

An "Artless" Chap.

"They've got an Art Loan up town, haven't they?" queried a young man who was waiting for three or four hours at the Union Railroad Station, the other day.

"Yes, sir," replied Officer Button. "How much to go in?"

"Only twenty-five cents."

"Do you draw a prize package, or anything of the kind?"

"I think not."

"Don't they give you a chance in a raffle?"

"No, sir."

"Have they got any live Injuns or cannibals on exhibition?"

"Not that I know of."

"Got any elephants bigger than Jumbo?"

"No, sir."

"I suppose they have some extra fine target-shooting in there?"

"They have nothing of the sort, sir. Don't you know what an Art Loan is?"

"Is it fish swimming around in tanks?" softly queried the young man after taking a moment to think.

"No, sir."

"No menagerie about it?"

"No, sir."

"It isn't a panorama of the streets in New York?"

"No, sir."

"Tain't Uncle Tom's Cabin?"

"No, sir!"

"Well," said the questioner, as he drew himself up, "you needn't be so awful short about it! I wasn't going up to see it anyhow! If you folks here in Detroit think you can get up a grab-bag church oyster festival and call it by some high-sounding name and rope me in you have got hold of the wrong medder-lark! H'm! Art Loan! Let 'er Loan!"

The Width Av the Dure

"I want a piece of board saved off, planed on the outside," said Mr. Donlevy. We'd had a few friends in at the house last night to the christening, an' the lower panel av the dure got kicked out in the merriment."

"How wide do you want the piece cut?" asked the carpenter.

"The width av the dure, av course," replied Mr. Donlevy.

"And how wide is the door?"

"Well, it's as wide as a chair is long, jist. Ye kin jist lay a chair across it to kape the children in an' the pig out an' it fits as though it wur matched for it."

"But all chairs are not the same size," said the carpenter.

"Aw, thunder an' turf! yer thicker headed nor a railroad spike: the chair comes up jist even wid the edge av the windy-sill."

"But how high is the window sill?" asked Mr. Chips.

"Both the badgerin' tongue o' ye," growled Mr. Donlevy; "it's only the wideness av me 'hand barrin' the thumb higher than the rain-water barrel that stands outside, an' if ye can't make it from that ye can't have the job, an' I'll take it to some carpenter that understands his business an' knows the measure av a dure in his head widout makin a catechism av himself. Say, can ye cut me the piece av the size av that ye leather-headed wood-butcher ye, or will I go find a man av your craft that has half the sense ye wur born wid?"

And he had to go find one.

"I KEEP my eyes and ears open all the while when I am traveling, I do," remarked a garrulous passenger by way of explanation of the great fund of information, which he had occupied a solid hour in giving up to his over-patient companions.

"And your mouth, too," observed a tired listener, sotto voce.

"Nothing escapes me," continued the talkative man, not hearing the other's remark. "I never had the advantage of schooling. I don't take much stock in education nobow. I believe in a man keeping his eyes open, learning for himself by observation. Now, there's a horse—I know all about a horse, from tooth to tail, an' I never studied none o' yer geographies nor natural histories, either. I know—"

"So you know all about a horse, do you?" inquired a listener, with a demure air which gave promise of a "catch."

"Yes, indeed; know all about 'em. There ain't no question about a hoss I can't answer. I've handled 'em and

studied 'em for twenty years, an' that's wuth mor'n all the books in creation. I—"

"Am glad to meet you, sir," interrupted the demure one. "There's a point I'm in doubt about, and perhaps you can settle it. Why is it, when a horse goes away from home he goes along 'tending to his business, annoying no one and attracting no attention, while just as soon as a jackass gets away from home he goes to wagging his ears, braying and giving himself away?"

The know-it-all man suddenly remembered that his wife was waiting for him in the next car.

A Dreadful Possibility.

A Philadelphia paper tells this story:

"Do barbers ever go mad?" echoed a barber in answer to a question asked by a reporter. "Well, I suppose they're just as apt to become lunatics as other people."

"Have you ever known of an instance where a barber became a maniac?" was asked.

"I can't say that I have. I remember though that several years ago the late Moses Nathans, the father of Philadelphia pawnbrokers, was getting shaved at a shop on Walnut street below second. The barber had been on a spree. While he was shaving Mr. Nathans he was seized with delirium tremens and glaring at his victim in the chair he raised his razor high in the air. Then throwing it on the floor he rushed hatless out of the shop and up Walnut street, crying murder and fire."

"What became of him?"

"He was captured and afterward said that the devil had told him to cut Mr. Nathan's throat from ear to ear."

Setting His Indebtedness.

