

## HOW I KEPT MY CONTRACT

(Original.)

I was under contract to have a certain work done by a certain time in Indian Territory. If I finished it according to agreement I would make a small fortune. If I failed my forfeit was so large that my work would not pay me. There was but one reason why I should fail, and that was alcohol. I couldn't keep my men sober.

There was plenty of prohibition in the territory and just as much liquor. All sorts of poisonous stuff was brought in surreptitiously, diluted wood alcohol being consumed in large quantities. It was all brought by peddlers across the line from Oklahoma. I watched with the greatest care to see that none of it was sold about my camp, but for my life I couldn't prevent it. I never saw any one sell liquor and never saw the men drink it. The first thing I knew they were all drunk. Then work must be stopped till they got sober.

I was going by the supply store one morning and saw a peddler sitting on a keg. Always on the lookout, I asked him what was in it. He told me that it was kerosene, and on my demanding that he sample it he put in a spigot and drew kerosene true enough. Nevertheless that night the men were all drunk. I went to the store and, looking over the stock of barrels and such like, found a number with false bottoms. A small compartment at one end smelt of kerosene; the rest smelt of whisky.

After that I inspected every article that could hold liquid when it came into camp. For awhile I kept out liquor and kept the men at work. During this period I made great headway and felt sure that if I could continue it I should make good my contract and pocket enough funds to enable me to live as I liked for the rest of my life.

My work must be finished by the 15th of April, and on the 15th of February I knew that fifty days' more steady work would be ample for the purpose. But early in March the men got on a spree, which was repeated, the spree occurring nearer and nearer together as the spring advanced. I watched the supply store, but could discover nothing likely to contain liquor. Butter and eggs were coming in, but in the spring one always looks for these articles, and there was nothing suspicious about either of them.

On the 20th of March the men were all drunk. If I could get them sober at once and keep them sober I could complete my contract; if not I was doomed. There was a pretty Mexican girl near my camp with whom I had spent many an evening very happily. On the evening in March mentioned, to get rid of the sight of the drunken men and to get my mind off my disappointment, I went over to see little Margarita Ferras.

"What is the matter, señor? You look as if some great calamity were upon you."

I told her of my troubles.

"What will señor give to know how the men get their liquor?" She looked at me roughly. She was bewitching.

"My heart," I replied on the impulse.

"What use is the heart without the hand?" she asked, her eyes dancing with mischief.

"The heart, though given and declined, is still in the keeping of the recipient. The hand offered and declined remains with the giver."

She arose and went into the next room. There I heard her opening doors belonging to cupboards and sideboards and the clink of glasses. I supposed she was intending to bring me some fluid refreshment. What was my surprise to see her return with a couple of eggs each in an eggcup. They were on a tray, and there was a silver spoon for each egg.

"I only finished my supper half an hour ago," I said.

"But you have not had anything to wash it down."

"Wash it down with a boiled egg?"

"We shall see."

Setting the tray on a table, she pushed one of the eggs toward me. I broke the shell at the small end with the spoon, while she did the same with the other egg.

"Señor, your good health," she said, raising her egg to her lips.

There was the unmistakable odor of whisky under my nose. I sipped from the eggshell and sipped whisky. The girl set her egg on the table without tasting it. I looked at her questioningly.

"Don't you understand?" she said.

"No."

"The eggs that are coming in are shells full of whisky."

I reached across the table and caught her in my arms, then hurried away to the supply store, where I found many dozen eggshells, both full and emptied, of liquor. I took up one of the empty shells and found that it was a good imitation of an eggshell made of plaster of paris. Each shell held one drink. I smashed all the full ones I could find and forlode the sale of eggs in camp from that day forward.

This was the last trouble I was destined to encounter from liquor. I finished my work on the day I had contracted to finish it, though I had to pay the men extra wages during the last few days, and made a small fortune.

I did not see Margarita Ferras till after I had completed my work and settled my accounts. If I should not succeed I didn't intend to see her; if I did succeed I intended, if she would, that she should share it with me. When I called upon her I took a check for half my profit and asked her to choose between it and myself.

She chose me.

WILLARD C. IRVING.

## FACTS IN FEW LINES

Childer contains from 4 to 10 per cent of alcohol.

Asphalt is found in dried up petroleum beds.

London cab drivers earn an aggregate of over \$40,000 a day.

There are about 400 bowling clubs in Scotland, twenty-three of which are in Glasgow.

Australia exports 24,000,000 rabbit skins a year. To kill this gigantic number costs about \$325,000.

The first English work on angling was "The Book of St. Alban's," published in the fifteenth century.

