

Finding Mark Twain by Faith.
One evening a few years ago Brander Matthews and Francis Wilson were dining together at the Players club of New York, when the former made the suggestion that they write a letter to Mark Twain. "But," objected Mr. Wilson, "we don't know where he is," for it was at a time when Mr. Clemens was away traveling somewhere. "Oh," said Professor Matthews, "that does not make any difference. It is sure to find him. I think he is some place in Europe, so we had better put on a five cent stamp." So the two sat down and composed a letter, which they addressed to "Mark Twain, God Knows Where."

Within three weeks they received a reply from Mr. Clemens which said briefly, "He did." The letter had been sent by the New York postoffice to Harper & Bros., thence to Chatto & Windus of London, thence to a bank in Vienna and from the bank to the small town in Austria in which Mark Twain happened to be staying.—Bookman.

Modern Gold Mining.
Up until about 1850 only placer or surface gold was mined—that is, free gold, deposited in the beds of streams, in sands and in the crevices of rocks. Placer mining, mainly in new and remote regions, still furnishes a material though not a large percentage of the world's output. Formerly the alluvial gold was separated from the sands and gravels containing it by washing them in pans, cradles, rockers and sluices. In 1852 the hydraulic method was first employed in California. By this means a "giant" stream of water turned against the side of a mountain washes everything before it. The gold settles to the bottom of the tunnel or sluice through which the gravel, sand and water flow. In 1889 dredges or excavators were first used in Australia. Today steam and electric dredges produce a considerable portion of the world's output.—Byron W. Holt in Everybody's.

Chicago's Fine Bunch of Athletes.
Chicago has perhaps more fast youngsters in athletics than any other city in America. Among the best of them are Perry McGillivray, Illinois Athletic club, who won the Chicago River Marathon recently; one of his close contestants, Michael McDermott of the Central Y. M. C. A.; Gene Schobinger of the Chicago Athletic association, who competed in the Amateur Athletic union all around championships, and Fraser Hale, western interscholastic golf champion, of the Skokie Country club.

A Bird's Barbed Wire Fences.
There may be seen along the roadsides in Central America a brown wren about the size of a canary which builds a nest out of all proportion to its apparent needs. It selects a small tree with horizontal branches growing close together. Across two of the branches it lays sticks fastened together with tough fiber until a platform about six feet long by two feet wide has been constructed. On the end of this platform nearest the tree trunk it then builds a huge, dome shaped nest a foot or so high with thick sides of interwoven thorns. A covered passageway is then made from the rest to the end of the platform in as crooked a manner as possible. Across the outer end as well as at short intervals along the inside of this tunnel are placed cunning little fences of thorns with just space enough for the owners to pass through. On going out this opening is closed by the owner by placing thorns across the gateway, and thus the safety of the eggs or young is assured.—Harper's Weekly.

Going Round the World.
In sailing around the world eastward the days are each a little less than twenty-four hours, according to the speed of the ship, as the sun is met a little earlier every morning. These little differences added together will amount to twenty-four hours. This gives the sailors an extra day—not in imagination, but as an actual fact. They will have done an extra day's work, eaten an extra day's ration of food and imbibed an extra day's allowance of grog.

On the other hand, in sailing westward the sun is overtaken a little each day, and so each day is rather longer than twenty-four hours, and clocks and watches are found to be too fast. This also will amount in sailing around the world to the point of departure to one whole day by which the reckoning has fallen in arrears. The eastern bound ship, then, has gained a day, and the western bound ship has lost one. This strange fact, clearly worked out, leads to the apparent paradox that the first named ship has a gain of two whole days over the latter. If we suppose them to have departed from port and returned together.—Philadelphia Record.

Exchange of Compliments.
Maud—My mamma says she can remember when your mamma kept a grocer's shop.
Marlo—My mamma says she can remember how much your mamma owes her for groceries.

Why Boiled Water Freezes Easily.
Water which is hot of course cannot freeze until it has parted with its heat, but water that has been boiled will, other things being equal, freeze sooner than water which has not been boiled. A slight disturbance of water disposes it to freeze more rapidly, and this is the cause which accelerates the freezing of boiled water. The water that has been boiled has lost the air naturally contained in it, which on exposure to the atmosphere it begins again to attract and absorb. During this process of absorption a motion is necessarily produced among its particles, slight certainly and imperceptible, yet probably sufficient to accelerate its congelation. In unboiled water this disturbance does not exist. Indeed, water when kept perfectly still can be reduced several degrees below the freezing point without its becoming ice.

Gardens in the Ice.
A glacier when it dislodges itself and sails away over the Arctic ocean never travels alone. In the wake of every large one floats a line of smaller companions. The Eskimos call this phenomenon "the duck and ducklings," and any one who has watched the progress of the wild duck followed by her brood will appreciate the aptitude of the name. Strange as it may seem, plants grow and blossom upon these great ice mountains. When a glacier is at rest moss attaches itself to it, protecting the ice beneath. Just as sawdust does. After a time the moss decays and forms a soil, in which the seeds of buttercups and dandelions, brought by the wind, take root and flourish. Those who have traveled much in arctic lands say the poppy does not bloom during the brief northern summer.

A Bismarck Incident.
It used to be the privilege of Austria's representative at any conference of representatives of the German states to smoke, the others refraining. This was supposed to be an acknowledgment of Austria's supremacy. At the first conference that Bismarck attended as Prussia's representative he began to puff smoke across the conference table as soon as the Austrian diplomat lit up. That set everybody present to smoking on equal terms, and Austria's supremacy got a blow.

