The Star.

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A VILLAGER.

There was no lad handsomer than Willie was
The day that he came to father's house.
There was none had an eye as soft blue
As Willie's was when he came to .

To a laboring life though bound thee be,
An I on my father's ground live free,
I'll take thee, I said, for thy manly grace,
Thy gentle voice an thy loving face.

'Tis forty years now since we were wed,
We are ailing an gray needs not to be said,
But Willie's eye is as blue and soft
As the day when he wooed me in father's croft.

Yet changed am I in body an mind,
For Willie to me has ne'er been kind.
Merrily drinking an singing with the men,
He 'nd come home late six nights of the se'en.

An since the children be grown an gone
He 'as shunned the house an left me lone.
An less an less he brings me in
O' the little he now has strength to win.

The roof lets through the wind an the wet,
An master won't mend it with us in 'a debt,
An all looks every day more worn,
An the best of my gowns be shabby an torn.

No wonder if words had a-grown to blows.
That matters not, while nobody knows,
For love him I shall to the end of life,
An be, as I swore, his own true wife.

An when I'm gone he'll turn an see
His folly an wrong an be sorry for me,
An come to me there in the land o' bliss,
To give me the love I looked for in this.

—Robert Bridges.

STREET CAR CABLES.

SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES THEY HAVE TO CONTEND WITH.

How "Kinks" Are Located by the "Splicer"—Horny Handed Sons of Toil Mend Breaks With Neatness and Dispatch—The Big Broadway (New York) Cables.

If one stands astride the narrow slot which is, as it were, an artery through an artery of our great city on Broadway and watches the snaky cable as it glides along, he must pause a moment to consider before he can realize what an enormous amount of power it carries and what experiences it has to go through.

Before we tell the history of the cable let us see of what it is composed. A strong hempen strand five-eighths of an inch in diameter forms the inner core. Around this are wrapped six steel cables, which are in turn composed of seven strands wrapped around with other strands of steel wire, the whole making a total diameter of 1¼ inches.

A steel rod three-eighths of an inch in diameter and a foot in length weighs approximately one pound. The difference in weight between this cable and a steel rod of the same size may be realized when it is known that this cable weighs but three pounds to the running foot. The use of the central hemp rope is for the purpose of giving a certain pliability.

In order that rust and decay should be avoided, the rope is kept smeared with tar and oil. This is what causes the black shiny appearance. As one of the cables which obtains its power from the Broadway cable house is 20,000 feet in length, it is not difficult to determine the entire weight, which in this case would be 60,000 pounds. The market price of cables being about 40 cents per foot, the cost of this would be in the neighborhood of $8,000 for one coil of wire. The Broadway company maintains six cables, and as the approximate life of a cable in our busy thoroughfare is little more than eight months it would appear that the expense caused by the renewal of cables is not a small item. In Denver longer cables than these exist, the one on the main street being 36,000 feet in length, having a diameter of but 1¼ inches. Owing to the fact that there is less traffic in the latter city, the work required from the cable is not so great. Its life is slightly lengthened, and 10 months may be put to its credit.

It is quite interesting to watch the peculiarities of the cable, and when we stop a moment to think how the gripmen, when they reach the termini of a line, have the destruction of $8,000 worth of property in their power we can see that some means is yet to be devised which will perform automatically the action of throwing off the grip, for, unless the grip is loosened as the car approaches the power house, when it reaches the place where the cable descends to the driving wheels something must give way, and while the cable generally has the best of the encounter very often a couple of strands are ripped, which entails considerable work upon the repairers.

At the Broadway power house Mr. M. Moore is the person who is technically known as the "splicer." He was brought from Denver, where he had been in charge of the cable in that city. He has about eight or ten men under him, who, with dexterity, make necessary repairs.

Cables are in a measure human. They have their diseases, and they need their doctors. Mr. Moore is the medical examiner, and from him we received several points concerning the troubles to which the cable is subjected.

