

(George W. F. Price in The Current.)
Eighteen years of blooming May,
Eighteen Summers' sunny glow,
Eighteen Autumns' purple haze,
Eighteen Christmas-tides of snow!

Happy maiden, debonair,
Gleeful hour round the dance!
Sparkling eyes and rippling hair,
Dimple, blush and winsome glance!

Sweet the fruit that ripens slowest,
Sweet the fall that hides,
Pearly vales and nestle lowest,
Sweetest harp at heaven rides.

Wait the year, nor speed them fast,
But equip me who latest stay;
God's still voice will speak at last,
God's face that will point the ways.

Why Eli Perkins Became a Lecturer.
(Eli Perkins in New York Sun.)
I studied law once in the Washington Law school. In fact, I was admitted to the bar. I shall never forget my first case. Neither will my client. I was called upon to defend a young man for passing counterfeit money. I knew the young man was innocent, because I lent him the money that caused him to be arrested. Well, there was a hard feeling against the young man in the county, and I needed for a change of venue. I made a great plea for it. I can remember even now how fine it was. It was full of choice rhetoric and passionate oratory. I quoted Kent and Blackstone and Littleton, and cited precedent after precedent from the "Digest of State Reports." I wound up with a tremendous argument, amid the applause of all the younger members of the bar. Then, as a sign of success, I stood and waited the judge's decision. It soon came. The judge looked me full in the face and said:

"Our argument is good, Mr. Perkins, very good, and I've been deeply interested in it and when a case comes up that your argument fits, I shall give your remarks all the consideration that they merit. Sit down!"

"This is why I gave up law and resorted to lecturing and writing for the newspapers."

A Beautiful Boston Girl.
(Boston in Kansas City Times.)
I wish I could trust my pen to picture for you some one or more of the Boston girls one sees on Commonwealth avenue or Beacon street of a pleasant afternoon. They are not to be equaled. And remember that I am impartial enough, for Boston girls are not my preference as a rule. Not Frisco, with its women of beautiful brown, not Baltimore with its women of rounded figures and dark eyes and hair, not New York, with its women of graceful carriage and easy unconcernedness—not one of these can show you the type of a beautiful Boston girl. She has hair that looks as though it were sand and sunbeams interwoven—that clear complexion tinged with red that makes one think of a berry buried in a tily; well cut nose and mouth; the low Greek forehead with the hair brushed off it; the flat back and well-turned shoulders of an English girl, and the nervous, pliant movement in action of an athlete. She rides and plays tennis, swims and shoots sometimes, and carries about with her a fresh air kind of atmosphere that makes one's eyes brighten and nerves tingle at the sight of health so charmingly housed.

The Square in Battle.
(Scientific American.)
Lieut. Gen. Sir Edward Hamley, of the British Army, is strongly opposed to the tactics adopted by the troops of forming squares in battle. He argues that unless the front rank is lying down, a position it could not maintain when the enemy comes close to the sides attacked, it delivers a fire small in proportion to the number of rifles, while the sides not attacked deliver none. Should the square be penetrated, then it becomes a mob, because the recoiling troops are pressed back on the other forces. The troops forming three sides of the square have their backs to the enemy who have succeeded in getting inside, and such of the men as face inward to meet the attack cannot fire on the enemy without also firing into the opposite side of the square. He thinks it desirable to ascertain how far the losses in the late action were caused by the English fire during the melee.

The Hat.
(Youth's Companion.)
One of the church wardens was observed to cast uneasy glances toward an individual wearing a sailor jacket and cap of a saffering and jaunty appearance, which latter surmounted a clean-shaven face and closely cut hair. After a little while he approached the sailor laddie and whispered audibly:

"Can't you take off your hat? Is there any reason why you can't take off your hat?"

By the discomfited look of the questioner as he returned to his seat, and the appearance of the rest of the costume as the wearer of the hat walked out of church at the conclusion of the service, it was evident that the whispered reply was, "I am a girl!"

