

An Odd Society.
 One of the western cities a lot of have formed an organization, the condition to membership in which is the fact that the candidate's matrimonial advances have been retarded by a woman. From all that can be learned regarding the inside workings it is believed that the members do not indulge in sighs and tears all the old-time evidences of heart-ache. On the contrary, it is understood that they have what may be termed a rip-roaring good time. Their aim, if it may be so designated, prefers frequent mutual congratulations and hearty assurance of future happiness and fond wishes for continued freedom. This doesn't seem quite right thing under the depressing circumstances, but it is a fact that they appear to enjoy it. It is even said that they get a good deal of pleasure of following, as it were, the existence of the individual women who have acted one or more of them. They merely watch for wrinkles and for ruffs of bad temper. One of the choicest possessions of the society is a photograph of a one-time haughty sylph who weighs 283 pounds and has nine-haired children.

Fad-Struck Fashionables.
 The Rochester (N. Y.) Union is stirred it says: "Of all the silly fads of day the bulldog fad, as it exists in New York, is the silliest." It quotes a New York correspondent: "Bulldogs become such a fashionable fad one cannot walk down Fifth avenue of an afternoon without meeting men, usually young and handsome, of the ugliest kind of brutes in tow, these pets enjoy as much admiration and attention as a new baby. Some have maid or men servants, these exclusive duties are to look after their comfort and appearance. I know one woman who outfit for the toilet her bulldog cost several hundred dollars. Every brush and comb is backed with solid silver, the collar is of gold other appurtenances correspond in value and value. This dog has a bed pillow cases and sheets of linen his attendant always warms them him before he retires." And the on adds: "There are four brindle pups in Washington that cost \$750 each. Doubtless some of the women fancy that kind of stock would pay as much for them if the price placed so high."

Railway Enterprise.
 Among the greatest achievements in the line of railway enterprises recorded the past year may be classed as accomplished by the Baltimore & Railroad company in Philadelphia, a grand pier 557 feet long and 149 wide lighted with improved incandescent lights and provided with paved driveways. Vessels of the greatest draught can tie up on both sides of the pier, thereby greatly facilitating the prompt handling of freight. This new feature of the B. & R. system affords an excellent illustration of the progress in modern rail-service and is notable as an instance of lavish expenditure for the improvement of commercial facilities.

There was talk of a duel recently between residents of a southern city. It was announced that experts in code duello had decided that the principals in the quarrel could not fight, as one of them had killed a man, been tried for murder and had escaped the gallows. The grounds for this objection were not on even terms, each with murder on his heart. The one who had killed a man and meant to kill another, and the one who had not killed a man, but had placed under bonds to keep peace. In this year of grace we are living under the code duello.

The reforming work done by settlements of educated and religious people in slums is attested by practical results. The fence around a settlement ground was burned on an election day. In the following year certain men volunteered to protect the ground when election night again came. They patrolled the place throughout the night, and successfully defended the property. It was learned that these volunteers were the ideal men who had burned the fence the previous year. This was praiseworthy.

Dr. John R. Rogers, of Washington, recent address in Tacoma, summed up what he termed his faith, thus: "Life is a struggle; a school; a test of strength; no struggle, no school, no test, no fitness; no fitness, no school, no test." This is the true philosophy of life.

Miss Claremont, who died in Wisconsin the other day, carried the mail from Green Bay to Chicago 66 miles. At the opening of the trip she walked 240 miles in order to get it, although he was at the time 60 years old.

A COLUMN BY THE POETS.
A Moderate Muse.
 Real genuine poets have bushels to say Regarding the heart and the soul; They rave and they rant in a terrible way. For the muse is beyond their control. 'Tis quite well aware I'm not in it with smel. As those who with genius are thrilled, For somehow my life doesn't bother me much. If my stomach is comfortably filled. They tell me true poetry has to be sad In order to have it O. K.; You've got to appear to be blissful or mad And smash everything in your way. But somehow my muse is so docile and mild And my pleasure so full and complete. I feel just as glad as the happiest child If I just get a-plenty to eat. I've loved that sort of a thing, now and then; In fact I've been in it quite deep. I've been jellied and flitted, yes, time and again. But I never have lost any sleep. My heart, I observe, keeps a-thumping along In its old-fashioned, business-like way. And to me all the world is filled up with a bang. If I just get my three meals a day.—Nixon Waterman, in L. A. W. Bulletin.

