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### WE ARE GREAT LITIGANTS.

#### More Civil Lawsuits Here Than In Any Other Country In the World.

A man of ingenious mind and apparently ample leisure has gone to the trouble of figuring out the number of lawsuits brought in each country in a year, and he has reached the conclusion that the United States is a better country for attorneys and counselors than any other civilized land under the sun. He figures as lawsuits civil actions only, taking into no account proceedings of a criminal character brought by the public authorities against individuals. He has ascertained that, taking the figures for the last ten years as a fair average, there are 1,250,000 lawsuits brought in England every year, 750,000 in France, 1,400,000 in Italy, 3,300,000 in Germany and 5,500,000 in the United States.

It is not to be inferred from this that the people of one country are much more prone to litigation than are the people of another, but the explanation is to be found in the fact that the conditions of litigation vary exceedingly. Going to law in England is very expensive business, for it entails outlays in the form of costs and expenses so large that many of the courts are practically closed to persons of modest means, and a long litigation unsuccessfully pursued ends often in bankruptcy. In France the number of lawsuits is kept down through the general practice of "arbitration," as many as 100,000 cases in a year, especially those arising from disputes over wages, being settled by this agency without recourse to either party. In Germany a great majority of cases are petty ones, involving a small amount of money and due, many of them, to customs or usages which are not sufficiently defined to be, in all cases, similarly understood by both parties to an agreement. This is especially the case in the farming districts of Germany, and there are many legal disputes in the manufacturing districts too.

The number of cases credited to the United States seems enormous, but it is probably accurate. There are, for example, 11 district courts for the disposal of civil cases in New York city. In one of these courts, by recent report, the number of actions brought in a year was shown to be 9,100. These courts have before them each year, on the average, 75,000 cases. The cases brought in the state courts of New York amount in a year to about 150,000, and of those brought in the federal courts New York furnishes a very large number. Taking the whole country through, it is seen that the average number of cases per thousand of population is in the neighborhood of 75 to 85. The number of lawyers in the United States is materially larger than in any other country in the world, and the amounts in dispute here are much greater than elsewhere. —New York Sun.

### BUENOS AYRES.

#### Argentina's Capital Is the Queen of the Southern Hemisphere.

The omniscient Whitaker, under the heading "British Possessions in Australasia," states that Melbourne, with its suburbs, contained on Dec. 31, 1894, an estimated population of 444,832 inhabitants, "being the most populous city in the southern hemisphere." We have always understood Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Ayres to be also in the southern hemisphere, and, oddly enough, Whitaker himself gives larger figures for both of these cities than for Melbourne. The remark is probably one that has been at some time true and has been carried on from year to year.

In any case, the results of the census establish incontestably the claim of Buenos Ayres to be the greatest city of South America and of the southern hemisphere. With allowance for imperfections in the execution of the census, inseparable from the way in which it was carried out, the figure 655,688 may be taken as practically correct, and no other city in this half of the world can lay claim to possessing within 100,000 of this number of inhabitants.

The population of Buenos Ayres is thus larger than that of any city of the United Kingdom, except London and Glasgow. It is considerably larger than that of Liverpool or Birmingham, and it is only about 50,000 less than the combined populations of Manchester and Salford. Of the great cities of Europe only Paris, Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburg, Constantinople and Moscow surpass Buenos Ayres, and in North America only New York, Brooklyn, Chicago and Philadelphia. Our city is the second city of the Latin world, surpassing Madrid, Naples and Rome in Europe and Rio Janeiro, Santiago, Lima and Mexico in the new world. The rate of growth is no less remarkable than the actual size, for in the last eight years Buenos Ayres has increased about 50 per cent. —Buenos Ayres Review.

