

THE MERRY SIDE OF LIFE.

STORIES THAT ARE TOLD BY THE FUNNY MEN OF THE PRESS.

A Tale of Elopement—Gave Him Credit—Not Her Experience—Not Up on Physiology, Etc., Etc.

Their parents said they must not wed. Quoth he, "Let's fly to par-son nigh." Quoth she, "Ay! Ay!" One night she arose, Took her best clothes, While the top did doze.

From window one There hung a rope, By which To slop.

Without a sound She reached the ground, Her love found.

They fled, They wed, Enough said.

—Arthur Lot, in Puck.

GAVE HIM CREDIT.

Brown—"Gabbler likes me." James—"Do you laugh at his jokes?" Brown—"No; but I try to."—Truth.

NOT UP ON PHYSIOLOGY.

Doctor (looking into the patient's throat)—"It is the epiglottis, madam." Patient—"Horrible! But is it contagious, doctor?"

NOT HER EXPERIENCE.

Mrs. Slowone—"Man proposes—let me see, what's the rest?" Alice—"Oh, but that's a slander, I assure you. If he only would!"—New York World.

IT BLOWS HIM GOOD.

"Have you ever read 'The Bright Side of Suffering'?" "No. Who wrote it?" "I don't know. Some doctor, I suppose."—Life.

THE WANTING OF LOVE.

She—"Kiss me again." He—"My dear, I've just kissed you seventeen times in seventeen seconds." She (reproachfully)—"Harold, you love another."—Truth.

NATURALLY A SMALL VOLUME.

"You say that that little book contains all the lives of rich scions of nobility? Impossible!" "Oh, well, you see, it's an expurgated edition."—Chicago Record.

FAVORITE.

"Which," they inquired, "is the flower of your family?" The great man consulted a bill that lay at his right. "The violet," he answered, simply.—Truth.

SUPERBEGGATION.

Mr. Chumpe—"Is it a boy or a girl?" Mr. Pop—"Didn't I say it talked all the time?"—Detroit Free Press.

THEIR FIRST QUARREL.

He—"When you married me, Phoebe Jane, you seemed to think I was a pretty good match." She—"I did! And you've never once kindled a fire for me from that day to this."—Chicago Tribune.

BABY LINGO.

Small Boy (to mamma, tucking his sister in bed)—"Tuck in my footies, too, mamma." Small Sister (severely)—"You mustn't say 'footies'; you must say feet. One foot is a foot, and two footies is feet!"—Life.

AN ANTICIPATED IMPRESSION.

Mr. Smallhead (who is being entertained by little Nellie until her sister comes down)—"Why are you laughing, little girl?" Little Nellie (straightening her face)—"I'm not laughing. Ma told me I mustn't laugh when I was looking at you."—Chicago Record.

THE SUPERFLUOUS WOMAN.

"Dear," asked Mrs. Wickwire, looking up from her paper, "what does this paper mean by referring to 'the superfluous woman?' What is the superfluous woman?" "In our engagement days," answered Mr. Wickwire, "the superfluous woman was your younger sister."—Indianapolis Journal.

HE MEANT THE OTHER.

Cholley Chumpleigh—"My father had a marvelous intellect, but he died quite young, of consumption." Teddy Trumpleigh—"There is no danger of your inheriting it." Cholley Chumpleigh—"No, there is no sign of consumption in me." Teddy Trumpleigh—"I wasn't speaking of the consumption."—New York World.

HOPE SUDDENLY DESTROYED.

DeMillion—"You want to marry my daughter, eh? How about your financial condition?" Marigold—"Well, sir; I have expectations." DeMillion—"Expectations! You can't marry my daughter on expectations. What are they?" Marigold—"Well, if that's the case, I haven't any."—Truth.

NOT LOADED.

Miss Michigan Avenhew—"When mamma and I were in Yirrap, oh, the awfulest thing happened! There was a Russian Prince and a German Count—and they fought a duel—about poor tiny me—with pistols!" Archie Gotham—"Ah! Were they loaded?" Miss Michigan Avenhew—"No, indeed, they weren't; they were just as sober as could be."—Town Topics.

