

FORCE OF HABIT IS STRONG

Even With Men Who Engage in the Practice of Law.

Attorney Wade Once Called at a Jail and Innocently Inquired "Is the Prisoner In?"

From Thursday and Friday's Daily.

The force of habit is very strong and sometimes when the conditions are just right it is apt to lead to the saying or doing of things peculiar, because misplaced. To cite an instance of this kind, Crown Prosecutor Wade told an amusing story yesterday which goes to show that even an astute attorney may sometimes forget just what his surroundings demand.

"When one comes to think of it," said Mr. Wade, "many amusing things happen in the practice of criminal law."

"I was just thinking over past experiences in relation to this, and it occurred to me that what took place the first time I was ever called upon to visit a prisoner in jail, was somewhat out of the common, and rather funny."

"What the object of the visit was other than to see the prisoner, or who he was immaterial, but the sight of the prison, a large, cold, dreary barn of a place, with its stone walls and iron barred doors and windows, affected me strangely."

"At the large front door there was a bell pull, and to drive away the general feeling of depression which had settled over me I seized the bell knob and pulled it back about a foot letting it go back with a snap. Away off in the distant interior I could hear the bells jingling and it crossed my mind that possibly I shouldn't have made such a racket when the door suddenly flew open and I was confronted by a big, burly fellow who asked, ferociously, I thought, what I wanted."

"Without thinking of how it sounded I asked if the prisoner was in."

"The gatekeeper looked at me pretty hard, as if to express a doubt of the advisability of my being at large, and allowed me to enter."

Rudy Has Mice.

Rudy Kalenborn was warned this morning that he is liable to a visit from the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals if he did not take the three mice which he holds captive in his show window out and set them at liberty. The little animals are kept at work constantly turning a plush covered wheel, which looks nice and harmless enough, but when the whole truth is known it seems that these little animals are kept at work ceaselessly turning the wheel, which in turn is converted by a light rod and cog with a mixing basin wherein Rudy places everything that requires labor to mix.

Big Chunks of Gold.

Probably the biggest chunk of gold ever seen in one lump was the giant nugget received in Wall street, New York city, a few days ago. It was in the shape of a cone, standing about two feet high, containing over 753 pounds of the yellow metal, and valued at \$154,000. Four men carried it with difficulty.

Nevertheless, some very large chunks of gold have been picked up in various parts of the world at different times—lumps formed by nature, and not composed, like the one above mentioned, by melting together the yield of thousands of tons of crushed rock. For some reason not well understood Australia has been the chief producer of great nuggets. One of them, the "Welcome," which was the largest on record, weighing 2278 ounces and valued at over \$41,000, was 99.2 per cent pure gold. It was found in 1858 at the diggings of Ballarat, in Australia.

The "Precious," weighing 1717 ounces and valued at \$30,340, was found at the Berlin diggings, as was also the "Viscount Canterbury," which tipped the scales at 1105 ounces and was 23 3/4 carats fine. Another great nugget, weighing 884 ounces and valued at \$16,000, was picked up in the same neighborhood. The "Maitland Bar" was found at a place of that name in New South Wales, and weighed 344 ounces, containing 313 ounces of gold. Its value was \$6182.

Two of the largest nuggets found in Australia fell to Chinamen, from whom they took their names. One of these was the "Kum Toon," weighing 718 ounces and worth \$13,000. It came from the Berlin diggings, as did likewise the "Kum Tow," which, though only 249 ounces in weight, sold for \$3000, being very pure. Another Berlin nugget, the "Needful," weighed 245 ounces and brought \$4500. The Dun-

nolly diggings, in Victoria, yielded some of the largest nuggets on record, one of which was the "Schlemm," weighing 385 ounces, but containing 60 ounces of quartz. The "Schlemm" No. 2, from the same neighborhood, was 478 ounces and sold for \$9000.

The largest nugget ever found in California was unearthed near the famous Camp Corona by a dissipated young fellow named Martin while digging a grave for a companion who had been drowned. At a depth of two feet he struck the mass of yellow metal, which he was unable to carry to the camp alone, inasmuch as it weighed 80 pounds. Afterwards he sold it for \$22,700.

No very large nuggets have been found at Cape Nome, although some weighing from 20 to 25 ounces and worth from \$300 to \$400 have been picked up. Lumps half an ounce or an ounce in weight are not rare.—Ex.

