

The men just returned from the Klondike declaring themselves victims of misplaced confidence in that country will doubtless have no influence on the next crop of candidates for similar treatment, observes the New York Tribune.

The Detroit Free Press remarks: "If the stream of foreigners coming into our Atlantic ports from every European land can be diverted from the large cities and distributed throughout the thinly settled west and the rapidly developing south, the illiteracy will soon be overcome in their intense light of American civilization, their brawny muscle will find profitable employment on the farms, in the forests and mines and factories, and if not themselves, at least their children will become genuine Americans."

Mrs. Barnett thinks she is writing "the Great American Novel," and to prove it, discloses that it "begins with the scene laid in a small aristocratic Southern town. Then it shifts to the mountains of North Carolina, a mining region. Then it goes on to a fashionable Southern resort, some such place of which White Sulphur is typical in America. From there the story goes to a manufacturing town, some such New England town as Springfield or Hartford, and from there to a small village. Then comes Washington." Is Mrs. Barnett sure whether she is trying to write the great American novel or a geographical gazetteer? asks the Louisville Courier-Journal.

It is not particularly surprising to the San Francisco Chronicle to hear that no new discoveries of gold have been made in the Northwest during the last eight months. Had the early gold hunters in California confined themselves to the small stream where Marshall found his nugget their success would not have been the amazing thing it became. But they spread out over the whole mountain and river country, explored every likely nook and watercourse, with the result that they added, within five years, some \$300,000,000 to the world's supply of the precious metals. As for the Northwestern treasure seekers, they have concentrated at the Klondike and in its close proximity, leaving a country as large as twenty Californias to be explored. Until they branch out and prospect every promising field, nothing can be really determined about the richness and extent of the Northwestern placers.

According to the latest revised figures, the bonded indebtedness of the various towns and cities of the United States for the past calendar year footed up the enormous sum of \$137,052,004. These figures are given out by the New York Commercial Chronicle and are presumably accurate. While they represent heavy burdens upon individual taxpayers, they also represent extensive improvements and show that considerable activity in this respect is going on all over the United States. To show the manner in which municipal indebtedness has grown during the past few years, the following table is cited:

1897.....	\$137,052,004
1896.....	106,456,060
1895.....	114,921,632
1894.....	117,176,225
1893.....	77,421,273

As the foregoing expenditures represent permanent improvements, they do not suggest the idea of waste or extravagance, but on the contrary reflect in some measure the growing demands of our American municipal life.

Captain Mahan's prediction that all the great wars of the future will be fought mainly on the sea has its probability greatly strengthened by the present policy of nearly every powerful nation, maintains the Atlanta Journal. England is spending more money on her navy than ever before at one time. She is constructing a number of battleships, each of which is more powerful than any now afloat. The naval expenditures of France and Russia have recently been increased more than twenty per cent. Germany proposes to expend \$200,000,000 in naval construction within the next seven years. She will build no less than seventeen battleships and a large number of cruisers, torpedo boats, etc. Italy would strengthen her already powerful navy if she had the necessary money. Japan, in her ambition to take a place among the great powers, is expending vast sums of money on her navy. She has plans for enough modern warships and cruisers to make her second only to England in naval strength. We are doing something in the way of naval construction, but very little as compared with England, Japan and three or four other countries.

WHAT IS LOVE?

Men talk of love that know not what it is. For could we know what love may be indeed. We would not have our minds soled amidst With idle toys, that wanton humors feed.

But in the rules of higher reason read What love may be, so from the world concealed. Yet all too plainly to the world revealed.

It is too clear a brightness for man's eye; Too high a wisdom for his wit to find; Too deep a secret for his sense to try; And all too heavenly for his earthly mind;

It is a grace of such a glorious kind, As gives the soul a secret power to know it. But gives no heart nor spirit power to show it.

It is the height of God and hate of ill; Triumph of truth and falsehood's overthrow; The only worker of the Highest Will; And only knowledge that doth know itself; And only ground where it doth only grow.

