

# THE MONEY LENDER.

## NOT THE MAN WHO HANGS OUT THREE GILDED BALLS,

### But He Who Profits by Others' Misfortunes by Doing a Private Pawn-Brokerage Business—Temptations and Profits.

[Newark (N. J.) Call.]

"There are a number of private pawn brokers in Newark," the veteran observer went on to say, "but they would be grievously insulted if they were told with cold truth that they are no more or less than pawnbrokers, or, in other words, shylocks who profit on the misfortunes of extrajaneers of their acquaintances. These men always keep a large amount of ready money in their safes, and this is known to society people who are compelled at times to raise money on their jewels in order to meet an obligation that can not be avoided. Some of these rich money-lenders are men who have retired from active business with an ample fortune, others are in the professions, and it is a fact that physicians have the best chances of making money in the business, for they are entrusted with many family secrets that are never whispered to the most intimate friends and relatives.

"There are men in different professions who have a certain income from this practice, live extravagantly and yet amass wealth, while other men who have larger income and live more economically are only moderately wealthy. It is a fact well known in society circles that money is made more rapidly by private pawnbrokers than in any other way, and the chances are always against the person who leaves jewelry in pledge. The lender is more than doubly secured, and he has no fear that the law will be invoked against him. Rare paintings and valuable books change hands in the same way, and it is given out that the articles were sold for a large sum.

"Some of these money lenders treat the people fairly for a time, but the temptation to coin wealth rapidly is too strong to resist it when there is a chance to make a person pay a round sum for a favor. If a fair rate is charged for the money advanced the business is not objectionable, for it is at times the means of helping persons out of serious difficulties, but it is too often the case that before the articles pledged are reduced to their present amount, more than the original cost of the articles. Now, I cannot see that there is much difference between the public pawnbroker, if he deals on the square, and the private pawnbroker, for they both profit on the misfortunes of men and women.

"As a rule, the public pawnbroker deals mainly with the poor and unfortunate, and often with the criminal classes, and the least violation of honor on his part is magnified four-fold. But if the rich man who accepts pledges in the secrecy of his office or library violates his honor the general public never hears of it. For a time it is whispered among the relatives and intimate friends of the sufferers, and occasionally it is the subject of society gossip, but it is soon forgotten. Few people care to offend the money lender, for society folk in this age are not always sure that they may not be forced to ask a temporary favor when a grand reception must be given, or a daughter has to be furnished with a costly wedding outfit."

[Arkansas Traveler.]

The postmaster at Licksfield, Ark., writes as follows: "Don't send your paper any more to Oscar Hallum, for he's dead. He was a mighty good reader on his wuz, and would sometimes read one of your jokes in such a funny way that folks would laugh. 'Twan't what wuz in the article, but it waz the way he read it."

"He oughtn't be the editor of a paper like yourn. That fellow could screw up his mouth an' make a dog laugh. He could holler jes' like a pater an' many a man has yuck to his heels when he heard Oscar er yell in the wood. His daddy alms wanted him to larn the shoemakin' trade, but he had too much ability for any such foolishness as that. Ef I had had his knack I woulder jined a show. He couldn't write like a county clerk but what he wrote waz that. He wa'n't hemmed in by Webster nor none of your spellin' book makers. When an idee popped into his head, an' they was everlastin' a-poppin', he jes' slung her down an' let Webster jog along the best way he could."

[Chicago Times.]

A peculiar article produced by the negroes of Georgia is called by them permissum bread. Five pounds of it, it is said, will make nearly a barrel of delicious beer, sweet, healthful, and non-intoxicating. The permissums are gathered when thoroughly ripe, the mass is kneaded till it is of the consistency of bread dough, made into a cake and then put into an oven and baked. It will keep all winter and can be used until late in the spring.

[Arkansas Traveler.]

The limit of temperature at which men can work depends upon the length of their exposure, the amount of exertion they put forth, their condition, and the nature of the atmosphere, particularly as to its degree of moisture. Men have been employed on railways at 104 degrees, in mines—under very favorable conditions—at 125 degrees, and are said to work occasionally in the stove-holes of tropical steamers at 153 degrees.

# THE LOVELY PLANET VENUS.

## The Presence of Snowy Poles Detected on the Bright Star.

[Providence Journal.]