Fortunes in Election Bets.

An immense sum of money changed hands in New York city as the result of the election. In Wall street alone more than \$2,000,000 was held in the balance, awaiting sure returns from the polls. Beside many wagers of large size were made between men who refused to advertise their doings. Immense sums were at stake in the aggregate as the result of the ventures made by the small betters. Of these, of course, no record was kept.

Richard Croker apparently is the largest individual loser. During the campaign he was credited with betting on Bryan from time to time until he had posted \$120,000 with various stakeholders. It was reported that Mr. Croker last week bet \$90,000 on the general result. If this be true the Tammany chieftain lost \$20,000 because of his confidence in Democratic success. On the other hand, he is known to have won heavily on the result in Manhattan Borough. He began betting on 10,000 majority, and gradually increased his estimate until before the close of the campaign he was placing his money on 25,000 majority. He may have realized \$50,000 on these ventures, but if so he is still more than \$150,000 to the bad.

Others who met financial disaster as a result of overconfidence in Democratic success, being influenced by the attitude of the Tammany chieftain, are Senator T. D. Sullivan, who had \$18,000 at stake; James Mahoney, the pool-room magnate, who lost \$22,000; State Senator P. H. McCarren, who gave his Republican friends \$20,000, and "Jack" McDonald, a bookmaker, whose losses totaled \$11,000. Patrick Keenan, city chamberlain, took a modest flyer of \$2500 on Bryan's changes.

Robert Rose, a horse owner and bookmaker, was one of those who firmly believed in the success of the Democratic ticket. He placed \$18,000 at 4 to 1. Joseph Vendig, a bookmaker, bet \$15,000 on McKinley at 2 to 1, and later succeeded in hedging his wager, guaranteeing himself a profit by betting \$5000 on Bryan at 4 to 1.

F. H. Brooks, a stock broker, placed money for customers, for whom he won \$60,000. For Democratic customers he placed nearly \$40,000 at 5 to 1. The largest transaction of the campaign in this line of betting was so manipulated as to attract no attention. Late in October a syndicate of Democrats raised a fund of \$100,000, which was quietly placed in Wall street at odds that averaged a little more than 4 to 1.

Louis Wormser is reported to be the largest winner on the election. He was a consistent McKinley adherent all during the campaign, and never neglected to bet as he thought when the opportunity offered. He made many wagers at 2 to 1, but later gave as good as 5 to 2. He refused to raise those figures until about a fortnight ago, when he offered 7 to 2, and placed several small sums at 4 to 1. He confesses to having won \$90,000, but intimate friends of his assert that his winnings will aggregate nearly a quarter of a million.

Jacob Field was also a firm believer in Republican success. He began betting on McKinley the day of his nomination in Philadelphia, and made his last wager late Monday night. He won about \$80,000.—N. Y. Sun.

His Future Is Bright.

"It does seem," sighed the lady, "that my John hain't got any good luck in this world. He went in the war, an' they shot off his leg. That wuz somethin' kaze he got a pension fer it. But on his way home the train run off the track, an' instead of cuttin' off his good leg, so's he could git damages, it run over his wooden leg, an' to myartin knowledge, he's been in a life insurance company ten years, an' he ain't dead yit an' appears like there ain't no prospects of it. I never did see a man hold on like him!"

ARCTIC PERILS ARE FEW

And the Number of Fatalities Very Small.

Out of Many Expeditions to Discover the North Pole But Few Men Have Been Lost.

Contrary to the general opinion on the subject the disasters that have attended expeditions into the Arctic have not been numerous. Exploration in that region began with Edward VI. and Sebastian Cabot. Under Cabot's direction three ships were fitted out by the Muscovy Company, and Sir Hugh Willoughby was appointed to their command, with Richard Chancellor in the Edward Bonaventure as his second. The latter brought up safely on the Muscovy coast. Sir Hugh's ship and her companion, the Bona Confidentia, were cast away on the shore of Lapland. Months after their bleached hulks were discovered by Russian fishermen, and the first voyage into the frozen north ended in disaster. Then ensued a considerable interval during which vessels set sail for the arctic circle and came back home again without the loss of a single man.

The next fatality was the loss of the expedition commanded by the brave Dutchman, Sir Henry Hudson. In 1616 he entered the polar seas in a vessel of 35 tons and was never heard from again. He did not die, however, until he had reached 81 degrees, a mark not surpassed until two centuries later, when Scobey planted the British flag at 81 degrees 12 minutes 42 seconds. Then for over 250 years brave seamen sailed the arctic seas in comparative safety.

