

BARNSTORMING.

A Peculiar Incident in the Early Life of an Actor.

Playing to an Audience Composed of One Family.

Joseph Jefferson, the great actor, thus describes in the *Century* a curious incident of his early career: "We now entered upon a course of the most primitive acting, going from town to town and giving entertainments in the dining rooms of the hotels. As there were no papers published in these small villages, there were no printing offices, consequently no bills; so flaming announcements of our arrival in a bold handwriting were displayed in the three important points of the town, viz: the hotel, the postoffice and the barber-shop. It fell to my duty, being an adept with the brush, to write, or rather paint these advertisements. The plays were acted in costume, but without scenery or curtain. The nightly receipts were small—just about enough to get us from place to place.

"Our objective point was the town of Liberty, Miss.; but there was some difficulty in getting there, as the distance was greater than we could accomplish in a day. A farmer who had been to the theatre the night before for the first time in his life was so struck by the performance that he proposed to have his teams brought in and take us to his farm-house, about twenty-five miles distant. According to his suggestion we were to rest for a day, give an entertainment in his barn, and so go on to Liberty.

"But," said my brother, "you tell me there is no other house there but your own. What shall we do for an audience?"

"Well," said the farmer, "all my family will come, to begin with, and there is a dozen or more on 'em; then there's eight or ten farm-houses close by, and if one of your men will drive there with my son and blow the horn, they will all come, for there ain't one on 'em ever seen a play before. I'll insure you a full barn."

"So the matter was settled, and we actually played in a barn, the house that we staid in being the only one in sight. It seemed in vain to look for an audience in such a lonely place, but the farmer was right. Soon after the sun had gone down the full harvest moon rose, and by its dim light we could faintly see family groups of people, two and sometimes three on a horse, coming from all directions over the hill—now a wagon with a great load. Some of them walked, but all were quiet and serious, and apparently wondering what they were going to see.

"Those who have traveled through the Southern states will perhaps remember the kind of barn we acted in: there were two log houses joined together, with an opening between them, which was floored and covered in. The seats were arranged outside in the open air—benches, chairs and logs. The double barn on each side was used for dressing-rooms and for making entrances and exits, while the opening was devoted to the stage. The open air was well filed, containing an audience of about 60 persons. Our enthusiastic admirer, the farmer, collected the admission fee, a dollar being charged and freely given. The plays were 'The Lady of Lyons' and 'The Spectre Bridegroom.' The farmer had supplied us liberally with candles, so that the early part of the entertainment was brilliantly illuminated, but the evening breeze had fanned the lights so fiercely that by the time the farce began the footlights were gone. The little 'flaming ministers' had all sputtered out, so 'The Spectre Bridegroom' was acted in the moonlight.

"It was curious to watch the effect of a strong emotional play like 'The Lady of Lyons' upon an audience that had never seen a drama before: they not only were much interested, but they became excited over the trials of the hero and heroine; they talked freely among themselves, and, at times, to the actors. One old lady insisted that the lovers should be 'allowed their own way,' and a stalwart young farmer warned the villain not to interfere again 'if he knew what was best for him.'"

Left Unexpectedly.

"No, I do not know Miss Smith any longer. We have parted forever. Her father came between us."

"Yet you say you are going up there now?"

"Yes. To get my hat and overcoat."

No Faith in the Timepiece.

Grimes—I wonder what the time is? Bogsby (looking)—Five o'clock by my watch.

Grimes (disparagingly)—Five o'clock by your watch means what time!

Is There a Canine Language?

A curious sight was witnessed one afternoon on the wharf at Cincinnati. A gentleman, accompanied by two fine specimens of the water spaniel, went down to the landing of the Newport ferry, at the foot of Lawrence street. Somehow he became separated from the canines, or rather they failed to follow him aboard. The boat had got out in the stream, when the dogs caught sight of their master and discovered he was fast leaving them. Standing on the edge of the float, both set up a vigorous yelping, which attracted the attention of the bystanders.

Suddenly the older and larger dog plunged into the river and began to swim rapidly toward the Kentucky shore. He had gone about 100 yards when he seemed to become aware that his brute companion had not followed. Turning around, he swam back toward the spot where the younger dog stood. As he drew alongside the float he made no effort to get aboard. The two began to bark at each other—to hold an animated conversation in the dog tongue, as it were. The older dog, as he floated by the side of the landing, barked encouragement to the more timid animal, and apparently was urging the latter to jump into the water. The barking duet lasted some minutes, and then the young dog, seemingly convinced by his companion's assurance, grew bold, and suddenly bounded into the river.

