

SAID BY THE MERRY MEN.

FACTS AND FANCIES FROM A HUMOROUS POINT OF VIEW.

The Best Things Evolved by the Fellows Whose Business It is to Be Funny—Here and There a Jest, and Perhaps an Occasional Chestnut. Rowan de Bout—I must say that in point of propriety I don't see much to choose between a ballet and what they call an operetta. Hyand Lowe—But there is a difference. One is presto and the other is only allegro, don't you know? Rowan de Bout—I see; one is a trifle faster than the other.

Municipal Solidity. Editor of the Kansas Coyote (meeting Mayor on the street)—I just wrote a two column article on "The Permanent Character of the Growth of Razzle Dazzle City" for the Coyote, which I think will help the place with Eastern capitalists. Mayor Skate—Jag, I wish your piece had went in last week. The wind has just blowed the roof off'n the post-office, and there go the boys from Shacktown making our court-house away with four team of mules!

What They Represent. American boy—Pop, what is the House of Representatives called that for? Patriotic father—Because it represents sixty millions of people, my son. American boy—Well, what does the United States Senate represent? Patriotic father—Thirty-two millions of dollars.

Too Sweet. Wags—"I wish you wouldn't make such affectionate pies, Mrs. Skimples." Landlady—"Affectionate pies! Pray, what kind's that?" Wags—"Why, this berry pie's so thin that the crusts are actually stuck on each other."

The Plumber's Bill. His father was a plumber; And when they named him Will He little reck'd the title Would bring the boy to ill; But when they cut his leg off, And he lay so cold and still, They said it was the only way To reduce the plumber's Bill.

Wise in Her Generation. He: When will you be mine own, sweet Bea, Don't keep me waiting, my dear, so long! They say in which you put me off I think is absolutely wrong. She: You make such pretty speeches, Jack, And for my smiles so sweetly beg, I vow I cannot bear to kill The goose that lays the golden egg!

A Fraud. First Boy—Barnum has secured a wonderful freak. Second Boy—What is it? "It is a man who can address a Sunday school without beginning his speech 'When I was a little boy.'" "I don't believe there is any such a man. He is a fraud."

Aids. I had told her that I loved her, She had whispered me the same; Then in innocent flirtation I was caught. The climax came. She demanded back her letters; And my mind is in a whirl, For by some mistake I sent her Letters from another girl.

Harmony in the Family. He—"Now, my dear Fannie, what shall I get you for a birthday present?" She—"Nothing at all." "Isn't it singular that for once we agree? At last there is harmony in the family. We have hit upon the same idea."

He Moved in a Higher Sphere. Magistrate—The officer charges you with having no visible means of support. Baboon (haughtily)—Aw—I suppose my means of support are usually invisible to fellows of his class. I'm a champagne boomer, Mr. Justice.

Progressive Housekeeping. Neighbor—Hello, Shaggs! What's going on here? Shaggs—Wife's been away. I used all the dishes and want to get everything alick and clean before she puts foot in the house to-night.



SHAKESPEARE.

III. THE PASTIMES OF THE PEOPLE. (Continued from June Number.)

Shakespeare often alludes to May Day and its pastimes. When Henry V is about to invade France, the Dauphin speaks thus to his father, the King:

"Therefore, I say, tis meet we all go forth, To view the sick and feeble parts of France: And let us do it with no show of fear; No, with no more, than if we heard that England were busied with a Whitsun Morris dance."

In "All's Well that Ends Well" the clown says he has an answer for all questions as fit "as a pancake for Shrove Tuesday or a morris for May-Day."

We have noticed the joust or tilt, which had taken the place of the older and fiercer tournament of the Normans. The boat joust was a favorite water amusement. A figure, called by Shakespeare "a quintaine—a mere lifeless block," of wood and holding a short wooden lance was placed on a pivot and turned on a pedestal or barge. The water knight stood up on the end of a boat and as he was rowed rapidly past, aimed at the figure's breast with his lance. If he struck it fair and square, it did not move; but if he was not so skilful, he received a blow that invariably sent him into the water for the amusement of the crowd.

Stag-hunting was much favored by both sexes and in many deer parks platforms were specially erected from which ladies could shoot at the deer, as they ran by, with cross-bows. Shakespeare alludes to the heartlessness of this sport in "Love's Labor's Lost."

Hunting the boar or wild-pig was considered capital exercise. The boar spear is alluded to in "King Richard III."

Bull-baiting and bear-baiting were very popular and largely patronized by all classes. The following is from "Henry VI.":

"Call hither to the stake my two brave bears, Are these thy bears? Well bait thy bears to death. The fight was between bulls or bears and dogs, either mastiffs or bull-dogs. Queen Elizabeth herself witnessed several fights in a large place, called the Paris Garden in London, built specially for the sport. In "King Henry VIII" there is a tumult of citizens in the royal palace-yard and the Porter asks, "Do you take the court for Paris Garden?"

