

Queer Things, Queer Ways and Queer People of New York

Thanksgiving past, Christmas close at hand, the coal scarcity yet unrelieved, have set New York to taking earnest account of charitable stock.

In this respect as in others the city opens wide its lavish if not always discreet hands.

In relieving poverty the Episcopal church, in spite of its small numbers, takes the lead. It includes practically all the men of greatest wealth; it is not afraid of experiments.

In what other church would the relative of a great prelate plan to open a public house and leave to its owners' vote the question whether it shall sell beer or not? The Social Halls association of which Miss Virginia Potter, Bishop Potter's niece, is vice president and founder, is planning to spend \$200,000 upon its first hall.

The question of applying for a license to sell beer and wine will depend upon the vote of the stockholders. The stock is held at \$100 a share, the investment is to pay four per cent. Anybody can buy stock; it is shrewdly held that the privilege of voting upon the license question will boom its sale.

People have opinions upon that point. The four per cent. proviso is necessary; that prevents the halls from being "charities." Few people would darken their doors if this could be truly said. There will be lodge rooms, a restaurant, a roof garden with cafe, a balcony where meals can be served in summer and where men can smoke if they wish.

Another member of the Potter family—the wealthy widow of Alfred Corning Clark, of Singer sewing machine fame, who recently became the wife of Bishop Potter himself—is preparing under his direction to spend some of her vast fortune upon philanthropy.

The Edward Clark club, for whose erection she has made plans, will add to the city's means of recreation for those whose homes are too narrow for playroom. Much of the city's charitable endeavor now seeks this outlet. In the old days money was spent, often wasted, for blankets and soup.

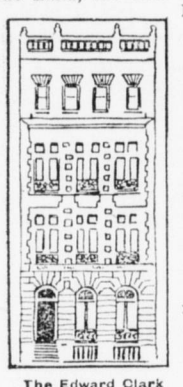
One of the most interesting men in charity work is Dr. Felix Adler, head of the Ethical Culture society.

For 30 years this man has made philanthropy his business. His endeavor has been to gather in good works the many who profess no religion. His followers have no creed but good conduct. Many, but not a majority, are of Jewish descent, an element that furnishes a very large proportion of New York's agnostics.

The ethical movement has been of slow growth, but there are now seven branches in London, and the parent body in New York has just laid the corner stone of a splendid new home. The work is the same as that usually undertaken under church direction. Kindergartens, clubs, country homes, sewing classes, libraries, reading-rooms, bathrooms and the like are furnished generously for the members.

In charities the church has an advantage over any ethical movement in its vast accumulated machinery; in some cases in its wealth. The ground upon which Trinity church stands, with its churchyard, just at the head of Wall street, is probably worth \$1,000,000. How much it is worth will never be known; it will never be sold. The Trinity office building, fit only to be torn down, and occupying only two lots at the northern end of the graveyard, has just been sold for \$1,700,000, to be removed. Old Trinity owns much profitable real estate whose rentals grow every year. The money is spent upon chapels in other parts of the town and upon charities and good works, after salaries of unusual number and generosity have been paid to its clerics, with the venerable Dr. Dix at their head.

An Institutional Church. A church of different kind is Dr. Rainsford's. Dr. Rainsford is a big, raw-boned Canadian who has just celebrated the twentieth anniversary of his coming to New York. Unlike Trinity his church has but a small endowment, which it is trying to increase. When Dr. Rainsford came to it, a young athlete more distinguished for sense than for eloquence, there were perhaps 300 members, and an income of \$45,000 a year. The membership has grown to 8,290, the income to \$97,000. You see from the figures that Dr. Rainsford has not been "after" rich people to fill his church. In fact, over 5,000 of the number live in tenements. Mayor Low and J. Pierpont Morgan are vestrymen, and there is no church where plainer talk is heard about the duties of the rich.



The Edward Clark Club.