BUSINESS CHANGE.

"De bam business don't seem to be no good here," complained Mr. Hungry Higgins after being thrown off the freight train for the fourth time. "I guess I'll try some other line."

"Wot other line of business do you know anything about?" queried Mr. Weary Watkins. "Don't mean no other line of business. I mean some other railroad line. See?"—Indianapolis Journal.

REGARDLESS OF COST.

Customer—"Seven dollars for this pair of shoes? Great Scott! The sign in your window says: 'Selling Off Regardless of Cost.'"

Merchant—"That's right." Customer—"Regardless of cost! See here! I used to be in the shoe business myself, and I know this pair of shoes never cost more than \$3 at wholesale."

Merchant—"That's all right, my friend. I'm selling them for \$7 regardless of the fact that they cost \$3. See?"—Chicago Tribune.

WON.

Her lips quivered, and her breath came in labored gasps, but she did not speak.

"Do you love me?" he anxiously demanded, seizing her shrinking hand.

"I—I don't know," she faltered. Gently he insinuated his arm about her.

"Darling," he murmured, "would you like to have me ask your mamma first?"

With a sudden cry of terror she grasped his arm.

"No, no, no," she shrieked, convulsively. "She is a widow. I want you myself."

She clung to him until he solemnly promised that he would say nothing to the old lady for the present.—Detroit Tribune.

GETTING THE WHOLE STORY.

Attorney—"I insist on an answer to my question. You have not told me all the conversation. I want to know everything that passed between you and Mr. Jones on that occasion to which you refer."

Reluctant Witness—"I've told you everything of any consequence." "You have told me that you said to him: 'Jones, this case will get into the courts some day.' Now I want to know what he said in reply."

"Well, he said: 'Brown, there isn't anything in this business that I'm ashamed of, and if any snooty-eyed yee-havin', four-by-six gimlet-eyed slyster lawyer, with half a pound of brains and sixteen pounds of jaw, ever wants to know what I've been talking to you about you can tell him the whole story.'"—Chicago Tribune.

THE ACCIDENTAL DISTURBED.

He—"I am. While on my way here, I lost a valuable ring."

She—"Gracious! how did that happen?"

He—"I don't know. I put it in my pocket before I started out, and when I got here it was gone."

She—"Was it a diamond?" He—"Oh yes. A solitaire, three and a half carats, and a perfect stone in every way."

She—"Oh, well, I wouldn't regret it. You may find it, you know. But if you don't, there's no use crying over it."

He—"That's true. But I needed that ring, and I may have hard trouble to replace it."

She (smiling)—"Nonsense. If she is a sensible girl, she will tell you she can get along without it."

He—"Do you really mean that?" She—"Why, of course."

He—"Then, darling, will you be mine? (Suddenly displaying the ring.) I did not lose it. It was only to test you."

She (falling in his arms). "Yes, dear. (Aside.) As if I didn't know what he kept his left hand in his pocket for!"—Harper's Bazar.

A Singular Coincidence.

When President Flack, of Claverack College, was on his way to the World's Fair last summer he happened to ride in a sleeping-car bearing the name "Claverack." It, of course, struck him as a remarkable coincidence. In the morning he got a little amusement by handing the porter one of his letter-heads, on which the name Claverack appeared. The colored man was greatly surprised. "Well, boss," said he, "I didn't suppose dere was any such place in de whole world except dis yers ca." Naturally, he pronounced the name of the pretty village in which Claverack College is situated as it is spelled. Everybody who has ever been there, however, knows that it is pronounced as if spelled "Claw-ver-ick." It is derived from a Dutch word, and means "clover-reach," or "clover hill."—New York Ledger.

A Floral Mystery.

