

OVER THE COFFEE.

The English divorce court is blocked with business, dealing chiefly from the middle and lower classes.

A freak of lightning on a farm near Bath, N. Y., was to kill eighteen sheep huddled under a tree, and then to follow a wife fence and kill two more sheep thirty rods away.

Phoebe Walton, who was 90 years of age, died at the Bucks County, Pa., poor house the other day. All her long life, with the exception of five weeks, was spent in the institution.

The bicycle is beginning to get its revenge. In Farmer, Tompkins Co., N. Y., the other day, it frightened a horse, who overturned a wagon. A man was thrown out and badly injured. His name was Blomer.

Out of 256 gallons of seized liquor which Waldo County, Me., sent away to be refined, 241.47 gallons of alcohol were obtained. Some of this so-called rum and whiskey was 99 per cent. cheap alcohol colored.

Mrs. Oliphant's first book was published when she was only 21 years old. Since that time scarcely a year has passed without a three-volume novel coming from her overflowing mind.

The late Col. Wood, of Brooklyn, kept in his possession until his death a pack of common playing cards that had been sheared by a bullet at the battle of Bull Run. But for this pack of cards the missile would have struck him in a vital spot and he would have been killed.

Du Maurier's full name is George Louis Palmesia Busson Du Maurier. His real family name is Busson, coming from the Chateau la Maurier, in Anjou-on-Main. His mother was an English woman, and he was born in a little house on the Champs Elysees on March 6, 1834.

William Williams, who was killed in Philadelphia the other day by falling from the Penn statue on the public building's tower, was widely known as "The Lone Fisherman of Johnstown." He found and assisted in identifying the bodies of more than 200 victims of the great flood of 1889.

N. H. White, a wealthy farmer living near Beloit, Kan., has a tawny truss of whiskers over five feet long. He has not shaved in 76 years. He is five feet eight inches high, and when he lets his whiskers out at full length for an airing he has to straddle as he walks. Usually he winds them around his waist.

A girl living 46 miles from Newport, Ore., wanted to attend a ball there, but could not be spared for more than one day. She rode on horseback to the ball in an afternoon, danced all through the night and left the ball room only to remount her horse and ride back the 46 miles home, arriving there in good season.

A writer in Medicine says that cow's milk is not a fit food for the human stomach; that it forms into hard curds, which are indigestible, and that they can not be properly assimilated. He says that it is a food only suitable for the animal for which it is intended, the calf, which, having several stomachs, can properly dispose of it.

WORDS WHICH HAVE CHANGED.

Fairy was once a beautiful woman. Villa formerly meant a farm and not a house.

Girl formerly signified any young person of either sex.

Duke once meant any leader. The word is from the Latin.

Hag once meant any old person, whether male or female.

Gallon was originally a pitcher or jar, no matter of what size.

Jade originally signified any rude person, without regard to sex.

Craven was at first a man who had craved or begged his life of an enemy.

Polite at first meant polished, and was applied to any smooth, shining surface.

The word idea formerly meant a completed performance, whether mental or physical.

Pragmatical originally meant nothing worse than complete absorption in business affairs.

The word tomboy, now applied to a rude young woman, formerly meant a rude young man or boy.

Furlong was at first a furrow long, or the distance that a pair of oxen would plow in half an hour.

Shrewd once signified evil or wicked. Thomas Fuller uses the expression "a shrewd fellow," meaning a wicked man.

The word hyden, now applied exclusively to a noisy young woman, formerly denoted a person of like character, but of either sex.

Equivocation, a word now applied to any evasion, was once understood to mean the calling of diverse things by the same name.

Peck at first meant a basket or receptacle for grain or other substances. The expression at first had no reference to size.

Starve was once to die any manner of death. Wycliffe's sermons tell how "Christ starved on the cross for the redemption of men."

Acre once meant any field. It is still used with this significance by the Germans, who speak of God's acre, alluding to the cemetery.

Bombast once signified the cotton that was employed to stuff garments, particularly the enormous trunk hose worn in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

Termagant was formerly a quarrelsome person of either sex, and only the lack of gallantry of the men has limited the word to its present significance.

Town originally signified a farm or farm house. It is used in Wycliffe in this sense, "and they went their ways, one to his town, another to his merchandise."

WOMEN IN SINGULAR CALLINGS.

