

Jefferson Davis and His Nerves. Jefferson Davis shrank from the sight of every form of suffering, even to imagination. When the "Babes in the Wood" was first read to him, a grown man, in time of illness, he would not endure the horror of it. His sympathy with the oppressed was almost abnormal, "so that," says Mrs. Davis, "it was a difficult matter to keep order with children and servants." All this shows that he was nervous, sensitive, which is a terrible handicap to a leader of men. He suffered always from nervous dyspepsia and neuralgia and "came home from his office fasting, a mere mass of throbbing nerves and perfectly exhausted." He was keenly susceptible to the atmosphere about him, especially to the moods of people, "abnormally sensitive to disapproval. Even a child's disapproval discomposed him." And Mrs. Davis admits that this sensitiveness and acute feeling of being misjudged made him reserved and unapproachable. It made him touchy as to his dignity also, and there are stories of his cherishing a grudge for some insignificant or imagined slight and punishing the author of it—Gama-liel Bradford, Jr., in Atlantic.

Irving and His Money. John Hare, the English actor, said that one of the fallings charged to Irving's account was that of extravagance—that he did not know the value of money. It is quite true he did not know the value of money for himself, but he knew its value to others. He knew its value to the poor and helpless, and to these he gave with a lavish hand.

Once, not long before his death, playing a three nights' engagement in an unpretentious midland town, his habit was to drive nightly to the theater (a very short distance from his hotel) in the same dilapidated fly. The fare was a shilling. The conveyance was shabby, the driver old, poor and worn out. At the conclusion of the engagement, on entering his hotel, Irving said to the landlord, "Have you paid the cabman?" "Yes, Sir Henry." "What did you give him for himself?" "I gave him half a crown, Sir Henry." "Give him a sovereign," was the rejoinder; "he drives very well, and he doesn't drive often."

The Myth of the Doones. How largely Mr. Blackmore drew upon his imagination for the story of "Lorna Doone" is made clear by F. W. Hackwood in his book, "The Good Old Times." There were, in fact, no Doones. The word was simply a local bogey, a modified form of "Dane," a memory of the faroff times when the viking invaders harried the land. "The only vestige of actually discoverable is a faint tradition that a fugitive from the battle of Sedgemoor, to escape the hangings of Judge Jeffreys, appropriated the ruins of some wretched huts in recesses of the Badgworthy glen, now 'the Doon valley,' finding there a safe retreat in which he reared a considerable family, which managed to eke out a living by committing petty depredations in the district. The 'last of the Doones,' an old man and his granddaughter, are said to have perished in the snow during the winter of 1800."

Joy In Store For Some One. Among the advertisements in a monthly magazine we find this: For Sale or Exchange—A fine young male bobcat and a female coyote, also a mandolin and pair of fieldglasses. Such opportunities as this are not often offered. The fieldglasses most of us could manage to do without, but the male bobcat, the female coyote and the mandolin would go far to make life happy for any reasonable individual. All these are productive of music, and music gives joy to all rightly constituted persons. There are, of course, some people who cannot play upon a mandolin, but anybody can play upon a bobcat or a coyote. This fine chance to get a varied and interesting collection of musical instruments will undoubtedly bring many replies.—Rochester Union and Advertiser.

The Laziest People. There is no doubt that the Malays are among the laziest people in the world. Except in rare cases they will not take the trouble to learn when they are young, and afterward, if they have learned, they will not exert themselves to apply their knowledge to any object which require a sustained effort. That they possess effort is known to any one who has seen Malays engaged in any enterprise which savors of sport. They do not mind the trouble if there is only some risk and excitement in the work.—Times of Malaya.

A Marked Judge. The descriptive reporter of a certain daily paper in describing the turning of a dog out of court by order of the bench recently detailed the occurrence as follows: "The ejected canine as he was ignominiously dragged from the room cast a glance at the judge for the purpose of being able to identify him at some future time."

Work of Providence. "The man died eating watermelons," some one said to Brother Dickey. "Yes, suh," he said. "Providence sometimes puts us in paradise before we gets ter heaven."—Atlanta Constitution.

Unspeakable. "What would you think, daddy, if Algeron Nocash should suggest becoming your son-in-law?" "Withdraw, my dear, while I think aloud."—Brooklyn Life.

A Very Great Impediment. Ladies' Seminary Examiner—Miss Jones, state the chief impediment to marriage. Candidate—When no one presents himself.—Fliegende Blatter.

