

Different Man

Grucher was not eavesdropping. He was sitting in his own particular chair in his own library reading the newspaper, when the young people came into the next room.

It was young Brophie, and he was calling on Annette Grucher. Annette had a good many callers, but young Brophie was about the worst of the lot, according to the old man.

"Mush, slush and drivel," said Grucher, when he got Mrs. Grucher alone that evening. "I never heard anything like it in my life.

"You mustn't be so hard on him, my dear," said Mrs. Grucher. "I think he's a very nice young man and I'm glad that you didn't hurt his feelings.

"I don't call him a young man," growled Grucher. "He's a young shufflet. He hasn't an idea in his head beyond dressing himself up like a tailor's dummy.

"You're not going to do anything of the kind," said Mrs. Grucher. "And Grucher don't."

The next morning as Grucher was sitting in his office, grinding as he owed to grind, the boy brought a slip of paper and laid it on his desk.

"Good morning, sir," said young Brophie, pleasantly.

"Good morning," returned Grucher, unpleasantly. "Who told you to come in here? You're not from Cull & Fisher, are you?"

"Yes, sir," replied young Brophie. They sent me over here to see if this little matter in dispute could be arranged. I think it can. Can you spare me a few minutes?"

Grucher nodded. The young man seated himself and whisked some papers from the breast pocket of his coat and snapped one from the encircling rubber band with an admirable certainty of motion.

"He was unfolding the paper when Grucher waved it aside. "How do you think it's going to be arranged?" he asked in an ominous tone.

"By a check," said young Brophie with a smile.

"For what amount?"

"For the amount in full," replied the young man.

"Mr. Brophie," said the old man. "You can be of any service to your firm outside of this office I'd advise you to get busy. I shall not pay one cent of your claim. Not—one—cent. Do you understand that?"

"I understand what you say, of course," said young Brophie, "but you promised to spare me a few minutes, and I'm going to prove to you that you can't in fairness do anything else than I propose. I understand your view of the matter and I see clearly that it is based on an incorrect understanding of the facts in the case. To begin with, your order. Do you care to look it over?"

"I know what it is," said Grucher, "and I know what you people furnished. I think, too, that if Cull & Fisher have any proposition to make me they might send a representative."

"He was going to say something offensive, but meeting young Brophie's steady gaze he thought better of it and said instead, "Well, go ahead."

Young Brophie laid down his papers and entered into an explanation of the misunderstanding. He talked for about five minutes, verifying his points by references to certain schedules and correspondence and a set print. When he had finished Grucher reflected a minute or two.

"Then the engineer was at fault?" he added.

"Most certainly," replied young Brophie. "He miscalculated the extension of the trusses. I figured out the only possible explanation as an error of that nature, so I went out there this morning to make sure. There you have the measure-

ments. You can hold your citizens accountable for the loss, but we must look to you, don't you see?"

"I see," said Grucher. "So you dug this up, did you?"

It occurred to me said the young man, modestly.

"You must have got up pretty early to be out here this morning," said Grucher.

"Not very," replied young Brophie. "I caught a freight out to Battenburg at 4.35, and walked over to the bridge."

"You couldn't have got much sleep then, judging from the time you left my house," observed Grucher with a smile. "Well," he continued, "I suppose I'll have to pay up. I may not be able to get it back, but I'll have to take chances on that. So your with Cull & Fisher! Well, I think Cull & Fisher have got a pretty good man."

To Mrs. Grucher that evening Grucher said: "I guess I was mistaken in sizing up that young Brophie. He was in the office to-day on a matter of business and I think he's got a considerable amount of sense and energy about him. But why does he want to talk such rot to Annette? And why does he wear such foolish clothes when he comes around here?"

"My dear," said Mrs. Grucher, "I suppose you've forgot how silly you appeared when you were calling on me."

"There may be something in that," admitted Grucher.

The Fisherman's Paradise.

The fisherman's paradise in the United States is found at Miami, Fla. There are other tarpon grounds than Biscayne Bay, but anglers who have found their way to the southernmost point of Florida year after year with flattering regularity, and some of whom have landed from five to ten huge 150 or 200 pounders in one day contend that no such angling sport can be found elsewhere in the world.