Sir John Franklin was the first to break the chain of successful voyages. In 1845 he set out in the Erebus and the Terror at the head of 137 picked men. Not a soul survived. The evidence gathered by the scores of searching parties who were sent to discover Franklin or his fate was that of the 138 men had perished of starvation. The search for Franklin brought to public notice such explorers as McClure, Collinson, Belcher, Ross, Kane, Hayes and Hall. None of them lost a single man from causes peculiarly arctic.

Down to 1879 there were no deaths. Then came the crushing of the Jeanette in the ice of Behring straits, and the subsequent death by starvation of 10 men who had taken refuge in the New Siberian Islands. Among the survivors of the ill-fated expedition was Chief Engineer George W. Melville, U. S. N.

The partial loss of the Greely expedition at Cape Sabine was the next exception to the rule. This expedition, which was under the direction of the United States government, went out on July 7, 1881, and came back without 11 of its members in the summer of 1884. Since 1884 there have been few deaths within the arctic circle.—Ex.

An English Project.

The latest and most important project on foot in England, so the Associated Press learns, is the construction of a canal from Southampton to London. The surmise as to the far-reaching consequences such a step would entail is scarcely less interesting than the fact that, if it is accomplished, it is likely to be through the instrumentality of American capital. Coming on top of London's adoption of the American transit system and utilization of American money and brains, this latest project may well be said to cap the climax. No word of the new scheme has yet been mentioned in the papers, and few people know of its existence. Nevertheless, the route from Southampton to London has been carefully surveyed by competent engineers, who declare that the canal is not only feasible, but that it could be built at a comparatively small expenditure. The whole matter has just been put in the hands of the same firm of contractors which is handling Charles T. Yerkes' new London railway, although the Chicago millionaire himself is not known to be taking an active part in it at present. Indeed, the legal and other difficulties which it is necessary to overcome before the construction of the canal is assured are so great that some time must elapse before the financial part of the matter comes up prominently.

The opposition encountered by the promoters of the Manchester and Liverpool ship canal in parliament and elsewhere would probably be as nothing to the jealous efforts of other cities in the same direction in this case, for since the American line of steamers made Southampton its port of call, Southamp-

ton has so improved itself and has so affected the trade of other ports that it is already regarded with a jealous eye. What commercial revolutions will ensue from a ship canal enabling trans-Atlantic and other lines to land their passengers in the heart of London many hours earlier than any other route can be easily judged by the growing popularity of the smaller steamship lines now sailing direct to and from London by the slow and difficult way of the Thames.

The fact that American capital is now largely employed in an electrical underground scheme in London has at last stimulated the British owners of District Railway stock to buy those securities in the belief that an electrical installation must speedily replace the present steam and smoke which make traveling on the old underground railroad such a noxious experience for all foreigners. Murray Griffiths, who is probably the largest owner of District stock, had a conference with Mr. Yerkes' representative in London Friday, but the both have denied that there is any expectation of a necessity that Mr. Yerkes will interest himself in this new enterprise. Mr. Griffiths, whose buying sent up the stock to points, informed a representative of the Associated Press that he believed an electric installation could be satisfactorily accomplished if the directors could only be brought to realize the necessity of keeping up with the times.

An Officer's Mistake.

"Now, then, I've caught you in the act!" exclaimed the policeman as he came upon a colored man who was just coming out of an alley at midnight with something in a bag.

"Yes, sah, you've got me," was the reply.

"I've been laying for you for a dozen nights past, and here you are at last! How many you got in that bag?"

"Only one, sah."

"Got a tooth for chicken, eh?"

"Yes, sah; drefful fond o' chicken, sah. But de price is awful high dis winter."

"We'll see about the price. Anyone with you?"

"No, sah."

"Got scared before you filled the bag, eh? Well, you come along with me."

"Yes, sah—whar you gwine to?"

"I'm going to ring up the wagon and have you taken in. The judge will put you where you won't taste chicken again for three months. Where did you get it?"

"De chicken, sah?"

"Yes."

"Hain't got none, boss. I dun tote you de price was so high dis winter dat I couldn't afford chicken."

"So you don't call this a chicken?"

"Explained the officer as he reached for the bag and shook the contents out on the walk."

