

## SERIOUS, YET FUNNY

UNCONSCIOUS HUMOR THAT HELPS TO PUT SPICE IN LIFE.

Some Examples of Delightful Incongruities in Speaking, Writing and Acting That Appeal Strongly to the Sense of the Ridiculous.

Nothing has added more to the merit of the world than the unintentional, unconscious humor of writers public speakers and, in fact, all classes and conditions of men and women. And there is none so delightful. It far exceeds in mirth provoking quality the cold blooded humor of the professional wits.

We Americans are a fun loving people, and we must and will have our jollity. Some one has said with certain truth: "With all our vanity, energy and unrest, we are not a dull, cheerless people. Sour faced fellows, yellow and dyspeptic, are to be met with in our cars and on our streets, but they are not the type of the American, for he is as ready for a laugh as for a speculation, as fond of a joke as for an office."

And the joke is all the more enjoyable when it is spontaneous. The greater the stress and strain of life the greater the need and demand for humor, and no one deprecates the value of humor excepting those who have none of this good gift in their portion. "Sunset" Cox, one of the "Y" titled men of his day, says in his "Why We Laugh": "Eliminate from the literature and conduct of any one people the amusing and the amused faculty, and you produce a sterility as dull and uninteresting as the cinders and ashes of the volcanic fields of Iceland. But include the amusing element within the experience and history of mankind, and no description of luxuriance, with grape, olive, nectarine and orange, such as makes the vales of Portugal a perennial smile, is adequate to emphasize the contrast."

One could not well instance a more amusing blunder than that in a painting of the "Blessed Virgin" in an old church in Spain. In this painting the Virgin is represented as sitting on a red velvet sofa fondling a cat with one hand, while with the other she is pouring coffee from a silver coffeepot.

This is as amusing as a painting in a German church representing the sacrifice of Isaac by Abraham. In this painting Abraham is about to discharge a huge pistol at Isaac when an angel descends and pours a pitcher of water on the pan of the pistol, thereby saving Isaac.

The writer once saw a crude painting of King Herod with a pair of spectacles painted on his nose. There is a very old painting of St. Peter denying the Saviour, and several of the Roman soldiers in the background have pipes in their mouths.

Those who are on the lookout for them will find many amusing blunders in the daily papers and in periodicals of all kinds. It was but the other day that the writer saw Miss Fanny Crosby referred to in a religious paper as the "author of so many blind poems." And it was a great metropolitan daily that one morning gave its readers the following information regarding the wrecking of a ship the night before: "The captain swam ashore and succeeded in saving the life of his wife. She was insured in the Northern Marine Insurance company and carried a cargo of cement."

Equally amusing as an instance of unconscious humor was the statement made by another paper regarding the capsizing of a boat at sea. It said that "but one life was lost, and that was found afterward."

He must be sadly deficient in humor who does not find himself amused by a sign like the following seen in the window of a shoemaker: "Any respectable man, woman or child can have a fit in this shop." It was an enterprising furrier who placed a card in his window stating that for the benefit of the ladies he would make "muffs, boas, etc., out of their own skins."

A prolific source of amusement to manuscript readers is the surprising way in which aspirants for literary honor and glory often "put things." We find one young woman saying of her heroine: "The countess fell back in a deadly swoon. When she revived her spirit had fled."

Another young writer places her heroine in a very perilous situation and then says of her, "Her lips quivered; her cheeks grew pale; her breath came in short pants."

A third writer gives this amusing description of the appearance of some one she referred to as "the bell of sea duir": "She was clad in some soft, clinging, fleecy, vapory stuff of purest white that gave the appearance of a bit of detached cloud floating in the sky. She wore no ornament with the exception of several bits of rare bric-a-brac gathered in a foreign clime."

A charming bit of purely unconscious humor was that noticed by some visitors to a great English coal mine. At the mouth of the great central shaft hundreds of feet deep was a placard bearing these words: "Please do not tumble down the shaft."—Detroit Free Press.