There are so many fish in the waters which lap the shores of the various keys which dot the bay and the Gulf Stream. There are over 600 kinds of fish between Miami and Key West, and 150 of them are known as game fish. One of the fascinations of the gamey tarpon is that he is mysterious. He comes in schools whenever no one seems to know. He is sighted sometimes as early as January, but, although he jumps and mockingly lashes his six feet or so of shining, silvery body in the eyes of the eager sportsman he refuses to notice the most tempting bait. In February he begins to take the hook, and in this month anglers begin to arrive on the scene and to engage their boats and guides for the season.

Home of the Corncob Pipe.

Franklin county, Mo., is the birthplace of the "Missouri meerschautum," as those persons who desire to give it a more aristocratic name, have christened the corncob pipe. Of corncob pipes during the year 1907, the country exported 22,608,488. Besides these she sent out 912,000 pipe stems, 29,808 "cleaners," and 108,902 wooden pipes, in value, more than half as much as was realized from live stock or her grain exportations. Gasconade county shipped cob pipes to the number of 1,856,640, valued at \$26,890, and showing a total shipment for the two counties of 24,465,125 such pipes.

John Milton's Cottage.

One of the best preserved historic country houses in all England is John Milton's cottage at Chalfont, St. Giles, to which the blind and ageing poet fled when the great plague swooped down on London. That was in July, 1665, and Milton had just finished "Paradise Lost" and received a five-pound note for it, with a promise of three more five-pound notes if the poem sold for editions of 1,300 copies each. The cottage stands at the top of the village, and it is in practically the same condition as when Milton left it. Here the poet received his distinguished guests during the latter part of his life.

Twilight.

The twilight is merely the top of the atmosphere tinged with the rays of the horizon-rimmed sun. Small as the air-particles are in their isolated state, they cluster around the earth in such overwhelming abundance and crowd one another in such densely serried ranks that they shine through their depths under the far-reaching rays as an impenetrable solid surface might do. Illuminated by the direct beams of the rising or setting sun, as seen from the regions below, this upper gives us the phenomenon of twilight.

Green Hands.

Simply green—unripe—the most natural designation in the world. It was originally a nautical phrase, meaning the inferior sailors, or "boys" as they were called, the crew being divided into able seamen, ordinary seamen and "green" hands, or boys. The term had no reference to age, but referred merely to the skill or knowledge of the particular party.

Disastrous Reaction.

"I was awfully worried about Johnny when he had that last sick spell," said Mrs. Lapelling, "and when the doctor told me he was going to get well I went fairly delirious with joy."

SHOE SHINING FORTUNES

Bootblacks are glad to pay very high rentals.

ARE ACTUAL CAPITALISTS

Space in Big New York Building is Coveted by Man Who is Relegating the "Nickel Shine" to Oblivion—Reasons for Growth of Business.

A New York bootblack once said that the shining of shoes was as much of an art as the painting of pictures. He looked upon his work as a profession, and conducted it accordingly. He studied the proper way to apply elbow grease as well as blacking, developed a shine that lasted three days, made a reputation, friends, and a fortune, finally retiring, to devote his whole time to the manufacture of leather dressings.

Before that man came from Italy the bootblacking industry was in the hands of men and boys, who shouldered their kits and did much the same work that is done by the youngsters of to-day in City Hall Park. Of course, there were chairs in buildings but the average operator caked boots with blacking and rubbed on a shine that rubbed off within a couple of hours.

He had imitators, to be sure, and some did not hesitate to couple his name with their own, but his reputation as a bootblack grew apace, and his patrons demanded stations in other parts of the town. He catered to their wants and they made him wealthy. He was really the pioneer of bootblacking, as it is practiced now, and each year sees an expansion of the business, with keen competition among the Italian capitalists engaged in it. They are, by the way, actual capitalists, for it takes much money to swing the business.

An indication of this was the recent rental by Joseph P. Day of space in the Hudson Terminal Buildings to a bootblack company, which was organized for the purpose, and will be the only American concern in the business in New York. Italians having monopolized the shining of shoes for a good many years. The company took 460 square feet in the main corridor of the Fulton building, near the elevators, and 1100 square feet at the Cortlandt, and agreed to pay \$124,000 for a period of twelve years, or \$10,400 a year.

Not less than ten per cent of the population of such buildings as the Empire, Equitable, Schermerhorn, Broad Exchange, and Produce Exchange, patronize the bootblack chairs in them. Heavy rentals are paid in each of these structures and there is much competition among the boss bootblacks when they hear that one of the buildings has space to offer in the corridor.

