

THE CLOCK WINDER.

A NEW YORK MAN WHO MAKES HIS LIVING AT THIS CALLING.

Whims of Some of His Patrons Whose Timepieces He Looks After—Mystery of the Clock That Would Not Go on Friday. Twenty Clocks in One House.

Clock winding seems a simple enough task to be performed by owners for their respective timepieces, but there are many people who find it sufficiently burdensome to make them delegate it to some one else. Hence has arisen the profession of clock winder, which as yet claims probably fewer members than any other calling in the city. For some years jewelers have attended to the repairing of clocks which they sold and have even looked after the winding where this was especially desired, but they never tried to obtain this kind of business, and it was done merely as an accommodation to their customers. Now there is at least one man in New York—there may be more, though not many—whose only occupation is the winding, regulating and occasional cleaning of clocks for numerous families. He makes daily rounds so as to cover his entire route, but he never visits the same house more than once a week. On that day his coming is expected, and he has free access to all the rooms, whether they are occupied at the time or not. Through the various halls and apartments he goes, from the top of the house to the bottom, winding the clocks and giving a touch here and there to the regulator when he finds it necessary. Of course he does not pay any attention to the little nickel alarm clocks, which run for only one day. His care, being given weekly, is spent upon the eight day clocks of more expensive design and workmanship.

The clock winder whom The Tribune reporter saw had several stories to tell about the peculiarities of his occupation. "Some people are very particular about the striking of their clocks," he said. "They will ask me if I can't arrange to have all the timepieces in the house strike together. Now, as a general thing, this is an impossibility, and I'll tell you why. Some clocks are arranged to strike just half a minute before the hour, some for a quarter of a minute before, some for a few seconds after the hour and so on. You see if I fixed them so that they would strike together they would not be exactly together in point of actual time, which is more important. In one house on my list the family owns 20 clocks. Of these I suppose 5 or 6—perhaps more—strike in unison, and the others all within a minute. My orders in this house are to have all the clocks except one at precisely the correct time. This odd one is the timepiece in the bedroom of the mistress of the house, and she wishes it kept three minutes fast. I think that is the only instance among my customers of any body who wants a clock perpetually fast, and I am very certain there is no one who asks me to keep one slow.

"When I undertake the care of the clocks in a house, nobody else is allowed to touch them, and the servants in particular have orders never to move or interfere with them in any way. Sometimes this is done accidentally, and it is hard to find out how the clock has been moved. A few months ago I lost one of my best houses because they put in a new clock which I could not seem to get in proper order. I would take it away, clean it thoroughly and look to see what was the matter with the mechanism. I could find no difference. I cleaned it positively and it ran right. Finally I gave it up, and that family had a mighty poor opinion of my abilities as a clock repairer.

"Some weeks after that I came across a clock in another house which acted in exactly the same way. I was puzzled for awhile. Finally I noticed that it always stopped on Fridays. That was queer, but I went on until I had it in my hand upon the solution of the mystery. The servant, while dusting the room on that day, was in the habit of passing her cloth along the mantle over the clock. This would have made no difference with many timepieces, but this one had an open bottom, through which the tip of the pendulum projected. The dusting cloth just touched this enough to stop it. The girl did not know what she had done, and thus the family were mystified anew each week by finding that the clock would not go on Friday.

"I clean all my clocks regularly once in two years, and in that way keep them in proper running order. Most people think that it is just as well to let a clock run until it stops, fairly clogged up with dirt, but that isn't so. By that time it may be so bad that it will be impossible ever to make it run as accurately as it did before.

"I am usually paid by the month to take entire charge of all the clocks in a house, it being understood that I make weekly visits. Sometimes, though, I am employed by the year. In the case of the house I was telling you of, where they have 20 clocks, they pay me \$100 annually for my work. It takes a good deal of my time in the course of 12 months, and I don't fill my pockets as fast as some folks seem to think I ought," concluded the clock winder with a smile.—New York Tribune.

Secrecy of Material.
"The Rev. Mr. Jingle is running his mission in regular vaudeville style. Had a pleating machine there on Monday, and last night he offered a prize to the mother who would wash the greatest number of boys' faces in the shortest time. It was a dead failure."

What was the trouble?
"Couldn't get the boys."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Antiseptical Antics.
"Do you think you are married?"
"No, they're only engaged. She looked pleased when he burned her hand with his lighted cigar."—Detroit Free Press.

COAL AND IRON.

The Important Relationship of These Two Valuable Minerals.

Statistics show that, whereas Great Britain in 1840 produced 75 per cent of the world's supply of coal, at the present time it produces only 24 per cent. Atlantic liners no longer carry coal from Great Britain for the return journey. They now take in American coal, and no more than 1,500,000 tons of American coal were thus consumed in 1895. The condition of the iron manufacturing industries has always exercised a most important influence on the production of coal, so that a large demand for iron draws with it a large demand for mineral fuel. During the last 25 years the world's production of pig iron has increased from 12,000,000 to 36,000,000 tons, but the share taken by Great Britain has fallen from 48.8 per cent to 29 per cent, while that of the United States has increased from 14.1 per cent to 36.2 per cent. In 1895, many of the iron furnaces in the United States had increased from 12,000,000 to 36,000,000 tons, but the share taken by Great Britain has fallen from 48.8 per cent to 29 per cent, while that of the United States has increased from 14.1 per cent to 36.2 per cent. In 1895, many of the iron furnaces in the United States had increased from 12,000,000 to 36,000,000 tons, but the share taken by Great Britain has fallen from 48.8 per cent to 29 per cent, while that of the United States has increased from 14.1 per cent to 36.2 per cent.

