

VENICE A DELUSION.

An Englishman Sneers at Its Canals and Distances.

An Englishman who had seen Venice but to be disillusioned, writes of his impressions to the Westminster Budget as follows:

"Here is a description of what these canals are, taken from my diary, and it is literally truthful, which the poets and the painters never are. On either side staggers a crowd of decayed buildings, from the roof downward they are a mass of squalid ruin; broken balconies cling to the stained and discolored walls, great scabs of plaster have fallen from their fronts as if a leprosy had eaten them; for a foot above the water the walls are black with slime, the broken windows are stuffed with rags and paper, the shattered steps lead up to doors that swing by one hinge; the steps themselves are slippery with a greasy scum; to the edge of the lower stairs there is a fringe of foul green weed—it swings slowly in the crawling water; the iron grilles, once so beautiful, are eaten by bitter salt rust; the shutters hang at all angles, flapping and creaking in the wind; in the crazy balconies there is a lumber of broken flower pots with dead flowers in them; and through all these reeking alleys the greenish gray water slowly pulses and oozes, covered with straw, egg shells cabbage stalks and nameless refuse. Over all this brood a hundred filthy and obscene smells, each canal contributing a particularly putrid stench of its own. No longer does Venice sit in state; hour by hour and stone by stone she is surely sinking in her dishonored grave.

"Night in Venice and music on the canal—that surely would have its old charm. I had pictured the soft air, pulsing with sweet voices, and over all a sky 'thick inlaid with patiness of bright gold.' Well, every night about 8 the singing certainly began, guitars tinkled, and now and then one heard a fairly good tenor voice, but as a rule the men's voices were harsh and worn. And the women's indescribably shrill, and the songs they sang were Verdi and Bellini at their worst. 'Ah che la Morte' and its companion absurdities. And when once they began they kept on; no sooner had one boat load of singers exhausted their repertoire than another took up its place and repeated the same songs with the same quaverings and tinklings."

MR. PLATT'S BREEZY LETTER.

He Says He Has Made an Ass of Himself and Asks Pity.

In a letter to the Michigan Club, a Republican organization, on the occasion of its celebration of Washington's birthday, ex-Senator Thomas C. Platt wrote as follows in an answer to an invitation to attend, addressed to the President of the Michigan Club:

"MY DEAR SIR: Again am I complimented and honored by the invitation of the Michigan Club to be present as a guest at the eleventh annual banquet on Friday night. I have not married a wife or bought a yoke of oxen, but I have made an ass of myself by assuming certain political burdens which I must carry out at this time. I shall grin and weep while you celebrate, for I have a complete conception of the magnificence of your banquets and the eloquence of your orators. Pity me and pray for the man whom the angelic press pictures as so satanic.

T. C. PLATT.

Slow But Healthy.

The Italian battleship Cristoforo Colombo has a curious arrangement for furnishing her seamen with drinking water. Experience proved that drinking large quantities of cold water after violent exercise, especially while cruising in the tropics, caused many deaths. The water tanks on the battleship were designed to prevent such indiscretion. The water tanks on the vessel are connected with innumerable little rubber hoses, and on the end of each hose is a rubber nipple. When any seaman wants drinking water he must turn a stop cock and then suck it through the hose and nipple. It is slow work, but it has been found that it preserves many valuable lives.—San Francisco Post.

A Novel Protection for Ships.

An inventor proposes to utilize the compass of a ship to warn the navigators of the approach of danger. He has constructed a compass which is regulated by a chemical which will not be affected by the magnetic force on board the ship, but will be keenly sensitive to minute symptoms from any other magnetic influence exerted at a distance from the vessel up to possibly two miles. This compass when affected by the magnetism oscillates about an eighth of an inch, so the inventor asserts. When it is so affected the metal connections on the rim of the dial plate will close a circuit, causing bells to ring in the engine room as well as in the pilot house and on the bridge.—N. Y. Tribune.

For Insulting the Emperor.

A little girl of Metz, 14 years old, named Louise Fuchs, has just been condemned to eight days' imprisonment for having insulted the German Emperor. The insult consisted in writing a private letter to one of her little friends, in which there was something disrespectful to his Majesty. Such sentences are quite common in Alsace-Lorraine.

Mme. Bernhardt a-Wheel.

Mme. Bernhardt demonstrated the use of the bicycle last summer during her stay at her quiet little home in Brittany by the sea. The hostess and her guests all wore fisher costumes, and took all their jaunts on their wheels, while once a week the entire party went to Palais to buy provisions, which they carried back with them.

His Calculation.

Inspector—"You don't carry enough life-preservers." Steamboat Man—"Oh, I guess there are enough for the people who would think of them in an emergency.—Puck.

"BILL" NYE'S NAME.

He Explains the "Bill" in a Letter to Eli Perkins.

In a recent article on the late humorist, "Eli Perkins" publishes the following letter:

"Dear Sir: You ask me how I came to adopt the nom de plume of Bill Nye, and I can truthfully reply that I did not do so at all. My first work was done on a territorial paper in the Rocky Mountains some twelve years ago, and was not signed. The style, or rather the lack of it, provoked some comment and two or three personal encounters. Other papers began to wonder who was responsible, and various names were assigned by them as the proper one, among them Henry Nye, James Nye, Robert Nye, etc., and a general discussion arose, in which I did not take a hand. The result was a compromise, by which I was christened Bill Nye, and the name has clung to me.