Dr. Rainsford manages clubs, athletic associations, dances—anything that interests people and that can be put under clean management instead of doubtful commercial management outside. Better dance and sing in places where no wickedness is permitted than dance and sing in the public dance halls of the East side or of Coney Island, is the doctor's theory.

The doctor is not afraid to speak his mind. And a man who can draw together J. P. Morgan and 5,000 of the very poor from the tenements into one church has a mind to speak.

"Tody" Hamilton and Hall Caine. The two finest press agents that ever crossed the sea are now in New York. Off hats to Mr. Hall Caine and "Tody" Hamilton!

Hamilton is about 45 years of age; he has been famous for half that time. Barnum found him; he is still with the "big show." His feats of press agency are famous in the profession. Before he had been in England two months the solemn London dailies were printing as news long stories of happenings in the circus, of visits of crowned heads, of romances of the freaks. Well, Hamilton is back in New York now. The day the show got here the papers were full of the death of a "bad elephant," whom the circus people have been, with tears, obliged to kill and bury at sea off Sandy Hook. There were photographs galore. The next Sunday two of the papers had page stories on differing phases of the circus.

"Tody" invented the sensation about Jumbo, for whom the children of royalty were crying their eyes out when Barnum bought him; he stuffed Jumbo's skin when he died, and he mounted Jumbo's bones, and made the best of Jumbo's having been killed by a tree. One of his prettiest feats, though not famous, was to secure the printing of a two-page newspaper picture 36 inches long of the "modern Noah's ark," the voyage of the "greatest show," to England. The sectional plan showed just where the animals went in two by two or otherwise.

Not a cent, directly or indirectly, does the big show pay for the insertion of these stories. They are so readable that the papers want them. Hamilton doesn't even have to write them. The best reporters are sent to work up his ideas. I once asked Hamilton why he never went into business for himself.

"I am a sad instance," he said, "of the benumbing effect upon a man's courage of the certainty of a steady salary."

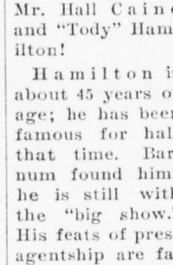
Hall Caine is different. Hall Caine is different; naturally. He takes himself seriously; Hamilton, a brighter man, is conscious of his limitations. Caine doesn't know he has any. Everything he writes he expects to fall upon the waiting world with the force of a revelation. And he does get tremendous sensations.

New York Catholicism is now fuming with rage because Caine puts "Pope Leo X."—that is to say, some pope of the future—into his play, "The Eternal City," and puts into the pope's mouth sentiments which Catholics cannot approve.

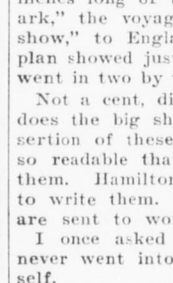
Thus Father Ducey has been "drawn" to attack Mr. Caine. Father Ducey is the typical "soggarth aroon"—the dear priest. He is fervid, eloquent, devoted, the friend of many people. In Henry George's time Father Ducey was in disfavor with his superiors because he was friendly to the "single tax" movement. His eloquence has never made him a bishop, as it did Fenelon.

Father Ducey says—and he has his co-religionists with him—that in Mr. Caine's conception of the pope, as played by Mr. Holland, "conscience, confidence, religion—all are violated. His stage pope is an insult to the most sacred relations of religious life." But there are enough people in New York who are not good Catholics to fill every night the theater where the sham pope is played.

New York has had its fill of religious plays. The "morality" of "Everyman" might escape that designation. But Mrs. Fiske's "Mary of Magdala" boldly introduces Scriptural characters excepting the Christ himself.



Kate Carew's Caricature of Caine.



A New York City Club Boy.



Mrs. Fiske.

Some Interesting Chapters in Mexican History

Included in Which is a Recounting of the Pious Fund Claims Recently Settled.

BACK in 1845, Texas, wearied with playing the role of the "Lone Star," offered herself with her broad domains, to the United States, and was accepted.