The court of appeal at Ghent has just declared invalid an election that took place twenty-five years ago. The illegal incumbent, who is a lawyer by the way, will now, it is expected, vacate.

Camels, mules and donkeys exist in large numbers and are the only means of transportation throughout the whole of Morocco. Railway trains and even carts have yet to make their appearance.

Heretofore the only real banner in use in the Chinese army was the tattu of the commanders of large divisions. Hereafter every regiment is to have its flag, as in the armies of other countries.

A bird's nest containing four eggs was recently discovered inclosed in the trunk of a large tree cut down at Crencoer, England. The sap rings showed that nearly a century had elapsed since the eggs were laid.

The city of Ripon, England, celebrated recently with a procession and various entertainments the one thousand and twentieth anniversary of its incorporation. Each division in the procession represented a century.

The greatest monument of the mound builders not only in Ohio, but in the entire country, is the Serpent mound, in Adams county. This immense mass of earth, probably piled up for purposes of worship, has had a curious history in respect to changes of ownership in recent times.

A peculiar run of sixes occurred in the county clerk's office of Columbus, O., recently. Thomas Albury—you will notice s.x letters in each name—drew \$6 in fees on Sept. 6, 1906. The number of the case on which the fees were drawn was 49,696, and it was in docket 60. He received for it in cash book No. 6, page 696.

The steamship Goldmonth recently arrived at Rotterdam after steaming from Singapore by the route round the cape of Good Hope, a distance of 11,791 miles, in fifty-two days, without once stopping the engines or checking the generation of steam in the main boilers. This performance is believed to be the largest nonstop run ever made by marine machinery. The vessel was burning liquid fuel.

Some of the stores in the towns of Rhode Island are adopting a new scheme in awnings. The material used instead of being canvas is a heavy furniture chintz of a very decorative design. Huge roses growing on tropical vines seem to predominate in the color scheme. These awnings have the advantage of outlasting the ordinary kinds, and besides this the colors are fast and always appear fresh.

Henry S. Welcome, the famous American chemist, now living in London, has received from the Sudan government one of General Gordon's steamers, which he will convert into a floating laboratory, the first ever established, and with the assistance of Dr. William Bann, an American, will attempt to make central Africa habitable for the white race by exterminating millions of malaria bearing mosquitoes.

A Dane named Knudsen is credited with discovering means of producing liquid air at the cost of no more than one-sixth of the usual price, and it is said that his process, which is mechanical rather than chemical, will ultimately put liquid air on the market at not more than about 2 cents a gallon. The same invention makes it possible to sell oxygen at a cent a cubic foot, which promises to bring it into rather wide industrial use.

Many tourists in Switzerland were astonished last summer to see villages in the Rhone valley, near Brigue, which looked as if they had been bombarded. On inquiry they found that the demolished houses were mostly temporary boarding places for the Italian laborers who made the Simplon tunnel. After their departure these houses were offered for sale at \$50 each—not, of course, including the ground on which they stood.

More than 300 buildings in the city of Guanajuato, Mexico, which was built many years ago from adobe blocks made of tailings from a primitive smelter, mixed with mud, have been sold to a mining concern. It was recently discovered that the walls of the houses assay from \$5 to \$20 in gold a ton. The company which bought them will smelt the mixture with modern methods and expects to realize a profit of several hundred thousand dollars. The walls of some of the larger houses contain gold values to the amount of \$3,000 or \$4,000 each.

The officials of the pension office think they have discovered in Lyndon D. Howe of Streator, Ill., the youngest volunteer of the civil war. He enlisted in 1861, when only ten years and nine months old, and served for four months, when he was discharged on account of his youth. He enlisted again in 1862, when eleven years and five months old, and served until the end of the war. The record was brought out in connection with an application for increased pension, which was granted. The first service was in the Fifteenth and the second in the Fifty-fifth Illinois volunteers.

## SELECTIONS

### NETS FOR WHALES.

Made of Three-quarter Inch Wire Rope in Six Foot Meshes.

If I did not have photographs to offer as proof, I might hesitate to put upon a fairly well established reputation for veracity the strain of standing for the assertion that the business of catching whales—not baby whales, but big sixty foot right whales—in nets is carried on in the south Pacific.

The biggest fish stories ever told may be heard by the wanderer in southern seas, and some of the most amazing of them are literally true. This whale netting yarn is not strictly a fish story, because a whale is not really a fish, and it is not the most startling of the collection in my south sea notebook, but let it go as a fish story.

