

BRITISH ELOQUENCE.

A Capital Specimen of the Speeches Made in Local Elections.

The following manifesto, copied verbatim from the original poster, is a capital specimen of election eloquence as applied to parochial contests: "Fellow workmen, gentlemen and ladies, I honorably put myself forward under your very kind notice for a seat on the Swancombe parish council. Let me tell you as a man that I was the first to give cheap meat on Galley Hill and Swancombe and all round. I never did and never will hurt a workingman. When times is good, I want to get paid for my very superior food that I always supply, and when times is hard then you can take it at any price you like to feed your wives and children and your families from George Church, 'The Peoples only Butcher' in this parish. I shall work hand in hand with the Rev. George Hale to bury the dead at the lowest price and put the poor body deep in mother earth, where they ought to be, and I promise that I shall sell my meat at the same price. I shall also help Mr. Dunbar (for he is an old Toff) to reduce the salaries of clergymen, as it do cost too much for prayers, and we can go up to glory at a loss price. I also promise to do more than the last council, for they done nothing, and as Mickey Finn is not standing, but sitting down low, we can do good business and have no Domybrook fair at our meetings—in fact, gentlemen and ladies, I shall do every mortal thing for the good of your body, and the parson will take care of your departed souls. I shall reduce the rates and get rent for the workingmen cheaper. I shall light up your roads so that you can see them upon a dark moonlight night. The last word I say unto you is, do your duty to yourselves and never mind about me, but put me on the council for your own sake and the interest of the men who get bread by the sweat of their brow."—Household Words.

HYPNOTIZED THE BEARS.

A Story Which Newsome Believes Because Anderson Is Cross Eyed.

J. E. Newsome is a Port Arthur Canadian and Alex Anderson comes from Pearl River. An Englishman named Atwell wanted to get a bear, and Anderson tried to gratify his desire. Newsome told Forest and Stream about it. Atwell was the kind of man who would like to kill a bear in a trap, so Anderson took two bear traps and a lot of bait up a gully near Outmet, looking for a sign. The Englishman went looking for bears and left Anderson to set the traps.

All of a sudden a big she bear appeared before Anderson at the foot of a tree between a couple of whose roots one trap was to have been set. Not having any gun, Anderson, so Newsome says, determined that hypnotic force had to be used, and that suddenly, Anderson looked the bear in the eyes, and the bear paused; then Anderson made three passes with his hands. The bear leaned its head forward and its eyes bulged out. Having satisfied himself that the bear was properly influenced, Anderson yelled for Atwell, but Atwell was a good way off, and before he could arrive the she bear's 2-year-old and yearling cub came out of the tree at the same time. A yearling cub alone would be a pretty bad fighter at close quarters, especially with a hypnotized mother bear near by liable to come to at any moment, but a 2-year-old cub and a yearling both at once made a mighty serious matter.

But Anderson was fully equal to the emergency. He managed to look at the bears' four eyes at once and soon had them subjugated. Newsome says that he would not have believed Anderson's tale only Anderson is now cross eyed, which he wasn't before, owing to his looking both bears in the eyes at once.

Bismarck's Fatal Pipe.

Prince Bismarck is a great pipe collector, and the gem of his collection has a curious history. Many years ago, as Bismarck was strolling in the suburbs of Friederichshagen with his two hounds, he was accosted by a Bohemian peddler and asked to buy a plain moerschbaum pipe of the type that Bismarck most affected. At first Bismarck declined, but the peddler claimed for the pipe a power of forecast and told him he would serve three emperors as minister, and that three important changes in his life would be foretold by accidents befalling the pipe.

Laughing, Bismarck bought the pipe. He has since served three emperors. Two days before the historic moment when he was refused an audience the stem of his pipe separated and went to pieces. Later he chipped a piece from the side of the bowl, and within a month he was practically dismissed by the present emperor. The third sign has yet to come.—Berlin Correspondent.

Dentists' Forceps.

There are about 200 different styles of forceps made for dentists' use, varying in the sizes and forms of the beaks and in the shapes of the handles. A dozen pairs of forceps would probably fill all the requirements of a single dentist, but another dentist, though he might use on the same tooth forceps with the same size and style of beaks, might prefer a pair with a different grip to the handles, and forceps are made not only to suit every need in practice, but every personal requirement of the practitioner.—New York Sun.

Systems of Law in Germany.

No fewer than five systems of law are in use in Germany. In moving from one place to another tourists are often greatly puzzled when they find that an act perfectly allowable in one state is a crime in another. A still greater confusion often results when the right of property is considered.

The Period.

