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"Spellbinders" Ways.
"Spellbinding" is the happy name given to the platform speaking which plays such an important part in every campaign. The national chairman determines who shall be the stars in this department. An ex-president is most in demand, a speaker or an ex-speaker comes next as a rule, and senators and representatives are invited to speak in the order of their usefulness. One speech by an ex-president is worth half a dozen efforts by other men, though they may be more logical and eloquent.

The candidate himself, when an orator, will draw greater crowds than anybody else, but if he is wise he will let the national committee arrange his itinerary and schedule. Headquarters are always overrun with volunteers for the stump; the star, or man with a reputation, waits to be invited or urged. Most of the lesser men are laborers for hire, but others are ambitious to make a reputation as a stepping stone to political office, and some are intensely in earnest and eager to be useful to their party.

The national committee settles for the expenses of spellbinders, unless they insist on paying their own way which is unusual. Some of the great orators receive handsome sums for their services and travel in state.—Home Magazine.

Senatorial Repartee.

Once in the senate chamber John J. Ingalls was directing some remarks to Senator Hoar of Massachusetts. The other senator from that state, Mr. Dawes, having come in while Mr. Ingalls was speaking, thought the words were meant for his ear, and so, interrupting, he asked Ingalls if he was directing the remarks at him. The tall senator turned slowly around, for Mr. Dawes sat behind him, and then, with delicious intonation, but an instant wit, he said, "I was directing my remarks to the successor of Charles Sumner and not to the successor of Daniel Webster."

The repartee has become traditional, and the utterance was at once placed alongside of that reply of Conkling to Senator Thurman, which is also traditional in the senate chamber.

Conkling was speaking, and Thurman had said, interrupting him, "Does the senator aim his remarks at me; he constantly turns to me?" when Mr. Conkling, with delicious gravity, bowing to Thurman, with whom he was very friendly, said: "When I turn to the senator, I turn as the Mussulman turns to Mecca; I turn as I would turn to the common law of England—the world's most copious fount of jurisprudence."

When Li Hung Chang Grieved.

Once during a dry season in China the viceroy, Earl Li Hung Chang, called on the American minister, Mr. Conger, and spoke of the weather.

"Yes," said Mr. Conger, "it seems to be dry everywhere. It is dry in my country too. I read in one of our papers the other day that in many places 'n the west the people were praying for rain."

"What?" said the earl. "Do your people pray to their God for rain?"

"Oh, yes," said the minister, "they often pray for rain."

"And does their God send it when they pray for it?" asked the earl.

"Yes, sometimes their prayers are answered, and sometimes they are not."

"All the same like Chinese joss, hey?" said the earl, with a grin and a chuckle.

Bound to Have Order.

"My husband is just too ridiculous for anything."

"Why so?"

"Why, he staid at home last night and attended to the children while I went to the club. When I returned, he was sitting on a chair in the corner, a black snake whip in one hand and a revolver in the other."—Indianapolis Sun.

ELECTRIC SCIENCE.

Feature of Great Importance at the Pan-American.

Electricity and electrical appliances are to receive such attention as to make this one feature of the Pan-American Exposition of the greatest importance in the history of electrical development. In addition to the spectacular uses of electricity in illuminating buildings, towers, courts and fountains there will be very important demonstrations of the application of the force to many new purposes. Among them will be wireless telegraphy, the X rays, the electromobile, telegraphy to and from moving trains by induction, the improvements in the electric light and telephone. The wonderful labor saving qualities of electricity have revolutionized the production of many articles of merchandise within the past decade. This phase of employment of the electric fluid will form a most pleasant study for those who are interested in the newest of the sciences, and such a study as will only be possible at the Exposition. The development of electric power will be illustrated in a comprehensive manner.

Teddy Didn't See It.

Teddy Vanderchump came down to the club the other night with a great problem weighing on his mind. Coming up to the boys, he said:

"If I stand on my head, the blood all rushes to my head, doesn't it?"

No one ventured to contradict him.

"Now," he continued triumphantly, "when I stand on my feet why don't the blood all rush into my feet?"

"Because," replied Hostetter McGinnis, "your feet are not empty."

The boys all laughed, but Vanderchump said he didn't see any joke.

The "Picket."

The picket was generally inflicted on cavalry and artillerymen and was a singularly brutal bit of torture. A long post, near which stood a stool, was driven into the ground. The delinquent was ordered to mount the stool, and his right hand was fastened to a hook in the post by a noose, drawn up as high as it could be stretched, round his wrist. A stump the height of the stool, with its end cut to a round and blunt point, was also driven into the earth close to the post. Then the stool was taken away, and the sufferer had nothing to rest his bare feet upon but the stump, "which, though it did not usually break the skin," says Captain Grose, "put him in great torture, his only means of relief being by resting his weight on his wrist, the pain of which soon became intolerable." One can very well believe him, especially when he makes the addition that a man was not infrequently left to stand in this position for half an hour, although the orthodox period of endurance was 15 minutes.—London Graphic.

Marconi Objected.

There was a little dinner once given to William Marconi, of which one incident is still remembered by some of the guests. An oratorical member of the company, growing enthusiastic over a toast to the inventor of wireless telegraphy, made this climax to his peroration: "Gentlemen, I give you Marconi, the Franklin, the Faraday and the Helmholtz of Italy." When the toast had been drunk, the distinguished guest thanked the party for the honor and added, "But I must protest against the action of the preceding speaker in making me triplets."—Leslie's Monthly.

In 1881 the Isles of Ischia and St. Eustachio suffered terribly from an earthquake, losing about 4,000 to 5,000 people. Ischia was again visited in 1883, but did not get off as easily as before, coming out of the wreck with 10,000 dead and missing. The great calamity of the nineteenth century was the great convulsion in Java in 1883, which is said to have killed not less than 120,000 persons.

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