Wangamumu is a little bay on the east coast, a few miles south of a prominent cape, which juts out to the northeast and might easily be mistaken for the northeastern extremity of the North Island. During May and June the antarctic whale migrates north into warmer waters, and it seems probable that there is some set of currents around the headland of Wangamumu which deceives him into seeking a passage to the Tasman sea by boring into the shore at that point. Whatever may be the cause, the fact is that schools of whales hug the shore and pass very close to a great jutting rock at Wangamumu.

Straight out into the sea from the point of rocks is stretched the whale net, made of three-quarter inch wire rope in six foot mesh, each mesh being formed of separate sections of rope attached to iron corner rings, taking the places of knots. The top edge of the net is held close to the surface by barrels serving as buoys. A whale cruising along the shore gets his head through a mesh, and instead of attempting to back out he rushes forward and entangles himself hopelessly in the net. One of my photographs shows a whale rushing into the net and dragging the shoreward buoy through the water with much commotion. Close to the shore can be seen the disturbance of the surface caused by the dragging under of the shore end of the upper wire rope.

From a lookout station on the top of the headland a watcher signals the approach of whales, and the boats then put off and lie in wait. An entangled whale carries away the net with his rush, but the great weight of the wire rope and the drag of a long line of buoys impede him, and instead of holding out to sea and going away at great speed with the whole outfit he thrashes about and soon gets fins and flukes entangled, when the boat approaches and the whalers finish the business with harpoon and lance, as in the old days.—Forest and Stream.

### Lunatics.

A "prominent" English physician has discovered that the time is coming when there will be more lunatics than sane persons in the world. Statistics, of course, show this, as they will show anything that is good for advertising purposes. They will show that we live longer, that our general average of physical health is better and that we grow bigger than our ancestors, but that our minds are going to the bow-wows. We suspect from some of the things like the above, written by great "alienists," that it takes a lunatic to detect lunacy, as a thief to catch a thief.

### The American Way.

How an American machinery agent secured an order in Japan is related by the commercial agent of New South Wales in the far east as follows: It was a question of some lathes for a large factory which was being started. They were required of a certain size. The agent for the British firm said, "That is three inches longer than they are made, and we can make no alteration." The American said, "I will make them to any size you like." The American secured the order.—United States Consular Report.

### Shooting Butterflies.

The ancient question, "Who breaks a butterfly on a wheel?" should have a modern counterpart. A Transvaal agricultural paper says: "A great deal can be accomplished toward reducing the numbers of the larvae of the swallowtail butterfly by destroying the butterflies. The most effective instrument for this purpose is a light fowling piece loaded with dust shot or coarse salt. It may seem ridiculous to advocate the shooting of butterflies, but an insect with such a large wing expanse affords a very good target."

### Too Much Affection.

Dr. Zamenhof, the inventor of Esperanto, went through a trying ordeal at the conclusion of the recent Esperanto congress at Geneva. Hundreds of the departing delegates shook him with every show of affection. This he bore with patience. But when the Esperantists of the other sex insisted on kissing him goodbye the fortitude that had stood by him so well throughout the conference deserted him. He broke down.

### The Long Way Around.

That was a long distance message through the earth, or over it, to the Goettingen seismograph from "a powerful earthquake 14,000 miles away." If it was 14,000 miles one way, it must have been only 11,000 the other. Perhaps the reporter thought the longest way round was the shortest way to tell about the mysterious shake.—Buffalo News.

# Cut Your Fuel Bill in Two



IN an ordinary soft coal stove, half of the coal arises in gas and promptly goes up the chimney. When you remember that gas is itself fine fuel, being used in all the large cities for cooking, heating and lighting, you realize how much is saved if the gas doesn't escape, but is held in the stove and burned.

Notice in this picture of Cole's Hot Blast how the draft burns the coal from the top. It discharges a blast of highly heated air over and through the body of fuel, thus distilling the gas from the fuel, oxidizing and burning it before its escape up the chimney. That is why

## Cole's Original Hot Blast Saves Half the Fuel

This patented Hot Blast Draft doesn't work in leaky stoves and that is one reason why imitations are failures.

It really makes \$3 soft coal last as long and burn as nicely as \$9 hard coal. This wonderful stove burns anything—hard coal, soft coal, wood, coals, combustible rubbish—anything.

## A GUARANTEE GOES WITH IT

# The Keystone Hardware Company

Near Postoffice. Reynoldsville, Pa.

## FOR THE HOUSEWIFE

### Cutting Glass Without a Diamond.

Glass can be cut without a diamond, and the way is very simple. Dip a piece of common string in alcohol and squeeze it reasonably dry. Then tie the string tightly around the glass on the line of cutting. Touch a match to the string and let it burn off. The heat of the burning string will weaken the glass in this particular place. While it is hot plunge the glass under water, letting the arm go under well to the elbow, so that there will be no vibration when the glass is struck. With the free hand strike the glass outside the line of cutting, giving a quick, sharp stroke with any long, flat instrument, such as a stick of wood or a long bladed knife, and the cut will be as clean and straight as if made by a regular glass cutter. Large bottles can thus be readily utilized for jelly glasses.—Boston Traveler.