"My Mamma Says So."
 A little maiden six years old, With curling hair of fine spun gold, Stood swaying on a garden gate And chattering to a tiny mate Of marvelous happenings of late In some far distant foreign state. "My dear," said I, "how do you know That all these wondrous things are so?" Slowly she raised her azure eyes, Filled with unspeakable surprise, Then said with childish dignity: Most quaint and beautiful to see: "My mamma says so!"—Mary Marshall Parks, in Youth's Companion.

He Knoweth Best.
 They go, our loved ones pass away, They sink into eternal rest; We miss them many a weary day— But God knows best, He knoweth best. 'Tis hard to see in loss a gain, It seems of fate a bitter jest; Yet comes the whisper o'er our pain— He knoweth best, God knoweth best. We miss the accustomed voice and touch; "Thou needest them not!" we cry, distressed; "They were to us so much, so much!" Yet God knows best, He knoweth best. We view the empty place with tears, And life seems robbed of half its zest; But we shall learn with passing years That He knows best, that God knows best. Hath not that place a richer store Wherein our dear one is a guest? We love earth less and Heaven the more, Yes, God knows best, He knoweth best.—George H. Westley, in N. Y. Tribune.

"With All Her Faults I Love Her Still."
 She pulls my hair, she slaps my face, she kicks me on my shins, And when I enter protest, why, she merely laughs and grins; She watches me with jealous eyes, she follows me about, And if I dare to leave her side my name she'll loudly shout. In public, she has oft been known to rudely pull my nose, She thinks there's nothing wrong in roughly treading on my toes; She nightly turns my pockets and relieves me of my change, She purloins everything of mine that comes with her range. She has a dreadful temper, a strong and sturdy will, But with her many glaring faults I love her dearly still. She's worth to me ten thousand times her weight in precious gold; My little bright-eyed baby girl—she's only three years old.—L. P. Hext, in N. Y. Truth.

Her Refusal.
 Oh, will you assist me in winning The sweet little maid I adore? Oh, say but one word in my favor, And I'll be your bond slave evermore. She. How dare you, sir, ask my assistance In such an affair? I decline! But who is she? Merely nobody That dares to claim friendship of mine!

He.
 You love and you honor her, too; Oh, say but one word in my favor— The sweet little maiden is—yours! She. Nay, Judge her not harshly! You know her. You love and you honor her, too; Oh, say but one word in my favor— The sweet little maiden is—yours!

Again I refuse, my assistance—
 But stay—pluck up courage—you see I decline to assist you because you Don't need any assistance from me.—Chicago News.

"Girl Bachelors."
 "Old maids," we're told, have passed away— They're now quite out of date; They've one and all become, they say, "Old bachelors" of late. They go about just like "the boys," Each has her "club" and "den," And likewise all her worldly joys The same as do the men. She doesn't seem to have a care Her placid mind to vex, And acts as though she's unaware That there's another sex. But don't you ever be misled For, mind you, when she can, A wise "girl bachelor" will wed The proper "old maid man."—L. A. W. Bulletin.

Into the Abyss.
 He had met the fairest maiden out of heaven; They had chatted gayly for a little while; When they parted she turned half around and thrilled him With the faintest, sweet suggestion of a smile. Then he rushed away to look into a mirror—Woe struck his heart and overwhelmed his mind. For his necktie, gentle reader, was unfastened And clinging up his collar back behind!—Chicago News.

Overcome Evil with Good.
 With burning brain and heart of hate, I sought my wronger, early late, And all the wretched night and day My dream and thought was slay, and slay. My better self rose uppermost, The beast within my bosom lost itself in love; peace from afar Shone o'er me radiant like a star. I slew my wronger with a deed, A deed of love; I made him bleed. With kindness, I filled for years His soul with tenderness and tears.—Robert Loveman, in N. Y. Independent.

April Conference for Ministers and Christian Workers.

The Third Annual Conference for Ministers and Christian Workers will hold its sessions in Chicago, at the Bible Institute, throughout the month of April.

In the past those in attendance were from as far west as the Dakotas and Texas, and as far east as New Brunswick. It is expected that all sections of the Union will be represented this year.