The first dog gave a delighted yelp, and both turning their noses toward Kentucky, began to swim straight across, side by side. Both continued to bark until they reached the shore, and could be heard on both sides of the river. The people on the ferry and the Kentucky shore saw the strange race, and with people on this side and on the bridge, watched it to the end. The dogs landed opposite to the barracks, where they were awaited by their owner, who, with several other gentlemen, had hurriedly walked down the bank. There was no limit to the delight of the two animals as they rushed up to their master. The river at that point is nearly half a mile wide. The action of the dogs seemed to indicate that they had a language of their own, and the paternal manifestations of the elder brute were most interesting to see.

The Egyptian Pyramids.

The following are figures giving dimensions of the principal pyramids of Egypt: Pyramid of Khufu, height 450.75 feet, breadth of base 746 feet; Pyramid of Khara, 447.5 feet high, 690.75 feet breadth at base; Pyramid of Menkara, 203 feet high and 352.878 feet breadth at base. As soon as Pharaoh mounted the throne he gave orders to a nobleman, the master of all the buildings of the land, to plan the work and cut the stone. The kernel of the future edifice was raised on the limestone soil of the desert, in the form of a small pyramid, built in steps of which the well-constructed and finished interior formed the king's eternal dwelling, with his stone sarcophagus lying on the stone floor. Let us suppose that this first building was finished while the Pharaoh still lived. A second covering was added, stone by stone, on the outside of the kernel, a third to the second, and to this even a fourth, and the mass of the giant building grew greater the longer the king enjoyed existence. And then at last, when it became almost impossible to extend the area of the pyramid farther, a casing of hard stone, polished like glass, and fitted accurately, into the angles of the steps, covered the vast mass of the king's sepulchre, presenting a gigantic triangle on each of its four faces. More than 70 such pyramids once rose on the margin of the desert, each telling of a king of whom it was at once the tomb and the monument.

A Smart Dog.

Z. T. Devore, a Parkersburg (W. Va.) merchant, owns a dog of superior intelligence. The dog goes to the store with the mail every morning, and from it takes the mail addressed to the private residence to Mr. Devore's home. Nothing can divert him while attending to his duties as mail carrier, and he never makes a mistake in taking the letters to their proper direction. Every evening he sees to it that the evening papers are taken to the house, and if by chance the papers should be missing, either by being blown away by the wind or carried off by the boys, the dog makes a raid into some neighbor's yard and hypothecates a paper, which he carries off home.

His Affliction.

"We all of us have some affliction or other," said the landlady. "Come, tell us, Mr. Sliman, what is yours?" "My affliction," said Mr. Sliman, as he gave a wistful glance at the meagre contents of the bread plate, "my affliction is a good appetite."

The conversation was dropped.

CHARACTER IN EARS.

Great Variety in Their Form, Size and Shape.

An Organ Which Receives Little Consideration.

Little notice is commonly taken of the outward form of our organ of hearing, and even artists do not give it much consideration as a rule, yet the formation and shape of the ear, says a writer in the *Pull Mall Gazette*, "will amply repay those who give it close attention. Our modern portrait painters seldom go into minute detail over it. They seem content with a general outline and a rough touch here and there, showing the principal points. The sculptors are more particular, especially among the antique; one seldom sees a good piece of statuary without noticing that great care has been taken to correctly model the ear, and it is regarded as worthy of study. A well-formed ear is a thing of great beauty, and, like all other works of the Creator, is exquisitely adapted and designed for the function it performs, that of collecting and concentrating the undulations of sound.

"Owing to the immense variety of size and form in ears, it is somewhat difficult to definitely classify them, but they may be roughly divided into two divisions, which are easily identified—Division I, with curved, hanging lobe; Division II, with straight lobe.

"Besides the peculiarities of shape, the ear may be large or small, protruding or flat, and straight or sloping. Some ears have pointed tops, while others have straight. Small and thin ears usually denote delicacy and refinement, and abnormally large, thick ears are associated with a sensual and coarse nature.