Buffalo has a "lady mortuarist." Arizona's best mining expert is a woman.

An expert tea taster in San Francisco is a young girl.

On Sixth avenue, New York, is an expert woman silversmith.

One of the greatest wood engravers in Miss Donlevy, of New York.

In the Cogswell polytechnic school the best blacksmith is a girl.

The finest raisins in California are grown and packed by three women near Fresno.

GREAT MEN NOT HAPPY.

Too Many Caves to Leave Room for Enjoyment

It has been the same as a rule with all men who have played a distinguished part in history. Caesar was in no sense a happy man; Alexander did not achieve contentment and enjoyment; Napoleon was never free from entangling perplexities and pleasure-denying apprehensions. The cases in which greatness and happiness have existed together can be counted on the fingers of one hand.

A Man Who Was Called. At midnight the other night a patrolman found a man sleeping soundly under a tree in one of the circus parks, and tapping him on his feet with the baton he called to him to get up.

"Am I called?" queried the man as he sat up and looked around. "You are. You must move on."

"Yes, I expect I must. I should like your name before I go."

"What do you want of my name?" "To preserve in the archives of my memory. You could have brained me while I slept, but you didn't do it. I am poor and grateful. I wish to carry your name around during the rest of my life in my vest pocket. What did you say it was?"

"Never mind about names. You will move on."

"Certainly, but I shall always hold you in grateful remembrance. You could have broken one of my kneecaps or pounded out one of my eyes, but did you do it? No! If you do not wish me to carry your name around with me give me the name of your favorite uncle or brother-in-law or nephew. It will answer the same purpose."

"No one is allowed to sleep in the parks, either on the grass or benches," said the officer, "and you had best take yourself off."

"I know it, and I'm going. I know of a vacant lot up here where I can bunk down in a thistle-patch and sleep the night out. Officer, why didn't you lame me for life when you found me asleep? Because you are not that kind of a hair-pin. You are a man of pity and sympathy. That is why I should like your name scratched on a piece of tin and carried next to my heart!"

"I'm not going to fool with you much longer," admonished the officer. "I want you to skip out of this!"

"Of course you do, and skip I shall. Can I have your name?"

"No, sir!"

"Nor the name of a favorite relative?"

"No, sir!"

"Will you give me something to remember you by?"

"I will!" replied the officer, and he tapped him smartly on the head with his baton.

"Thanks!" replied the man as he removed his hat, and bowed. "Your memory is now engraven on my skull forever, and will go with me to my grave! Every time I scratch my head I shall think of your great kindness to one who needed sympathy. Officer, I go—farewell—I'm gone!"—Detroit Free Press.

Sensible Woman—Sensible Girl. A young girl came to New York last winter to study art. She was alone, almost penniless and well-nigh friendless. The one person that she knew in the big, strange city, was, however, a woman of means and influence. She was also a woman of sense, and so, instead of simply providing the girl with the wherewithal to study, she gave her advice. "Earn the money yourself," she said, "and your success will be all the sweeter for having done so." She further recommended domestic service as the safest and easiest means of procuring the desired capital. The girl accepted the advice and obtained a place as housemaid with a suburban family. Her wages were good, she had a comfortable home, her wants were few, and before long she was saving money. Next winter she will enter the art school. But how many young women would have been willing to do the same thing?—New York Evening Sun.

Some Hope. "Young man," said the sage, "I hear you are about to be married?" "You are right," said the young man.

"Well, young man, the day will come when your wife will make the discovery that you do not know everything on earth. It will be a great shock to her feelings, and your supremacy. Still, there is hope for you. You, while cheerfully admitting that you do not know it all, may be able to persuade her that the reason for that state of things is that there is so much in the world that is not worth knowing."—Indianapolis Journal.

FACTS IN FEW WORDS.

A woman has been appointed assistant city treasurer of Bangor, Me. Vinegar is mentioned in the Egyptian records as a medicine in the tenth century, B. C.

It is probable that within a year Boston and Worcester will be connected by electric roads.

A French conscript recently claimed exemption from military duty because he was, at 29, the father of four children.

The New Haven Register has just discovered the rather curious fact that there is no copy of the Bible in the public library of that city.

The very poor of Berlin are better housed than those of any other large city in the world. The German capital is really without "slums."

