

## ABRIDGING THE LAW.

It Took Time, but It Was Finally Reduced to One Section.

"Before we were married," cogitated the round shouldered but otherwise upright man as he proceeded with his task of washing the dishes which his wife had left in an untidy state when she departed for the convocation of the sewing circle, "I concocted—in my mind—quite a long series of bylaws and regulations which should govern and shape our married life. There were rules and formulas calculated, so I believed, to fit almost any emergency that might arise, and from time to time I added codicils as they occurred to me till in the end it was a veritable constitution duly authorizing two to live cheaper than one and happier than anybody else.

"But shortly after the ceremony which made us two souls with but a single thought, as they say in stories, I began little at a time to amend the document—it was a mental one, as I said before—and, strange as it may appear, the more amendments I added the shorter it became, till now, after the lapse of fourteen years of wedded bliss, my constitution is so reduced that it is composed of only one section, which is as follows:

"Section 1. What my wife says is law."

## OUR BLIND SPOT.

A Portion of Every Eye Is Absolutely Insensible to Light.

On the back of the eyeball is a peculiar expansion of the fibers of the optic nerve which is called the retina. Every part of this is not equally sensitive to the action of light. A small portion, where the organization is most perfect, is called from its color the yellow spot. This is only one six-thousandth of an inch in diameter, yet it produces the most perfect sensation of vision. A little nearer to the nose is another spot, which, though full of fibers of the optic nerve, is absolutely insensible to light and is therefore called the "blind" spot. This can be easily proved by putting two big dots three inches apart on a piece of paper, closing the right eye and looking at the left hand dot and moving the paper toward you till the left hand dot disappears.

Helmholtz in his lecture tells us that "this blind spot is so large that it might prevent our seeing eleven moons if placed side by side, or a man's face at a distance of only six or seven feet," and that "Marréte, who discovered the phenomenon, amused Charles II. and his court by showing them where they might see each other with their heads cut off."

## SHOD WITH IRON.

A Highland Robber Who Got a Dose of His Own Medicine.

We are told in Sir Walter Scott's "Tales of a Grandfather" that in the reign of James I. of Scotland a highland robber chief named MacDonald plundered a poor widow of two of her cows and that she in her anger vowed that she would never wear shoes again till she had carried her complaint to the king for redress.

"It is a false boast," replied the bandit. "I will have you shod myself before you can reach the court." To carry out his threat he caused a smith to nail shoes to the woman's naked feet and then thrust her forth, wounded and bleeding, on the highway. The widow, however, faithful to her word, as soon as her wounds had healed went to the king and told him of this atrocious cruelty.

James heard her with mingled pity and indignation, and in righteous retribution caused MacDonald and twelve of his followers to be seized and shod with iron shoes as they had done to the poor widow. In this condition they were exhibited to the public for three days and then executed.

**Its Other Name.**  
"How some people do pose," said a matter of fact man. "They use great, big words just to make people think that they are smart. I think that the weakest of all affectations is that of using what is called 'big language' instead of those simple terms which at first present themselves to every person of common sense."

"At my home the other day a young lady astonished my household by asking the loan of a 'diminutive argentine, truncated cone, convex on its summit and semperforated with symmetrical indentations.'"

"She wanted a thimble."—Louisville Herald.

**A Novelist's Characters.**  
Stevenson said that George Meredith once read him some chapters of "The Egoist" while it was still in manuscript. As the character of the Egoist developed he (Stevenson) grew more and more uncomfortable till at last he interrupted the reading and said, "Now, own up, Meredith, you drew Sir Willoughby from me." Meredith burst into his Homeric laugh and said: "No, no, my dear fellow—he is all of us. But I found him," tapping his own breast, "mainly here."—William Archer's "Real Conversations."

**Going.**  
Mrs. Nixdore—That piano we bought for our daughter was a great bargain. We bought it at an auction, you know. Mrs. Pepprey—Oh, but what account for it! Mrs. Nixdore—Account for what? Mrs. Pepprey—The fact that it's going, going, going.

**Woman's Rights.**  
Hettie—I believe in woman's rights. Gertrude—Then you think every woman should have a vote? Hettie—No, but I think every woman should have a voter.

The civilized savage is the worst of all savages.—Wobler.