In case a cable has become bent in any way, it is difficult, in fact almost impossible, to straighten it absolutely. The bend remains, and if we stoop down to watch its onward approach it looks like a huge sea serpent wriggling toward us, performing wonderful gyrations as it approaches. Several of these "kinks," as they are termed, have been made in the up town cable, which travels at the rate of 810 feet per minute. As the rate of the cable is invariable, by simply looking at the clock the man, whose sole duty it is to watch the cable, can tell at exactly what place the "kink" is situated. As a matter of curiosity we inquired of the watcher at the Fiftieth street power house when the next "kink" would arrive. Looking at his watch and hastily making a mental calculation, he answered, "Between 4:11 and 4:12." In fact the "kink" came in sight immediately as the hands of the watch pointed to 11 minutes after 4.

While it is easy to localize accidents, it is difficult to assign causes. However, recently, for some reason or other, the Bowling Green cable had about 1,000 feet of strands ripped off, and the writhing, curling mass of wire, as it lay upon the floor of the power house, presented a most confused appearance, and one would be led to wonder how puny man could have the power to cope with such an apparently unwieldy mass. With huge shears, however, those pieces of metal are snipped off, and a new cable must be put in place of the damaged portion.

The splicing is an interesting operation. Unlike rope, the strands are extremely difficult to manipulate. Yet, with skill acquired from the continual work, each strand is woven into place among other strands, heavy pliers and marline spikes being used to separate the layers. When all is done, about four inches of the ends of each strand are left outside the cable, and by continued wear they finally break off, and the splice becomes practically as a virgin cable. Even the trained eye of Mr. Moore is unable to detect the splice after the wires have been thoroughly covered with tar. The joint is as firm and as strong as the original cable.

Delicate hands are out of place in this work, and cable splicers are veritably "horny handed sons of toil." Their work is done mainly in the wee hours of the night, when traffic is at its minimum. Mr. Moore assures me that with his eight or ten helpers he can splice in a thousand feet of cable in 1½ hours.—Electrical Review.

Early Ideas About Hair.

All the ancient philosophers held curious ideas respecting the growth, functions, structure, etc., of the hair and had many superstitions founded on these old opinions. The early writers on the makeup of the human body almost invariably refer to the hair as being an excrement fed on substances similar to itself. They supposed that it generated in the fuliginous parts of the blood; was exhaled by the heat of the body, becoming firm and fibrous upon being exposed to the air, just as the fluid of the spider web does. In these days every idea respecting the growth and character of hair is changed. It is now agreed that every hair properly and truly lives and receives its nutriment from the body. True, they take upon themselves the nature of parasitic plants; they grow as vegetation does, yet each has, as it were, a distinct life and economy. That they derive their existence from the juices of the body there is no doubt, but that food is not taken from the nutritious juices, for we know that hair will thrive even though the body starve or be wasted by disease, or even after the animal life has ceased to exist in the flesh or skin to which they are attached.—Chicago Tribune.

Insoluble Azo Colors.

The use of the insoluble azo colors, which are produced when an amine is diazotized and combined with naphthol, is said to have been patented in France for producing designs on textile fibers by printing, the method adopted being the same as is now used in printing with the mineral colors. As an example the production of a red is instanced, this being obtained by printing on a color made with 400 grams water, 100 grams of the color lake made from para-nitraniline and betanaphthol, 80 grams gum water, 140 grams albumen liquor, one in one, and 70 grams neutral chromate of soda. On the printing process being accomplished the goods are dried and steamed and then passed into a bath containing 50 grams oxalic acid and 50 grams sulphuric acid in each liter, the tissues being afterward well washed in water.—New York Sun.

Bastanasi's Capture.

The notorious Corsican bandit, Bastanasi, was a man of considerable erudition, had been educated at Pisa, knew Latin and had belonged to the medical profession. On one occasion he was going to Sartene on a vessel which stopped at Ajaccio. Knowing that the gendarmes were after him, he did not attempt to land, but as he had a fine voice and could also play the guitar to beguile the time of waiting he got out his instrument and began to sing and play. A fisherman in the port recognized the voice and likewise remembered the song. He went and informed the authorities, and it was thus through his love of music that Bastanasi was arrested. "I saw him land," says M. Levis. "The handcuffs were on his wrists, and the guitar was slung round his neck."—Contemporary Review.

Snail Eating Sheep.

The excellent quality of the Southdown mutton is said to be due to the fact that the sheep eagerly devour the snails which abound on the pastures in the early morning. These snails are the cause of the rich succulence characteristic of the mutton raised in the south of England.