The next year a difficulty arose with Mexico as to the ownership of a strip of land between the Merces and the Rio Grande, ceded to Texas in 1824 by Santa Anna.

Santa Anna denied the claim, declared it was wrong from him when he was a prisoner and his life threatened, therefore not valid.

Polk, a man of great energy and iron will, was president of the United States; upheld by the democratic party he sent troops under Gen. Taylor to secure that strip of land—if need be, at the cannon's mouth. There were secret instructions to provoke a war if possible.

The Texans, remembering the massacre at Goliad, remembering the Alamo, "Thermopylae had her messengers of defeat, but the Alamo had none," hated the Mexicans, especially the treacherous Santa Anna.

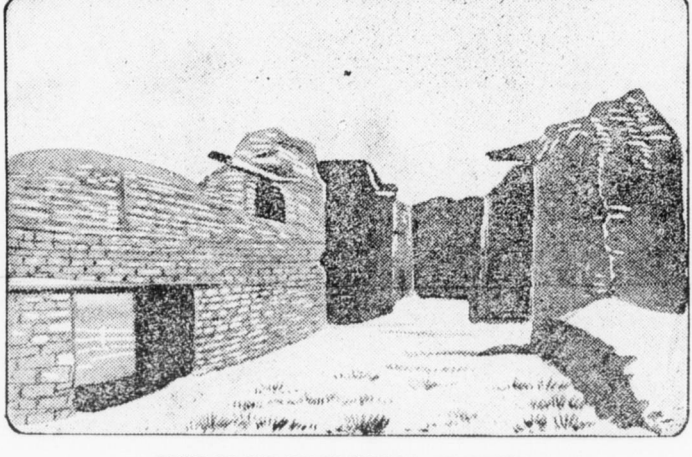
Taylor, carrying out his instructions, built a fort opposite Matamoros. This had the desired effect. The Mexicans were incensed, crossed the river and fought at Palo Alto. American blood spilled upon American soil! The Rubicon was crossed when Taylor passed the Rio Grande and war was declared. The Mexicans disputed the advance of the American step by step. At a convent in Churubusco the national guard, mostly Hidalgo's, 800 strong, made a brave defense against a force of 6,000 men. There was no surrender, but the convent was taken—a fight memorable for the answer, become historic of

Mexico. This time no land was involved, only money, \$4,000,000 including interest—money due the Catholic church, which has given it the name of the Pious Fund.

The rise of the missions along the Pacific coast reads like a romance; the churches in decay form the most picturesque ruins in America. The eyes of the Californians are opened as to the treasures in their keeping, and are doing what they can to preserve them.

Two hundred and fifty years ago, when Spain held Mexico, she tried in vain to gain a foothold among the Indians in California. For assistance she turned to the church. The Jesuits, then in the full swing of power, were full of zeal, feared no peril nor suffering could they but plant the cross. Gold was needed and gold flowed in from the wealthy hidalgos at the cry, "Help us reclaim California from the black one."

Father Juan Ugarte, with a few companions, started for the lower coast, intending to work his way north by a chain of missions. The work prospered, large numbers of the Indians submitted to baptism and signed themselves with the cross. In Europe the Jesuits had fallen into disrepute, France, Spain, Portugal and Venice were clamoring against them. Pope Clement XIV., much against his will, revoked the order in 1773. Father Ugarte was driven from his post and the crown took possession of the fund, which had grown to very large proportions. The missions were divided between Franciscan and Dominican monks. Junipero, a Franciscan father, gave each mission an endowment of \$10,000 from the Pious Fund; the work of



RUINS OF THE PECOS CHURCH, CALIFORNIA.

the Mexican general to Gen. Twiggs. When asked about the ammunition—"Sir, if there had been any ammunition left, you would not now be here."