## When Animals Faint.

The little gray dog tumbled headlong into the area, and the maid who happened to be standing there closed the gate. When the dog saw she was safe from her two legged pursuers she toppled over in a dead faint. At any rate, the maid insisted that she fainted. The boarders, who crowded out into the area to help bring the little animal to, derided the assertion, but the doctor that finally joined the group said there was nothing preposterous about it.

"Of course she fainted," he said. "Lots of animals faint. Cats and dogs and even more stolid animals keel over in moments of fear and exhaustion. In the case of horses the prostration is generally attributed to sunstroke, but quite often they are knocked out by a plain, everyday faint instead of atmospheric excesses. Fowls faint too, and the birds of the air. In fact, it is hard to find any living creature that doesn't topple over in crucial circumstances. If the liness of the jungle were up on etiquette she would be just as much justified in carrying a camphor bottle as the finest lady in the land."—New York Press.

**Faculty of Imitation in Animals.**  
Some animals have wonderful powers of imitation. Dogs brought up in the company of cats have been known to acquire the trick of licking the paws and then washing the face. When a cat has been taught to sit up for food her kittens have been known to imitate her action. Darwin tells of a cat that was in the habit of putting her paw into the mouth of a narrow milk picher every time she got the chance and then licking the cream off her paw. Her kitten soon learned the same trick. A lady tells of a rabbit that she keeps in a cage with a monkey and says that Bunnie has caught many of the monkey's ways. It is said that starving pigeons that have been brought up on grain will not eat peas to save their lives, but that if pea eating pigeons are put with them they follow their example and eat peas.—Detroit News-Tribune.

**Washington Could Run.**  
"As to running," said Patson Weems in his book on George Washington, "the swift footed Achilles could scarcely have matched his speed." Egad, he ran wonderfully! said my amiable and aged friend, John Fitzhugh, Esq., who knew him well. "We had nobody hereabouts who could come near him. There was young Langhorn Dade of Westmoreland, a confounded, clean made, tight young fellow and a mighty swift runner, too; but, then, he was no match for George. Laney, indeed, did not like to give up and would brag that sometimes he had brought George to a tie. But I believe he was mistaken, for I have seen them run together many a time, and George always beat him easy enough."

**An Elephant's Toothache.**  
I have in my possession an elephant's tooth, partially decayed. The animal belonged to my father, who was in the East Indian civil service at Moradabad, and as the tooth caused the animal so much pain that it interfered with its eating my father, with the assistance of the mahout's son sitting on the elephant's head and telling him to be quiet, extracted the tooth by means of hammer, iron bar and rope. The grateful animal used to like to have his gums dressed with tow and gin for days after the operation. As this happened before 1842, no anaesthetic could have been used.—London Field.

**London Built on Sponges.**  
One could surely find no worse ground to build upon than a bed of sponges such as we use for the bath. And yet London has for its subsoil only sponges, although we call them flints. Once they grew as sponges do now in salt water shallows, and they are found in layers petrified among the chalk of southern England. The Thames valley chalk has been melted like so much sugar and carried away with the running waters, but the flints have been left behind, and on these the whole city of London has found its excellent foundations.

**Nearly Sad.**  
A newspaper in a small country town not far from New York employs a reporter whose knowledge of English idioms is somewhat uncertain. He was assigned recently to report the sudden death of an important local citizen, and after describing the circumstances leading up to it he referred to the sadness of the bereavement sustained by the family. "The widow," he concluded, "is almost grief stricken."—Harper's Weekly.

**Out of Place.**  
Aunt Prisms—I am shocked at you, Maude. You permitted young Mr. Jones to kiss you. Maude—He only just touched me on the nose, auntie. Aunt Prisms—It was quite out of place, dear. Maude—He knew it was, auntie. But you came in so suddenly, you see.

**Easier Than a Halo.**  
"Being continually held up as a horrible example is about as monotonous as the music of an automatic piano," says a cynic, "but it is much less strain on your nervous system than trying to balance a halo on the back of your head."—Kansas City Journal.

**The Poor Bull.**  
He—Wonderful shot, that of Henry's! Why, he hit the bullseye nine times in succession yesterday! She—Yes, but just think of the sufferings of that poor bull! Men are such brutes!

**Wisdom may be compared to water.** As water leaves the heights and gathers to the depths, so is wisdom received from on high and preserved by a lowly soul.—Talmud.

