The Shoe Violin.

A Paris newspaper recently announced the sale of one of the most curious violins in the world. It formerly belonged to Paganini, the great violinist, and at first sight merely presents the appearance of a misshapen wooden shoe. Its history is curious, and not without interest.

During the winter of 1838 Paganini was living in Rue de la Victoria. One day a large box was brought there by the Normandy diligence, on opening which he found two inner boxes, and, wrapped carefully in the folds of tissue paper, a wooden shoe and a letter, stating that the writer, having heard much of the wonderful genius of the violinist, begged, as a proof of his devotion to music, that Paganini would play in public on the oddly constructed instrument inclosed.

At first Paganini felt this to be an impertinent satire, and mentioned the facts, with some show of temper, to his friend, the Chevalier de Baride. The latter took the shoe to a violin maker, who converted it into a remarkably sweet toned instrument, and Paganini was pressed to try the shoe violin in public.

He not only did so, but performed upon it some of his most difficult fantasias, which facts, in the handwriting of violinist, are now recorded on the violin itself.—*New York Telegram.*

Washington was a colonel in the army at twenty-two, commander of the forces at forty-two, President at fifty-seven.

An infant at birth usually weighs one-twentieth of the maximum weight it ought to attain in middle life.

The Failure

Of the kidneys and liver to properly remove the lactic or uric acid from the system, results in

Rheumatism

This acid accumulates in the fibrous tissues, particularly in the joints, and causes inflammation and the terrible pains and aches, which are more agonizing every time a movement is made.

The Way to Cure

Rheumatism is to purify the blood. And to do this take the best blood purifier.

Brief, but Important

In the following few lines, Mr. G. S. Freeman, proprietor of the Ball House, Fremont, Ohio, says a great deal.

"I took five and one-half bottles of

Hood's Sarsaparilla

and it cured my rheumatism of 25 years' standing." G. S. Freeman, Fremont, Ohio.

DONALD KENNEDY

Of Roxbury, Mass., says

Kennedy's Medical Discovery cures Horrid Old Sores, Deep-Seated Ulcers of **40** years' standing, Inward Tumors, and every disease of the skin, except Thunder Humor, and Cancer that has taken root. Price, $1.50. Sold by every Druggist in the United States and Canada.

ELY'S CREAM BALM

Cleanses the Nasal Passages. Allays Pain and Inflammation. Heals the Sores. Restores the Senses of Taste and Smell.

TRY THE CURE. **HAY-FEVER**

A particle is applied into each nostril and is agreeable. Price 50 cents at Druggists or by mail. ELY BROTHERS, 56 Warren Street, New York.

NYNU—50

"August Flower"

"I inherit some tendency to Dyspepsia from my mother. I suffered two years in this way; consulted a number of doctors. They did me no good. I then used your August Flower and it was just two days when I felt great relief. I soon got so that I could sleep and eat, and I felt that I was well. That was three years ago, and I am still first-class. I am never without a bottle, and if I feel constipated the least particle a dose or two of August Flower does the work. The beauty of the medicine is, that you can stop the use of it without any bad effects on the system. While I was sick I felt everything it seemed to me a man could feel. I was of all men most miserable. I can say, in conclusion, that I believe August Flower will cure anyone of indigestion, if taken with judgment. A. M. Weed, 229 Bellefontaine St., Indianapolis, Ind."

Relieved in Two Days. **Constipation** **Life of Misery**

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THE MERRY SIDE OF LIFE.

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

Explained—A Good Scheme—Not at Home—An Eye to Business—Backed His Opinion, Etc., Etc.

After the barn is rifled
When stolen is the horse,
Why do we lock the portal?
To save the door, of course.
—*Harper's Bazar.*

STRUCK HIS GAIT.

Mahlstique—"Ah, Pinxit, my boy, what are you painting for the 'cademy this year?"

Pinxit (cheerfully)—"The window frames and cornices."—*Truth.*

NOT AT HOME.

Bulfinch—"I tell you what it is, that Miss Smilax is simply out of sight."

Wooden—"Yes, I've noticed it every time I've called."—*Boston Courier.*

A GOOD SCHEME.

Mrs. Cumso (newspaper in hand)—"A movement is on foot to make drugs cheaper."

Cumso—"Good enough! That will bring sickness within reach of all."—*Judge.*

BACKED HIS OPINION.

Mr. Stayer—"Have you any opinion on the wheat or stock market?"