It is in sum the substance of all bliss, Without whose blessing all things nothing is. —Nicholas Breton (1542-1630).

A CONSPIRACY AND WHAT CAME OF IT.

HOW CAN you tolerate it, Lu? exclaimed Mrs. Gorman. "If he is my brother, I say it is a shame!" Then, allowing her listener no time to reply, the energetic little lady rattled on: "I suppose you and Clarence must have an understanding, or you would have discharged him long ago. Here has Sidney Lawrence been waiting and serving for you no less patiently than Jacob for Raphael, these seven years and more, and yet my recent brother is the favored one. Unless you take him in hand soon your bills and roses will wither, and even faithful Sidney will come to worship at a younger, fairer shrine. Every one supposes that you and Clarence are engaged, and yet he has never in so many words made you an offer of marriage. Now, while we know that he considers you his betrothed, he does not seem to realize the embarrassing position in which this tedious courtship places you, and should therefore be brought to a knowledge of it or punished for his delinquency."

During the earlier portion of her friend's remarks a smile hovered around Lulu Brandon's lips, and she continued her task of cutting the leaves of the last new magazine, but as the final sentence was pronounced her face flushed deeply.

"My private affairs need not concern the public, Belle," she replied with dignity. "But I agree with you that I have been too patient. I acknowledge myself to be considerably at fault, for I proved an easy conquest, and Clarence may have grown lukewarm in his affection, feeling so secure of mine. Of course a word or two from me and I might become a wife within the next twenty-four hours; but all such words must come from my lord himself."

Her brief displeasure zone, with a merry laugh she arose and linked her arm in that of her friend, and drawing her to a cozy sofa in one corner of the room, proceeded to formulate plans by which she should bring her lover to terms without his knowledge of her conspiracy.

That evening, at tea, Mr. Clarence Curtis suddenly inquired: "Been over to the Brandons' today, Belle?"

"Yes, and by the way, Clarence, Lu requested me to tell you not to call this evening as she will be engaged."

"All right, six; I'll go around to the theater with Roberts."

There was a significant twinkle in her eyes as Mrs. Gorman rejoined: "I hope you'll enjoy the play. The Kendalls are drawing large houses."

Two hours later Mr. Clarence Curtis was leisurely scanning the crowded theater, bowing to those he recognized, when, just previous to the rising of the curtain, his friend Roberts exclaimed: "Why, as I live, there's Sid Lawrence! Who knew he had returned? I wonder who the lady is! Can it be possible? It's Miss Brandon! I never supposed she would accept any other escort save yourself. What is it, Curtis, a lover's quarrel?"

Vellin his surprise with a forced smile, Curtis nonchalantly replied: "Not to my knowledge." Then he added, impatiently, "I am no ogre. Lu has a right to go where and with whom she pleases."

In spite of the indifferent manner and careless tone, Roberts noted that his theater-loving friend took far less interest in the play than in the couple who occupied one of the boxes nearly opposite from where they were seated.

Lu had surely never looked so exquisitely dainty and beautiful as to-night. She seemed the embodiment of health, all aglow with happiness. Yet the lovely face and graceful figure irradiated him by the very beauty of which he had always been proud.

This radiant piece of flesh and blood did not seem so exactly his property as formerly. Was it because Sidney Lawrence was so attentive? They had been children together, Sid and Lu, and he knew she had always regarded the studious, dignified boy and man as an older brother, while she gave the love of her young heart to his comrade and chum. How well he recalled the days, years ago, when Sid had told him with sad eyes and tremulous voice that Lulu had rejected him! He comforted him as best he could, selfishly exulting in

TRAINED CIRCUS STEEDS

A REALLY GOOD RING-HORSE IS A VALUABLE PROPERTY.

It Takes Three Years' Training Before the Animal Becomes Perfect in His Duties.—"Liberty" Horses.—The Circus Men's Strong Point.—An Illustration.