The Chinese, Japanese and Siamese are peculiarly skillful at botanical feats. One of their wonderful achievements is known as the "changeable rose." This bloom is white in the shade and red in the sunlight. After night or in a dark room this curiosity of the rose family is a pure, waxy white blossom. When transferred to the open air the transformation immediately steps in, the time of the entire change of the flower from white to the most sanguine of sanguine hues depending on the degree of sunlight and warmth. First the petals take on a kind of washed or faded blue color, and rapidly change to a faint blush of pink. The pink gradually deepens in hue until you find that your lily-white rose of an hour before is as red as the reddest peony that ever bloomed.—St. Louis Republic.

AFRICA'S DIAMOND KING.

ENORMOUS FORTUNE GATHERED IN THE KIMBERLEY DISTRICT.

B. I. Barnato, Whose Wealth Will Soon Eclipse That of Any Millionaire Known in This Country.

KING of Diamonds! He lives in far-away South Africa. His name is B. I. Barnato, and he is said to be the wealthiest diamond miner in the world. The story of his career reads like a page from the "Arabian Nights." Barnato went to Cape Town in 1873, comparatively a poor man. Three years later he bought the first claim in what is now the flourishing town of Kimberley, the center of the diamond mining industry in Africa. The price he paid for it was inconsiderable.

In 1881 he owned four claims, which he floated into a company for about \$100,000 a claim. He was now on a sound financial basis. In 1884 he bought another tract of land, paying the highest price ever given in Kimberley. But he made from that speculation alone \$100,000. With the money now at his command he began operations in diamond mining stocks.

His system was to amalgamate different mines and thereby centralize capital. At the present time he represents one-half of the diamond exports of the Kimberley mines. One claim estimate from Mr. Barnato's holdings which his income must be. Diamonds weighing 38,000,000 karats, or seven and a half tons, have been found at Kimberley since he purchased his first claim. In the rough their aggregate value is \$250,000,000.

It is only a question of time and the continuance of the diamond yield when Mr. Barnato will eclipse in wealth the Indian Maharajah and the big millionaires of America. Yet the bulk of his wealth has been accumulated within the past ten years. As diamonds are the past and can easily be smuggled out of the mines by the workmen, it is found necessary to keep the strictest watch upon them.

Most of the miners in South Africa are natives. They are divided into two classes. One class devotes its entire time to spying upon the other class. These detectives are usually chosen from the Zulus, who make, by long odds, the best officers of any native tribe. They are keen sighted, quick witted and attentive, regular in their habits, and simple in their wants. The Kafirs are the workmen. These men are passed in squads through the various departments of the searching house.

The searching house is arranged according to this plan: The miner, on going to work, takes off his clothing in the first apartment. He passes into the second nude and in the third puts on his clothing. On coming out of the mine this order is reversed. The miners are searched at midday when they come in for their meals, as well as in the morning and evening. There are always trustworthy inspectors present to see that everything is properly conducted.

Notwithstanding these precautions a great deal of thieving goes on. It is a problem to the companies how to prevent thefts on the part of the employees. To encourage the zeal of the officers a reward of twenty-five per cent on the value of the stolen gems was offered to him who succeeded in recovering them.

The "compound," or barracks, of the workmen is inclosed by four high walls, and comprises a spacious dormitory, recreation shade, a hospital and a general store. The utmost regard is paid to sanitary regulations, and nothing has been left undone in this respect, no matter how costly it might have been.

The store for supplies is bountifully supplied with goods bought from the local merchants, and the miners can purchase whatever they want upon presenting coupons issued by the clerk of the mining company. The average cost of living in the "compound" is about five shillings a day. The natives know the value of the coupons issued to them thoroughly, and are economical and saving. The "compound" is inspected daily by a physician, so that the health of those who work in the mines may be preserved. Consequently most of the native miners are healthy and perfectly contented.

It is different, however, with the white miners. As a rule they will not consent to enter a "compound." They prefer to live in houses by themselves, although the expense is much greater. Attached to one of the mines there are about sixty of these dwellings, forming three sides of a square, with an open space in the center. These buildings were erected at the expense of the company and are comfortably arranged. Wood, water, and medical attendance are supplied free. The rent, however, including taxes, is twenty-five shillings, or \$6.25 a week.

