

## WISDOM OF THE WIDOW.

Views of a Man Who Does Not Agree With Tony Weller.

The man who marries a girl just out of school has need of much shrewdness, tact and fortune, for the first year of matrimony will produce a violent revolution in her mind. As she learns to know her husband—she who has never seen him except when he had his best coat on—she will deem him a brute and will be disappointed and disgusted, for she will compare him with that impossible ideal of manhood which every girl has in her mind and of which he, of course, falls short. But with experience will come wisdom. In time she will understand that her husband's ideal, if she were to have him in the flesh, would be an unbearable prig, and that her husband is about as good as men go and even—if she loves him—a little better than the next man.

A widow has all this knowledge of men and of the world, which a spinster lacks. A man talks to a widow freely as to one who has found him out. She is expert in the arts of pleasing him, and if a bright young widow sets her cap for a man he can escape her only by flight. A widow has no illusions and no ideals. She is well trained and used to going double, while the spinster is an unbroken filly and is bound to kick up a good deal when she first feels a tug at the snaffle.

## Fashionable Life in Italy.

The fashionable season in Italy, says Luigi Villari in "Italian Life in Town and Country," is from Christmas to Easter, the time generally known as the carnival. At Naples, Messina and some other places there is also a summer season. Commenting on the peculiarities of life among the upper classes, Mr. Villari says:

"Italians, even in the grandest establishments, do not wear evening dress for dinner unless there is a party. A black coat is enough for ordinary purposes. A few men who wish to be particularly fashionable wear a smoking coat with a black tie, which garment is sufficient for all save very large dinner parties and balls. On the other hand, there are occasions when a man dons his dress clothes by day. It is de rigueur at court functions, even in morning, and at weddings. Ladies wear hats at the theaters except on gala nights. They display more jewelry than English ladies. The Italian aristocracy wears magnificent jewels, and even in quiet small towns, where there is no great wealth, the old families can make a fine display. The tall hat is only necessary at marriages, funerals and at court. Young men of fashion wear it also when paying calls during the season. Among the bourgeoisie evening clothes are hardly ever worn at all."

## Two Clever Statesmen.

One crisis in Lord Palmerston's life illustrates the absolute good humor which may prevail even when political enmity is at its worst. Lord Derby had made an attack upon him in the upper house with such energy and eloquence that the odds against him seemed overwhelming. But he defended himself and his policy from the dusk of one day to the dawn of another with such tact, energy and force of appeal to the national sense of honor that he was acquitted of all blame by a majority of four votes.

Next day in passing through the corridor leading from an anteroom to the upper house one swing door opened to his hand and at the same moment the other to that of Lord Derby. They were opponents, but they were also friendly and sweet natured men. They met and bowed.

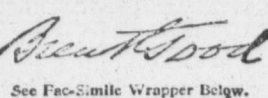
"I was just thinking," said Palmerston, "what a clever fellow he was who so nearly put me in a hole."

"Ah," was the rejoinder, "but nothing was the cleverness of the fellow who got you out of it."

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don't you?"

"Yes, sir."

"And promptly to a day?"

"Yes, sir."

"Then why do you want to be paid weekly instead of monthly?"

"Please, sir, it's so we won't be getting the lumbago carryin' home our wages."—London Answers.

## To Market on Stilts.

An interesting and picturesque custom in southwestern France is that of going to market on stilts. Groups of young men and women mounted on high stilts may be seen daily crossing the marshy plains known as "the Landes." The Landes are cut up into small ditches, pools and hummocks, and stilts are in consequence almost necessary to those who desire to traverse them.

## His Insomnia Completely Cured.

"They tell me you have cured yourself of chronic insomnia."

"Yes, I'm completely cured."

"It must be a great relief!"

"Relief! I should say it was! Why, I lie awake half the night thinking how I used to suffer from it."

## Our Aristocracy.

"She claims, I believe, to be descended from a king."

"Yes. Before her grandfather struck it rich he was known as the pouter king of White Horse Flats."

Granite is the only common rock which shows no traces of animal or vegetable life.

## To Get a Divorce.

"When 'love, cherish and obey' and 'sickness, poverty and death' are left out of the marriage ritual, what do the happy pair 'promise' themselves—merely to keep the peace?"

## Feed Him.

If you want to win the gratitude of a dog, feed him. As to men, the material difference is the quality of the food.

A laugh is worth a hundred groans in any market.

NESTING WOOD DUCKS.

The Courtship Period Is Followed by a Very Prosaic Married Life.