The bears were often named, sometimes after their keepers or owners, "Harry Hunks" and "George Stone" were celebrated animals in their day. The keepers were called bear-wards and when they came to a town a large crowd followed them and the best dogs of the place were matched against the bears. The result was often more fighting amongst the spectators than in the arena.

Hawking was still indulged in, though not to such an extent as before, for the growing use of the gun made it less popular. Yet it was practised and the rules of hawking were very precise. Many kinds of hawks were used, each for special quarry. In "Hamlet" there is a bit at the neglect of what we may term the etiquette of hawking in this passage:—"We'll e'en to it like French falconers, fly at anything we see."

Another cruel sport was known as "whipping the bear," the poor beast being blinded and let loose to be beaten by all those whose cowardly courage permitted them to approach it.

Cock fighting was also well patronized. A character in "Cymbeline" says, "I must go up and down like a cock that nobody can match" and in 1607 while Shakespeare was still at work, Henry Tames published a book entitled, "The commendation of cocks and cock-fighting, wherein is shown that cock-fighting was before the coming of Christ."

More innocent sports and pastimes are alluded to in the following quotations from our author's plays:—"As blunt as the fencer's foil";—"Falling out at tennis";—"Let us to tennis";—"You base foot-ball player";—"A marvellous good neighbour, in sooth, and a very good bowler";—"Played the Jack with us."

Amongst others, angling, archery, horse and foot racing, club-ball (which was the forerunner of cricket), pall-mall, shovel-board, backgammon, dice, chess and cards.

Mention is made in Shakespeare's plays of many card-games not now known, such as "Primer" and "Noddy." Dancing was a general amusement; but it always ended at night-fall. Of the old dances Shakespeare often speaks, e.g.:

"What is thy excellence in a galliard?" "Will it please you to see the epilogue or to hear a Bergomask dance between two of our company." "They bid us to the English dancing schools and teach voluttas high and swift corantos." "And make you dance canary."

The principal instruments of music were the pipe, fiddle, lute, harp, bag-pipe, and virginal, which was the grand mother of our modern pianoforte. The English people were fond of music and especially of ballad singing. Here are a few allusions in our author's plays:—"Here's my fiddlestick, here's that shall make you dance." "I framed to my harp many an English ditty." "Come, some music; come, the recorders." "He plays on the viol de gambo."

In the age when adventure was rife and voyages were being made to many new and strange parts of the world, not only were the ears open to "travellers' tales"; but the eyes were not less eager to behold some of the curiosities brought back. Hence exhibitions of out of the way things were sure of attracting large crowds and obtaining many pence for the show man. Shakespeare has not omitted to refer to this weakness of his fellows. In "The Tempest" when Trinculo enters and finds the savage Caliban lying flat in the storm, he thus speaks:

"What have we here? A man or a fish? Dead or alive? A fish; he smells

like a fish; a very ancient and fish-like smell; a kind of, not of the newest, Poor John. A strange fish! Were I in England now (as once I was) and had this fish painted, not a holiday fool there but would give a piece of silver; there would this monster make a man; any strange beast there makes a man. When they will not give a doit to relieve a lame beggar, they will lay out ten to see a dead Indian."

This naturally leads us to Bartholomew Fair and the country fairs; but space forbids. In concluding this brief sketch of the pastimes of the people in the reign of Good Queen Bess, it may be well to remark that the chief time for all sports and games was Sunday afternoon, when in London the play-houses were also filled with listeners and the principal promenades for wealth and fashion was the middle aisle of Old St. Pauls. Tempora mutantur!

Birth. REYNOLDS—On Thursday the 20th of June, 1889, the wife of Bro. E. J. Reynolds, of Bowwood Lodge, No. 44, Ottawa, of a daughter.

Died. EDMETT—In Port Perry, on the 16th of June, 1889, Charles Henry, second son of Bro. Wm. Edmett, President of Old England Lodge, No. 2, aged 8 years and 6 months.

SONS OF ENGLAND BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Objects, Aims, and Benefits, of the Order.

ORGANIZED IN TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1874

To Englishmen and Sons of Englishmen: GENTLEMEN AND FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:—As the question is so often being asked: "What are the objects of the SONS OF ENGLAND SOCIETY?" we have been led to present this Circular with the view of giving the desired information:

The objects are to unite all honorable and true Englishmen, who are in good bodily health and between the ages of 18 and 60 years, in an Association for mutual aid; to educate our members in the true principles of manhood, whereby they learn to be charitable, to practice true benevolence, and to keep alive those dear old memories of our native land; to care for each other in sickness and adversity, and when death strikes down one of our number, to follow his remains to their last resting place.