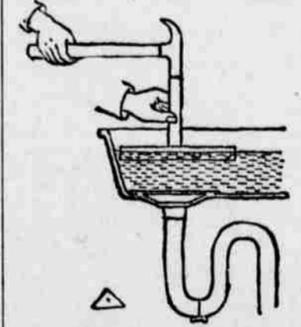
### Chutney Sauce.

Cook together a quart of good vinegar with a pound of sour urdip apples, peeled, cored and cut in pieces. When soft rub through a colander, then return to the preserving kettle with one pound of moist sugar, half a pound of dates, cut in small pieces; half a pound of raisins, seeded and chopped; two ounces of ginger, chopped and pounded; a good sized clove of garlic, well chopped; an ounce of salt and half an ounce of red pepper. Cook together about twenty minutes, stir and mix thoroughly. Turn into an earthen jar and set in a warm corner overnight. In the morning put it into small, wide mouthed jars, cork well and set in a cool place. This chutney is eatable if used at once, but is far more delicious if allowed to mellow and ripen for several months.

### Hint For Householders.

The subjunctive little sketch illustrates a wrinkle which the paterfamilias who is usually his own plumber for minor matters should bear in mind, says Hardware and Metal Journal.

When a bathtub, wash basin or sink has an obstruction in the outlet pipe which cannot be removed with a bent wire, the usual resource aside from a suction pump, which is rarely available,



CLEANING THE DRAINPIPE.

ble, this little know-how kink may save the day. Three or four inches of water should be run into the basin, and a board, say eight inches square and one inch thick, should be floated over the outlet. Then, holding a small stick on the board, as indicated, strike the end of the stick a sharp blow with a hammer.

The shock of the hammer blow is transmitted to the drain and will almost invariably clear away the obstruction.

### For Cleaning Fabrics.

Here is a recipe which is efficacious for cleaning fabrics without injuring their texture or changing their color. It is also particularly good in cleaning rugs and carpets:

Grate two raw potatoes in a bowl which contains a pint of clear, cold water. Now strain through a sieve, allowing the liquid to fall into another bowl containing another pint of cold water. When it settles pour off the water into a bottle and keep for future use. Dip a sponge into the potato water and rub the soiled garment carefully, after which it may be washed in clear water.

### Keeping the Shoes Dry.

An old fashioned method of keeping the shoes impervious to water in rainy weather was to rub the welt stitches with a piece of beef tallow. But this is objectionable, as traces of the grease

can be seen in the same way as the fat left.

Castor oil applied with a small brush is very much better. Only a little should be used, and the brush should preferably have stiff bristles. The kind that comes with a bottle of glue will answer.

### Cleaning Brushes.

The best cleansing preparation for brushes is a solution made by dissolving one pound of washing soda in a quart of water. This should be stirred over the fire until dissolved and used in the proportion of one tablespoonful to a quart of water. A little soap should be used for the soft hair brushes and cold water used for rinsing. Dry in the open air.

### Shampoo For the Hair.

Nothing can be better where there is no dandruff and the hair is dark than the yolk of an egg beaten in a pint of soft, warm water. No soap is needed with this shampoo. The head and hair are wet first in clear water, the mixture well rubbed in and the rinsing thorough. The hair is always soft and beautiful after such a shampoo.

### Ivory Knife Handles.

When ivory knife handles get discolored dip half a lemon in salt and rub on them. Wash off immediately in warm water, and the handles will look as white as when new.

## FOR THE CHILDREN

### A Slight of Hand Trick.

No doubt you have all wondered at seeing a slight of hand performer produce all sorts of things—handkerchiefs, neckties, ribbon and laces—from his empty hands with his sleeves rolled up. The trick is simple enough—if you know how it is done. Any bright boy can do it with a little practice.

The handkerchief is packed, by aid of a pencil or a bit of stiff wire, into a dummy finger made of paper mache or celluloid and colored to match the hand. At the right moment this is inserted between the second and third fingers of the hand. It seems incredible, but it is nevertheless true, that if the hands are kept in gentle motion the presence of an additional finger is never by any chance noticed. Having shown the hands, back and front, apparently empty, the performer brings them together and in so doing folds down the dummy finger into the palm. The fingers of the hand remote from the spectator then get hold of the handkerchief and gradually work it out toward the finger tips. The finger remains in the hand and is at the first opportunity dropped into a pocket or behind some convenient object, or the handkerchief may be spread over the hand containing it and both removed together.