## A PAPER DAG.

Used as a Life Preserver It Saved a Man From Drowning.

A common flour sack—a paper bag—and the use of his wits saved Chris Hansen, a hunter, from drowning at Sausalito, Cal. The Quiver tells the story. Hansen had been accustomed to spend the early morning hours shooting on the bay. One morning, while he was returning in a skiff from the hunting grounds, his shotgun, which was lying in the bottom of the boat, was accidentally discharged. The full contents of the barrel passed through the bottom of the skiff and tore a large, jagged hole.

In a few minutes the boat began to settle, and the man's most desperate efforts could not stop the incoming water. He grasped the oars and, snatching a tough paper bag which he used for carrying his game, began to tie them together as a float to assist him to reach shore.

When he had finished his task he jumped into the water. The boat sank a moment later. Hansen could not swim well, and he found the oars but little support. He was beginning to lose courage when he noticed that a portion of the sack used in tying the oars together had become filled with air. He snatched it up and held the open end toward the breeze until it filled with wind.

Hansen used this improvised life preserver to assist in keeping him afloat and easily remained on the surface of the water. The tide and the use of his legs gradually propelled him toward the shore, and the drifting man soon got a foothold.

## HER OPALS.

A Reason Why They Were Not the Cause of Her Misfortunes.

"I think Sir Walter Scott is largely responsible for the superstition as to opals," said the traveling salesman of jewelry. "Be that as it may, it is still widespread. There is a large jewelry house in one of the big cities which will not handle opals. This means a loss of thousands of dollars annually. The founder of the house put the bar on opals, and the third generation is keeping it up.

"I had an amusing experience when I was behind the counter of a house in the east. A lady came in and, handing me a breastpin set with opals, said: 'Mr. Jones, what will you give me for these stones?' They were an heirloom in my husband's family, but since they have come into my possession my husband and I have had nothing but misfortune. We have lost our residence by fire, there has been sickness in the family all the time, and he is experiencing business reverses. I must get rid of the opals, so make me an offer."

"Madam, I said, 'are you sure that your troubles are due to them?'  
"Oh, perfectly sure."  
"You cannot think of any other cause?"  
"No. Make me an offer, please."  
"Madam, I replied deferentially, 'I regret to inform you that those stones are imitations.'"—Birmingham News.

**How Celluloid Is Made.**  
Celluloid, the chemical compound which bears so close a resemblance to ivory, is a mixture of collodion and camphor, invented in 1855 by Parkesine of Birmingham, whose name for a time it bore. The process of manufacture is as follows: Cigarette paper is soaked in a mixture of nitric and sulphuric acids until it becomes nitrocellulose. After thorough washing, to free it from the acids, this cellulose is dried, mixed with a certain quantity of camphor, and coloring matter if required, and then passed through a roller mill. It is next formed into thin sheets by hydraulic pressure and afterward broken up by toothed rollers and soaked for some hours in alcohol. A further pressure and a hot rolling process finish it, and results in ivory-like sheets half an inch thick.

**Age and Respect.**  
A writer in the Ladies' Field states vigorously that she is not a believer in "respect due to age." "Why respect should be considered the sole prerogative of age is a thing I have never been able to understand. When people have displayed consistent foolishness or vacuity throughout their youth and middle age why should a younger and perhaps wiser generation be expected to look up to them with reverence simply because seventy years have passed over their heads? Respect, surely, should be a question of character and not of age."

**Assistance.**  
"Which of these books or periodicals would you recommend?" asked the woman with a pleasant smile.  
"Well, lady," answered the boy who was attending to the depot news stand, "it depends. If you want genuine first class information I'd sell you dis copy of de Sportin' News, but if you jist wants somethin' to crow at de Pullman porter I'd recommend dis substantial bound book by Herbert Spencer."—Washington Star.

**His Grievance.**  
"Uncle Ephraim, you are looking much better. You found something that cured your rheumatism, did you?"  
"Yes, sub. But it cured me too quick, sub. I didn't get no use out of dem two dollar an' a half crutches I bought week befo' last."—Chicago Tribune.

**Unaccountable Surprise.**  
"Some men never learn by experience."  
"That's true," answered young Mrs. Torkins. "Charley is just as much surprised every time he loses at the races as if it had never happened before."—Washington Star.