It is not improbable that some of our eagle-eyed observers have actually seen the snow cap surrounding the poles of our fair celestial neighbor. Ever since the invention of the telescope Venus has been a favorite object for telescopic observation. But the most beautiful of all the planets to the naked eye is a source of disappointment to the telescope observer on account of her dazzling brightness. Students of the stars untrained in the art of observation, even when using powerful instruments, must not be discouraged if they discern nothing but the beautiful phases of the planet, varying like those of the moon, and a slightly uneven or indented terminator or convex edge of the bright crescent. The eye must be educated for objects celestial, the practice must be patient and oft repeated before the fascinating planet will begin to reveal the delicate shading, the dusky patches, the bright spots, the dark shadows, and the banded and pointed cusps that form the medium of communication between the earth and her twin sister.

In 1813 Gruithuisen detected white spots near the poles of Venus—or the theoretical place for the poles—presenting the appearance of a cap of ice, the spots being more pronounced near the south pole. A French astronomer saw a bright patch of some extent, 80 degrees from the southern cusp, so luminous as to show projections like the snow on Mars. M. Bouquet and Arago have recently reported to the Academy of Science in Paris the results of their examination of the photographs taken by the French expeditions during the last transit of Venus. Several protuberances were plainly visible on the photographs. The protuberance at the pole of the planet, the first of which since 1781 he has observed white spots on Venus 242 times and made 110 drawings of them—thinks that one of these protuberances is the identical polar spot observed by him in 1878, shortly before the inferior conjunction of Venus, a spot seen by him on several occasions. The latest observation of which we have seen a record was made in this country by M. Gillis Leitch, of Rochester, N. Y., on the 13th of last August. He was observing the planet, then, at her period of greatest brilliancy with a silver glass reflecting telescope. He saw clearly a spot in profile on the terminator of the crescent a brilliant white spot greatly resembling the polar spots on Mars.

It is to be hoped that when Venus comes again into favorable conditions these telescopic observations may be confirmed and the basis of the question may be definitely settled. We may then believe that the poles of our fair neighbor, as well as those of the earth and Mars, are surrounded by heaped up masses of ice and snow.

[Lincoln's Religion.]

Mr. Lincoln's religious opinions have been the subject of much discussion during his death. A eminent, during a long and eventful life, for his kindness of heart and his generous sympathy for the opinions of all men of whatever station in life, he listened to the discussions upon religious subjects that were forced upon him, even by zealots, with patient politeness; and because he did not combat them, however extravagant each one so honored afterward came clamoring before the public to be recognized as the representative of the president's personal views on this subject. Hence the contradictory assertions that he was an atheist, an infidel, orthodox, or disbeliever, according to each one's own peculiar faith.

History will little reckon what were President Lincoln's religious views. The nation, to whom his name and memory are dear, care nothing for what he may have said to presumptuous religious zealots, or what religious zealots may have said to him. The people of this great land of ours, who fondly cherish the recollection of the acts of kindness of him who, "with malice toward none and charity for all," devoted his life to the interests of mankind, will care little for his sectarian views on religion. His great heart of sympathy for all mankind has won the love of millions, who have no anxiety as to whether his opinions were heretical or orthodox, measured by the standard of religious bigots. That he had faith in the great principles of Christianity, that he exemplified them in his life, that he taught them in his family, that he impressed them on his children, are facts established beyond cavil or question.

[The Current.]

If the writer, having made up his mind to write something for a particular journal, would look over its pages, consider the size of its type and the length of its columns, ponder upon the number of contributors the journal desires to accommodate in each issue, try to get some idea from the journal itself and of the kind of work the editor desires to use, endeavor to calculate just what would be timely and strikingly appropriate in the pages of the journal—if the writer would thus carefully inform himself before putting his pen to paper his chances of publication would not only be largely increased, but he would, also, very rapidly make very strong friends among the editors. Editors are not the name-worshippers many a struggling author imagines. If a contributed article is well written and timely and appropriate it is quite often that its publication is determined upon before the signature is reached.

[The Current.]

A London journal, desiring to advertise a dissecting room story which was the striking feature of a Christmas issue, hired "sandwich" men to parade the streets, the boards in which they were encased having the shape of coffin-lids, and the men themselves being dressed to look like corpses. The horrible exhibit called up an indignant protest from the decent press.

[The Indicator.]

The luxuries of life are the first to feel depression in business, and by closely watching the demand for the least useful articles or conveniences, and by observing when and where they quicken or fall off, one may detect the shifting conditions of the world of trade.

[The Client's Time.]