A prize of 30,000 francs has been offered by a florist in Mayenne, France, to any one who can produce a plant on which blue roses will bloom.

Out of the 200,000 people in Santiago, Chile, only 250 speak English, but they manage to support an English newspaper known as the Chilean Times.

Abram Atwood, a poultryer, of Lewisburg, Me., sold a turkey to a patron, and he latter found in the fowl's crop a gold bosom pin worth twice the price of the turkey.

There are between 600 and 1,000 deaf mutes scattered through the city of Chicago, and they are all industrious and fairly prosperous, earning their living honestly and uncomplainingly.

A German has invented a chemical torch which ignites when wet. It is to be used on life buoys. When one is thrown to a man overboard at night he can thus see the light and find the buoy.

That lightning does sometimes strike twice in the same place is proven in the case of a windmill in Bates County, Mo., which was recently struck by a bolt in exactly the spot where it was similarly struck three years ago.

Two male bicyclists dressed in knickerbockers, arriving in the course of a tour at a summer hotel at Spirit Lake, Ia., the other day, were not allowed to enter the dining-room, on the ground that their attire was improper.

It is said of the 3,000 visitors to Yellowstone National Park during the last three years, not more than 100 were Americans. If the park was in Europe it would probably be visited by about 50,000 Americans a year.

Paper cans are now being made to take the place of tin cans for preserving food. As tin cans are made and sealed now the danger of poisoning from canned food is reduced to a minimum, but by the use of paper cans it is done away with altogether.

By comparing the statistics of English and Scotch universities in a given year it was found that Scotland, with a population of 3,725,000, had 6,500 university students, while England had only 6,000 students out of a population about six times as great.

The world's record is claimed by the Dirigo Hose Company of Ellsworth, Me., which the other day ran 210 yards to the engine house, then 233 yards with the hose reel, coupled the hose to a hydrant and the nozzle to the hose, all in 1 minute 1 1/2 seconds.

England has produced many famous detectives, but, according to a London exchange, notwithstanding the skill of the present Scotland Yard officials and their immediate predecessors, they do not seem to hold anything like the record that American and French officials can produce.

A new invention has been designed to prevent collisions at sea. At a recent test the force from electro-magnetic coils stationed on board a vessel successfully influenced a chemically-prepared compass stationed some six miles away, causing it to set up an instantaneous peal of bells.

Among the Turks bath money forms an item in every marriage contract, the husband engaging to allow his wife a certain sum for bathing purposes. If it be withheld she has only to go before the pasha and turn her slipper upside down. If the complaint be not then redressed it is ground for divorce.

Four generations of one family were baptized together at Litchfield, Conn., on a recent Sunday. There were a little boy, Leonard Merrill, his father and mother, grandfather and grandmother, and great-grandfather and great-grandmother, the great-grandfather being 80 years old. The group entered the water at the same time.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The United States now holds the second place among the countries as a gold producer, Australia coming first. Nearly fifty thousand Knights Templars will be in Boston the last part of August. The display will be a gorgeous one.

The popularity of road racing and road riding is on the increase, the enormous operations of the bicycle manufacturers to the contrary notwithstanding.

The Brooklyn Bridge is the most expensive work of the kind in the world, exceeding in cost any other bridge of which authentic figures are available.

Goggles are now supplied by the British Admiralty to the officers and sailors serving on fast torpedo boats, as the high speed has been found to be injurious to the eyes.

The Chinese believed when telegraphy was introduced in their country that foreigners cut out the tongues of children and suspended them on the insulators to transmit the message from pole to pole.

The system of kindergarten established recently on some of the Indian reservations has proved so successful that it is to be widely extended, especially in the Southwest, where the Indian children are extremely shy.

Many Western and Southern States have agents stationed in New York for the purpose of inducing immigrants to settle in the States which they represent. Even Wisconsin and California are among the States which are desirous of attracting newcomers.

Trolley parties are reported from Philadelphia, sharing popularity with bicycle teas and breakfasts. Cars specially illuminated and provided with means for serving refreshments are chartered for private parties, and an evening is passed at some suburb. A ride in a trolley car through the open country is as exhilarating as a spin behind a pair of wheels, if one only thinks so, and much less expensive. But between pneumatic tires and the trolley wire, the future of that noble animal, the horse, seems very uncertain.

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