**Discriminating Maid.**  
Mrs. Madison—Your new maid appears to be rather refined. Mrs. Parkwest—Yes; she's a little out of the common. She never breaks anything but the costliest cut glass and the choicest Dresden.—Chicago Journal.

**Plenty of Trials.**  
Sillucus—Life is full of trials. Cynucus—Yes, but there are not half enough convictions.—Philadelphia Record.

**When He Gets It.**  
Visitor—Does mamma give you anything for being a good boy? Tommy—No, mum; she gives it to me when I ain't.

**The Siberian Cossack.**  
Tobolsk, in the Siberian Cossack is reared, is a well watered region, with 1,000 lakes, many of them of considerable size. Many of the inhabitants had their origin in the utilization of the territory as a penal colony for European Russia. The people are still very primitive, sheep being the main of exchange in their barter system. Cattle breeding is extensively adopted, and it is from this source that the Russian army draws most of its horses for service in the far east. These animals are small and hardy, not particular about food and capable of enduring extreme heat and cold, but the load they can take even on a level road is only about 900 pounds. The preparatory class of the Cossacks comprises lads from the age of eighteen, who undergo three years' training. The Cossacks of this first rank are enrolled from the age of twenty-one for a period of twelve years, and all serve for a further period of five years in the reserves, the age of discharge being, therefore, thirty-eight.

**The Calendar Calculation.**  
Caesar's reformed calendar made the year about eleven minutes too long—that is, the solar year began eleven minutes earlier each twelfth month than the calendar year. In 1582 Pope Gregory XIII. found that the solar year had gained ten days on the calendar year. He corrected this and to keep the two years more nearly together ordered that thereafter only centennial years divisible by 400 should be leap years. This calculation is thus: By adding eleven minutes regularly to the year, at the end of a century the legal calendar has had one more day than the solar calendar. By giving up the additional day of leap year in three centennial years the legal calendar has at the end of three centuries nearly one day less than the solar calendar. This difference is corrected by having an extra day in the fourth centennial year. The arrangement is so nearly exact that the two years differ by only one day in 3,223 years.

**Optim Smoking in China.**  
It is generally understood that a large percentage of the Chinese are addicted to the use of opium. This is a misconception. The belief that the Chinese of rank and culture use the drug is due to the prominence given to the cultivation of the plant and the manufacture of opium in the Celestial empire. As a matter of fact, a native who uses opium is looked upon by his superiors as we discuss and classify our drunks.

The idea that a pill will produce an exhilarating effect on the beginner is also erroneous. One must be accustomed to the use of the drug to get the pleasant effect. The first pipe to an American produces nausea. Two or three will make him sick. If he can stand eight or nine of these "pills" he is apt to dream, but the awakening is always an unpleasant reality.

## Perjury as a Fine Art.

In India, according to an Englishman who lived there many years, the more educated class reduce perjury to a fine art. If a case is to come before the court they are not content with roasting their witnesses beforehand, but they take them to the very spot where the deed was committed and go through all the incidents of the assault or tragedy to be sworn to, so that the various subpoenaed witnesses are little likely to be caught by any cross examination, no matter how severe it may be. He cites an instance of the methods of the ordinary Hindoo lawyer. A British officer had made a number of purchases of a Parsee merchant, who charged him such unreasonable prices that he refused to pay the bill. The merchant brought suit, and the officer consulted a lawyer, who agreed to take the case and win it if he were not interfered with. This was promised. When the trial came off, the defense promptly acknowledged the purchase of the articles at the prices named, but produced half a dozen witnesses who swore that they had seen the bill paid.

**A Remarkable Schoolroom.**  
One of the most remarkable schoolrooms in the world is surely that of La Petite Rochette, the Paris prison for juvenile offenders. The system of this prison is that of solitary confinement, the whole building being so constructed that each of the detached cells is overlooked by a warder stationed on a small observation tower. The schoolroom consists of 200 cells in the form of an amphitheater, from each of which the teacher, and the teacher only, can be seen. Each of the youthful offenders takes his place in silence, the first in the farthestmost cell and the others in rotation. The closing of one of these cell doors opens that of the next cell. The voice of the teacher is the only sound to be heard in the building. Religious services are conducted in the same way, each of the inmates being able to see the officiating clergyman, and him alone.