Those who are partial to the time-honored circus are on the whole properly liberally catered for during the winter, for while there are three rings at Barnum & Bailey's show at Olympia, Herr Walf is giving an excellent exhibition at the Crystal Palace. The art of horse-breaking for trick purposes would, if history is to be credited, appear to be no new invention; for in Queen Elizabeth's day Banke's horse Morocco seems to have been taught a good many wonderful feats, and that sagacious animal would also, from all accounts, be no disgrace to a modern circus proprietor.

To the ordinary spectator, the ring horse is a comparatively uninteresting animal; he goes round at a steady canter, while the rider goes through more or less difficult feats, but the circus proprietor would tell us that a really good ring horse is one of his most valuable properties. In order that the performer may execute his feats with accuracy, the horse must travel at one even speed; for if it were to make a start or slacken his speed the rider would come to the ground. He must also be well accustomed to the business of the ring, for neither the horse nor the rider, in the case of the poney act, the running up to him of the rider, must cause him to alter his speed, and it may surprise some people to learn that a horse is seldom perfect for the ring until he has had about three years' experience. The ring horse is, perhaps, entitled to our sympathy, for the continuous canter must become monotonous, and not only have horses to appear once or twice in the day at public exhibitions, but they are also requisitioned for rehearsals, in order that new tricks may be practiced and fresh hands might be brought in, while in barrels and their coats are freely rubbed with resin in order that the performer may have a good foothold.

It is perhaps somewhat of a feather in the cap of military equitation that Philip Astley—who was probably the first successful actor of the clown, nor, as in the case of the poney act, the running up to him of the rider, must cause him to alter his speed, and it may surprise some people to learn that a horse is seldom perfect for the ring until he has had about three years' experience. The ring horse is, perhaps, entitled to our sympathy, for the continuous canter must become monotonous, and not only have horses to appear once or twice in the day at public exhibitions, but they are also requisitioned for rehearsals, in order that new tricks may be practiced and fresh hands might be brought in, while in barrels and their coats are freely rubbed with resin in order that the performer may have a good foothold.

It is perhaps somewhat of a feather in the cap of military equitation that Philip Astley—who was probably the first successful actor of the clown, nor, as in the case of the poney act, the running up to him of the rider, must cause him to alter his speed, and it may surprise some people to learn that a horse is seldom perfect for the ring until he has had about three years' experience. The ring horse is, perhaps, entitled to our sympathy, for the continuous canter must become monotonous, and not only have horses to appear once or twice in the day at public exhibitions, but they are also requisitioned for rehearsals, in order that new tricks may be practiced and fresh hands might be brought in, while in barrels and their coats are freely rubbed with resin in order that the performer may have a good foothold.

It is perhaps somewhat of a feather in the cap of military equitation that Philip Astley—who was probably the first successful actor of the clown, nor, as in the case of the poney act, the running up to him of the rider, must cause him to alter his speed, and it may surprise some people to learn that a horse is seldom perfect for the ring until he has had about three years' experience. The ring horse is, perhaps, entitled to our sympathy, for the continuous canter must become monotonous, and not only have horses to appear once or twice in the day at public exhibitions, but they are also requisitioned for rehearsals, in order that new tricks may be practiced and fresh hands might be brought in, while in barrels and their coats are freely rubbed with resin in order that the performer may have a good foothold.

It is perhaps somewhat of a feather in the cap of military equitation that Philip Astley—who was probably the first successful actor of the clown, nor, as in the case of the poney act, the running up to him of the rider, must cause him to alter his speed, and it may surprise some people to learn that a horse is seldom perfect for the ring until he has had about three years' experience. The ring horse is, perhaps, entitled to our sympathy, for the continuous canter must become monotonous, and not only have horses to appear once or twice in the day at public exhibitions, but they are also requisitioned for rehearsals, in order that new tricks may be practiced and fresh hands might be brought in, while in barrels and their coats are freely rubbed with resin in order that the performer may have a good foothold.

A GREAT BASEBALL PLAYER.