**Suspensions.**  
Mr. Bilkins (looking up from the paper)—The eminent physician, Dr. Greenhead, says there is no exercise so conducive to health in woman as ordinary housework. Mrs. Bilkins—Huh! I'll bet he's married.—Tit-Bits.

**Apples Improve Cigars.**  
Possibly the best way to improve cigars is to place very thin slices of apple between them. This is a familiar practice among connoisseurs. Any old apple will do.—New York Press.

Nothing hardens the heart and conscience like the acquisition of a fortune at the expense of others.—Burian-mechel.

**As Others See Us.**  
"And do the Americans shine in their conversation?" asks the interviewer of the foreigner who has returned to his native land.  
"Let me tell you," replies the foreigner. "In mixed company the ladies assemble on one side of the room, and all talk at once about cooks and dresses, and the men assemble at the other side of the room and talk about automobiles and money."—New York Life.

## CARE OF CHAMELEONS.

How These Little Creatures Can Be Kept Alive For Years.

Chameleons can be kept alive for years by making a frame to fit over a plant in a flowerpot and covering it with mosquito netting, which must be long enough to tie with a string about the pot. Keep the pot in the sunniest window and water the plant every day through the netting. You will be surprised to see how eagerly the little creatures will drink the running water after they get over their fear. Set a wire fly trap for flies, which you can liberate under the netting. The chameleons will not be backward about helping themselves.

In winter they do not require much food, but will relish a meal worm occasionally on sunny days. Meal worms can sometimes be got at the grain stores for the asking or can be purchased at the bird stores, or small spiders can be found in cracks and crannies asleep for the winter. They may be frozen stiff if found out of doors, but they revive in a warm room.

Chameleons enjoy a place to sleep in nights and winters. Take a piece of red flannel four inches wide and eight inches long; roll it over a stick as large round as your finger and sew it while on the stick so that it will not come unrolled; then slip off and run a wire through it long enough to suspend it from one of the branches on the plant. The chameleon will crawl into this cozy bed and go to sleep.—St. Nicholas.

## GRAFTING FISH TAILS.

An Interesting Art In Which the Japanese Are Experts.

Among the many interesting arts in which the Japanese excel is that of the making of fish tails. Almost every one has seen the bush tailed goldfish, with its four, five and sometimes more long, wavy tails, but it is not generally known that most of them are not its own.

When the little goldfish are very young their flesh is as clear as glass, so that one can see every bone in their tiny bodies. At this time the few that are born with two or more tails are put by themselves, and then a queer looking old Jap, with a great magnifying glass fastened in front of his eye and weep sharp tools handy, reaches down under the water and cuts off the tails of the plain little fish, and then three or four of these tails are joined on to the backbone where the one was cut off and fastened there with tiny bandages until they grow fast.

The Japanese, who are very skillful in queer things of this kind, grow the finest goldfish in the world, and it is a very good business, for very fine fish of this kind often bring as much as \$300 to \$500, and one sold not long ago for \$1,000.

## The Lady of the Lake.

"In the Days of Scott" there are two anecdotes about Sir Walter Scott's children in connection with his poem, "The Lady of the Lake."

One day his daughter was met by James Ballantyne, the publisher, in her father's library and asked what she thought of the poem. She replied that she had not read it and added: "Papa says there is nothing so bad for young people as reading bad poetry."

Scott's son Walter returned from school one day with evidences of having been engaged in a fight. His father asked him what he had been fighting about. He replied that he had been called a "lassie" and had resented it. A little questioning showed that young Walter's schoolfellows had nicknamed him "The Lady of the Lake," which name the boy did not understand except as a reproach to his manliness.

## The Joys of Relic Hunting.

Quite apart from the beauty and intrinsic worth of such things, it is astonishing on looking back on one's experiences of collecting to realize how much pleasure one has got out of even a dilettante quest of antiques. The exhilarating joy of this treasure hunt, the finding of the treasure, the bargaining for it and the final bearing of it home in triumph, unwrapping it and discussing its beauties and merits, are things which add zest to life. And, as the taste for beautiful old things is more or less an acquired one and can be cultivated, this is a joy in which most people who are fortunate enough to have a little spare cash and a little spare time can share.—London Tatler.