**The Wild Boar of India.**  
General Sir Montague Gerard of the British army in his book of reminiscences has much to say about hunting. During his twenty years' residence in India he killed nearly 200 tigers, some of them dreaded man eaters, while his bags of other wild animals would be difficult to number. Terrible as is the tiger, the wild boar is even more savage and dangerous to attack. His tusks frequently grow to nine or ten inches in length and are as sharp as a razor. Tigers have a special dread of him, and in their encounters, which sometimes happen, he nearly always comes out victor. In pig sticking, which is always done with a spear on horseback, there is constant danger of his disemboweling horses, in which case the rider often suffers also. General Gerard had many narrow escapes.

**The Orange Tree.**  
The orange tree is regarded as a prince among trees and the emblem of genius. A peculiarity of this tree is that it bears fruit and flower at the same time. Its leaves are evergreen, and as it grows older it grows in beauty and fruitfulness, its blossoms filling the air with its fragrance. It is indeed a fit emblem of marriage promise and hopes. The orange tree is considered typical of love because, though its fruit is golden and its flavor and scent delicious, its rind is bitter, and, as every one knows who has experienced it, Cupid's dart causes pain. The orange is emblematic of gratitude as well as of genius and love.

**Vote in the Commons.**  
In the British house of commons, as soon as the question to be decided is put from the chair, a clerk at the table sets in motion a huge sand glass, familiarly known to members as the "egg boiler," probably because it takes three minutes to run out. As the last sand runs through the glass the sergeant-at-arms instantly locks the massive oak doors of the chamber and only those members who have succeeded in getting through the doorway can vote.

**A Prudent Youngster.**  
"And you say the teacher whipped you cruelly?"  
"Yes, dad."  
"Show me the marks."  
"I can't, dad. There ain't no marks."  
"No marks?"  
"No, dad. You see, I was dressed for it."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

**Settled.**  
Old Gentleman (at his daughter's wedding)—My dear, I don't see how I am to get along without you. Bride—Oh, that's all right, pa. Since the ceremony was performed my husband has confessed that he hasn't enough saved to start housekeeping, so you won't lose me after all.

**Humiliation.**  
"I tell you, sir, kissing the hand that smites you is nothing to what I saw in this hotel this morning."  
"What was that?"  
"The porter blacking the boots that had kicked him last night."—New Yorker.

**A Lovable Character.**  
Singleton—How did you come to fall in love with your wife? Littleton—I married her for her money and afterward discovered that she possessed twice as much as she claimed to have.—Puck.

**When He Gets It.**  
Visitor—Does mamma give you anything for being a good boy? Tommy—No, mum; she gives it to me when I ain't.

**Plenty of Trials.**  
Sillucus—Life is full of trials. Cynucus—Yes, but there are not half enough convictions.—Philadelphia Record.

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## W. L. JOHNSTON.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.  
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WANTED—SEVERAL INDUSTRIOUS PERSONS in each state to travel for house establishments eleven years and with a large capital, to call upon merchants and hoteliers for success and profitable line. Permanent engagement. Weekly cash salary of \$5 and all other expenses and hotel bills advanced in cash each week. Experience not essential. Mention reference and enclosure self-addressed envelope to THE NATIONAL, 322 Dearborn Street, Chicago.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR ALTERATION IN CHARTER.  
In the Court of Common Pleas of Jefferson County.  
Notice is hereby given that an application will be made to the Court of Common Pleas of Jefferson County, on the 24th day of June, A. D. 1904, at 10 o'clock a. m. of said day, to provide for the incorporation and regulation of certain corporations approved April 24th, 1874, and the supplements thereto, by the act of the Pennsylvania Legislature, Chapter of Reynoldsville Presbyterian Church, of Reynoldsville, Pa., for the allowance and approval of certain amendments and alterations in the charter of said church, as set forth and contained in a certificate now on file in said court.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A CHARTER.  
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ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.  
Notice is hereby given that letters of administration on the estate of Robert McClinton, deceased, late of Washington township, County of Jefferson and State of Pennsylvania, have been granted to the undersigned, to whom all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make payment, and those having claims or demands will make known the same without delay.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.  
Notice is hereby given that letters of administration on the estate of Robert McClinton, deceased, late of Washington township, County of Jefferson and State of Pennsylvania, have been granted to the undersigned, to whom all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make payment, and those having claims or demands will make known the same without delay.

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Ask your dealer for the Improved Eldridge "E" and do not buy any machine until you have seen it.

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