When a pair of wood ducks find water and a hollow tree to suit, little time is lost in preparing the nest. This task and the covering of the eggs are performed by the female, for, to the best of my knowledge, the male does little more than sit around on handy limbs and look pretty. During the period of nest building and while the duck is laying he is the beau ideal of a handsome and loving cavalier, ever attentive and seemingly most anxious as to her whereabouts should she happen to get out of his sight. But with the waning of the honeymoon he seems to feel rather bored with the whole business, and gradually he gets chubbier, wanders from his own fireside and hunts up another drake or two to help him beat away the summer. The busy little duck keeps her own counsel and "sits tight" on the dozen or more highly polished ivorylike eggs crowded together in a bed of soft decayed wood and down from her breast.

Quite frequently the nest is at the bottom of a hollow several feet deep, and no doubt the strong, hooked claws of the wood duck are a special provision for the oft repeated climbing out of the hollow.—Edwyn Sandys in Outlook.

Faithful to the Last.

In many Scotch families the old manservant is a permanent institution. He serves the service of a family when he is a boy, sticks to his place and resigns only when the infirmities of age are upon him. Naturally he grows in time to claim as rights what were at first granted him as favours and if he is opposed asserts himself with a spirit of independence. An English paper tells a story illustrative of this.

A lady's coachman, a crusty old fellow who had been in the service of the family in her father's time, gave her great trouble and annoyance on several occasions by not carrying out her instructions. At length his conduct became unbearable, and she determined to dismiss him. Calling him into her presence, she said with as much asperity as she could command:

"I cannot stand this any longer, John. You must look out for another situation. You will have my service at the end of the month."

"The old servant looked at her in amazement for a minute, and then the characteristic 'chugany' came to the surface.

"You lay, my lady," he said. "I drove you to the bank to be baptized. I drove you to your first marriage, and I'll stay to see you to your funeral!"

## A Sad Story.

Fowling is now very little practiced in the Shetland Islands, although many eggs are secured annually. Many thrilling stories of fowling adventure are told by the Shetlanders. A man who had undertaken to climb a certain steep cliff was neither very experienced nor very brave, although he boasted of being both. He pushed upward, however, bravely without let or hindrance until he had got up about 150 feet, when he stopped to breathe. The pause was fatal to his self-possession, and he called out in tones of terror, "Men, men, I am going—I am going." But he still held on for a little, and it was not till he had shuddered many times "I am going" that he did fall headlong.

His comrades, having thus been warned, moved the boat out of the way so that the poor fellow came sheer down into the deep water. Mighty was the plunge, but at length he rose to the surface, when of course he was instantly caught hold of and dragged into the boat. After many gasps and much spluttering of sea water from his mouth his only remark was: "Eh, men, this is a sad story. I have lost my smiffoox."—Sketches and Tales of Shetland.

## The Strain on the Eye.

There is no reason why a muscle of muscles of the eye should not fatigue just as the muscles elsewhere do. Let one bear a weight all day long, does he not attribute his consequent headache to the heavy burden he has borne? It seems without elaborate thinking we could conceive of the results following upon prolonged use of the eye. Nature has done all she could to protect and prolong the usefulness of the eye.

No earthly architect ever yet planned a structure that would not yield, crumble and fall, and the human eye, so exquisitely uplifted in curious and mysterious ways, falls and returns to dust more rapidly and surely than need be, for the reason that we do not realize how much one part is sustained or overthrown by another. One tiny muscle is potent enough to disturb the whole economy, especially if intercurrent diseases exist in addition to "eye strain."

## The Cook Was Safe.

An Italian prince who had a Sicilian cook was once traveling to his provincial estates, taking with him his cook, together with his entire kitchen force, without which, so found was he of the delicacies they were wont to prepare, he made it never traveled. At a point where the narrow path along the precipice turned the angle of a projecting rock the prince, at the head of his long cavalcade, heard a shriek and the splash of a body falling into the torrent far below. With a face white with horror he pulled up and, looking back, exclaimed: "The cook! The cook! Oh, do not tell me it is the cook!"

"No, your excellency," cried a voice from the rear, "it is Don Prossidemo."

The prince heaved a sigh of intense relief, then said: "Ah, only the chaplain! Thank goodness!"

## Very Fine Handiwork.

Dr. Ryell, in his "Life of King Charles," records that during the reign of Queen Elizabeth "there was one who wrote the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Roter Noster, the queen's name and the prayer of our Lord within the compass of a penny and gave her majesty a pair of spectacles of such an artificial making that by the help thereof she did plainly and distinctly discern every letter."

A somewhat similar feat was that "rare piece of work brought to pass by Peter Tates, an Englishman, who also exhibited before her majesty the entire Bible written in a book containing as many leaves as a full sized edition, but fitting into a walnut."