Intelligent white labor receives a higher compensation than is given the native workman, and, therefore, no complaints are heard. All this has occurred within Mr. Barnato's time, and he has been an important factor in evolving the system. He has introduced into South Africa a system of employing the natives in remunerative work that might be studied to advantage by those who are straining their minds over the Indian question.—St. Louis Republic.

Chance for a Bargain.

Half a score of the finest and oldest estates in England are for sale. The Earl of Westmoreland's 9000-acre home in Northamptonshire may be sold at auction, although prices have fallen fifty per cent. in the last few years.—Detroit Free Press.

SELECT SIFTINGS.

At all times an average of three per cent of a city's population is on the sick list.

Heart disease is most common in England, and almost entirely unknown in Mexico.

Great Britain's wars for the last 300 years have cost the taxpayers nearly \$7,000,000,000.

The entire church membership of the United States is put by the census statistics at 20,643,000.

One must have traveled 1000 miles in a straight line before being eligible to the new British Institute of Travelers.

In New Guinea the natives use a comb that has but two prongs, and scrape their wool with it only once a week.

The University of Michigan sent out a class of 731 last year, the largest ever graduated from an American university.

A horse got so tightly wedged in a Sodalite (Mo.) kitchen that it was necessary to knock a hole in the wall to get him out.

An enumeration of the population of Aggershus, Norway, in 1763, showed that 150 couples had been over eighty years married.

On the body of a notorious brigand recently killed in Turkey was found \$20,000 and a notebook, which showed that he had killed 192 men.

A child was recently born in Antananarivo, Madagascar, with two perfectly developed fins instead of arms. It is bright and pretty, and bids fair to live.

On the northern border of Malo, Russia, there are 9000 acres of land devoted to the culture of sunflowers. The natives eat the seeds as Americans eat peanuts.

An exceedingly rare animal—a black-faced, black-eared caribou—was recently shot at Andover, Me. This caribou was unusually large, with big, branching horns.

Budapest, Hungary, claims the honor of having published the first almanac. It was printed in 1475, and contained one mother-in-law joke, which is believed to have been the first on record.

A pea-shelling machine is being used in Tennessee. The peas are poured into a hopper, the pods broken open, the peas taken out, carried along a groove, and passed under a strong current of air to free them from foreign particles, while the crushed shells go in another direction.

Patrick Lynch, a New York laborer, fell from the fifth floor of a new building, where he was at work. His fellow-laborers ran down to gather up his corpse and found him sitting on the ground, and that was the end of his injury done him.

Instinct Told Them the Right Road.

"I had an experience to be remembered once at Moosehead," said Joseph Williams. "Three of us were out in the lake one winter's day in January when a storm came up. We had a couple of horses and rode on sledges made of split birch poles. To get home and settled in the cabins before night came was our one wish, but for two hours the icy clouds had been blowing up on the horizon, and now came down in a whirl of snow and icy wind. In half an hour we were lost on the ice. Two hours later we crossed our own tracks again and knew that we had been going about in a circle. To stay out there all night would be death, and to keep on traveling about aimlessly meant to fall at last exhausted. Finally, as the wind blew keener along the level surface, and the snow beat on our faces with more cutting effect, we called a halt and discussed again the chances. An old guide who was with us suggested that we let the horses take their own way off the lake. It seemed foolish, but we agreed. Striking the horses smart dips with the whips, we were surprised to see them turn each to the left and start off to the east. We thought that this would take us farther into the lake, but submitted, and in half an hour the trees along the bank loomed up through the storm and we were safe. A horse knows by instinct what a man doubts and questions in such times."—Lewiston (Me.) Journal.

Largest Private Park.

Dr. Seward Webb, President of the Wagner Palace Car Company, has the largest private park in the United States, if not in the world. He owns about 200,000 acres of wild land in the Adirondack region, of which he has inclosed about 100,000 acres with a wire fence. The doctor's modest "cottage" is 200 feet long by eighty wide, and is surrounded by a spacious veranda. This is not the doctor's only country place. He makes his regular home at Shelburne, Vt., on the shores of Lake Champlain, where he has an estate of about 4000 acres. He has another house in the city, but divides most of his time between his Vermont and Adirondack homes.—Detroit Free Press.