They tell this story of the prominent speculator whose wife is creating such a sensation at the watering-places by her diamonds and dress. Says a correspondent: Soon after Mr. Fraley failed, I am told he sent to Chicago, where most of his creditors resided, asking that three of them be appointed a committee to visit St. Louis and come to terms of agreement. His request was complied with, and the three gentlemen chosen met Mr. Fraley at the Southern Hotel, where he put the unvarnished question:

"How much will you take on the dollar?"

After some debate and argument the gentlemen agreed to accept fifty per cent.

"Holy Moses!" exclaimed their debtor, fifty cents. It is an im possibility; say twenty, and I will listen."

More arguing followed, but without much avail, and finally, with the felling that they were being 'done' the sum of thirty cents on the dollar was accepted.

"It's settled then, thirty cents on the dollar," chuckled the sharp speculator.

"It is," mournfully echoed the Chicago conferees, thinking of their brethren in grief at home.

"Well, then," said Moses Fraley, having for his amusement indulged his fancy, "I will show you I am an honest man. Fifty cents on the dollar you shall have to-day, and in thirty, sixty and ninety days the other fifty shall be paid in." And he kept his word and made it honored. Since then, I am told he has made three million dollars in grain speculation.

DIDN'T MENTION STEERS.—A toll-gate was recently established on a road leading to Little Rock, and an old negro who came along with an ox team was much astonished when informed that he must pay.

"Well, dis doan cap de climax," said he. "Ain't satisfied wid chargin' folks fur ridin' on de train an' steamboat, but wanster charge him fur ridin' in his own wagin'?"

"This is the law of the corporation, old man."

"What's de coopperation got ter do wid my wagin'?"

"Got nothing to do with your wagin, but they have a right to make you pay for riding over their road."

Ain't this a free country?"

"Yes. But this is not a free road, sir."

"But de road's in de country. What does yer law say yer may charge?"

"For one horse 5 cents; for a horse

and buggy 10 cents; and two horses and a wagon, 20 cents."

"Wall, dese heah ain't hosses," 'case dat's steers. De law doan say nuthin' 'bout dem. Whoa-a-har, come yeah,' and to the great astonishment of the gate keeper, the old fellow drove away.

A Chicago Drummer.

"May I have this seat?" she asked of the genteel looking drummer whose baggage was occupying it. 'I don't know,' he answered politely. 'It belongs to the railroad, you know, but I'll see the conductor, and maybe he can give it to you.'

She grew purple and said: 'You don't understand me. I mean can I take it?'

"Well, I don't know that either. You see it is fastened very firmly to the car floor, and it would be a trouble to get up; however I'll have a carpenter to come on board at the next station and ask his advice."

"I don't want to take the old thing," she howled. 'Is this your traps on it?'

"No'm," blandly answered the drummer, 'they belong to the firm I travel for.'

"Well, can I sit down here," she finally screamed, after shifting from one foot to the other.

"I don't know, madam. You are the best judge of your muscular powers."

"Where do you travel from," she screamed.

"Chicago," he replied.

"That settles it," she said meekly.

"Will you please move your valise and permit me to occupy a small portion of this seat."

"Certainly," he replied. "Why didn't you say that at first?"

The train sped on, while he sat counting up his expenses, and she wondering if Chicago check had any equal under the sun.

A Terrible Robuko

An old man whom age had made helpless and decrepit, was obliged to depend entirely for his subsistence and care upon his son's family. While taking his food his hand trembled so that he often spilled it upon the table cloth, and his son had him take his meals out of an earthen dish in the corner. The dish fell out of his trembling hands and was broken, which so vexed the son and his wife that they bought him a wooden dish for future use.

The next day the little grandson was discovered at work with a chisel and hammer on a log of wood.

"What on earth are you doing there my son," said the father.

The little fellow did not want to tell and his mother asked, "what are you doing there, my son. Tell me at once."

"Oh," said he, "I'm making a little trough like the one piggie eats out of."

"What are you going to do with the pig trough, my son?"

"Why, mother," said the little boy, "I'm making it for you and father to eat out of when I'm a man."

It was a lesson in time to the father and mother, and grandfather after this had a place at the table and not like a worn out brute.

A COLD CLIMATE SUITABLE.—"It's too early to light the gas yet," she had just said softly. They were there alone in the twilight. She unconsciously hitched her chair and a few moments later she unconsciously hitched it again, but there was no response.

"George," she suddenly remarked, "if you would have been connected with the Greeley expedition I imagine you would have been a very robust survivor." Why," he asked. "The climate would have agreed with you and you could have feasted on ice-bergs. As George couldn't see the force of this remark she got up and lighted the gas.

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