Mr. Shorthorn Bull—"I have an opinion—a decided opinion—that is just about all I have left."—*St. Louis Star-Sayings.*

AN EYE TO BUSINESS.

"That young lawyer Blackstone is a very impertinent fellow."

"What makes you think that?"

"I asked him to come over to our party next Tuesday evening and he wanted a retainer."—*Judge.*

WAS SAD WHEN SHE SANG.

Fowler—"Don't you think that was a finished performance Miss Bronchia gave us last night?"

Growler—"At last, yes, and I want you to know that I was mighty glad when it was."—*Boston Courier.*

THAT CIRCULATING ENGAGEMENT RING.

Charlie Youngnoodle—"I've brought the ring to-night, Alice."

Alice—"Let me see it. It looks too large."

Charlie Youngnoodle—"Oh, that's what all the girls said."—*The Jewelers' Circular.*

SETTING A BAD EXAMPLE.

"I don't want to go to school any more."

"Why, Bobby?"

"Because the teacher ordered me to do a hard sum to-day, and I'm afraid of the example he's setting me."—*Philadelphia Times.*

PAT EXPLANS IT.

Tourist—"Well, Pat, your eyes must be in rather bad shape if you can't see that cottage on yonder mountain top."

Pat—"Niver fear, sir. It's not the fault of me oyes at all, but the mountain's the layst bit too high to accomydate 'em."—*Boston Courier.*

IT PLEASED HIM.

The Governor (looking over his son's expense account)—"Charles, I am pleased to see that you spent less in October than you did in September."

Charlie (sotto voce)—"That's because I received less in October than I did in September."—*Yankee Blade.*

A DEATH-BLOW TO JOHNNY'S BELIEF.

Friend—"What are you crying about?"

Johnny—"Boo-hoo! Ma always says—boo!—that it hurts her more to whip me—boo!—than it does me—boo-hoo! So I got her to lick me when I was mad at her. I don't—boo-hoo!—believe it now."—*Harper's Bazar.*

OBJECTIONABLE TO PA.

"Well, Harris, did you call on Maud's father?"

"I did."

"How did you come out?"

"I've been trying to remember. It was all so sudden, I don't know whether it was by the window or the elevator shaft."—*Harper's Bazar.*

WITH A RESERVATION.

Husband—"So as to keep you in good humor, Ella, I will grant any wish you may express."

Wife—"Well, my dear Alfred, buy me that beautiful pearl necklace we saw yesterday."

Husband—"That's no wish at all—that's nonsense."—*The Comic.*

THE FALLACY OF SIMILE.

Ponsonby—"My business is going like clockwork."

Popinjay—"That can't be."

Ponsonby—"What reason have you for saying so?"

Popinjay—"Why, if you wind up a clock it goes; if you wind up your business it stops."—*The Jewelers' Circular.*

A GOOD SUBSTITUTE.

"Pardon me, madam," said a lodger to his landlady at Shrimpington-on-Sea, the morning after his arrival, "but I find that there are no blinds to my bedroom windows."

"I know it," returned the landlady; "and with windows kept as dirty as mine are, blinds are not wanted!"—*London Tit-Bits.*

NEVER AGAIN.

Tom—"Did you send that poem you wrote to your sweetheart?"

Jack—"Yes, but I shall never write any more."

Tom—"Why not?"

Jack—"When I called next evening after sending the poem, almost the first thing she said was: 'Oh, Jack, I want to show you some doggerel that some fool sent me.' "—*Yankee Blade.*

AN EASY JOB.

Client—"What will you charge me if you are successful in breaking the will?"

Lawyer—"My usual fee is twenty per cent."

Client—"But you must remember that the will was drawn up by ten of the best lawyers in the city."

Lawyer—"Oh, in that case my charge will be only fifteen per cent."—*Judge.*

WANTED TO KNOW.

The elderly visitor smiled a capacious smile and disclosed a pair of gold-crowned bicuspids.

"Mamma," said Tommy, "what makes Mrs. Flyabout—"

"Hush, Tommy!"

"Carry her—"

"Keep still, Tommy!"

"Cuff buttons in her mouth?"—*Chicago Tribune.*

HER CULINARY EDUCATION.

Father—"As you have had three terms at the cooking school, Jane, I supposed you'd know how to roast a piece of beef better than this. Why, it's burnt to a crisp."

Daughter—"I don't see how I'm to blame. The fire was too hot, I suppose."

Father—"And why didn't you look out that the fire wasn't too hot?"

