have large areas like our own Yellowstone and Yosemite set apart as national parks. The wisdom of this course will become evident as the population increases and land becomes more valuable.

ALCOHOL AS AN APE CATCHER.

The Jocko Tribe as Fond of Booze as is the Human Race. "The ape family resembles man in more than one respect," remarked a citizen of Jackson, Miss., to a St. Louis Globe-Democrat man. "They love liquor, and this love, as is the case with mankind, often causes them to fall. The natives of central Africa make a fermented beer of which the monkeys are very fond, and, by using it as a bait, capture a great number of these animals. The natives go to the parts of the forest frequented by the monkeys, and set on the ground gourds full of the enticing liquor. As soon as a monkey sees and tastes it he utters loud cries of joy that soon attract his comrades. Then an orgy begins, and in a short time the beasts show all degrees of intoxication. Then the negroes appear. The drinkers are too far gone to distrust them, but apparently take them for large species of their own genus. When a negro takes one by the hand to lead it off the nearest monkey will cling to the one who thus finds a support and endeavor to go off also. Another will grasp at him, and thus in turn till the negro leads a staggering line of ten or fifteen tipsy monkeys. When finally got to the village the monkeys are securely caged and gradually sobered down, but for two or three days a limited supply of liquor is given them so as to reconcile them by degrees to their state of captivity."

Snow, Not Grass.

A little incident that occurred aboard the Furst Bismarck, during her recent Mediterranean trip, may now be added to the series of episodes made memorable through the stupidity of mankind. The ship was leaving the harbor of Athens, and Capt. Albers, her commander, was pacing the deck. There had been a storm during the night previous, and the distant hills were covered with snow. A middle-aged woman approached the commander, and pointing to the heights beyond the fast receding coast, asked: "What is that white stuff on the hills, captain?" "That, madam," gravely answered Commander Albers, "is snow." "How singular!" remarked the lady. "I was just told it was grass."

Old English Laws.

For many years gypsies were hanged in England. Vagrants were whipped naked at the cart's tail, their eyelids cut off and the unhappy wretches exposed to the burning sun; their noses slit, their foreheads branded with a letter V. The stocks, gibbet, cross, thumbscrew and whipping-post were all used to make men "good." Jack Ketch was employed and masked headsmen did their work until there came a time when no one could be found brutal enough to do it.

Man and His Environment.

As far back as early Grecian civilization Hippocrates comprehended a relationship between man and his environment. Observing the influence of the various countries upon the people, he says: "You will find, as a rule, that the form of the body and the disposition of the mind correspond to the nature of the country." In no modern work of biology can we find a better definition of environment and its effects upon the individual than that given by this sage Grecian philosopher.

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