## PUZZLES IN NATURE.

Some of the Seeming Contradictions That Science Encounters.

The man of science, like the man of law, has brought before him many an anomaly; but, unlike the judge or the advocate, he knows that the contradictions he studies are only such in seeming. He feels confident that nature at the core is in agreement with herself. Any day, he believes, these apparent contradictions may be resolved into cases of detected law, not simple enough to disclose itself to aught but the most rigorous analysis.

In the realm of heat it seems that certain rules of radiation, conduction, boiling points and the like are general, not universal. In most cases they act as if alone; in a few cases their effect is masked by causes as yet not understood. Let a few cases as perplexing as that of the allops under refrigeration be briefly recounted.

Common solder has a lower melting point than any of its ingredients. Sulfur fuses at 120 C. and thickens again at 220 C. When steel is heated and dipped into cold water it is hardened; the same treatment softens copper. While almost every substance expands with heat, rubber shrinks. In most cases electrical conductivity is impaired by increase of temperature, yet a carbon pencil rises to an almost threefold augmentation of conductivity when brought to incandescence in an electric lamp.

We may be well assured that when these anomalies are resolved the explanations will bear in their train other difficulties for research yet more subtle. Science never does worthwhile work than where, as here, she points to her own unfinished walls and bids the student as a privilege and a duty to supply their gaps as best he may.—George Iles.

## THE THIRD HOUSE.

Legislative Annex of the Special Interests in Congress.

The third house, as the lobby is sometimes called, is the legislative annex of the special interests. It is the house of special representatives, and its membership is a curious study in the widely different.

Its meeting place is the lobby and committee rooms of the nation's capitol, the hotel rotunda, the lawyer's office, the street, the banquet room, the little back room, the bar, the road house, the home, the brothel—anywhere the legislator may be found and personally approached. That is the object of a lobby—personal contact with the people's representatives and the influence upon legislation worked thereby.

If legislators were perfect, there would be no lobby. If they were perfectly wise, there would be no occasion for the lobbyist who desires "to inform" them; if perfectly honest, there would be no occasion for the lobbyist who desires to "make it worth while;" if perfectly patriotic, there would be no occasion for the lobbyist who desires for himself "a little personal favor"—at the people's expense. The existence of a lobby is premised on human frailty. It is present to prey on human weakness, to warp the action of the legislative body by appeal to vanity, ignorance, cupidity or fear.—Gilson Gardner in Success Magazine.

## HARDY FERNS.

About Forty Species Are Suited to Outdoor Culture.

Among the hardy ferns are varieties greatly differing in size and form, from a hairlike creeping stem bearing a few simple mosslike leaves to the vigorous growing plants with large leaves, attaining a height of two or three feet. Ferns are interesting and extremely beautiful, especially when grown as specimen plants or in combination with other plants. The varying conditions in which the different species succeed are remarkable. Many of them require a warm temperature, while others do well in cool and shady places.

Of the 4,000 or more species of ferns not more than about forty species are suited to outdoor culture. In ordinary soils and situations. These species can be planted in beds, borders or rockeries or in the foreground of shrubbery. As most of them require a somewhat shady place, they are especially useful for filling in places where grass and other light loving plants cannot grow. Perfect drainage is required. The soil should have leaf mold in it, or decayed peat or well decayed sod will answer.

Hardy ferns are best planted in the spring, but they can be planted in the summer if the fronds or leaves are cut back, making it easier for the plants to establish themselves before the winter sets in. From his florist the amateur gardener can obtain cuttings of varieties most suitable for the soil and climate in his vicinity. In the winter the ferns should be given protection, with a covering of leaves, hay or straw.—Washington Star.

## ANIMAL SAGACITY.

The Instinct That Leads the Ostrich to Protect Its Eggs.

The nature student—everybody is a nature student nowadays—were trying to outdo one another.