Siam's Princely Author.

The crown prince of Siam is among the boy authors of the world. He has written several stories for the English children's magazines and can write fluently in three European languages.

THE TEMPERAMENTS

The Fourfold Classification That Was Made Two Thousand Years Ago.

It is interesting to find that so thoroughly scientific a man as Professor William Preyer has adopted the fourfold classification of temperaments made nearly 2,000 years ago—namely, the choleric, sanguine, melancholy and lymphatic. The existence of one or the other of these temperaments may be discerned, he says in his work on "The Infant Mind," very early in the great majority of children—in the second quarter of the first year, beyond a doubt. Nearly every one who has written about temperaments has got up a classification of his own. Galen had nine, Haycock gave six, Graham Brown seven, and others have got down as low as two. Modern writers use the word nervous for choleric, and bilious for melancholic temperament. With these verbal modifications, the old classification seems to answer all practical purposes, and individuals can build up combinations as needed.

Hutchinson defines temperament as the sum of the physical peculiarities of a man exclusive of his tendency to disease. This is not very satisfactory, though perhaps temperament is a thing a little too vague to be satisfactorily defined. In modern terms it may be said to be the peculiar way in which the individual reacts to the stimuli of his environment. There is no doubt that one class of persons reacts quickly and easily, expending energy profusely and often needlessly in their life work; others react hopefully and work buoyantly, yet with less waste. We can thus distinguish the nervous, the sanguine, the melancholic, etc. A capacity to recognize and appreciate the importance of temperament used to be considered part of a sound medical training. It has been too much neglected in our pursuit of minutiæ with microscopes and test tubes. Our teachers of practical medicine might well revive its study.—Medical Record.

Table Manners In Argentina.

"We encamped near a swamp," says a gentleman, describing a meal he had with some cart drivers in South America, "and supped on sliced pumpkins boiled with bits of meat and seasoned with salt. The meal was served in genuine pampa fashion. One iron spoon and two cow's horns split in halves were passed around the group, the members of which squatted upon their haunches and freely helped themselves from the kettle. Even in this most uncivilized form of satisfying hunger there is a peculiar etiquette which the most lowly person invariably observes. Each member of the company in turn dips his spoon, or horn, into the center of the stew and draws it in a direct line toward him, never allowing it to deviate to the right or left. By observing this rule each person eats without interfering with his neighbor. Being ignorant of this custom, I dipped my horn into the mess at random and fished about for some of the nice bits. My companions regarded this horrid breach of politeness with scowls of impatience. They declared with some warmth to the cook the foreigners did not know how to eat. I apologized as well as I could and endeavored thereafter to eat according to gaucho etiquette."—New York World.

Curios About Respiration.

In each respiration an adult of the human species inhales one pint of air. A healthy man will respire 16 to 20 times per minute, or, say, 20,000 times a day; a child, 25 to 35 times per minute. While standing, the adult average respiration is 22 times per minute; lying down, 13 times. The superficial area of the lungs—that is, of their alveolar pace—averages 200 square yards. The amount of air respired each day is about 10,000 quarts.

The amount of oxygen absorbed in the same length of time is 500 liters, or about 744 grams. The amount of carbonic acid expired in 24 hours is estimated at 511.5 grams. Two-thirds of the oxygen absorbed in 24 hours is taken in during the 12 hours from 6 p. m. to 6 a. m. three-fifths of the total being thrown off during the day. While this is going on the pulmonary surface is throwing off 150 grams of water in the shape of vapor. The heart sends 800 quarts of blood through the lungs every hour, or about 5,000 quarts daily.

The duration of inspiration is five-twelfths, of expiration seven-twelfths, of the whole respiratory act.—St. Louis Republic.

Flower a Big Eater.

Roswell P. Flower is a funny fellow when he eats. He has always been used to good things, and he knows them now when he sees them. He is a big eater and a fair drinker. But his peculiarity is that he always wants a whole canvas-back duck to himself. If there are 20 at dinner or only 2, a duck is placed before the governor, with a big carving knife, and he helps himself to the slices as he wants them. He does not want his duck carved for him, nor does he want to share it. But he will pay the bill for as many ducks as may be necessary to supply the whole party, even if all want separate ducks. All the hotels know his peculiarity and look out for him.—New York Herald.