It was at San Cosine that Grant, then a lieutenant, first showed his military sagacity. He mounted a howitzer in the tower of a church, which commanded the ground of the enemy. Grant told the story in his modest way: "The shots from our little gun dropped upon the enemy and created a great confusion." He was called before the commanding general, who pronounced every shot effective.

Finally the capital was reached and the stars and stripes floated from the halls of the Montezumas. The demands of the conquerors for the trouble, expense and bloodshed of a two-years' war, which they had provoked, was California and New Mexico, two-fifths of the Mexican empire.

Gen. Fremont had been sent overland to the Pacific coast to incite a rebellion. Santa Anna fled—the Mexicans were helpless—signed the treaty. If the war were unjust, as has been claimed, the United States generously gave an indemnity of \$15,000,000.

At the beginning of the civil war Napoleon III. was dazzled by a scheme of forming an empire in Mexico that, in a way, would be a dependency of France. He doubted not that the confederacy would win and become an ally of the new empire—together they would stamp out the Monroe doctrine.

Napoleon chose Maximilian, archduke of Austria, and Carlota, his wife, a daughter of Belgium, as figureheads, and promised to support them with French troops.

From the first the French government had been warned that its action would be regarded as a cause of war with the United States. So long as the latter was engaged fighting for its life blood, which the French thought was fast oozing out, the warnings were of little moment. After Appomattox they had a different sound in French ears. Playing with the Monroe doctrine was playing with fire. Napoleon decided to withdraw his troops, basely breaking his pledges to emperor and empress.

One was shot—the other went mad. Early in the present year an old, old story was revived, which gave the United States another claim against

Christianizing and civilizing went on. When Mexico threw off the Spanish yoke she took possession of the fund and claimed the right to administer it. Santa Anna was president, and sold the fund in 1842, guaranteeing the church six per cent. interest on it in perpetuity. The promise, like all Santa Anna's promises, was broken. For more than 20 years the doors of the Mexican treasury were closed against the church. In 1869 the archbishop of California brought the claim before the Mexican claims commission, and pushed it with so much vigor that it was agreed to submit it to Sir Edward Thornton, then British ambassador to the United States, who awarded the church \$904,799 arrears, which was divided among the Catholic churches of the west.

Again the Mexican treasury was sealed against further demands of the church.

Attorneys of both countries argued the case, but were unable to reach any agreement. At the instance of the present archbishop of the west, the United States took the matter up and diplomatically demanded payment. Mexico refused it, declaring that the Pious Fund was raised for the political conquest of California and the disposal of it belonged first to Spain, after to Mexico, but never to the archbishop of California. A foreign ambassador said that had the United States been anxious for war or desirous for plunder it might easily have brought the question of the Pious Fund into a casus belli.

Neither country wished to unfurl its flag or sound the tocsin of war. Porfirio Diaz sits in the seat of Santa Anna; being a man of honor and of the strictest integrity, it was easy to reach an agreement, which was to submit it to the Hague tribunal, called in 1899 by the autocrat of all the Russias.

The Pious Fund arbitrators decided against Mexico, their decision being that that country should pay over to the United States \$1,429,682.67 in Mexican currency to cover what the California churches should have received in the past, and \$42,550.99 annually hereafter forever.

The case had special interest, being the first submitted to the arbitration court. One member put it that theirs "was the lot of briefless barristers and judges without cases." The two new world republics have saved the court from desuetude.

LYDIA L. GORDON.

POPULAR SCIENCE.

The first scientific society was established by Dr. Franklin.

A German geographer complains that north pole exploration is in danger of degenerating into a sport, in which the establishing of "records" is the main thing.

The breathing or blowing of wells driven on the plains of Nebraska has been lately shown to coincide with changes of barometric pressure, but it is thought that low pressure can hardly account for the force with which the air is expelled from some of the wells.

In his experiments with various vehicles, M. Michelin has found that iron tires require greater motive power than either solid rubber or pneumatic. An electric automobile running at five per cent. greater speed with pneumatic tires took 18 per cent. less power than when fitted with solid rubber tires; and in stopping, the solid tires required an increase of 14 per cent. in braking power.

