

...was walking down the street, a beautiful smile on his face, and a fat, white bull dog trotting complacently at his heels. Occasionally Mr. Parker would look around at his dog and chuckle to himself.

"The board of aldermen be damned," said Mr. Parker. "I'm not going to put a four-foot strap on your neck, Marcus Aurelius," and Marcus Aurelius wagged his stump of a tail. Just then a small boy exploded a bomb directly under the dog's black nose, and that animal gave a howl and made a dash at the small boy.

"Look a year," yelled a policeman to Mr. Parker, "you want to put strap on that year dawg. He's mad."

"He is not mad," said Mr. Parker. "Well, old fellow, who's the judge? I say that year dawg's mad, and I'm going to knock 'im on the head with my club."

Mr. Parker for the moment looked frightened. Suddenly, however, a twinkle came into his eye, and, drawing himself up to his full height, he addressed the policeman haughtily:

"Officer, you evidently do not know who we are. We had desired to preserve our incognito, but you force us to reveal ourselves. We are the Grand Duke Alexis! and that is our bull dog. That dog is an alien; he is not a citizen, and must not be bound by foreign laws and straps. Do you wish to embroil your land in a war with Russia? If you do just club that dog."

"Well, call off your dawg," said the policeman.

"Here, Blowitzkinourskiroscurobiakinschowbockowski," said Mr. Parker, without the slightest hesitation. "Well, I'm blowed," mused the officer as Mr. Parker and his dog disappeared. "I'm blowed of that dawg couldn't work a free lunch route off the people's legs afore the juke could pronounce half his name."—New York World.

### A Good Mare.

Some twelve or fifteen years ago a queer character, nicknamed "Jersey Bill," lived at Otisville, N. Y. During the races at Goshen and Middletown he used to visit the courses for the purpose of peddling whips, which were made of reeds, and which he sold for five and six cents apiece. When Bill had accumulated a little money he abandoned his itinerant pursuits, settled down at Hampton, and became proprietor of the tavern there. He had many acquaintances among the farmers in Sussex county, N. J., and when business was slack he would take a run across the line to visit them. On one of these occasions Bill chanced to see a mare which he admired greatly, and which, after some dickering, he purchased for \$150 and brought her back with him to Hampton. She stood about fifteen hands high, was a sprightly, neat-limbed creature, and attracted considerable attention from the connoisseurs in horseflesh who frequented Bill's tavern. Not long after he received an offer of \$750 for the animal, and finally accepted it. The mare was taken in charge by her new owner, removed to Newburgh, placed in the care of a careful trainer, and in due time regularly introduced upon the trotting turf. Her history from that time forward was marked by a series of triumphs. Last week she made the fastest time (2:16 1/4) ever known on the trotting course in the state of California. The gentleman who purchased her from Jersey Bill was Alexander Goldsmith, and the mare's name is Goldsmith Maid.

A San Francisco husband thought to indulge in a practical joke by taking home a full-sized, rough wooden coffin, and as he stood it behind the kitchen door he remarked to the wife's anxious inquiries: "You'll know what it's all about before morning." But the wife despatched one of her crying, frightened children for the police, and while two officers were smashing the coffin with their clubs the husband was explaining to his wife that it was all a joke.

Lessing the German author, was, in his old age, subject to extraordinary fits of abstraction. On his return home, one evening, after he had knocked at his door, the servant looked out of the window to see who was there. Not recognizing his master in the dark, and mistaking him for a stranger, he called out, "the professor is not at home." "Oh, very well," replied Lessing; "no matter—I'll call another time!"

A physician recently died at Portsmouth, N. H., who graduated at Harvard and afterward studied in Paris, but never had but one patient, for whom he extracted a tooth, receiving for it 25 cents. He was never married, and lived to be nearly four-score years old, leaving a fortune of \$400,000.

Why should doctors be less liable to be sick on the ocean? Because they are more used to see sickness.

"All the world's a top," says the philosopher of the Brooklyn Argus, and woman spins it."

The weather has nothing to do with the heat on a race course.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Temper is a good thing. Keep it. Bay State has 14,549 farms.

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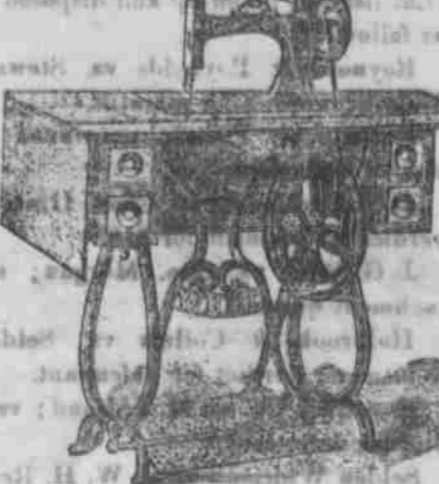
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