Interesting to Rheumatic Humanity.

There is a new bacteriological discovery which must interest rheumatic humanity, says Cosmo, of Paris. M. Max Schuler is said to have discovered, in the joints of persons attacked with chronic articular rheumatism, bacteria, which are always identical in like cases. These bacilli are short and thick, having at each end bright grains which aniline colors make still more evident. The discoverer has been able to cultivate these bacteria in bouillon, on gelatin, or on a piece of potato. Their culture requires a temperature of at least twenty-five degrees, and darkness is indispensable.

Magnetized the Bayonets.

A singular aberration of the sidearms of marines on board English ships is reported. It appears that the bayonets belonging to the marines have, in many cases, become highly magnetized through contact with, or close proximity to, dynamo, and the result is that compasses have become affected by sentries passing near there when wearing these sidearms. An order has been issued that in future sentries are not to wear sidearms when on duty in the neighborhood of dynamo, and it is expected that this will overcome the difficulty.—Electrical Review.

The Tramp's Trick.

"In Broadway, the other day," said a stroller, "I saw two young men walking together and talking earnestly; one of them was smoking. The smoker was the more earnest of the two. Pretty soon he looked at his cigar, which was about two thirds smoked up, and lighted a fresh one. Instantly he went on talking. "Pooh!" he began, and in his animation, instead of throwing the discarded cigar into the street he tossed it into the air. It was caught as it came down by a tramp who was walking behind him, and who, betraying no surprise whatever, went right on smoking it as though it had been his own."—New York Sun.

Surprise at the Number.

In Lynchburg, not long ago, a house fell on General Jubal Early. Something was wrong with a wall that was being built, and it fell in. Early was under it. Every one thought he was dead. They began to dig the bricks away to secure the mangled remains. Finally his head showed. He was swearing. He pulled himself out and walked away, saying: "Darned, I didn't know there were so many bricks in the world!"

A LARGE specimen of the egg of the fabled roc of the "Arabian Nights" has been found off the coast of Madagascar. It is whitish brown in color, and measures 33x28 inches. An ostrich egg would fill only one sixth of it, while it would contain 164 emu's eggs and 30,000 humming-bird's eggs. The species of bird which lay such enormous shells is known in scientific circles as the *Apopyris*. It had become extinct long before the historic era.

No Librarian Needed.

In the heart of London is a public news room without a librarian or anyone to look after the papers. They are chained and padlocked so they cannot be carried off. Little damage is done and the room is usually quiet and orderly.

"BLYKINS" is a very well-informed man. "I used to think so." "What happened to shake your faith?" "Well, he has just been named as a juror in a capital case."—Washington Star.

Don't Blame the Cook

If a baking powder is not uniform in strength, so that the same quantity will always do the same work, no one can know how to use it, and uniformly good, light food cannot be produced with it.

All baking powders except Royal, because improperly compounded and made from inferior materials, lose their strength quickly when the can is opened for use. At subsequent bakings there will be noticed a falling off in strength. The food is heavy, and the flour, eggs and butter wasted.

It is always the case that the consumer suffers in pocket, if not in health, by accepting any substitute for the Royal Baking Powder. The Royal is the embodiment of all the excellence that it is possible to attain in an absolutely pure powder. It is always strictly reliable. It is not only more economical because of its greater strength, but will retain its full leavening power, which no other powder will, until used, and make more wholesome food.

BEECHAM'S PILLS

(Vegetable)

What They Are For

Biliousness indigestion sallow skin
dyspepsia bad taste in the mouth pimples
sick headache foul breath torpid liver
bilious headache loss of appetite depression of spirits

when these conditions are caused by constipation; and constipation is the most frequent cause of all of them.

One of the most important things for everybody to learn is that constipation causes more than half the sickness in the world; and it can all be prevented. Go by the book.

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