Two striking instances of the effects of "wind shots," or the currents of air caused by the enemy's cannon balls, are given in the "Autobiography of Sir Henry Smith." On one occasion his horse fell as if stone dead, but he was not hurt at all. On another occasion an officer was "knocked down by the wind of a shot and his face was black as if he had been two hours in a pugilistic ring."

Between Mount Kasbek and Ghimara Khokh, in the Caucasus, a glacier descended into the narrow, wedge-shaped valley of the Ghelal Don, which after a course of 13 miles joins the Ghizel Don, a tributary of the Terek. Like most glaciers of the Caucasus, the Ghelal Don has of late years receded considerably, and some years ago copious springs of hot sulphur water were uncovered by the recession.

About the middle of July the whole end of the glacier broke off and slid down the valley, grinding down everything in its path. Thirty-two lives were lost. On July 19 another huge block of ice broke off and followed the first with terrible rapidity for eight miles down the valley.

SOUTHERN SUPERSTITIONS.

If you kill frogs your cows will "go dry."

Tickling a baby will cause the child to stutter.

To cut off a pup's tail causes him to grow "smart."

To throw hair-combing out of the window is bad luck.

To thank a person for combing your hair will bring bad luck.

No person who touches a dead body will be haunted by his spirit.

Cut a dog's "dew claws" and it will not die from poisonous snake bite.

To kill a ghost, it must be shot with a bullet made of a silver quarter-dollar.

If you boast of your good health, pound wood immediately with your fist or you will become sick.

To dream of a live snake means enemies at large; a dead snake, enemies dead or powerless.

To dream of unbroken eggs signifies trouble to come; if the eggs are broken the trouble is past.

To cut a baby's finger nails will deform it; if the child is a month old it will cause it to have fits.

Silver nails or screws in a coffin will prevent the dead haunting the scenes of its existence in the flesh.

To allow a child to look into a mirror before it is a month old will cause it to have trouble in teething.

A child will have a nature and disposition similar to that of the person who first takes it out of doors.

To hear a screech owl is bad luck. To prevent hearing their cry turn the pockets inside out and set the shoes soles upward.

To see the new moon through clouds or tree tops means trouble; if the disk is clear, good luck; if seen over the right shoulder, joy; if over the left, anger and disappointment.

SMALL TALK AMONG ACTORS.

From garret to basement the large house of a Leeds (England) mineral water manufacturer is a gigantic scrapbook, every notable theatrical poster of the last 20 years being pasted on the walls.

Melba will contribute the proceeds of her Australian tour to the charities of her native country. The announcement was received in Australia, and, in fact, everywhere, with great surprise. Seats for the prima donna's opening concert in Melbourne sold for high prices, many persons having remained up all night in order to secure a good place in line at the box office.

Beerholm Tree, the London actor, has a daughter Viola, who shows strong artistic tendencies, though she does not wish to enter the profession in which her parents have been so long prominent. When quite a little girl she begged her father to get her a pony. "But, my dear," said he, "a pony costs a lot of money." Little Viola considered a moment and then said: "Well, why don't you act better and then you would get more money."

Mrs. Patrick Campbell is said to "make up" more rapidly than any other woman on the stage. She usually arrives at the theater a few minutes before curtain time, enters her dressing-room like a cyclone, and with the aid of a nimble-fingered maid is ready to go on before the average actress would have her hat off. Frequently she stands in the wings waiting for her cue while putting up her hair. By the way, she raises a tremendous row at seeing herself announced on the bills as "Mrs. Pat Campbell."

MENTIONED OF MEN.

Thomas F. Walsh, the Colorado millionaire, is having erected for his 11-year-old son in Washington a fully-equipped theater, intended to develop the dramatic talent of the boy.