The "Old Lex Her Man."
(The 23rd Journal.)
For upward of thirty years a man known as the "old leather man" has appeared in various localities in western Connecticut. He wears an entire suit of leather, including a hat made apparently from old boot tops. He presents a dilapidated and remarkable appearance, but never moans or annoys any one. He seldom solicits aid, yet occasionally asks for food from certain farm houses on his route. He will not be drawn in conversation. He chooses the houses at which he accepts food, and manifest a great aversion to all else mortal. He is believed to be some disinherited French count, or at any rate a dignitary of some note, exiled from his native land and isolated from all creation.

Idaho's Sagebrush Lands.
(Exchange.)
It will surprise some people to learn that the sagebrush lands of Idaho, naturally the very emblem of sterility and desolation, can be readily converted into fruit farms whereon apples, peaches, nectarines, apricots, prunes, grapes, and all the small fruits are produced in the greatest profusion and of a quality unsurpassed. It is declared that the Boise, Weiser, Fayette, and other Idaho valleys can not be excelled by any region east of California for the production of fruit.

Woven Wire Belting.
One of the newer uses to which it is proposed to apply steel wire is a belting of woven form, its adaptation to belting for driving machinery of all kinds. Some things may be said both for and against this use of wire.

Don't See How.
A German scientist has counted the hairs on his wife's head, and quotes her at 128,000 to the inch. We don't see how he could tell which was switch.

SHOEING THE MARE.

THE OWNER OF MAUD S. GIVES A LESSON IN FARRIERY.

What Is the Matter with the Famous Trotter's Feet—How the Malformations of the Hoof Are Corrected—The Future.

(Cincinnati Commercial Gazette.)
"Now," said Mr. Bonner, "we will begin with the mare's hind feet. You observe that only the imprint of her toes is visible. The heels scarcely touch the ground. She is literally walking on her toes. That arises from two causes. First, the anterior part of the hoof is too long and the heels are too low. Her foot in front is what Dr. Roberge and I term the 'wheel-shaped hoof.' It is too convex. That throws the axis of the coffin bone too close to the inferior journals of the lower coronal bone, and destroys at least one-half of the articulation of the coffin joint. The hoof must be foreshortened, and when she is shod the heels must be raised by a medium heel calkin. But this is not all. On the off hind foot she has been more or less lame for years. That arises from an excess of growth on the inside branch of the hoof, which must be pared down to a level with the outside branch.

"The abnormal shape of three of the feet of Maud S arises from the fact that they grow more rapidly on the inside than on the outside branches. This is observed in both hind hoofs and the near fore hoof. While her hind feet are too much wheel-shaped, meaning convex, her front feet are too much bent, meaning concave, in the anterior part of the wall. These malformations directly interfere with the articulation of the coffin bone. For instance, the heels of the hind feet are too low, while the toes require foreshortening, and the heels of the front feet are too high, which necessitates their material reduction. This state of her feet has arisen from a judicious paring. She was shod with perfect feet—now they are misshapen from mismanagement. Moreover, the articulation of the coffin joints in all four feet is not only seriously injured, but by reason of the excessive heels in front, her forward stride has been materially lessened. This made the use of toe-weights more imperative. At Lexington her front shoes weighed fourteen ounces, and her toe-weights each five ounces. She will eventually attain her full stride without the use of toe-weights. The operations performed to day will not only prevent the soreness in the off hind foot, and take away the enlargement of the near fore limb, but materially lengthen her stride and make her now almost perfect action, in fact, absolutely faultless.

"Now for the proofs of the correctness of my positions. When the hind toes were foreshortened, the impress of the entire hind foot upon the ground was plain. Before, only the quarters and toes left their imprints. In front Maud S has been troubled with severe corns. The heels of the front feet bore an undue shock at every footfall, in consequence of their being too high. That produced the corns and shortened her stride. Now the heels have been lowered the corns will disappear, and the length of her stride will be extended in front to harmonize with the change of stride behind, produced by foreshortening her hind toes and raising her hind heels by calkins.