CHEMICAL FIRE ENGINES.

They Have Done Much to Reduce the Loss From Water at Fires.

Mr. Charles T. Hill writes of "The Fire Patrol" in St. Nicholas, the final paper in his series on the New York fire department. Mr. Hill says:
"The 'chemical engine,' used extensively in the fire departments of several cities, has added materially to lowering the loss by water at small fires. The preparation carried in the tanks of these engines has a double advantage—not only does it extinguish a large body of fire with the use of a small amount of water, but the liquid itself evaporates quickly, leaving very little 'drip' in the apartments or floors underneath the fire.

The tanks of these engines are charged with a solution of bicarbonate of soda (baking soda) and water, with a small cylinder of sulphuric acid suspended at the top. When the tank is in use, this acid is emptied into the soda and water, and the mixture as once generates carbonic acid gas at a great pressure. Charging the liquid with this gas gives it the necessary pressure to drive it a considerable distance. The hose is coiled around a reel on top of the engine, and always connects with the tanks, so when the fireman arrives at a fire all they have to do is to run off as much hose as they need, dash up stairs with the line, give the order to 'dump' one of the tanks (there are two, carrying 50 gallons each), and they are all ready to go to work. The chemical engine has extinguished more than 25 fires of considerable size since it has been in service in the New York department, a little over a year. It is stationed on the upper west side of the city, where there are a great number of dwellings and flats, and it has added materially to that part of New York fire-fighting.

Leipzig.
Mrs. Isabel C. Barrows, in an article in the New York Independent on "Plain Life and High Thought" as exemplified at Leipzig university, says:
"Leipzig is one of the great flower marts of Europe. It is a joyous sight to go through the early morning market and see the flowers of all kinds in masses of color. There is no student who does not carry a bouquet of flowers, and the marts are a great market for them. It is a joyous sight to go through the early morning market and see the flowers of all kinds in masses of color. There is no student who does not carry a bouquet of flowers, and the marts are a great market for them.

On the High C's.
When Beach Yaw, the phenomenal woman, went on a yachting cruise recently in southern California. The waves grew high, and she soon took to her heels. One of her friends, going to assure how she was progressing, heard her screaming a hillbilly in a most peculiar tone of voice. Her maid came to her and explained that Miss Yaw was shrieking, "But she is singing," the visitor exclaimed. "Yes, I know," answered the maid, "but Miss Yaw means a tune that way so it won't disturb any one else."—Kansas City Journal.

Love's Road.
"Mamma, why do you whip me?"
"It is because I love you, little boy."
"Well, mamma, I wish you wouldn't love me so much."—Brooklyn Life.

Not Necessary.
Boss—Did you give him any encouragement?
Mumford—You don't know Jack, do you?—Chicago News.

As to the Price of a Dog.

There was a dog show in a southern town several years ago, and a New Yorker carried a lot of setters and pointers down to compete. The dogs were the best on exhibition, and the New Yorker provided a pedigree for each of them as long as his arm. He knew how to handle them, and they took most of the prizes. Nobody could find out who had been paid for the dog. Some months afterward one of the purchasers was waiting for a chance to get the information. Each had taken many cocktails, and finding the rear of the river a burden they wandered away from it and sat down on a log. The friend thought his time had come. He put his arm affectionately on the other's shoulder and steered him.

"Say, Frank, old man," he said, "what did you and Bustace give for that dog anyhow?"
The other rose to his feet with determination.
"Well, John," he said, "I may be full, but I'm hanged if I'm drunk enough to tell you that."
And no one knows yet.—New York Sun.

Clever With the Cards.

Some years ago a certain country jail was undergoing extensive alterations, during which time a gang of pickpockets, four in number, were arrested one market day.

Owing to the alterations, the cells were confined for a time in one cell, and were placed under strict surveillance. The warden being specially interested in the case.

One day, during his rounds, he spotted them playing cards when he promptly opened the door and summoned a fellow constable, and upon arrival the cell and the prisoners were most carefully searched, but no cards were found.

However, the card playing still continued until the day on which the pickpockets were to be taken to the gaols for trial.

While awaiting their change of quarters the experiential took them into his private room, saying he wanted to speak with them.

When he got them alone, being a very kind man, he asked them where he could find a pack of cards, and they said they had hidden the cards.

Then they told him that as soon as the sergeant and his comrade entered their cell they stuck the pack in his pocket and piece of which they presented him with the much used pack.—Pears' Weekly.

Croaker's Eloquent Prop.
There is one place in this country where they think Richard Croaker is a great orator. It is in Utah.

At the Democratic national convention of 1888, held in St. Louis, there were contesting delegations from Utah. One of these delegations was for Cleveland and the other against him. Naturally our countrymen were with the latter. When the Utah folks asked some of our men to have Croaker present at the speaking of the committee on credentials to make a speech in their favor, our fellows present, thinking to play a joke on me, sent another man to speak for me.

He was introduced as Croaker, and as he was not known at all then every one was fooled. The speech he made then was a rattle, and it carried everything before it like a storm. To this day out in Utah they think I'm a great orator.

"Who was the man that spoke for you?"
"Doubtless Croaker."—Chicago Times Herald.

Strong Language.
The strong language which I felt that day made me somewhat epileptic in my bodily system and would not allow me to recover any sense, which were three states in the mind before I could get the mail, which I did anyhow or other.

Beech Creek Railroad

W. Y. C. & H. R. R. C. Lessee

CONDENSED TIME TABLE

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