The Danger.
"It is always dangerous to try to get something for nothing," remarked the wise guy.
"Yes, you might get what you deserve," added the simple mug.—Philadelphia Record.

Yorkshire Men's Fingers.
A Yorkshire man and a Lancashire man were conversing together the other day. The Lancashire man said to the Yorkshire man, "Well, Hill, do you know the best way to find a Yorkshire man's lost fingers?"
"No," says Hill.
"Well, I will tell you what happened at our place the other day. Yorkshire Dan had two of his fingers cut off with a steam saw, and they got lost among the sawdust, and two of my mates were down on their hands and knees looking for them when the foreman came up and asked what they were doing. One of them said:
"We are looking for Dan's fingers."
"Oh, come out of the road," said the foreman. "That's not the way to find a Yorkshire man's fingers," at the same time taking a shilling out of his pocket and throwing it among the sawdust, when the two fingers at once popped up after it.
"There!" said the foreman. "That's the way to find a Yorkshire man's lost fingers!"—Pearson's.

Providing For His Guests.
Two men stopped at the store of a haberdasher who displayed in his showcase a job lot of collars at 5 cents apiece. One of them bought two dozen, in sizes ranging from 15 to 17½. His friend politely controlled his surprise at discovering that the broker wore five cent collars and inquired only about the elastic neck. The purchaser said:
"We live in the suburbs. Friends who visit us and remain overnight unexpectedly want clean collars the next morning. It depletes my own stock too far to keep furnishing these. I can't always supply a comfortable size either. Of course the collars never come back. Since I discovered the scheme of five cent collars I can pick up anybody, take him home with me and inform him that he need not bring any luggage, because one of my wife's benefices includes five cent toothbrushes for the wayfarer."—New York Sun.

Life.
Life is a burden imposed upon you by God. What you make of it, that it will be to you. Take it up bravely, bear it joyfully, lay it down triumphantly.—Gail Hamilton.

The Obliging Proprietor.
"Won't you please give me an order?" pleaded the persistent drummer.
"Certainly," replied the crusty proprietor. "Get out!"—Lippincott's.

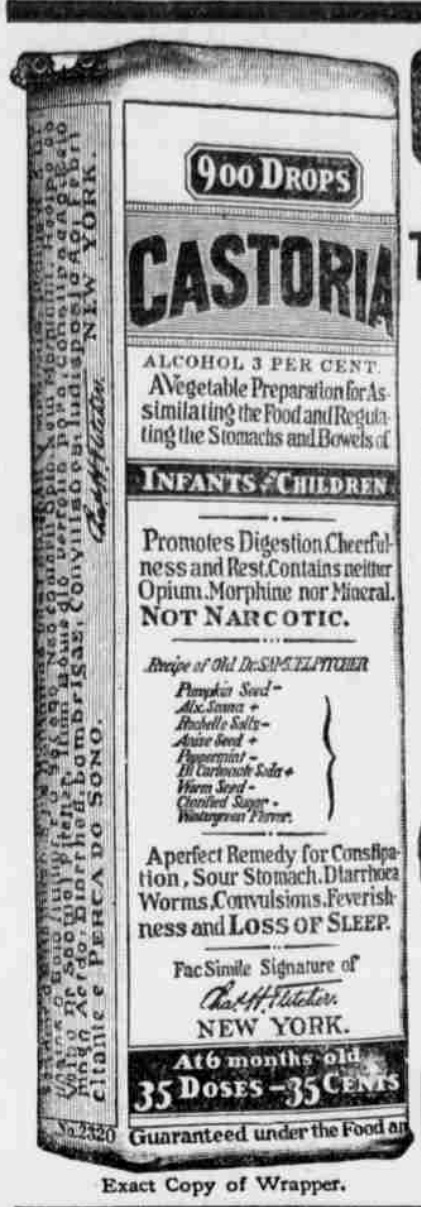
Heaven often smites in mercy, even when the blow is severest.—Baillie.

No Pure Water.
Owing to the extremely solvent powers, pure water is never found in nature, the nearest approach being found in rainwater, which, as it is formed in the upper regions of the atmosphere, is the purest that nature supplies, but in descending it brings with it whatever impurities are floating near the surface, which in the neighborhood of cities are always numerous; hence perfectly pure water is hardly to be found, even the artificially distilled being only approximately so.

Long In Consideration.
The prospect of the Cape Cod Canal now under construction antedates the revolutionary war.

Of No Value.
Cowards do not count in battle; they are there, but not in it.—Euripides.

Chigger Has Multiplied.
Since its introduction from America the chigger has spread far and wide along the west coast of Africa and is now a greatly dreaded pest.



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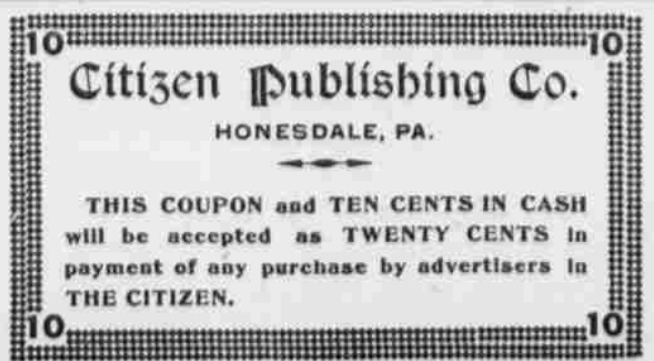
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