To clean bronzes, immerse in boiling water. Clean with flannel dipped in soapsuds and rub dry with chamois. An urn should be filled with boiling water before the exterior is cleaned.

GOOD INDIAN CROW DOG.

His Escape and Return After He Had Been Sentenced to Death.

Judge A. J. Plowman of Deadwood, S. D., attained national renown in 1883 when he defended Crow Dog for the murder of Spotted Tail. The memory of Mr. Plowman's plucky legal fight, in which he carried that celebrated case to the United States supreme court and secured the acquittal of his red skinned client when the hangman's noose was about to tighten around the neck of the condemned prisoner, still lives in the minds of the legal fraternity throughout the west.

In speaking of the matter Judge Plowman related an incident of the trial which has never before appeared in public print.

"After Crow Dog had been sentenced to be hanged," said the eminent jurist, "I went to Washington to lay the case before the supreme court of the United States. I instituted habeas corpus proceedings to secure his release on the question of jurisdiction. While in the nation's capital I was surprised to receive a telegram announcing that Crow Dog had escaped from prison. I returned to the reservation after I had completed my business at Washington, and then I learned for the first time the cause which prompted the famous Indian to escape. It seems that he was walking in the corridor of the jail one day when a half breed told him that he would surely pay the penalty of his crime and that the supreme court would not interfere. This caused Crow Dog some uneasiness. He was quick to act. He watched his opportunity to escape and did so. That stoical Sioux, who had the reputation of being a man with a heart of marble, deliberately struck out on foot over 200 miles of country to the reservation. Subsequently he voluntarily returned and gave himself up, with the expectation of going on the scaffold. In response to the question why he made the trip and returned so soon, he replied that he did not want to die without seeing his squaw and papoose once more.

"Events proved that he spent one day at his tepee bidding his family what he regarded as a last farewell, and then, with a wave of his dusky hand, he mounted a pony on his return trip to the jail from which he escaped. Crow Dog is now on the reservation, hale and hearty. He is hitting the pipe of peace and has no desire to wage warfare on the government. He is a good Indian."—Omaha Bee.

Battles of the Future.

Writers on military science unite in claiming that future battles will begin with a series of hot skirmishes along the front. These skirmishes will gradually increase in heat and the number of combatants, re-enforcements being sent according to circumstances, until the entire front is involved. Artillery will be used as far as possible, but after the battle is fully under way little use can be made of cavalry save in outflanking. The day of charges in wars is over, on acount of the increase of range and effect in cannon and rifles. Little can be predicted of future battles beyond opening, inasmuch as the rest must now be learned by experiment.—New York Ledger.

The Worship of Images.

"Go," said the emperor to his courier, "and direct that all those who hold beliefs at variance with the state be thrown into prison. And, by the way, stop at the treasury department on your way out and instruct my chancellor of the exchequer that the new issue of coins be stamped with the image of Liberty, that thus we may please the populace."—Kate Field's Washington.

John Drew on Acting.

The actor, unless he be in nature perverted, must exhibit in his life the effect of his calling, a calling desirous of the same results as other arts—the advancement of the human mind through the ministration of beauty and truth—an advancement out of which necessarily flow increased civilization and augmented happiness for the human race.—Scribner's Magazine.

A Great Poser.

Spencer—I don't see how Columbus ever found time to discover America.

Ferguson—Why not?

Spencer—As far as I can gather, he appears to have spent most of his time having his picture taken.—Brooklyn Life.

The register of a country hotel in Maine one day recently contained names of Mongolians, Russians, Prussians, Italians, Turks, Greeks, Canadian French and Germans, each written in the owner's language.

A powder made from a fossil shell known as "the devil's thumb" is regarded both as a cure and a preventive of whooping cough in many parts of England and Ireland.

The man who walks through life on a carpet of velvet and has a nice time of it is the one who thinks twice before he speaks once, and then doesn't say much.

Accordions were invented in 1829 by Mr. Damian of Vienna, and a single German firm now manufactures over 17,000 a year.

In 1364 the Royal library of France contained 20 volumes and was the largest possessed by any king in Europe.