"Eggs when the sun is overhead shade their young with outspread wings," said the first. "On August afternoons I have seen a mother eagle stand patiently two full hours, her left wing spread like an umbrella, while in its cool shade her nestlings slept."

"Squirrels," said the second, "can tell whether a nut is good or bad without opening it. A chestnut, a walnut, a shalhbark, they lift it in their little paws, hold it to their faces a moment, then if it is bad cast it aside. How do they tell? By the weight, by the sound? I incline to think they do it by the smell."

"Ostriches never sit," said the third. "They lay their eggs on the pale Saharan sands, and the sun does the rest. But before the ostriches depart from their eggs they place on the top of each a pinch of sand, for they know that the germ will mount to the top and that the sun's heat would kill the germ were it not protected."

"A trained elephant," said the fourth student, "danced very badly at a matinee performance and was accordingly beaten cruelly by its master. That night, hearing a shuffling noise outside, the master crept forth, and there in the moonlight he found the elephant carefully practicing his dance steps."

## IMPURE FOODS.

Tricks of the Trades Recorded by a Diarist of 1783.

"The pure food question is as old," said an antiquary, "as the hills." He took down a volume bound in gray calf.

"This is the diary," he said, "of Heinrich Cruger, born in Amsterdam in 1724; died in New York in 1870. Listen to the pure food kick that Henry put up in 1783."

The antiquary read: "Monday, 18th October.—If I would drink water I must quaff the mawkish contents of a cursed open aqueduct, exposed to all manner of defilement and impregnated with all the filth of the town."

"As for the intoxicating potion sold as wine, it is a vile, unpalatable and pernicious sophistication, balderdash with cider, corn-spirit and the juice ofatoes."

"The bread is a deleterious paste, mixed up with chalk, alum and bone ashes, insipid to the taste and destructive to the constitution."

"The table beer, gullible of hops or malt, is rapid and nauseous. The tallow, rancid mass called butter is manufactured of candle grease and kitchen stuff. The fresh eggs were fresh once."

"The greens are boiled with brass halfpence in order to improve their color, while the pickles, though very inviting to the eye, are often insupportably rank to the taste, the reason being that in their case also the housewife has to boil a shilling's worth or two of halfpence or a pound brass weight in the vinegar."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

## THE MORNING WAKING.

Getting Up Exercises That Will Put the Brain in Order.

The difficulty most people experience in getting up in the morning can be easily overcome by a simple operation, according to a medical authority. After the night's long rest the brain is laden with somewhat impure blood, and the lymph vessels which remove waste matter are overfull and sluggish. This is why we all crave another ten minutes' bed and why most people are so morose at breakfast. Very slowly the brain gets rid of the matters which interfere with its vigorous action, but the process can be expedited.

If the finger tips are placed against the neck just under the ear and moved swiftly down to the front of the shoulder along the course of the jugular vein, the used up blood is drawn away and room left for a fresh supply. This should be done twice at each side of the neck. Then the hands should be placed on the back of the neck just under the skull and moved downward as far as possible. This clears out the lymph vessels and effectually prevents swollen glands, from which so many people suffer.

After two brisk rubs of the lymph vessels return to the jugular veins and then back to the glands, half a dozen or eight times, until the operation will be found far better than a cup of coffee, and whenever the brain is dull through congestion this massage will be equally effective.—Pearson's.

## THE BUSY BEAVERS.

These Tireless Workers Have Altered America's Landscape.

Because its operations are chiefly nocturnal, so that it is seldom or never seen, and because of its skill in controlling water and in house building, something of mystery has grown up about the beaver. It is said that it fells trees for the purpose of building its dams and can lay a tree where it wishes to with the accuracy of the most skilled axman. It is said also that it uses its tail as a trowel, plastering the mud on its houses and dams with this appendage as a mason spreads his mortar.

Myths like these will probably have a long life. The latter belief is no doubt encouraged by the beaver's frequent habit of slapping the water or earth with its tail as an alarm signal whenever it is startled. There are many unexplained things about the beaver's life.

Long before the white man came to America the beaver was hard at work building his dams all over the country and in narrow and sometimes in wide stream valleys, arresting the water and so collecting in its ponds the detritus swept down from the hills and from the upper reaches of the stream.