A bright woman, who says she has never yet found a lawyer in his office, wants an amendment to the constitution making lawyers pay for clients' time. The lawyer never fails to charge for his own time, never thinking to deduct the value of the time of his client.

New Orleans Picayune: It is a hard case for a sugar-maker when the selling price is so low that he cannot afford to buy glucose to mix with his sugar.

# AN ARAB HOUSEHOLD.

## A Grand Old Man, Some Egly Women, and a Very Smart Baby.

[Providence Letter.]

He was a grand-looking old man, and looked all the more so in his picturesque Arab costume. Following him through a small lobby, we ascended a dark and narrow wooden staircase. At the top of it we found ourselves in an arched gallery running round a small court. Here a few goats were wandering about, and from behind curtained doorways numerous dark faces were peering at us. The principal lady of the household received us at the door of the sitting-room, and soon we were surrounded by at least a dozen women and lots of children, not two of them dressed alike. The poor children were all perfectly laden with bracelets, anklets and nose-rings, while a few had even nostril rings. Indeed, many of them looked queer little objects, with patterns painted on their faces in scarlet, yellow, or white. Some of the women, too, had white spots painted round their ears. I thought these extremely ugly, for they strongly resembled rows of teeth.

One exceedingly smart baby was dressed in a yellow silk dress with a bright crimson border, and a little cap surmounted by a tuft of feathers all the colors of the rainbow. His arms and legs were perfectly laden with jewels and his little neck smothered by rows and rows of beads, from which were suspended all sorts of charms and talismans. Several of the women were afraid to shake hands, and one little fellow with an enormous nose-rings screamed most lustily. This led to my discovering that they were afraid of my dark hands, for I had on a pair of brown gloves. It was the first time that any of them had seen a pair of gloves, and the whole party were very much astonished when I took them off to find that my hands were white.

Miss Allen produced a scrap-book, and handed it first to the old gentleman. He commenced looking at it at the wrong end, as Arabs always do, and evidently enjoyed the pictures quite as much as the children. Shortly after our arrival the servants brought a gilt tray with two large green goblets full of sweet wine, and we had to drink a little of this as well as three small cups of coffee, the old gentleman particularly wishing me to understand "that it was Arab custom to drink not less than three."

[George Alfred Townsend.]

Pennsylvania has a museum and school of industrial art, has several technical schools in Philadelphia, such as the Franklin institute and the Spring Garden institute, and has introduced manual labor into Girard college. Even the old hide-bound colleges, like Harvard, Yale, Columbia, and Princeton, are putting in manual labor branches like the Lawrence scientific school, Cornell university and Michigan university and the University of California are going around to manual labor as a part of education. There are forty-eight agricultural colleges in this country, but the mechanical branches are not pushed in them with the proper vigor. New York has the Cooper Institute of Design, Philadelphia has a school of design for women, the Massachusetts institute of Technology not only teaches science, drawing and composition, but nine hours' shop work every week in carpentry, general wood turning, pattern-making, vise work, forging, foundry work and machine-tool work. The Commercial college of Chicago has subscribed \$100,000 for a training school; Cleveland is at work in the same line, and Terre Haute has \$500,000 in her manual training institution. Georgia and Minnesota are at work in the same direction.

[Cincinnati Enquirer.]

"You would not hardly believe that there's ninety different styles of collars." The speaker was the traveling salesman for an eastern collar and cuff manufactory.

"No, it seems hardly probable."

"Yet it is a fact. There are ninety different styles manufactured by our house. You think it hard to get the variety. Well, not very. A different curve, a different stitch, a different mold or something of that kind. Then in style they swing back a season, or five seasons, or occasionally. By the time you make up your mind to wear the extreme it will switch back to what you have just discarded."

[The Current.]

Richard A. Proctor, in Longman's Magazine, contends that Jupiter is not inhabited, and that, though not actually a sun, his condition is more nearly akin to the sun's than that of our own earth. And what is thus proved of Jupiter is proved also of his brother giant, Saturn, seeing that all the evidence shows Saturn and Jupiter to be nearly the same stage of planetary life. Saturn, if anything, being the younger and more sun-like of the two.

[Argonaut "Storyteller."]

The "thought reader" placed his hand on the man's head, withdrew it, and struck him a fearful blow on the nose. When the man got out from under the chair, and asked the reader what he hit him for, he replied: "Just as I placed my hand on your head you thought I was a blanked fool, and I don't allow any man to think that, no matter if he's as big as a house."

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