The government of the Order is vested in a Supreme Grand Lodge, and in Subordinate Lodges. The Grand Lodge is composed of delegates elected by the Subordinate Lodges to represent them. The Grand Lodge is supported financially by a per capita tax of 10 cents per member per quarter. The Grand Lodge Officers are elected annually.

Subordinate Lodges are supported by initiation fees, and weekly dues; they have control of their own moneys, elect their own officers, make their own by-laws, (subject to the approval of the Grand Lodge), and in every way conduct their business to suit the majority of the members. We meet in our lodge rooms at stated times in fraternal intercourse, learning each other's wants giving words of encouragement and good cheer, and to those in trouble and distress, substantial assistance. The moment we enter the Lodge room all distinctions are lost sight of, and we meet on one common level; and by this constant association and intercourse, an amount of love and interest is created for each other, which is manifested by the good work accomplished. The rapid growth of the Order has far exceeded the most sanguine expectations of its founders, and it is steadily extending itself into the hearts of our countrymen, and we are confident that when the objects and aims are more generally understood, it will become one of the grandest and most useful of Benevolent Societies.

The Order has branches as follows:—In Toronto 20, South Africa 8, London 5, Ottawa 4, Montreal 4, Hamilton 2, St. Thomas 2, the Orillia 2, Peterboro 2, Kingston 2, and one in each of the following places: Oshawa, Whitby, Port Perry, Cornwall, Fort Hope, Belleville, Bowmanville, Lindsay, Woodstock, Galt, Barrie, Collingwood, Bracebridge, Brantford, Almonte, Dovercourt, Newcastle, West Toronto Junction, Weston, Little York, Aylmer, Exeter, Eglington, Gravenhurst, Guelph, Aurora, Hensall, Vancouver, Stratford, Clinton, Brookville, and we hope by bringing this Circular to the notice of our fellow-countrymen, to imbue them with our enthusiasm and to swell our thousands into tens of thousands.

Though our Society is a secret Society, there is nothing in that secrecy except to enable us to protect each other and prevent imposition; our language of signs and grips enables our members to travel to places where we have edges, make themselves known as members of the Order, when they will find a brotherly influence surrounding them, receive advice, and if needed pecuniary assistance.

In your initiatory ceremony and conferring of degrees, there is nothing but what will raise a man's self respect and kindle his patriotism and inspire him with benevolence; and the Order only requires you to live up to its teachings, honor your obligations, be true to the country and its laws, faithful to your families, and true to the brotherhood and to God.

We recognize the teachings of the Holy Bible.

The Sons of England Society offer advantages peculiarly suited to your nationality, and is second to none, and whatever benefits you receive are not charity but right, and paid to you by the proper officers without explanations or apologies; and all that is required of you is a small initiation fee, and prompt payment of your dues. Nearly one hundred thousand dollars have already been paid out for benefits.

The Beneficiary Department enables its members to insure their lives for \$500 or \$1,000, and has already proved a great source of strength to the Order. By the payment of a small graded assessment at the death of a member, substantial aid is secured to the surviving relatives, which will assist them in being independent of the cold charity of the world. Members becoming totally disabled and unable to follow any occupation, receive half the amount insured for, if required; the other half is paid at the time of death.

The benefits are medical attendance and medicine, on joining; full sick and funeral benefits after being 12 months a member; in case of sickness the benefits are \$3.00 per week for 13 weeks; \$30.00 on the death of a member's wife; \$7.00 on the death of any of his children between the age of 5 and 15 years, \$100.00 on the death of a member. New members are entitled to half funeral and sick benefits at the expiration of six months.

The Initiation Fees are— 18 to 30..... \$3 00 30 " 45..... 4 00 45 " 50..... 7 00 50 " 55..... 10 00 55 " 60..... 15 00

The Subscriptions are weekly, from 18 to 30..... 10 cents. 30 " 45..... 13 " 45 " 55..... 15 " 50 " 55..... 20 " 55 " 60..... 25 "

On the formation of a Lodge, charter members are received on the first scale of payments, as regards initiation fees. In conclusion we ask you take this matter into your earnest consideration, and if there is not a lodge near you, agitate among your fellow countrymen, and as soon as you can get 12 good men together notify the undersigned, and all the assistance required will be given to organize you into a lodge. You will then be astonished how your membership will increase, and will wonder how it was so many Englishmen were living all around you without knowing. Any information will be cheerfully given by the undersigned.

JOHN W. CARTER, Supreme Grand Secretary, Shaftesbury Hall, Toronto. April, 1889.

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