I am not especially proud of the name for it conveys the idea to strangers that I am a lawless, profane, and dangerous man. People who judge me by the brief and bloody name alone, instinctively shudder and examine their firearms. It suggests daring, debauchery, and defiance to the law. Little children are called in when I am known to be at large, and a day of fasting is announced by the Governor of the State. Strangers seek to entertain me by showing me the choice iniquities of their town. Eminent criminals ask me to attend their execution and assist them in accepting their respective dooms. Amateur criminals ask me to revise their work and to suggest improvements.

All this is the cruel result of an accident, for I am not that kind of a man. Had my work been the same, done over the signature of "Taxpayer" or "Vox Populi" how different might have been the result! Seeking as I am, in my poor, weak way, to make folly appear foolish, and to make men better by speaking disrespectfully of their errors, I do not deserve to be regarded, even by strangers, as a tough or a terror, but rather as a plain, law-abiding American citizen, who begs leave to subscribe himself, yours, for the Public Weal,

EDGAR WILSON NYE.

A LONG SLEDGE RIDE.

A Trip of Two Thousand Miles Over Snow and Ice.

Captain Joseph Wiggins is returning from Siberia by the overland route. A Sunderland engineer who accompanied the last expedition to the Kara Sea and has just returned home, relates an exciting experience which befell some of the crew who became separated from the ship while on shore at Achuka. The ice unexpectedly broke up, and, as it would have brought disaster on the ship to have remained, the Lorna Doone had to sail without them.

The party left behind included two cooks, belonging to Stockton and Newcastle, a Sunderland engineer, and Mr. Layburn Popham, brother of one of the owners. The party were obliged to travel homeward by sledges, the journey occupying over four months and covering a distance of 2,000 miles over snow and ice. At Archangel the party had their Christmas dinner with the British Consul, and they then resumed their sledge drive to Moscow, where they took the train to St. Petersburg. They came from Reval to London by steamship, and arrived in England none the worse for their remarkable journey.—London Times.

CHEAP ENOUGH!

Four Course Dinner Furnished for a Dime a Plate. Mrs. J. F. Guivits, on Pennsylvania avenue, gave a challenge poverty dinner last week to eight guests. She announced that she would serve a palatable dinner of four courses, at 1 1/2 cents a course. It was pronounced a success, and, as it was a challenge, each one is striving to do still better. The dinner was decidedly informal, and Mrs. Guivits had to answer all questions regarding the cost and expense of each article on the bill of fare. Menu cards in French told the following story:

Vegetable Soup. Mashed Potatoes. Mock Duck. Macaroni and Cheese. Cabbage Salad. Mayonnaise. Banquet Wafers. Bread and Butter. Salted Peanuts. Indian Pudding. Tea. Coffee was served in the parlor, but it was not included in the bill of fare.—Kansas City Star.

The American Wife.

In talking with an American about the different conditions of women in Japan and the United States, a Japanese diplomat once said: "When I marry I take a head servant; when you marry you become one." A man who recently visited Japan quotes a remark in a somewhat similar vein made by a Japanese interpreter. "I sat one day," he said, "at the door of a dining-room in a hotel in Tokio, where all kinds of foreigners were staying, and I watched them as they came in. The Frenchman came in with madame on his arm; the Englishman came in so (imitating a pompous, self-important personage). And his wife? Oh, she came after him like this (dramatizing a meek and timid woman following). And the American husband? The American husband? "Oh, he's not in it. Madame sails in ahead of him, and he just walks behind wherever she goes."

A Real Temperance Town.

Most of the inhabitants of Haugesund, Norway, have never tasted intoxicants. It has a population of 620, and for 29 years not a drop of spirituous liquor has been sold here.

"Don't you think Dr. Flowery makes charming Lenten addresses?" "Yes, and they're so appropriate, too. There's so little meat in them."—Puck.



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Must Use The Knife

Said the Surgeon, but Dr. David Kennedy's Favorite Remedy was taken and the Knife Avoided.

The Union and Advertiser of Rochester, N. Y., recently published the following interesting account of how William W. Adams of 127 South avenue, that city was saved from a painful operation by the use of Dr. David Kennedy's Favorite Remedy. Mr. Adams said: "Three years ago I was taken with kidney disease very badly; at times I was completely prostrated; in fact, was so bad that the day was set for the doctors to perform an operation upon me. But I decided I would not submit. I had been put in hot water baths, and, in fact, nearly every means was tried to help me. Upon the day set for the operation I commenced the use of Dr. David Kennedy's Favorite Remedy, and from that moment began to gain, and it was not long before I was entirely cured and have had no return of the trouble since. My weight has increased and I never was so well as I am now. I have recommended

DR. DAVID KENNEDY'S FAVORITE REMEDY

to many people, for it saved my life." In speaking to Mrs. Adams, she said: "About a year ago I was in a very feeble state of health, being completely run down. I had doctored considerably, but without permanent relief. One day one of my neighbors advised me to take Dr. David Kennedy's Favorite Remedy, which I did. My trouble was dyspepsia, and for a long while I was unable to be about at all; but after taking a few doses I was completely cured, and now enjoy good health." Hundreds of men and women with that "run down" condition, unable to work, have recovered health and strength through this remarkable remedy. It purifies the blood, stirs the liver and kidneys to a healthy action. In cases of rheumatism, kidney, liver and urinary troubles, it is a well-known specific. 1m.

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