"Ears of the first division are by far the most common, while not more than one person in fifty possesses the straight-lobed ear of the second division. This peculiar-shaped ear is often hereditary, and can be traced back in some families for generations. People with musical tastes generally have large and prominent ears, while the thin angular ear is said to denote bad temper and cruelty. The ears of great philosophers and statesmen have been noticed to be large and sloping. Mr. Gladstone's ear has a curved hanging lobe, lies close to his head, and has a sloping position.

"Ears vary greatly in form and size, and the peculiarities of shape they assume sometimes give an index to the character of the individual. Women have much better shaped ears than men. They are usually much smaller, and lie closer to the head. Some people possess a singular muscular power over the ear, and can move the upper part with will, but it is rarely met with. The ear is worth studying from an anatomical point of view. Beginning with the outer fold or ridge, called the helix, which forms the outline, the ear is composed of thin cartilage and integument. The next prominent ridge is the antihelix, which some people have very largely developed, but in a well-formed ear projects very little beyond the helix. The little knob that projects from the foot of the antihelix is called the antitragus, and the corresponding knob on the other side the tragus. The deep well in the centre of the ear is the concha, and, last of all, the fleshy part below is called the lobule. The concha, so called from its shell-like form, plays the most important part in reflecting the vibrations into the inner ear; in fact, all these projections and depressions are of importance to our hearing, and play their own parts in conveying the undulations of sound to the drum of the ear.

"The Marquis of Salisbury's ear is massive and well proportioned, and has also a sloping position. The ear of the great Napoleon was rather small, well formed, with curved lobe. As age increases the ear becomes more angular and marked. From our youth upward the ear does not receive much consideration. It is pinched to signify pleasure, and even pierced or bored for purpose of vain ornamentation. This very ancient but barbarous custom of piercing the ears, which now we are glad to observe is considered unfashionable, has spoiled and disfigured the shape of thousands of ears through the perforation of the lobe for the purpose of wearing earrings. It may well be hoped this fashion will never be revived."

Artificial Coffee.

Artificial coffee is manufactured on an extensive scale in Germany. It is made from linseed meal, roasted to a dark color, and mixed with some glutinous substance before being passed through machines, which turn out the compound in the shape of a real coffee bean. When the false bean is well mixed with the genuine product only an expert can detect the difference.

QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

A Texas man of 85 years has just had a 21st son born to him.

The total number of whippings in the Pittsburgh (Penn.) public schools during October was 249.

In a handful of clover plucked in his yard, Edward Koehler of Bethlehem, Penn., found 50 four-leaf stalks.

An eastern Ohio man has been married three times. Each time there was opposition, and he had to elope with the girl.

In Clearwater harbor, Fla., there is a spring of delicious drinking water, bubbling through the mass of salt water which envelops it.

Lorenzo D. Teter and Gertrude S. Harp, students of the Des Moines (Iowa) college, have been expelled because they eloped and got married.

Benjamin Harrison was in a police court in Washington for an assault, and Levi Morton the same day was found to be insane. They were both colored men.

A woman residing near Tubes Hill, N. Y., has a pet snake. The reptile is very tame, and spends hours in playing with the cat, with which it is on the best of terms.

The Lancaster (Penn.) police, unable to fix any crime on a suspicious character arrested there, bought a railroad ticket with the money found on him and shipped him out of town.

Near Silverton, Oregon, is a quarry of what is called "fire-place stone." It is soft when mined, and can be sawed or chopped in any desired shape, and when subjected to intense heat does not seem to be affected.

Sweden is perhaps the most Protestant country in the world. Out of a population of 6,000,000 there are only 2,000 Roman Catholics, the remainder of the population belonging almost entirely to the Lutheran church.

An English scientist says that if we were to visit the moon we should find the days and nights a fortnight in length, and if we "survived the scorching during the day we should certainly be frozen to death during the ensuing night."

A few days ago workmen at Morrisville, N. J., unearthed a fine paleolith of argillite, ten feet below the surface, which is pronounced a relic of a preglacial man. It had a jagged edge, evidently having been fashioned for a weapon.

Fire Dogs.