"But there is another far-reaching consequence of the undue height of the inside branch of her off hind foot, to which I wish to call your attention. In order to relieve herself of the undue pressure of this high inside, she not only pointed the near hind foot inwardly, but she carried the entire off hind limb rather sidewise, more perceptibly under the carcass, than she did the near hind limb. In other words, she favored the off hind limb, and did not force it to do as strong work as the other one. The muscles of the off hind limb are not so fully developed as those of the near hind limb. The difference was more perceptible when I bought her than now, owing to the medical treatment she has since received. This difference will still grow perceptibly less as the hind feet are kept level. In time the muscles of both hind quarters will be equally prominent, because they will both equally share the burden of propelling the carcass. For these reasons, I am satisfied that the speed of Maud S has not yet reached its limit.

"But the treatment indicated must be persistently administered. Every month the rasp must be skillfully applied. Then, in the spring, when Maud S is more correctly shod, she will be more balanced than she has ever been before. With this treatment she was able to make as low a record as 2:24 as late as the 11th day of November. In the coming season, when her feet are perfectly restored to a normal condition, when the weather and track and everything are favorable for speed, I certainly expect her to improve upon her great record."

Plants in Money.
(American Agriculturist.)
A number of persons have tried to find money in plants, and failed. On the other hand a Hungarian scientist tried to find plants in money and succeeded. The money was in the form of bank notes, of those which had been in circulation but a short time. To be sure, the plants are so very small that a powerful microscope is required to see them. Nevertheless, they are as much plants as is a pumpkin vine, or an oak tree. What is lacking in the size of the plants, is made up in that of their names. One of them is Saccharomyces cerevisiae, another Penicillium monetarium, and so on. These little plants with such large names, can grow and multiply in the substance of a bank bill, and the matters that adhere to it, without its owner being any the wiser for it.

Not the Right Answer.
(Chicago Tribune.)
"Darling," he said, as he tried to tickle his wife under the chin, "why am I like the moon?"
"You are not like the moon, John Henry, in any particular."
"Why, how do you make that out, my dear?"
"Because the moon has been full but twice this month."
"He says that isn't the right answer."

Workingman and Naturalist.
(Inter Ocean.)
Henry Strecker, who is a stone-cutter at Reading, works for bread during the day and in the evening pursues the studies of an expert naturalist. He is known as an authority on butterflies. He makes his own drawings on stone, writes his own descriptive matter, sets the type, and does the printing himself. He has the largest collection of butterflies in the world.

Arkansas Traveler. People can be slyly drawn into mirth, but you can not shove them into it. We can persuade men to weep, but we cannot force them.

ANCIENT CHINESE TELEPHONES.

A Rudimentary Instrument—The "Thousand Mile Speaker" of 1662.

(Scientific American.)
At a recent meeting of the Royal Asiatic society in Shanghai, a paper by Dr. Macgowan was read on the subject of the early use of telephones in China. This paper being very brief, we give it in its entirety:

It detracts nothing from the merit of the ingenious physicists who have conferred on mankind the boon of the telephone, that its principles are familiar to uncivilized peoples, several of whom are in possession of rudimentary telephones. It was, I opine, when the Chinese were in their youth that they constructed the rudimentary instrument, a specimen of which I herewith transmit for the society's museum. It consists of two bamboo cylinders, one and a half to two inches in diameter, and four in length; one end of each is closed by a tympanum of pig bladder, which is perforated for the transmitting string, the string kept in place by being knotted. This rude instrument is styled the "listening tubes," and is employed for amusement as a toy, conveying whispers forty or fifty feet. It is unknown in many parts of the empire, Chih-king and Kiangsu being the only provinces so far I can ascertain where the listening tube is employed.

Besides this toy, Chinese ingenuity produced, about a century and a half ago, the "thousand mile speaker." The implement is described as "a roll of copper, knotted to a life, containing an artful device, whispered into and immediately closed, the confined message, however long, may be conveyed to any distance, and thus in a battle secret instructions may be conveniently communicated. It is a contrivance of extraordinary merit." The inventor of the "thousand mile speaker," Chiang Shun-hsin, of Huichow, flourished during the reign of Kang-hsi, A. D. 1662-1722. He wrote on occult science, astronomy, etc. The above account of his invention was taken from his works by the author of a Fuhkien Miscellany. At that time—reign of Kien Lung—there was no longer an instrument of this description in that province. It seems to have perished with the ingenious scientist who contrived it.