Schoolboy Blunders. The University Correspondent recently offered a prize for schoolboy mistakes. Here are a few examples. "Mute, inglorious Milton"—these epithets are used by a writer who was envious of Milton's being poet orient. He finds "sermons in stones" expresses the same idea as Wordsworth's "the restless stone chat all day long is heard." Calvin was a noted scientist and peer, who died lately. Naples is an independent state in the north of India. Shakespeare made a mistake in mentioning Galen, who did not live until a hundred years after his time. The feminine of fox is foxhen. John Burns was the name of one of the claimants to the throne of Scotland in the reign of Edward I. The pyramids are a range of mountains between France and Spain. The three highest mountains in Scotland are Ben Nevis, Ben Lomond and Ben Jonson. Wesley saved his life by dying on the way from York to London. When the English first landed in Australia the only four footed animal in the country was a rat. Monsoons are fertile gorges between the Himalayas.

When Bjornson Died. Bjornson's son, in describing the last hours of his father, writes: "Now and then the bright flame of his humor flickered up. The doctor felt his pulse and said it was good. With his face beaming with humor he turned toward us and said, 'I am the first man to die with a good pulse.' He said one evening—and it seemed as if an old wise man was speaking with the weight of experience, 'Now I could write—yes, now I could write, for I have been in the realms of death and have felt the pain that attends death.' And when all of us thought that the indifference of death was upon him—my mother, who always gave him his food, which he would receive only from her, stood at the bedside with a brooch on her breast which she had worn at her confirmation—then he opened his eyes and looked at her. He smiled, lifted his hand and touched the brooch. This was the last sign to the outer world he was able to give."

A Cold Ride. All through his life Senator Dolliver of Iowa had a horror of fast trains and possible railroad wrecks. Once he was on a train with Vice President Fairbanks. Dolliver awoke in the middle of the night, and it seemed to him that the train was going at terrific speed. He climbed out of his berth and, arrayed only in his pajamas, started down the length of the train to find the conductor and ask him to order the train run at less speed. It was a cold night, but the senator did not mind that until the door of his car snapped shut and locked behind him and he found that the door of the next coach was also locked. He rode sixty-five miles locked out in the cold of the vestibule before he could wake up anybody to let him in. Mr. Fairbanks finally heard his cries for help and rescued him.—New York Tribune.

Necks and Legs of Animals. With few exceptions there is a marked equality between the length of the necks and of the legs of both birds and quadrupeds, and whether they be long or short is determined chiefly by the place where the animal must go for its food. This is especially noticeable in beasts that feed constantly upon grass, in which case the neck has just a slight advantage in that it cannot hang perpendicularly down. Crocodiles, lizards and fish have practically no necks. Fowls that feed in the water also offer an example of this correspondence between the members, with the exception of swans and geese and some Indian birds, which gather their food from the bottom of pools and must have long necks for that purpose, while the short legs make it more convenient for them to swim.—Dietetic and Hygienic Gazette.

A Story Pepys Tells. Pepys tells in his diary that in the reign of King Charles II. a customer bargaining with a London merchant for claret hired a confederate to "thunder (which he had the art of doing upon a deal board) and to rain and hail—that is, make the noise of—so as to give them a pretense of undervaluing their merchant's wines, by saying this thunder would spoil and turn them, which was so reasonable to the merchant that he did abate two pils-tolls per tun for the wine in belief of that."

A Mighty Difference. Brougham used to tell an anecdote about the flight from Waterloo. Napoleon was greatly depressed. His aid riding beside him thought he might be sorrowing over the loss of so many old comrades at arms and tried to comfort him by saying that Wellington also must have lost many friends. "He has not lost the battle," was the reply.

Utterly Useless. "Pa, what is a futile remark?" "The one a man makes for the purpose of changing the subject when his wife complains because he has forgotten their wedding anniversary."—Chicago Record-Herald.

She Was Wise. "I asked Miss Jimps to sing something, and she refused point blank. Is she grouchy?" "No. She's trying to make a hit with you. Cheer up."—Toledo Blade.

A Sound Reason. Mistress—Didn't you hear me calling, Jane? Jane—Yes'm, but you told me the other day never to answer you back.—Throne and Country.

Whatever enlarges hope will exalt courage.—Johnson.

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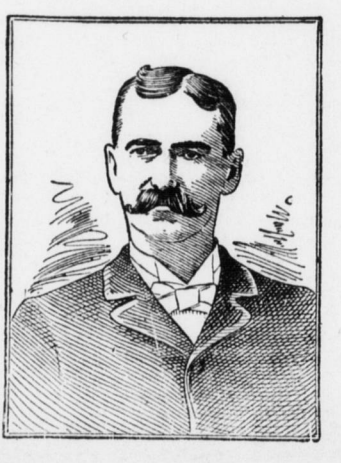
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FRANK H. MURRY, Administrator. Dec. 30th, 1910.—47-61.

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