In the Equitable the bootblack stall rents for a yearly sum which ranges between \$2,000 and \$3,000, while in the Empire, the rental is paid to be nearly \$7,000. The population of the latter is large, and, moreover, the building has an arcade leading to the elevated. Through this passage way walk thousands of persons, many of whom stop for a shine or to have their hats cleaned. An arcade is, of course, a much more valuable stand than a place which has no continuous flow of people.

Privileges in office buildings are not the only ones of value. Take, for instance, the ferryboats and ferry houses and railroad terminals. The Italian firm which has the exclusive right to shine shoes on the municipal ferryboats running to Staten Island pays \$600 a month to the city, or \$7,200 a year. Proportional sums are paid for similar privileges on the Erie, Lackawanna, and other boats. On the municipal ferry to South Brooklyn, the privilege costs \$900 a year, although the volume of traffic is comparatively small when compared with other lines.

One reason why the business has grown so large is to be found in the fact that fewer persons shine their own shoes. The man of the present generation may own a polishing outfit, but the chances are against his using it regularly. He is likely to argue that he will spend less time and no energy if he puts himself in the hands of the bootblack in his building. Certainly the work will be better done than he could do it at home, and it costs only a nickel or a dime, an insignificant sum.

But these coins are the ones that fill the bootblack's till. Years ago, before he had weaned the New Yorker from his own brushes, the bootblack rarely, if ever, charged more than five cents for a shine.

Philippine Pineapples.

It is stated in Manila that with a preferential tariff on the importation into the United States of Philippine products there is but little doubt that the pineapple canning industry in the Philippines could be made one of the most productive that could be introduced. At the present time some of the finest pineapples ever grown are being cultivated in Bataan and Bulacan, and even in the red clay soil of Benguet there are growing plenty of plants producing this luscious fruit which is in so much demand in the United States.

GOLD STOLEN BY MINERS

A Form of Theft Practiced Everywhere—Plundering in Siberia.

Statisticians compile tables of the world's production of gold yearly, but all admit that it is impossible to give accurate figures because not a little of the metal is stolen and never figures in the returns of production. In a country like China where the industry of gold mining is poorly organized and controlled, this source of error in the returns of output is very important.

Prof. de Launay, in his recent book on gold says that the gold industry in no country escapes the evil of thievery. Gold stealing goes on everywhere, but the extent of the evil varies according to the country and the efficiency of the supervision over miners.

Gold from its nature is easy to steal and to sell. In the Transvaal it is estimated that from 5 to 10 per cent of all the gold extracted from the ores of the Witwatersrand are stolen.

The gold thief is able to steal on a larger scale in such a country as Siberia, where the miners are more isolated and corruption is more common. There the thieves even venture to tamper sometimes with work superintendents who for a share of the pickings will give favorable opportunities for stealing. According to Dr. Levats statements in his book on gold mining in eastern Siberia, the quality of gold stolen from Siberian mines is not less than 20 per cent of the entire output.

In 1896 4,000 adventurers drove the mining companies and their employees from the gold district of the Zeya River and washed out a large amount of gold before they finally fled on the approach of a regiment of Cossacks. Not a particle of the gold they mined has been included in the figures of production.

It was found also in 1890 that gold mining along the border between French Guiana and Brazil, where the placers were remarkably rich had been carried on for several years without any supervision whatever, and not an ounce of the gold was included in the statistics.

Unmarried Women and Cards.

Much doubt seems to exist on the correctness or the reverse of young unmarried women having visiting cards of their own. A girl never has a card of her own in the best society. To do so argues one of three things—either that she has become an old maid or is in a business or a profession or has adopted a quite unique independence of character. To define the age when a single woman may have a card of her own is a matter of some difficulty. One girl becomes a mature woman at thirty, while another remains a mere bantling even after she has reached that milestone. Character has much to say on the subject, and a great deal also depends upon circumstances. Nowadays even girls in high position strike out in a line for themselves. They write, paint, go in for nursing or study music almost as a profession. In such cases as these a girl would have many friends apart from her parent's circle, and might have a card of her own while she remains in the later twenties. But as a general rule this flag of freedom should never be raised before a single woman has reached the age of thirty-five or forty, especially if she has a mother alive, on whose card her name could appear.

Switch Operated from Car.