Daughter—"The man always attended to that at the school, and Mrs. Mixter used to do the basting. All we did was to do the tasting after the meat was cooked."—*Boston Transcript.*

PLAUSIBLE EXPLANATION.

"Mr. Racquet," said the landlady severely, "I should think from the looks of this bed that you must have slept in it last night with your boots on."

"Yes, ma'am, I did," replied Racquet, without the suspicion of a blush to tinge the interesting pallor of his cheek.

"Will you have the goodness to tell me why?" asked Mrs. Badger, in raise-your-rent-half-a-dollar-a-week tones that would have chilled a less undaunted spirit.

"Why, certainly, ma'am, just as lief tell you as not. You see last night was very frosty, and as you haven't put clothes enough on my bed I fairly ached with cold. So I got up and put on a pair of tight boots. They acted as a counter-pain."—*Boston Post.*

A Prehistoric Canoe.

"A prehistoric canoe was unearthed not long ago in digging a canal through Barton, near Manchester, England, and it appears to be an extremely interesting relic," said a traveler at the Laclede. "It was brought to light by the steam shovel and was imbedded in the sand about twenty-five feet below the surface. With some difficulty the canoe was removed to a shed in the vicinity of the engineer's office and examined. It was found to consist of a portion of an oak tree, roughly hewn and fashioned. In length, this relic of a long past age, is thirteen feet eight inches from end to end, with a width of two feet six inches. Notwithstanding the lapse of centuries the marks of the ax are distinctly visible in the interior of the canoe, the width of the blade of the instrument used—whether of flint or iron—being apparently about three inches. Unfortunately the vessel sustained some damage in the ruthless grip of the 'navvy,' the bottom having been cut through at the bow end, while a portion of one side was broken in. But for this mishap the canoe would probably have been recovered practically intact. I saw the boat just after it was taken out. The bow is shaped so as to have a projecting block, through which a hole is driven, evidently for the purpose of fastening it by means of a rope. A gunwale runs clear around the canoe, which is shaped just like a modern Indian canoe, and fastened by means of pegs of wood. Not a particle of iron was used in its construction, and it was practically impossible to fix the exact period of the canoe. I believe the boat can now be seen in the museum of Owens College, Manchester."—*St. Louis Star-Sayings.*

Chemical Preservation of Wood.

Numerous experiments have developed the fact that the application of a solution of sulphate of copper will greatly add to the life of wood. If done effectually it is calculated that it will double and treble the lasting quality of wood exposed to the weather.

The best method of preparation is to displace the sap of the wood by thorough air drying, and then exposing the wood to a bath of sulphate. Careful examination shows that it is not the mere presence of excess of the sulphate that produces the improvement; but the combination of the oxide of copper with the cellulose of the wood. For example, if linen or cotton cloth be impregnated with cupric solutions, and afterward rinsed in water until all the metal salt is removed, it will be found that the substances or materials will remain uninjured for long periods if buried in the earth. Wood thus treated becomes harder than any common dry wood, and its elasticity is unimpaired. Economy in many ways is not yet closely studied. There is no doubt a great future in the science and practice of rendering wood more resistent to climatic decay and destruction by fire.—*Clay Journal.*

Watchsprings Are Affected by Weather.

"It is singular," said a watchmaker, "that a spring confined and protected as in a watch snould be seriously affected by the weather, but in the trade it is quite common to look for a run on mainsprings at certain times of the year, and during August the call for them is heavier than during two ordinary months, presumably because there are generally thunderstorms and sudden changes during that month. It is not a question of the quality of the spring, some of the very best going to pieces under weather influence and other quite ordinary ones outliving the watch."

Dodging Bullets.

During a shooting match in presence of the Governor of Candahar the latter noticed to his astonishment that the heads of sparrows were the favorite butt of the marksmen, who but seldom missed their aim. Whereupon he declared that it was far more difficult to hit an egg. Sir Peter laughed at the supposition, but the Sirdar stood his ground and the matter was put to the test. An egg was suspended on a wall and the soldiers fired at it, but strange to say not one of them hit the egg.

The Governor and his suit kept their countenances and excused the non-success of the firing party on the ground of the difficulty of the thing. At last a ball happened to hit the thread to which the egg was fastened and it fell to the ground without breaking. Now the mystery was solved; the cunning Afghan had used a blown egg, and the feather-weight shell had been moved aside each time by the current of air in front of the ball and thus escaped being hit.—*Taglische Rundschau.*

Lightning Conductors.