Here is a fine opportunity for the organization of a new telephone company, with a legal department to hunt up the lost evidence, take a whack at the Bell telephone monopoly. Doubtless many heathen Chinese might be found glad to testify they had often used the old telephone in talking from the great wall to Peking, and further if necessary.

Drying Clothes in the White House.
(Washington in Cleveland Leader.)
The White House covers about one-third of an acre, and it has cost up to the present time about \$2,000,000. It is modeled after a castle in Dublin, and the architect, who was a South Carolina man named Hoban, got \$500 for drawing the plans. When it was first built, away back in the nineties, it cost \$300,000, but the British burned out its insides and its cost has since added to that sum about \$1,700,000. In it all of the presidents since Washington have lived, and each has added to its beauties and expenses. I think it was John Quincy Adams who bought the first billiard table which was used in it. But in John Adams' time it was only half furnished, and Abigail Adams used to dry her clothes in the big east room. Year by year, however, the furnishing has gone on, until now it is a sort of a museum of art and beauty.

A New Point of Law.
(New York Letter.)
A novel incident which occurred to a stenographer of a New York court the other day will raise a new point of law for the judges to decide. The stenographer had taken the official notes of a case tried in his court, transcribed them, and placed the transcript and the notes in his overcoat pocket. That night he went to the theatre, threw his overcoat over the back of the seat, and the notes and transcript fell on the floor and were lost. There is, therefore, no record of the testimony of the witnesses from which to make up an appeal, unless the parties can agree to make it up from memory. The case is unprecedented, and the unfortunate stenographer is in trouble lest he be mulcted in the costs of a new trial, should one be deemed necessary.

A Shrewd Wig Wearer.
(Philadelphia Bulletin.)
The cleverest man heard of for some time is he who, becoming bald, had four wigs made, the hair of one short, the hair of the next a trifle longer, the hair of the third longer still, and the hair of the fourth quite two long for beauty. He wears each a week, beginning with the former. The effect achieved is the same as though his hair was growing. When he gets to the last one and has worn it a week he changes to the short one again, and his friends and acquaintances not in the secret believe he has visited a barber's.

A Puzzling Problem.
(Exchange.)
A curious and patient individual has worked for an indefinite period on the following problem: When walking against a heavy rain and some wind, will I get more wet by going fast or going slow? If I move rapidly I certainly encounter more drops in a given space, but I arrive at my destination sooner. If I could make the journey, say a quarter of a mile, in one second, I would have to encounter all the rain between the two points. Would I encounter any more if I walked leisurely over the ground?

Pipe and Fan.
(Chicago Herald.)
The bowl of the pipe used by the Japanese smokers in the London colony is hardly as large as a thimble, and the pipe is exhausted in three or four whiffs. No Japanese costume seems to be complete without a fan. Soldiers, civilians, and women alike carry them—in fact, no one possessing the slightest claim to respectability would be seen without one. The fans are about a foot long, and often supply the place of memorandum books.

India Hoarding Gold.
(New York Tribune.)
The consumption of gold in India, where gold is not used for money, but only for ornament and hoarding, appears to be so large and so rapidly increasing that it cannot fail to effect the monetary interests of the western world. In eight months ended Nov. 30 there were imported into India, in excess of all exports, gold bullion and coin amounting to \$20,300,950, or at the rate of about \$20,000,000 a year.

Hawaii's Lepor Children.
(Exchange.)
Hawaiian newspapers are appealing for popular subscriptions in aid of leper children, the number of whom is said to be largely on the increase. The government, it is explained, is so nearly bankrupt that it has no money to appropriate toward the home for leper children which it is proposed to build.

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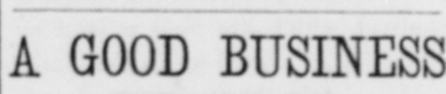
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