The opening and closing of switches on street car tracks consumes a considerable amount of time when the motorman has to attend to the work himself. The other alternative is the employment of a regular switch tender and, of course, such an extra hand can only be used where an unusual amount of traffic warrants the expense. Some weeks ago these columns contained an account of an electrical device for controlling switches operated from the car. Now, a Philadelphian comes forward with an invention which he asserts accomplishes the same results by mechanical means. In order to do this he replaces the ordinary switch by one which is provided with bearings upon which they rock readily and is thus turned with a much smaller expenditure of power. Each car is equipped with two levers or bars capable of being depressed so that they enter slots provided for them in the switch rails, which simple action rocks the rails upon their fulcrum and throws the switch open or shut, as the case may be.

The Groundhog Story.

February 2, or Candlemas Day, was a favorite holiday, marked by public gaiety and ceremonies in Europe during the Middle Ages. It is still marked there by the closing of banks and offices, but not otherwise, outside of the reading of Church services. In the Church Calendar it is known as the Feast of Purification of the Virgin, and was first instituted by Pope Sergius about the year 684 A. D. The popular name of the day is derived from the early custom of lighting up the churches with candles and carrying these in procession on this festival.

As to the weather superstition that gives to Candlemas the name of "groundhog day," that is a world-wide fable. In Germany it is the badger that breaks his winter nap on this day to essay the thankless task of weather prophecy; in France and Switzerland it is the marmot; in England the hedgehog.—The Housekeeper.

SOME FAMOUS SWINDLES

How Precious Stones and metals are made.

A SCIENTIFIC PROCESS

It is Quite Possible to Manufacture Diamonds—Much Roguery Taking Place in the Manufacture of Imitation Silver—Difficult to Detect Any of the Articles.

At the present time Sir Julius Wernher is prosecuting a Frenchman called Lemoine or alleged imposture, says the London Times. The Frenchman brought letters of introduction from two well-known London men of business, and said that he had discovered a method of making diamonds. In an initial experiment he produced a magnificent diamond from the crucible.

The experiment was related to the Board of Directors of the De Beers Company, but they would have nothing to do with it. Sir Julius Wernher, however, advanced £60,000 to the Frenchman, in order to build a diamond factory at Argeles near Pau. The building and factory have been erected close to a waterfall, but Sir Julius afterwards suspected that the man was a swindler. Lemoine declares that he possesses the secret of making diamonds artificially, but he refuses to divulge the operation or to perform any experiment before experts.

It has been said that there is more than a suspicion in Hatten Garden that large numbers of artificial diamonds are being placed on the market as real gems. It is quite possible to manufacture diamonds. Indeed, a famous Frenchman of Science, Moissan, made very large numbers by means of his electric furnace. His process was to dissolve lumps of sugar in molten iron, subjecting the solution to enormous pressure. Lump sugar may be said to consist simply of water and diamond. It is the case that the diamond is merely crystallized carbon. There are three kinds of carbon—plumbago, graphite and diamond, the composition of all of which is identical. When charcoal is dissolved in molten iron, graphite is formed.

All the diamonds found in Borneo, Brazil, India, and South Africa, are made in much the same manner—that is, by the action of great heat and enormous pressure on the earth's interior causing the beautiful white stone to crystallize out.

By means of apparatus used by men of science it is possible to obtain a heat exceeding 40,000 degrees centigrade, and a pressure largely exceeding 100 tons to the square inch; that is to say similar heat and pressure as is used by Nature in producing diamonds. There is danger, however, in using such apparatus, as was shown when a Frenchman of science, was blown to pieces in 1893.

Imitation pearls are produced in enormous quantities, and they usually consist of little hollow glass globes filled with a substance yielded by certain small fish. The substance consists of iridescent white matter obtained from scales of the bleak, and sometimes of the roach and the dace. The supply of these scales varies, and great difficulty is experienced in packing them without doing damage to the luster. As the scales are removed from the fish they are hermetically sealed in special cans.

Afterwards the scales are very carefully washed and put to soak in water; a sediment foras which is mixed with liquid ammonia and injected into the glass globe or bead, so as to coat it. The best beads then have the interiors filled with white wax or gum. To make the appearance more realistic the little bulbs have their glassy appearance removed by the action of the vapor of hydrofluoric acid. It is only the expert who can detect such imitation from the finest Oriental Pearls, and they fetch high prices. It is believed that some specimens have been made that cannot be told from the real article.

Many frauds have been committed by men who pretended they possessed the power to manufacture gold. One of the simplest is the manufacture of gold consisting one half of iron and the other of gold. The outside is then treated in such a way that the whole resembles a common nail. The result is that when people see the pure gold extracted from a seemingly common iron nail they have their avarice aroused, and are easily led to advance any sum which the knave pretends to be necessary for pursuing the process on a larger scale.