### New York's River Tunnel.

There is a big hole under North river. Some day it will be a tunnel connecting this city and Hoboken. No work has been done for four years, but the owners of the hole are now trying to raise money in London to complete their tunnel before a bridge can be built over North river. Only 1,230 feet remain to connect the two holes bored from either shore, each of which is now full of water. This water has simply soaked through since work was abandoned on the death of the principal backer. So far \$3,000,000 has been poured into the hole, and only \$500,000 will be required to complete it. —New York Letter.

### A MAN OF RESOURCES.

#### This Dentist Was Willing to Accommodate His Patron.

The dentist didn't want to talk shop, he said, but he thought the story worth telling, so he told it. "Not long ago," he said, "a western railroad president came to New York, and one evening was invited to dine with some of his friends here. The dinner was a particularly jolly affair, and when the western man reached his hotel he was in a merry mood. It was his custom to place his set of false teeth under the pillow every night just before going to bed, and he was certain he had done so on this particular evening. Nevertheless in the morning he was unable to find them. Searching high and low in the room was of no avail, and finally he came to me for a new set.

"How long will it take you to make them?" he asked. I told him four or five days. "Can't listen to anything like that," he replied. "I'll give you triple money to make them in 24 hours." You see people from Chicago think that money laughs at everything, even time.

"All my arguing with the old fellow did no good, so I set to work on his teeth. In the meantime, however, I told my assistant to hasten around to the old man's hotel and make a scientific search of his room. The westerner insisted that he had drunk no more wine than usual at the dinner, but I was satisfied that he was deceiving himself. I had not been long at the preliminary measurements when my assistant called me out and handed me the teeth. He had found them in the pillowcase, where the owner had put them instead of under the pillow.

### THE BARBER'S REVENGE.

#### A Tale of a Talkative Tomorral Artist and His Gruff Customer.

As he threw himself back into the embrace of the cushioned chair of a Union square barber shop he scowled fiercely at the barber and buried his face in the newspaper. But the barber didn't mind the ugly opening. He leaned over, garrote the tomorral patient with a towel and painted his face with lather. When he had flipped a razor once or twice along the strop he began mildly:

"Nice day, sir."

"Oh, is it?" answered the other.

The barber looked startled, but he tried again.

"Paper says we're going to have nice weather now."

"Thanks," was the answer, "I know how to read myself."

At this rebuff the barber kept silence. But he shaved against the grain, tweaked the other's nose and daubed soap into the corner of his mouth. The gruff man swore softly, the barber smiled, and as a final act of violence grabbed the other by the top of the scalp and twisted his head until the cervical vertebrae creaked again.

"Say," cried the gruff man, "my head ain't no roulette wheel."

But still the barber shaved on in silence. He shaved and shaved, scraping the skin so close that it showed ragged under the blade. Then, leaning over, he grabbed a handful of raw and tender skin and rolled it between his fingers until the other groaned aloud. As the tear drops stole down the scarified face the barber administered the final taunt:

### Water Wheels.

The point is made by a writer in one of the mechanical journals that the greatest obstacle now encountered in the successful operation of water wheels is, from an economical aspect, the too often entire absence of engineering skill in utilizing the power, and that many a water power would develop greater efficiency were it properly controlled and had the turbine been selected because of its adaptability to the conditions and been properly set. On their introduction, he remarks, turbines were used singly, but now they are used either singly or in sets of two or three or more, as expedient, and in batteries of sets; by the use, too, of iron or steel penstocks and feed pipes the expense of installing has been largely reduced and far greater economy in the use of water secured; the growing demand for large units of power has also been satisfied, so that whereas a few years back a 500 horsepower turbine was almost unheard of, turbines of 5,000 horsepower are now employed.

### Sea Water Is a Tonic.

When a bather at Atlantic City accidentally swallowed a big gulp of sea water and then rushed off to get a drink of whisky to wash the taste out of his mouth, a successful medical practitioner, who had witnessed the performance, said: "That man is either a greenhorn or a fool. Otherwise he would have taken merely a sip of lemonade and allowed the sea water to do its work.