### Fables of the Sun and Moon.

In Australian fable the moon originally was a man, the sun a woman, who appears at dawn in a coat of red kangaroo skins, the present of an admirer.

In an old Mexican text the moon was a man, across whose face a god threw a rabbit, thus making the marks in the moon.

Among the Eskimos the moon is a girl, who always flees from the cruel brother, the sun, because he disfigured her face.

Among the New Zealanders and North American Indians the sun is a great boast, whom the hunters trapped and thrashed with cudgels.

The Gallino-Meros of Central California believed that the sun and moon were made and lighted by the hawk and the coyote, who one day flew into each other's faces in the dark and were determined to prevent such accidents in the future.—Philadelphia Ledger.

### Game of Schoolmaster.

This is always a favorite game. One of the players is chosen schoolmaster, and the others, ranged in front of him, form the class. The master may then examine the class in any branch of learning. Supposing him to choose geography, he must begin with the pupil at the head of the class and ask for the name of a country or town beginning with A. If the pupil does not reply correctly before the master has counted ten he asks the next pupil, who if he answers rightly—say, for instance, "America" or "Amsterdam"—in time he goes to the head of the class. The schoolmaster may go on in this way

through the alphabet either regularly or at random, as he likes. Any subject—names of kings, queens, poets, soldiers, etc.—may be chosen. The questions and answers must follow as quickly as possible. Whoever fails to answer in time pays a forfeit.

### Experiment in Magic.

Draw two figures with charcoal on a wall—say the head of an old man and the head of an old woman. At the mouth of one put a little gunpowder, fastened on with isinglass. At the mouth of the other put a morsel of phosphorus, fastened on with isinglass.

When you place a lighted taper near the gunpowder mouth the explosion will put the light out. But if you place it next near the phosphorus mouth the taper will suddenly light again.

This is a curious phenomenon, and if you have made your preparations in secret it will seem most mysterious to your friends.

### How Pass Got Her Name.

Many years ago the people of Egypt worshipped the cat. They thought that she was like the moon, because she was most active at night and because her eyes changed, just as the moon changes, which is sometimes full and sometimes only a little bright crescent or half moon. So these people made an idol with the cat's head and named it Pasht, the same name which they gave the moon, for the word means the "face of the moon." That word has been changed to "pas," "pus," and has come at last to be "pass," the name which almost every one gives to the cat.

### To Pronounce Appendicitis.

The best authorities pronounce it ap-pen-dit-is, with the fourth syllable accented and the "i" long, as in "side." Bronchitis, tonsillitis and other words of that kind have the "i" long also, though it should be said that there is good authority for making the "i" soft, as it is in Italian. It is, after all, a question of English or continental pronunciation, the first making the "i" long and the second making it soft.—Chicago News.

### Wonderful Lake.

One of the wonders of Java is a lake of boiling mud two miles in circumference, in the center of which immense columns of soft, hot mud continually rise and fall. Besides these columns there are two gigantic bubbles near the edge, which fill up like huge balloons and explode on an average three times per minute.

### A Riddle.

There is a thing that nothing is,  
And yet it has a name;  
It sometimes tall and sometimes short;  
It joins our walk; it joins our sport  
And plays at every game.  
(Answer—A shadow.)

### Hours of Sleep.

The belief that the hours of sleep should be artificially restricted is contrary to ordinary good sense. If the human body does not need sleep for the upbuilding of its tissues it will not call for it. A rule of health which cannot be wrong is to sleep as long as possible as any inclination for it exists. The erroneous view on this subject is undoubtedly due to the fact that when the mind and body are thoroughly rested it is often difficult to arouse the mind from its comfortable lethargy. On the other hand, the man who is under a mental strain and sleeps only five or six hours at night is keen and alert soon after awakening. But it is an unhealthy activity. His nerves are at a high tension. He is on edge, so to speak. Such a strain long continued results inevitably in a nervous breakdown.—Cleveland Leader.

### A Mistake.

The chairman told me at the meeting that I was out of order."  
"Well, wasn't he right?"  
"No. I saw a doctor on the way home, and he told me that I was never in better shape in my life."

### Where He Was Gray.

A young man of eighty-three summers, whose hair is still brown, met the other day a friend much younger, but whose hair is quite white.  
"What is the reason," said the latter, "that you do not grow gray?"  
"Oh," replied the first, "that is easily explained. I have the gray matter on my brain, inside!"—Syracuse Post-Standard.