The object of this Conference is to consider and discuss the various lines of aggressive Christian work, and to listen to the best Bible instructors that can be secured. It is free, undenominational, and open to all interested in any line of Christian work. Mr. Moody will be present for some days at the opening, and Dr. A. F. Schaeffer, Superintendent of the City Missions of New York, and a well known Sunday School worker and Bible teacher. Prof. W. G. Moorehead of Xenia Theological Seminary will teach during part of the Conference. Prof. John R. Sumpey, of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., will deliver a course of eight lectures on his recent travels and explorations through Egypt and the Holy Land. R. A. Torrey, of Chicago, will be present and teach throughout the Conference. W. R. Newell, Assistant Superintendent, who teaches week-night Bible classes, attended weekly by 3,700, will tell how it is done.

The Conference will be held at the Bible Institute, a centre of activity in our western metropolis. The Conference is the outgrowth or offsprings of the Institute. Besides the special addresses by speakers from abroad, the regular work of the Institute will go right on. This consists of lectures each forenoon at nine and eleven o'clock on Bible Doctrine, Bible Study by Chapters, etc., by the Superintendent, R. A. Torrey, and the Assistant Superintendent, W. R. Newell.

An interesting feature of this branch of the Conference will be Mr. Torrey's class in "Bible Study by Chapters," and his class in "Personal Work," where instruction is given in the practical details of bringing men to Christ. The musical work will be under the direction of Prof. D. B. Tower, Superintendent of the Musical Department of the Institute. In addition to the various music classes at the Institute, which will be open to all who care to attend and receive the benefit of the instruction offered, he will give practical illustration of how to conduct song services to the glory of God and salvation of souls.

The outside work of the Institute has always proven a profitable feature of the Conferences. It will afford all who attend an opportunity to study its aggressive methods along all lines. Not only can they study these methods as they are taught, but they can see the three hundred students at work applying them successfully to every day Christian life.

It is interesting to note how the Conference appeals to Christian interest everywhere, and how widespread the interest is. Although the meeting will not occur until April, inquiries have long been coming in as to programme, arrangements for entertainments, etc. As in the past, the moderate sum of five dollars per person per week for board and room will be charged in the Institute for all who can be accommodated.

The Conference occurs at the close of the winter's heavy work, and many pastors obtain leave of absence for their vacation then, in order to attend the Conference. In the past, churches appreciating the great advantages attained by attending this Conference, have not only granted their pastors leave of absence, but also paid the expenses of the trip for them. These churches have been abundantly repaid for the outlay of money by receiving their pastor back again refreshed in body and with increased spiritual power.

The indications are that the attendance will be much larger this year than ever before, and, great as the past blessings have been, even greater ones are expected from our Heavenly Father and his Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Anyone contemplating attendance can write Mr. Moody or R. A. Torrey, 80 Institute Place, Chicago.

Educate Your Bowels With Cascarets. Candy Cathartic, cure constipation forever. 10c. 25c. 50c. 75c. 1.00. 1.50. 2.00. 2.50. 3.00. 3.50. 4.00. 4.50. 5.00. 5.50. 6.00. 6.50. 7.00. 7.50. 8.00. 8.50. 9.00. 9.50. 10.00. 10.50. 11.00. 11.50. 12.00. 12.50. 13.00. 13.50. 14.00. 14.50. 15.00. 15.50. 16.00. 16.50. 17.00. 17.50. 18.00. 18.50. 19.00. 19.50. 20.00. 20.50. 21.00. 21.50. 22.00. 22.50. 23.00. 23.50. 24.00. 24.50. 25.00. 25.50. 26.00. 26.50. 27.00. 27.50. 28.00. 28.50. 29.00. 29.50. 30.00. 30.50. 31.00. 31.50. 32.00. 32.50. 33.00. 33.50. 34.00. 34.50. 35.00. 35.50. 36.00. 36.50. 37.00. 37.50. 38.00. 38.50. 39.00. 39.50. 40.00. 40.50. 41.00. 41.50. 42.00. 42.50. 43.00. 43.50. 44.00. 44.50. 45.00. 45.50. 46.00. 46.50. 47.00. 47.50. 48.00. 48.50. 49.00. 49.50. 50.00. 50.50. 51.00. 51.50. 52.00. 52.50. 53.00. 53.50. 54.00. 54.50. 55.00. 55.50. 56.00. 56.50. 57.00. 57.50. 58.00. 58.50. 59.00. 59.50. 60.00. 60.50. 61.00. 61.50. 62.00. 62.50. 63.00. 63.50. 64.00. 64.50. 65.00. 65.50. 66.00. 66.50. 67.00. 67.50. 68.00. 68.50. 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