A contribution to a recent number of *Nature* suggests the practicability of training dogs to be used as companions to night watchmen. Their keenness of scent would enable them to detect fire sooner than any human being could. The writer says:

"I have recently heard of a fox-terrier, two or three years old, who goes for fire with as much zeal as most of his race display in pursuit of rats. When a newspaper thoroughly ablaze is thrown down, he stamps upon it with frequent short rushes till it is extinguished, and then worries the scorched remains before asking for a fresh opportunity. He gets excited on being shown a crumpled newspaper or a match-box."

Some Foolish People.

Allow a cough to run until it gets beyond the reach of medicine. They often say: "Oh, it will wear away," but in most cases it wears them away. Could they be induced to try the successful medicine called Kemp's Balsam, which is sold on a positive guarantee to cure they would immediately see the excellent effect after taking the first dose. Price 50c. and \$1. Trial size free. At all druggists.

The demand for small coins is so great that the Mint at Philadelphia is working night and day to supply it.

How's This!

We offer One Hundred Dollars reward for any case of catarrh that cannot be cured by taking Hall's Catarrh Cure. "Oh, it will wear away," but in most cases it wears them away. Could they be induced to try the successful medicine called Kemp's Balsam, which is sold on a positive guarantee to cure they would immediately see the excellent effect after taking the first dose. Price 50c. and \$1. Trial size free. At all druggists.

Monks agents in Canada report favorably upon the Canadian northwest as a refuge for the saints.

It is economy to save a few cents buying a cheap soap or strong washing powder, and lose dollars in ruined ruffled clothes? If not, use Dobbins' Electric Soap, white as snow, and as pure. Ask your grocer for it.

The Chinese Government is buying heavy Krupp guns for the northern forts.

A Chicago druggist retailed over 100,000 "Tansill's Punch" 5c. Cigars in four months.

Last Winter

"I was troubled so badly with rheumatism in my right shoulder and joints of my leg as not to be able to walk. I took Hood's Sarsaparilla, and now don't feel any aches or pains anywhere, and it not only stopped the soreness in my shoulder and joints, but makes me feel as lively as a ten-year-old boy. I sell newspapers right in the middle of the street every day in the year, and have been doing so for five years, and standing on the cold stones ain't no picnic, I can tell you. I can be seen every day in the year at corner Tompkins and De Kalb Avenues. —W. W. HOWARD, Brooklyn, N. Y."

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Both the method and results when Syrup of Figs is taken; it is pleasant and refreshing to the taste, and acts gently yet promptly on the Kidneys, Liver and Bowels, cleanses the system effectually, dispels colds, headaches and fevers and cures habitual constipation. Syrup of Figs is the only remedy of its kind ever produced, pleasing to the taste and acceptable to the stomach, prompt in its action and truly beneficial in its effects, prepared only from the most healthy and agreeable substances, its many excellent qualities commend it to all and have made it the most popular remedy known.

Syrup of Figs is for sale in 50c and \$1 bottles by all leading druggists. Any reliable druggist who may not have it on hand will procure it promptly for any one who wishes to try it. Do not accept any substitute.

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For all domestic animals, will cure 99 out of every 100 cases of colic, whether flatulent or spasmodic. Rarely more than 1 or 2 doses necessary. It does not constipate, rather acts as a laxative and is entirely harmless. After 24 years of trial in more than 3000 cases, our guarantee is worth something. Colic must be treated promptly. Export a few cents and you have a cure on hand, ready when needed, and perhaps save a valuable horse. If not at your druggist's, enclose 50 cents for sample bottle, sent prepaid.

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Storms, snows, drenching rains, and furious winds are a part of the regular routine of life. Two-thirds of the sickness through life is caused by colds; you cannot be too well protected in stormy weather to avoid them. A man having a "Fish Brand Slicker" may be exposed to a storm for twenty-four hours at a stretch, and still be protected from every drop of rain, besides being shielded from the biting winds. No matter what your occupation, if you are liable to be caught in a rain or snow storm, you should have on hand a "Fish Brand Slicker." It will surely save your health, and perhaps your life. Beware of worthless imitations; every garment stamped with the "FISH BRAND" Trade Mark. Don't accept any inferior coat when you can have the "Fish Brand Slicker" delivered without extra cost. Particulars and illustrated catalogue free.

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HE PAYS THE FREIGHT. 5 Ton Wagon Scales, Iron Level, Great Graham's Patent Steam Tare Beam and Beam Box for \$50.00.

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