## Parasitic Flowers.

Curious epiphytes resembling rude flowers that grow on trees in Tierra del Fuego are described by a correspondent of La Nature, Paris. These are found to be due to a parasitic growth, the "parasitic" consisting of the inner wood of the tree which has been forced through the bark and assumes various fanciful shapes, often those of the classical anaplasts, seen on Corinthian capitals. The parasite that causes the growth is a relative of the mistletoe.

## Pierce Indeed.

"Now, then, children," said the teacher, who had been commenting upon polar expeditions, "who can tell me what leaves as a full sized edition, but fitting into a walnut?"

"Polecats!" shouted the boy at the foot of the class.

## Nervous Headaches

Mr. Bailey, 612 Queen's Ave., London, Ont., whose husband is with the Globe Casket Co., states:—"My nervous system was in an exhausted condition. I could not sleep well and suffered a great deal from headache. Experience has proven to me the remarkable value of Dr. Chase's Nerve Food. I have found it a splendid tonic and can now say that I am free from headaches. I rest and sleep better than I have for a long time and feel real well in every way."

Nervous headaches can only be permanently cured by enriching the blood and setting the nervous system in perfect order. Dr. Chase's Nerve Food is not a relief for headache but a thorough and lasting cure. It creates new, rich blood and nerve force and makes the weak and sickly strong, well and vigorous. It is nature's greatest restorative. 50 cents a box, at all dealers, or Edmanston, Bates & Co., Toronto.

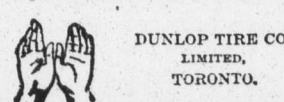
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## WRITING THE SERMON.

Friday Is the Minister's Day For Performing This Task.

Probably few of the good people who listen with rapt attention to the sermon which is preached to them each Sunday, says the Denver Post, know that for nearly 300 years Friday has been the time honored day for the pastor to go into his study, write the sermon which is to furnish "food for thought" to the congregation on the following Sunday. In speaking of this custom a clergyman says:

"When Christianity was first promulgated, all preaching was done extemporaneously. Such a thing as preparing a sermon was unknown. Many gifted men expressed their views on various subjects, then added a few words of good advice to their listeners. This practice is still continued in the Roman Catholic church of the present day, and I think that a very limited number of the priests ever write a sermon. Not all ministers, however, adhere to this rule by any means. When Henry Ward Beecher was asked on what day he prepared his sermon, he replied, 'On Sunday morning, of course.'"

"Well, Mr. Beecher, don't you think that is a rather dilatory habit for you to get into?" asked another.

"Oh, no, not at all," replied Mr. Beecher in his quick way. "You see, I look at a sermon like some do on a pancake. They can be served hot or cold, and I like mine hot; that's all."

## His Friend Geoffrey.

The following story, told by the Washington Post, leads us to wonder which to condemn first, the boaster or his critics. It concerns a certain man who has a large collection of autographs.

Indeed, the envy and sometimes the skepticism of his friends have been excited by the number of successful authors who have set down familiar and flattering inscriptions in his books. Some carpers have even gone so far as to hint darkly at a similarity of handwriting throughout the collection.

He recently purchased a rare edition of Chaucer, and one evening when a party was gathered at the house the precious book was passed from hand to hand. The owner lost sight of it, but the next morning he found it lying on his library table.

On the fly leaf was inscribed:

"To Jack —, from his old friend and schoolmate, Geoff. Chaucer."

## Wit of Horne Tooke.

It is said that Horne Tooke, who excelled in that duellike controversy exhibited by two disputants when pitted against each other with only the breadth of a mahoogany board between them, was exceedingly quick and sharp at retort. When he made his most deadly thrusts, it was with a smiling countenance and without seeming effort or emotion. Replying to a man who contended that only landowners should be allowed to vote at elections, he said, "Pray tell me how many acres does it take to make a wisecracker?"

When asked by George III, whether he ever played cards, he replied, "I cannot, your majesty, tell a king from a knave." What can be more uniquely candid than his saying to his brother: "You and I, my dear brother, have inverted the laws of nature. You have risen in the world by your gravity, and I have fallen by my levity?"

## The World's Largest Crab.

How would you like to have a crab like this squeezing your toes when you go bathing? The gigantic Japanese crab, measuring twelve feet, is probably the largest crustacean in the world. The specimen is a type of the spider crab, which inhabits the waters of the group of islands forming the empire of Japan. The body of the crab is the size of a half bushel measure, while its two great arms or "claws" could easily encircle the figure of a man. Its eight arms or legs resemble huge bamboo poles and are extremely elastic, and if strung into one line they would reach to the top of a four story apartment building. One of the extraordinary peculiarities of this crab is the faculty of assuming a disguise by affixing pieces of seaweed and sponges to the body.