"Why do you call her a girl of the period?"
"Well, she comes right to the point for one thing."—Detroit Tribune.

London Fog Precautions.

It has been computed that a fog costs the metropolis from £50,000 to £100,000 a day. A large portion of this is borne by the railroad companies. As soon as the fog descends the plate layers, without waiting orders, leave their work and undertake the duties of fog signalmen. For this they receive an extra shilling a day. This appears a small item, yet a single fog has been known to cost over £50 for extra wages to plate layers at Clapham Junction alone.

Each fog signal man is supplied with a lantern, flags and a supply of detonators. By means of these he conveys to the engine drivers the signals which they cannot distinguish through the mist. "Caution" is given by a single detonator, "danger" by two detonators placed upon the rails at a distance of ten yards apart. Detonators are small tin boxes two inches in diameter, each containing three percussion caps and a small quantity of gunpowder. At the base of each are two strips of lead for fastening it to the rail. They are made with great care, chiefly in Birmingham and London, and it is rarely that one fails to explode. The wholesale price of detonators is 1 penny each, and the average annual consumption of each big railway company is about 150,000, costing £625.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Queer Customs a Century Ago.

I thought that I knew most of the manners and customs of the eighteenth century, but I find two or three with which I was unacquainted, so that very likely there are a great many more still undiscovered.

In the year 1792, for instance, visiting was managed by sending round an empty chair attended by footmen—that is to say, the chairmen carried the chair and behind it walked two footmen, who carried the cards and with grave faces asked at each door whether Lady A. was at home. She never was at home.

Again—but only if one was a very great lady—it was common to invite one's friends to a rout, and when the street was blocked with the coaches and the rooms with the company assembled the hostess would call her own coach and go off to somebody else's rout.

Also, for another pretty trait, there were ladies, but not great ladies, who gave frequent card parties and found their hospitality profitable on account of the "card money." At that time every player was supposed to slip something under a candlestick. When the company departed, the servants collected the money for themselves.

In the case of this prudent housewife she lifted the candlesticks herself and kept the coin.—London Queen.

A Kavass.

A kavass is a native servant appointed by the sultan to the various embassies and legations. They are paid and clothed by their employers and are answerable to the sultan for the safety of those on whom they attend. In old days if any accident happened to a member of a legation or embassy, the wretched kavass, whether in fault or not, forfeited his life. Those who have read "Paul Patoff" will remember the terror of the kavass on Alexander Patoff's mysterious disappearance from St. Sophia. There are six kavasses at the British embassy. Their dress uniform is dark blue cloth thickly braided in black, with a broad gold belt and gold straps over the shoulder. They all carry a sword and have a revolver in a gold pouch slung from the waist belt. The dress uniform is a fine shade of crimson, also thickly braided and only worn on state occasions when in attendance on the ambassador.—Longman's Magazine.

Pebblelike Beans.

A curious case of "mimicry" has been noticed on the coast near Manila, in the Philippine islands. The seeds of a bean fall among quartz pebbles, and so closely resemble them in shape, size, color, luster, hardness and stratification as to be distinguishable from them only by a very close examination. The beans range from a third of an inch to an inch in size, and vary greatly in shape also, some resembling well rounded beach pebbles and others mimic pebbles that have been broken across. The color varies from dark to light drab, some with a greenish tinge, while others resemble pebbles of chalcedony or crystallized quartz. Nearly all show a series of dark bands, suggestive of stratification. All are hard, and clink when shaken together.—Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

A Standing Engagement.

The Duc d'Aumale once challenged Prince Napoleon to a duel on account of something the latter had said against the Orleanists. The prince refused to fight and was therefore reckoned a coward. Next day the prince went to call on Leonide Leblanc, the famous actress, at an hour when the duke chanced already to be there. "Tell the prince," said she to the footman, "that I am engaged, but only with the Duc d'Aumale, so he may come right in." But the prince did not go in. Nor did he ever go in again, for whenever he called thereafter he was told that she was engaged with the Duc d'Aumale.—San Francisco Argonaut.

Caught.

Bobby (at the breakfast table)—Maud, did Mr. Jones take any of the umbrellas or hats from the hall last night?

Maud—Why, of course not. Why should he?

Bobby—That's just what I'd like to know. I thought he did, because I heard him say when he was going out, 'I'm going to steal just one,' and—Why, what's the matter, Maud?—Montreal Herald.

Crushed.

"Sir," said an irate little gentleman of about 4 feet 11 inches to a 6 foot man, "I would have you know, sir, that I have been well brought up."
"Possibly," was the answer, "but you have not been brought up far."—London Tit-Bits.

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