As this sediment gradually filled up the shallow ponds the beaver moved to other places, and when in time the dam broke down and the waters drained off a wide level meadow was left—the bottom of the old pond.

All over the continent in suitable localities, from Mexico north to the Pacific, this was going on century after century, and in this way no doubt were made vast areas of level meadow, whose origin is now unsuspected by the people who occupy them.—Forest and Stream.

## REFLECTED GLORY.

It is Just as Much Fun and Less Trouble Than Real Glory.

It is a profound truth that reflected glory is far better worth having than real glory, as far as the actual fun of the thing is concerned. The man who after much struggling has won through to fame knows all the drawbacks to it and realizes that the game is hardly worth the candle. But the man whose only claim to glory lies in the fact that he is an acquaintance of the famous man has a splendid time, getting most of the kudos with none of the disadvantages. We see a great, good man, let us say Alcegon Ashton, and we envy him. But we feel that his position must have its disadvantages. The strain of being universal letter provider to the papers of London must be enormous. Far better the lot of the man who merely knows Mr. Ashton and can call him Algy. Mr. Murphy, the orator, supports this view. "It is well," he says, "sometimes in speaking to treat great men's names familiarly. In bracketing yourself thus with the great men of the world reminds one of an eastern saying that there are only two creatures that can surmount the pyramids, the eagle and the snail."

We know of scores of men who have acquired reputations through their friends. It is the simplest thing in the world. The wonder is that everybody does not do it, for it needs but little labor.—London Globe.

## CATARACT OF THE EYE.

How the One It Attacks May Watch the Obstruction Grow.

Cataract is said to be due to the gradual deposition of oxalate of lime in the substance of the crystalline lens, at first in small spots or streaks, sometimes in one part and sometimes in another. The deposit gradually increases until it penetrates the whole of the lens, causing blindness. The remedy, then, is to remove the lens, and after its removal the patient needs a substitute in the form of highly magnifying spectacles.

All that is necessary to enable a patient to see his own cataract for himself is a piece of card and a needle. A visiting card will do very well. Pierce a clean round hole near the middle of the card and hold the card up to the light close to the eye, looking preferably in the direction of a piece of blue sky. With the card near to the eye the patient will not see the small hole pierced by the needle, but he will see a comparatively large, faintly illuminated field with his cataract projected upon it. He is, in fact, observing the shadow cast by his cataract on the retina at the back of his eye.

With a small puncture in the card the shadow so thrown is comparatively sharp. But with a normal eye an evenly illuminated field or clean disk will be seen. The patient may thus map down his own cataract and settle for himself whether it is extending and whether he will have an operation or not.

## A PRIVILEGE RESERVED.

Ceremonies Witnessed at a Jeweler's Ring Counter.

"I want a plain gold ring for a lady. Best you've got in the store."

"For this lady?"

"Sure! Who else would it be for? Pull off your glove, Katie, and let the gentleman measure your finger."

The girl withdrew her woolen glove and bashfully extended her small hand, red and toll worn, toward the clerk.

"There, that's about the size," said the jeweler to the girl.

"Do you wish him to put it on?"

"No—not yet," said the blushing girl. "When he puts that ring on, it's on to stay."

Size, quality and price at last were settled satisfactorily, and the young man pulled from his pocket a shining coin.

"Here you are, gold for gold!" he exclaimed proudly. "Nothin' but gold 'll pay for that ring."

"Haven't you anything smaller?" asked the sordid clerk.

"Plenty, but nothin' good enough to pay for that ring."

"Bit of sentiment, eh?" queried an interested bystander.

"Oh, yes, sir," said the girl, with evident pride. "He's been saving that twenty dollar gold piece for nearly four months, waiting to buy this ring."

—New York Press.