## His Worth.

Nobody but you say Teacher is more than a boy, he's worth it. I haven't found him much more so.

Wagoner. Neither is he L. L. L. or A. A. A.

## THE TURKISH WOMAN.

Her Friday Excursions on the Sweet Waters of Asia.

Friday is the only day on which Turkish women enjoy a little liberty and release from the dreadful seclusion in which they are always kept, and they are not slow to avail themselves of the chance. On Fridays every one goes to the Sweet Waters of Asia, which consist of a small river running about two miles inland, with trees and meadows on each side. Hundreds of boats assemble and glide up and down the river. Every boat or calque has two or more Turkish ladies on board. The sight is a very fine one, as each private calque is most carefully got up, and the boatmen wear brilliant liveries to match the cushions and the long embroidered cloth which hangs over the stern and trails in the water. The khedivah of Egypt is one of the finest, in crimson and gold, embroidered with crowns and fishes. Besides the liveries the parasols make a wonderful show, and here may be seen all the latest Parisian creations. The ladies must not speak to men, but the careful observer can frequently catch sight of veils lowered or other signal given when a particular boat is passing, and habitual frequenters can point out boats which are sometimes close to each other. It is a very innocent diversion and would not satisfy western ladies. An hour before sunset the police boats appear and force all women to leave.—London Telegraph.

## Scotland's Round Towers.

Scotland boasts of two round towers, said to be stragglers from the great typical group found in Ireland. The one is attached to the handsome cathedral of Brechin and the other stands in the center of Abernethy, near the entrance gate to the churchyard. The Brechin tower, built in six irregular courses and rising over 100 feet, is the more perfect of the two. It dates from Kenneth's reign, 971-95, and has a most graceful appearance. Pennant in his history speaks of having, in 1772, found handsome bells within its walls. These were afterward removed and now hang in a neighboring steeple. The origin of these towers is now somewhat doubtful, but archaeologists are generally agreed that they were built in connection with churches "for defense and faithfulness of watch" during the Norseman raids. They were afterward used as bell-towers, the Brechin tower having done duty as such for generations. The tower is now one of the sights of the ancient town and is regarded as a memorial of its early connection with Ireland.—Scottish-American.

## The Changed Grizzly.

There are numerous reliable statements of grizzly bears having attacked men, but nowadays the grizzly does not seek out his human victims, as there are credible statements that his forefathers used to do. Neither does he lie in wait and pounce upon a hunter, tear him into bloody shreds in delighted fiendishness, as the old time stories used to tell. The change in the grizzly's disposition is likened by veteran hunters to the change in the character of the white cousin of the grizzly, the polar bear of the arctic. When the stations for the Hudson Bay company were established, the diaries of the men there often referred to the fright of attacks by polar bears. Many a navigator in the arctic seas has been saved and chewed to death by polar bears. But for nearly a century the polar bear has not been regarded as so very fierce, and nowadays it is looked upon as a cowardly beast. Association with armed men has modified the polar bear's disposition.—Outing.

## Cobweb Pills.

In New England cobweb pills are supposed to cure the ague, and in the south a certain knuckle bone in a pig's foot is a sure cure for rheumatism if it be carried in the pocket or worn suspended from a string around the neck. Tracing the spider web pill, it originated in China, where all species of insects are held in medicine. In Peking it is customary to give two or three scoptions or spiders to a patient ill of fever. In Ireland the peasantry swallow small spiders alive to effect cures. From these the cobweb pill of the New England native was easy. In Flanders the live spider is fastened into the empty shell of a walnut and worn around the neck of the patient. As the creature dies the fever decreases until it is gone entirely.

## His Question.

Sister—You've seen Mrs. Newpop's baby, haven't you?

Brother—Yes, but I'm afraid Mrs. Newpop must think I don't take any interest in babies.

Sister—Of course, if you don't ask questions about it she—

Brother—But I did ask a question; asked if it could sit up on its hind legs and beg yet, and she wouldn't answer.

## The Wise Deacon.

"Deacon," began the old colored parson, "do you eber say, 'Git behind me, Satan?'"

"No, bruddah. Ah do not," said Deacon Green. "Ef Ah told Satan to git behind me, he might stiek me when Ah wa'n't lookin'." Ah keeps him right in front whah Ah kin see him."

## An Offhand Answer.

"Who can tell me the meaning of leisure?" asked the teacher.

"It's a place where married people repent," replied the boy at the foot of the class.

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