"As a matter of fact, one of the most beneficial features of a sea bath is the salt inadvertently swallowed by bathers. It is a wonderful tonic for the liver, stomach and kidneys. In many cases it will cure biliousness where all drug preparations have failed. It is peculiarly effective in ordinary cases of indigestion, disordered stomach and insomnia and has been known to produce excellent results in many cases of dyspepsia. Sea water is full of tonic and sedative properties. It won't hurt anybody. Two or three big swallows of it would be a positive benefit to nine bathers out of ten. It isn't palatable or tempting, but neither is quinine nor calomel.

"You never see an old sailor who is bilious, dyspeptic or a victim of insomnia, and why? For the reason that an ocean of good medicine spreads all about his ship, and he does himself copiously with it whenever his physical mechanism becomes the least bit deranged." —Philadelphia Times.

### What's In a Word?

If any of our readers, in looking over articles on electric railways in the German language, should come across the word *straassenbahnwagenuntergestelle*, they need not be alarmed or discouraged nor be afraid to use it in good society. Instead of getting at the subject directly, as is done in English, this single word relates quite a little story—a sort of riddle of which you are expected to guess the answer. The story is briefly as follows: In about the middle of the word we find that the object referred to has some connection with a car, and, returning to the beginning, it appears that this car is intended to run on rails (as cars usually do, by the way); that these rails are in the streets of a city, and that the car is supported on some structure. Near the end it is explained that this supporting structure is below, and not above, the car, and, finally, it is added that it refers to the apparatus in general and not to any one form in particular. With the aid of this description it will not be difficult to guess correctly that the German writer would have said *trucks* instead had he been privileged to use the English language. It seems to us that this verbal machine is somewhat overcompounded. —Electrical World.

### Calling Servants With a Pole.

A quaint practice exists at the bishop of London's palace at Fulham, and this consists in what appears to be a time honored custom of waking up the episcopal domestics by means of a long pole. At Fulham the palace lodge keeper has a regular morning duty to perform in arousing certain of the servants at successive hours, beginning at about half past 5. The pole he uses is not employed, however, like the old church "rousing staves," which came in handy in churches in the case of inattentive or dozing members of the congregation to bring them to a proper sense of their position. The venerable man is provided with a slender rod some 15 feet in length, and with this he raps on the antique casements of the servants' bedrooms in the quadrangle within the massive wooden gates of the large western archway, and he continues his attention until the sleeper gives a more or less grateful answer. —Montreal Star.

### When She Hides the Key.

It is a singular instance of the simplicity of the average mind to watch the entire good faith in which the country housekeeper, when she takes her walks abroad and locks up her house, hides the key for its discovery by any other member of the family. As a matter of course, she tucks it away under the door mat. It never seems to enter her dear, unworried head that every other woman in the place does precisely the same thing, and perhaps every other woman in every other suburban town. She never seems to think that that is one place that any student of her human nature who had burglars' intentions would seek entrance to the house by simply lifting the door mat. He would be sure to find the key ready for him there. —Philadelphia Press.

### The Cost of the Atlantic Cable.

Running an Atlantic cable seems to be an expensive business. From an article on the Commercial Cable company's station at Hazel Hill, N.S., in The Windsor Magazine we learn that the cables average \$1,250 per mile, and the expenses of executive management amount to about \$50,000 per annum. Repairing expeditions are ruinous; \$175,000 was sunk in one expedition that failed. The repairing ship costs \$300,000, and often absorbs \$2,500 per mile to maintain her ready for sea at a moment's notice. The landing rights in France cost this company \$40,000 and three months' tedious negotiations. The company got similar facilities in England for \$5 and a polite letter to the board of trade.

### The Pearl River, Mississippi.

The Pearl river, Mississippi, was called by the Indians the Tallahatchie, "the river of pearls."

Uruguay was named from the river which flows through it.

### Those Awful Telegrams.

"What is it, Mamie?"