## Your Own Body.

Think deliberately of the house you live in—your body. Make up your mind not to abuse it. Eat nothing that will hurt it; wear nothing that distorts or pains it. Do not overload it with victuals or drink or work. Give yourself regular and abundant sleep. Keep your body warmly clad. At the first signal of danger from any of the thousand enemies that surround you defend yourself. Do not take cold; guard yourself against it. If you feel the first symptoms, give yourself heroic treatment. Get into a fine glow of heat by exercise. This is the only body you will ever have in this world. A large share of pleasure and pain of life will come through the use you make of it. Study deeply and diligently the structure of it, the laws that should govern it, the pains and penalties that will surely follow a violation of every law of life or health.

## Ampere and the Donkey.

The elder Ampere, for a time a professor in the College of France, was kind, but hot tempered, and occasionally gave way to outbursts of which he instantly repented. Once at an examination some mistaken response of a student led him to exclaim, "You are a donkey!"

The student was as hot blooded as he. "It's you who are the donkey!" he shouted back.

By this time Ampere's anger was all gone, and the philosopher and gentleman asserted himself. "Perhaps it is," he answered, "but nevertheless I imagine that if you begin your demonstration anew you will recognize the fact that you are mistaken."

The student recommenced his demonstration, discovered his mistakes and acknowledged that he was wrong.

"And now, my dear boy," said the professor, "you see that I am not a donkey and that you are not one either. I had no right to call you by the name of that animal, which, however, is so patient, calm, faithful and laborious a creature that I am not sure but it was he whom you and I were insulting just now and not each other."—Pall Mall Gazette.

## THE WORST CLIMATES.

Three Places Where Weather Conditions Are Unbearable.

"Speaking of rank climates," said a globe trotter, "I have experienced the three worst."

"Of these three unspeakable climates I give the palm to the strait of Magellan. There is rain on an average 250 days in the year. The wind blows a hurricane from January to December. The thermometer never rises much above the freezing point—a year round of raw, bitter days of rain and snow."

"Next comes Sierra Leone, on the African west coast. That low lying marshy region has an average temperature of 81 degrees, and the annual rainfall is 180 inches—enormous! There are, too, the 'smokes.' These are mists, smelling like oyster mud, that rise continually from the marshes, giving marsh fever to nine out of ten of the white men that breathe them—a year round of hot and sticky days, with the smelling clouds of mist and whirling clouds of mosquitoes."

"Last come the high tablelands of central Asia, where the lack of moisture in the air makes the days Saharan and the nights arctic—days like a redhot furnace, nights like a January blizzard. Before this range of temperature no human constitution can stand up."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

## Practical.

"What did she say when she heard he was dead in love with her?"

"She wanted to know if he carried any life insurance."—New York Times.

## SOMETHING NEW!

## A Reliable TIN SHOP

For all kind of Tin Roofing, Spouting and General Job Work.

Stoves, Heaters, Ranges, Furnaces, etc.

## PRICES THE LOWEST!

## QUALITY THE BEST!

## JOHN HIXSON

NO. 116 E. FRONT ST.

**KILL THE COUGH AND CURE THE LUNGS**  
WITH **Dr. King's New Discovery**  
FOR CONSUMPTION, COUGHS and COLDS  
Price 50c & \$1.00  
Free Trial.  
Surest and Quickest Cure for all THROAT and LUNG TROUBLES, or MONEY BACK.

The Home Paper of Danville.  
Of course you read THE MORNING NEWS.  
THE PEOPLE'S POPULAR PAPER.  
Everybody Reads It.  
Published Every Morning Except Sunday  
No. 11 E. Mahoning St.  
Subscription 5 cents a Week

DO YOU WANT ANY PRINTING DONE? ...  
We want to do all kinds of Printing  
JOB WORK!  
It's Neat. It will Please. It's Reasonable.  
A well printed, tasty, Bill or Letter Head, Posters, Ticket, Circular, Program, Statement or Card, an advertisement for your business, a satisfaction to you.

New Type, New Presses, Best Paper, Skilled Work, Promptness—  
All you can ask.  
A trial will make you our customer. We respectfully ask that trial.  
THE MORNING NEWS  
No. 11 E. Mahoning St.  
DANVILLE, PA.