Adrian C. Anson, the Recently Retired Veteran, Has Played 2653 Games.

With the retirement of Adrian C. Anson from the management of the Chicago Baseball Club passes the most interesting figure ever known in the history of the game. He served the club long and well as player, captain and manager, and kept up an active connection with the game to an age far exceeding that of most players. His temperate mode of life, combined with physical gifts beyond the ordinary, kept him in the game for more than a quarter of a century.

His career began in 1870 in Rockford, Ill., on the local nine. He soon attracted attention, and went to the Philadelphia Athletics. In 1874 he accompanied the Athletics and Boston on the first trans-Atlantic trip. He was even then known as a strong player.

His fame, however, came since his connection with the Chicago club, which he joined in 1876, and which, under his leadership, won the National League pennant in 1887, 1888, 1881, 1882, 1885 and 1886. In the '80's no club was so well known the country over as Anson's White Stockings. He played twenty-two years with the same club.

From 1878 to 1891, inclusive, the lowest position the Chicago club held was fifth in 1877, and it was almost invariably to be found "one, two, three." Men whose names will be known as long as the game lasts were under him. Pfeffer, Corcoran, Silver, Flint, Goldsmith, Gore, Ned Williamson, Tom Egan, Mike Kelly and John Clarkson were among his men. His generalship was acknowledged by all. But with the advance of years has come a demand for young blood, and the veteran has been retired.

During his connection with the Chicago club Anson participated in 2653 full championship games. He was at bat 9,093 times and made 3034 base hits. His grand average at bat for twenty-two years was .322. From 1879, when the available records began, till the close of 1897, he had 17,009 put outs, 953 assists and 554 errors. This gave him a fielding average for the twenty-two years of .971.

Now, a man who can field .971 and bat .322 is welcome to-day in league circles. A man who bats that hard in one year, even, is a slinger.

He led the National League batsmen in 1896, 1881 and 1888. He was second in 1880, 1882, 1883 and 1887, and ranked well as a hitter every year, excepting 1892, 1893 and 1897, when he was, respectively, forty-second, thirty-seventh and sixty-eighth.

He was always recognized as a brainy player, a thorough sportsman, a fair combatant and a loyal, honorable, upright man. The game will be poorer for his absence, and ball-crowds in every league city will miss the burly, red-faced, blonde-haired first baseman.—Detroit Journal.

Little Henrietta took interest in the piano directly it was brought home, purchased by the savings of her father, and as the latter tried laboriously to master the art of music, the little girl at his side watched him with wide open eyes, and when he left the piano endeavored to imitate his movements, knowing little about the meaning of them. No notice was taken of the child for a while, but one day the father was astonished upon entering the room to discover Henrietta seated on the music stool and rattling off with perfect ease, from memory, the tunes that he had been slowly acquiring for weeks, and then had not succeeded in mastering perfectly.

Professor Wm. C. Riem, a music master, chanced to hear her, and volunteered to give her training. Recently she played at a concert very difficult music with wonderful ease. She is attending the public school, and when not playing with dolls is practicing with an earnestness that never tires.

Gradual Development of the Mind.

Sir H. Holland says: "Whatever theory we hold as to the functions of the brain or mind, it is certain that the powers of the brain are only gradually developed, and if forced into premature exercise, they are impaired by the effort." This is a maxim, indeed, of great import, applying to the condition and culture of every faculty and function of body or of mind, and singularly so to the memory, which forms in one sense the foundation of intellectual life. A regulated exercise, short of inducing fatigue, is important to it, as, indeed, it is to all faculties and functions; but we are bound to refrain from goading it by constant and laborious efforts in early life, and before the instrument is strengthened to its work, or it decays in our hands.—New York Ledger.

Helping Digestion.

One of the fertile German manufacturers has put upon the market a substance called gastronyxin, which has the virtue of increasing the natural pepsin of the stomach.

A SIMPLE DINNER'S COST.

It Represented \$500,000,000 in Capital and the Employment of 5,000,000 Men.