"It's a boy, mumm, with a telegraph."

"A telegraph? Oh, ask him if James is killed!"

"He says he doesn't know, mumm."

"Ask him what he does know about it."

"He says all he knows about it is that it marked 'collect,' and he wants his money."

"Oh, dear! Oh, dear! What shall I do? Here, Mamie, here's the purse. Pay him. Pay him whatever he asks. Oh, my poor James! I just know something would happen to him before he went away this morning! Will they bring him home in an ambulance, Mamie?"

"I s'pose so, mumm. Maybe you'd better read the telegraph."

"I can't! I can't! Oh, it screws me right for not kissing him three times when he left. And we've been married such a short time too!"

"Why don't you open the telegraph, mumm?"

"Well, I suppose I must; but, oh, I can't tell you how I dread it!"

Reads telegram:

Will bring friend home to dinner. JAMES.

"The heartless beast!" —New York Journal.

### A Liberal Education.

The late Professor Huxley held this opinion as to what constitutes a liberal education:

The man has a liberal education who has been so trained in youth that his body is the ready servant of his will and does with ease and pleasure all the work that, as a mechanism, it is capable of; whose intellect is a clear, cold logical engine, with all its parts of equal strength and in smooth working order, ready, like the steam engine, to be turned to any kind of work and spin the gossamers as well as forge the anchors of the mind; whose mind is stored with a knowledge of the great and fundamental truths of nature and of the laws of her operations; one who, so stunted as he is, is full of life and fire, but whose passions are trained to come to halt by a vigorous will, the servant of a tender conscience; who has learned to love all beauty, whether of nature or of art, to hate all villainy and to respect others as himself. Such a one, and no other, has had a liberal education.

### Opium Eating in the Orient.

Opium eating, according to the Maharaja Bahadur of Darbhanga, is largely practiced in Rajputana on festive occasions as a token of welcome to guests and friends. When two enemies wish to end a long standing feud, they generally go through the following ceremony. They each drink a small quantity of the preparation of opium called "amul-pani" from the hands of the other, and this is regarded as making the ties of friendship inviolable. In certain localities opium is consumed at funerals, marriages, betrothals and other ceremonies. Among the Kathis of Kathiwar it would be considered an offense if the guest refused to take opium on occasions like these. In the Punjab a large proportion of the adult male population take opium in small doses as a stimulant without much or any apparent harm. It is looked upon as a digestive and a very beneficial tonic for a man who has reached middle age. —London News.

### Unequal Distribution.

"I've been reading a strange story in the paper," said Miss Serleef to her friend, Mrs. Snags.

"What is it?"

"It's about a man who came home after an absence of 12 years and found his wife married to another."

"What's strange about that? I've heard of such things."

"Both men claim the woman."

"Well?"

"Well, I think that is very unfair. Some women wait year after year for a husband who never comes, and others have two men claiming her at one time. I think matters are arranged very unequally in this world."

And Miss Serleef sat down and wrung her hands. —Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.

### Afghan Ways.

The Afghans have a noble maxim, worthy of any stoic: "If thou hast, eat; if thou hast not, die." Unfortunately they do not live up to that, and in practice it becomes: "If thou hast, eat; if thou hast not, take." The ideal of a man is to live on his neighbors. The Afghans of the Khaiber pass lived for centuries upon the plunder of caravans till the British government enlisted these hereditary robbers as regular gendarmes and compromised for their right of plunder by a regular annuity. When a child is born, his mother bores a hole through the mud wall of the hut and makes it pass through, saying, "Ghai zal" (Be a good robber, my child). —Selected Essays of James Darmesteter.

### Calm and the Storm.

"Mrs. Dasher is a very quiet dresser, isn't she?"

"Mercy, no. She storms at her maid until she can be heard away in the top flat." —Chicago Inter Ocean.

Ambition is so powerful a passion in the human breast that however high we reach we are never satisfied. —Machiavelli.

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