John Sherman's grave in the Mansfield (O.) cemetery has just been marked by a handsome granite block. The name "John Sherman" is the only legend that relieves the plainness of the huge monolith.

John I. Mitchell, judge of the Pennsylvania superior court, has resigned his office on account of mental incapacity. He will receive half pay until the expiration of the term for which he was elected, which ends in 1910.

Postmaster General Payne is considering the idea of placing portraits of the late Dr. Charles F. McDonald on money order blanks. Dr. McDonald was the first head of the money-order service and in the main its originator.

Emperor William of Germany talks usually speaks German with just a better than any other except his own. Indeed, it has been said that he actually speaks German with just a trace of English accent. In the case of his august uncle of England this condition is just reversed, and for a precisely similar reason. William's mother was English; Edward's father was German.

The retirement from the United States senate in March next of John P. Jones will leave William Boyd Allison, of Iowa, the senior senator in unbroken length of service. He first took his seat in that body on March 4, 1873, and by subsequent elections has served continuously ever since. Immediately previous to that he served four terms continuously in the national house of representatives.

On the eve of Minister Wu's departure from Washington a young woman of his acquaintance said to him that she hoped to visit China some day, as what he had told her about his native country had been so interesting. "But you have never explained," she added, "why Chinamen take four or five wives." With a grave bow, the oriental diplomat said: "My countrymen take so many in order that they may find in all of them the beauties and accomplishments of one such young lady as you."

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR MEN.

The "horsy man" might be pleased with a pen rack for his desk, but an ordinary one, oh, no—for the back of this pen rack is made of a transverse section of a block of birch-wood. The bark is left on this block and the front is ornamented with pyrographic etching and the head of a horse carved from wood.

Is he fond of his desk—there's a beautiful inkstand in bronze. It's a huge lotus leaf and, rising from one side, is the figure of a lovely woman of the Nile, who holds forth a lotus bud, inside of which is the inkstand. Cut glass inkstands that are good and big have a gilt top on which the monogram is supposed to be engraved.

A man's a very good thing to have in the house at all seasons of the year, excepting always Christmas time. If you don't believe it go look at the drawn, worried faces of woman-kind who are haunting the shops for that elusive Christmas gift for "him." Watch her touch this and that with dainty finger tip—watch her flit from counter to counter in bewitching uncertainty, spending day after day—for at last—what? Why, a necktie.

Young men nowadays are quite as fond of dainty belongings as are young women, and for his dressing bureau are exhibited beautifully embroidered neckties, pin cushions that recall his college colors, oddly decorated burnt-wood handkerchief boxes or quaint shaving cases. There are also photograph frames decorated with college emblems and, of course, quaint pipe racks and the college pillow. The shops well remember the young man and have made getting a gift for him an easy task.

WHAT THE DOCTOR SAYS.

Typhoid germs die after a few days' exposure in sea water.

It is not an absurdity to say that among those who recover from small-pox there are those who are better physically for having had the disease, says J. L. Tracy, M. D., in American Medicine.

The birth and death rates of Italy for 40 years have been reviewed by Prof. Giuseppe Sornani. The births reached their highest point of 29.34 per thousand in 1876 and their minimum was 33.49 in 1898, while the corresponding limits of the death rate were 34.39 in 1867 and 21.87 in 1899. Both birth and death rates have been diminishing, although there has been a constant excess of births over deaths, varying from 2.40 in 1867 to 12.80 in 1897. Assuming the lessened death rate to be a result of better control of infectious diseases, it is estimated that 200,000 persons have been saved from death, and at least 20 times as many have been saved from illness.

THE ANIMAL KINGDOM.

The average lake trout lays 6,000 eggs each season, and the whitefish a greater number.

Beetles in the East and West Indies are so brilliant in coloring that they are beautiful as gems.

The specimen of the Japanese hen in the Museum of Natural History, New York, has a tail 12 feet long. Some of the birds, notable the blue thrush, accomplish the whole of their migratory journey in one stupendous effort.