Much roguery is now taking place in the manufacture of imitation silver. An alloy of aluminum and zinc has been discovered which has the exact appearance of silver, takes a high polish, and possesses the same weight. It is very difficult indeed, to detect articles made from this substance.

A Thought.

I am coming to believe that there is work for everybody somewhere. It may not be the work we want, and it may not be the place in which we desire to stay, but it will supply creature comforts, and that is a great deal, says Home Chat. Most of us have to do unpleasant things from time to time, but it is quite possible to do them cheerfully.

SPRING GUSHES APPLE BRANDY

Farmer Strikes Underground Lake in Pocket of Rock in Missouri—Regarded as "Unusual."

Springfield, Mo.—What chance has State-wide prohibition in Missouri when applejack, pure, undiluted apple brandy, mellow with age, bubbles up from the ground like a spring? When drilling a well on his farm, seven miles north of here, Joel Hazelwand struck a flow at eighty feet of undiluted apple brandy of unusually fine quality. A dozen bucketfuls of the liquor have bubbled up through the hole to-day, and there seems to be no diminishing in quantity.

Because of the Federal statutes Hazelwand is unable to sell his strike, but neighbors with jugs have been invited to help themselves, and dozens have accepted the invitation. Geologists here are unable to give any definite account of the phenomenon, though they give credence to the theory of "Uncle Billy" Woodman, the oldest inhabitant. "Uncle Billy" says there was an orchard on the site of Hazelwand's farm before the civil war, and in the year '62 there was an exceptionally bountiful crop. Before the harvest all the men in the country had gone to war and there was nobody left to gather the crop. When the apples became ripe a terrific windstorm blew them from the trees and practically destroyed the orchard. The heavy rain, that followed the wind washed the fruit into the creek, from where they were drawn into some subterranean stream.

The apples, somewhere in their underground journey were caught in a stream of boiling water and cooked. This formed the apple brandy, which filtered into a pocket of rock and remained there to mellow with age until tapped by Hazelwand's well.

The geology of this section of Missouri is such that the gathering of the brandy in a pocket of rock is entirely practicable, as the whole country is underlaid with a stratum of Burlington limestone. This limestone is easily eroded by water, and subterranean lakes are not infrequently found, although such a lake of apple brandy is regarded as unusual.

COUNT LEO TOLSTOI

Great age does not stifle the imaginative qualities of the distinguished Russian philosopher and writer. His latest book on the subject of the regeneration of the Czar's empire is considered the most powerful appeal he has ever made in favor of an oppressed people.

SCARED BY BATTLE IN CLOUDS.

Sham Sight of Troops, Reproduced in Mirage, Frightened Villagers.

Heidelberg.—A terrifying phenomenon in the heavens recently alarmed the superstitious villagers of Dornbach and Oberunzbach, on the frontier of Baden and Wurtemberg. In the clouds, just before 10 o'clock in the forenoon, there appeared a bright red streak, on which could be plainly seen a landscape, with fields, streams and woods, among which two bodies of troops in battle formation were advancing toward each other, firing volleys. The puffs of smoke were clearly visible.

Half an hour later the picture suddenly disappeared, but the excitement and fear aroused among the villagers lasted until next morning, when the explanation appeared in the newspapers of the district that a sham fight had been held by the garrison of Merzhausen, some twenty miles distant, and had caused the mirage.

No Snow, No Pay, for Zeb's Sleigh.

Winsted, Conn.—Zeb Holley, of Brushy Hill, near Woodbury, has bought a new sleigh on the instalment plan. Every time it snows he is to make a payment on it. There have been two snowfalls since he bought the sleigh, costing \$20, and as he pays only \$1 for a snow storm he figures he will be able to draw at least seven months' interest on the other fellow's money.

Monkeys Apt Pupils at College.

Washington.—That a monkey can learn something new every day, although the only people with whom it comes in contact are college professors, is said to have been demonstrated by the Department of Psychology in George Washington University. Experiments have been conducted upon twenty monkeys, and interesting data are being arranged for publication.

The Highest Quality of Babies.

Washington.—Mrs. Belva A. Lockwood says that when Prof. Max G. Schlapp told the Colony Club, of New York, that woman suffrage would lead to race suicide, he must have had wheels in his head. "Suffrage means no babies?" she said. "On the contrary, it means the highest quality of babies."

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