Dr. Hess, who has been collecting statistics and has examined the tips of many lightning rods, finds that fusion of the points never occurs. A fine smooth point receives the lightning in a concentrated form, while angled or ribbed, as well as blunt points, divide it into threads. Dr. Hess considers that platinum needles and tips are entirely unnecessary, for they have no advantage over copper points; but as there are lightning strokes which are capable of making wire 0.20 inches thick incandescent, unbranched copper conductors should never be of less diameter than this, though in a good lightning rod the main point is to secure perfect communication between it and the earth.—*Scientific American.*

Soapstone.

Soapstone, or steatite, can be made into anything. Very beautiful stoves are made of it, and stationary washtubs and sinks are important products. Not an ounce need be wasted, for the dust is used to adulterate rubber goods, giving so-called gum rubbers their dull finish, and in paper, too, it is used to give weight, while all waste can be ground up into a flour which can be made into a fireproof paint for the interior of mills or the roofs of buildings.—*Scientific American.*

The Modern Language Club at Yale College has for its object the getting together of all persons interested in the study of modern language for investigation and discussion.

"Make Hens Lay."

Such is the caption of an advertisement that appears not only in the local, but many leading agricultural papers and which suggests the propriety of a few thoughts upon the subject. The advertisement referred to recommends Sheridan's Condition Powder to make hens lay and so do we," says Mr. Hunter, poultry editor of the N. E. FARMER. "A hen to lay prolifically must be in perfect health, must be *in condition*, and here is based the true theory of the value of Sheridan's Condition Powder—it promotes the general good health of the fowl, gently quickening digestion and stimulating all the various organs of the body as well as the ovaries, to perform their functions." At this season of the year the use of Sheridan's Condition Powder is very valuable for molting hens and young pullets. By its use now they will get to laying earlier when the price for eggs is very high. Any person buying and using Sheridan's Condition Powder now, will get their hens in good laying condition before cold weather, and stand a good chance to win one of the large gold premiums to be offered later by I. S. Johnson & Co., 22 Custom House Street, Boston, Mass. (the only makers of Sheridan's Condition Powder); who will send for 50 cents, two packs of Powder; for $1.00 five packs; for $1.20 a large 2¼ lb. can, postpaid; six cans for $5, express prepaid. Six cans will pay a good dividend. I. S. Johnson & Co. will also send to any one asking for it a copy of the best poultry magazine published, free. The paper one year and a large can of Powder for $1.50.

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ONE ENJOYS

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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An Example of Will-Power.

John L. Wooders on, the clever actor who has been long associated with Stuart Robson, and who was best man at the latter's wedding, afforded a peculiar illustration of will-power. He has a natural impediment in his speech, and in private conversation it is very marked. But when he steps before the foot-lights the excitement of the occasion, the forceful knowledge that it will not do to stammer, loosens the fetters from his tongue and he is as glib as Robson himself.—*St. Louis Republic.*

Emperor Wilhelm's latest project is for a grand cathedral in Berlin to cost $2,500,000. It is to be for the State religion. He is also bent on establishing an "imperial cooking school."

Deafness Can't be Cured

By local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube gets inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed, deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever; nine cases out of ten are caused by catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surfaces.

We will give One Hundred Dollars for any case of deafness (caused by catarrh) that we cannot cure by taking Hall's Catarrh Cure. Send for circulars, free.

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Stick to it!

Sometimes you may have to wait. The troubles that have been years in gathering can't always be cleared away in a day. For all the diseases and disorders peculiar to womanhood, Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is the surest and speediest remedy. You can depend upon that—but if your case is obstinate, give it reasonable time.

It's an invigorating, restorative tonic, a soothing and strengthening nervine, and a positive specific for female weaknesses and ailments. All functional disturbances, painful irregularities and derangements are corrected and cured by it. All unnatural discharges, bearing-down sensations, weak back, accompanied with faint spells and kindred symptoms, are corrected. In every case for which it's recommended, "Favorite Prescription," is *guaranteed* to give satisfaction, or the money is refunded. No other medicine for women is sold on such terms. That proves that nothing else offered by the dealer *can* be "just as good."

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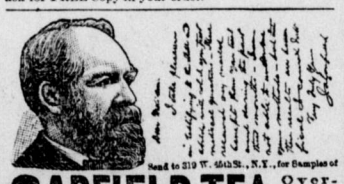

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