Recently a gentleman who is fond of arithmetic made up his mind that he would find out how much a dinner really cost. This gentleman asked how much a simple dinner that he was eating cost, and he was told seventy-five cents.

He contradicted this, and then made out the following statement about the cost of that dinner: The pepper, he said, came from 10,000 miles away. It grew on a little bush about eight feet high, which must have had a growth of at least five years. The pepper was picked green; it had to be dried in the sun, and this meant employing women. It took one ship and 1000 miles of railroad to bring the pepper to the United States. The flour of which the bread was made came from Dakota; some one owned the land, and that meant the investing of capital, and then he had also to pay wages to workmen. The flour had to be ground, and the building of the mill, and the plant, or machinery, meant more money invested. The millers had to be paid, coopers had to be paid for making the barrels, and, of course, the wood of which the barrels were made had to be cut and saved and shaped, and this meant the employing of more men. Then the flour had to be shipped over the railroad and handled again by cartmen before it came into the house.

The tea on the table came from China and the coffee from South America. The codfish had to be brought from Maine. Men had to be employed to catch the fish; other men and women were employed in drying, packing and boxing it, and it, too, had to make a long railroad journey.

The salt came from the Indian reservation in the northwestern part of New York State. The spices in the cake came from the Spice Islands in the Indian archipelago. The canned peaches came from California, and they, too, represented the employment of capital and labor. The little dinner represented directly or indirectly, the employment of \$500,000,000 of capital and five million men.

While several lawyer friends of mine were gathered in a hotel corridor during circuit court in a Pennsylvania town six or seven years ago, I heard of some of the oddest wills that were ever drawn. "I had an old court stenographer the other day," Judge Tom Farrell said he was called on once to witness a will, which read: "Give all to my wife—Jones." "I had a last testament offered for probate in my court," said an ex-county judge, who was then practicing law, "which beat the judge's for brevity. It contained four words and embodied this terse behest: 'Betsy gets my farm.'" The farm being the deceased's only earthly goods, he had told the whole story. This reminded Albert Posten, a visiting lawyer, of a will which he once saw written on a postal card. Another member of the party remonstrated: "I saw a will, while remaining in seclusion as most of these little musical prodigies are, and dug out of the oblivion in which she would otherwise have remained, by one who recognized in her talent too wonderful to be hidden from the world. Her father, who is a poor workman, has always desired that his family should know something about music, the particular branch of education that has been neglected in his case. With this object in view he set about taking lessons, so that he could teach his children what he first learned himself."

The Africans of the West Indies use the great toe constantly in climbing. Several years ago, while spending some time at one of the famous resorts in Jamaica, I had an opportunity to observe the skill with which the colored women, who do a great part of the manual labor, carried stone, mortar and other building materials on their heads to the top of a three-story tower in a part of the hotel not then finished. Much of the unerring accuracy with which they (women and girls) chased each other up and down the long ladders, with heavy loads skillfully poised on their paties, was due to the firmness with which they grasped the toes of the ladders with the great toe. They did not place the ball or hollow of the foot on the rung, but the groove at the juncture of the great toe with the body of the foot, and they held fast by making the back of the other toes afford the other gripping surface. In much the same way the Abyssinian native cavalry grasp the stirrup. And I have seen a one-armed Santo Domingo man astride the rear of a wheel, guiding a lead mule with a rein held between his great and second toes, while his only arm was devoted to cracking his teamster's whip.—Overland Monthly.

A Bird's Odd Death.

The spike-studded ball which surmounts the Manchester Town Hall is said to be the third or fourth highest architectural point in England, and a keen-sighted person rarely notices that a large bird was hanging from it, pierced through the body by one of the northern spines, upon which it had evidently been caught while flying at a great rate of speed.

African Monkey Skins.

African monkeys are giving out. In the neighborhood of the Gold Coast they have been exterminated, and last year the colony could collect only 67,660 monkey skins, whereas in 1894 168,405 skins, valued at \$295,000, were exported.