"No, sah," replied the man as a big black and white cat was dumped out with a yowl and ran up the officer's body to his head and sprang into the limbs of a shade tree.

"No, sah," he went on as he reached for the bag and folded it up; "no, sah, dat ain't no chicken, but an old cat dat I was carryin' off to get losted. Can't dun make out, sah, how you calls dat a chicken, but if you says so I hain't gwine to dispute it. As I told you befo'—"

But the officer raised him one and ordered him to move on.—Ex.

A Spring Expedition.

London, Nov. 19.—"It is rumored," says a Pekin correspondent of the Morning Post, "that a spring expedition to Sianfu is already being discussed as the outcome of the probable failure of the peace negotiations. Even if Prince Tuan and Prince Ching are sent from the present seat of the Chinese court, Emperor Kwang Hsu, is still helpless, as he lacks the aid of a strong and progressive advisor, all such officials having been beheaded."

"Gen. Tung Fu Hsiang, master of the military forces, is dreaded even by the empress dowager. The new cabinet minister, Lu Chuan Lin, is reputed to be another Kang Yi. There is danger, therefore, that the terms accepted by the Chinese commissioners in Pekin will be rejected at Sian Fu."

"Should the court prepare for further resistance, it would be necessary for the allies to declare war. The United States and Russia would probably refuse to take part in such measures."

"Since the occupation of Pekin, the German commander has shot more than a hundred guilty Boxers. Gen. Chaffee's orders do not provide for dealing with cases of crimes committed before the relief of the legations. The American plan is to leave such matter to the Chinese, which means nothing."

Considerate.

"Are ye goin to Flannigan's wake t'night, Casey?"

"O! am not. He licked me once, an now that the poor mon's dead O! wouldn't boy 'im think O! kem to gloat over his remains."

THE DAWSON CURLING CLUB

Elects Ten "Skips" for a Series of Games.

Next Wednesday Night Will See the Initial Contest Between Two Picked Teams.

The members of the Dawson City Curling Club met last night at the rink and arranged for their first series of club matches to commence Wednesday night next. Two rinks will play each night, except Saturday, until ten rinks have been played. A great deal of enthusiasm was manifested last night by the members of the club, when the election of the skips for the teams was announced. Robert Jones, the caretaker was highly complimented by President Wills for the able manner in which he had overcome the unexpected difficulties and adding that the ice was in far better condition than he had any reason to hope for. The following teams were scheduled and skips elected:

E. E. Lewin, R. E. Giff, R. M. de Gex, H. G. Wills, skip; Dr. Grant, W. H. Scarth, Dr. Wills, Judge Craig, skip; D. A. Matheson, F. G. Crisp, J. P. McLennan, Dr. Norquay, skip; Dr. McDonald, Chas. Milne, M. H. Jones, J. T. Lithgow, skip; H. E. Rogers, Rod Chisholm, Dr. McFarlane, W. G. Hington, skip; H. D. Hulme, P. R. Ritchie, W. L. Walsh, W. H. Rourke, skip; W. M. McKay, T. A. R. Puchas, Dr. Richardson, A. Scott, skip; F. J. McDougall, J. P. Bell, R. B. Young, H. G. Wilson, skip; A. M. H. Anderson, F. J. Stackpole, Capt. McDonel, D. G. Stewart, skip; D. B. Olson, A. F. Nicol, S. A. Burpee, W. D. Bruce, skip.

To those unacquainted with the sport the following information may be interesting relative to the game. Curling is supposed to have originated in Scotland, but when is only a matter of conjecture. For the past three centuries the game has been played, however. The method of playing is somewhat similar to that of shuffle board, only of course the game is played on the ice, which must be perfectly level, and with stones weighing some 45 pounds. The stones are thrown from one end of the rink to the other or from back (law) to tee (center of circle). The standard length of the rink is 42 yards and after one series of stones are thrown by both competing teams in one direction, called an "end," the position of the players is reviewed and the game continued from the opposite end. If four players are in a team each stone of the team which is nearer to the tee than that of the opposing team is counted one for each stone so placed. The stones have handles and by the dexterous use of the same when the stones are thrown by the player they are made to "curl" if necessary either with an "in" turn or an "out" turn as the exigencies of the game may demand. Each player uses two stones and plays one alternately with his opponent. Four players constitute a "rink" and opposed to them are four others. The fine points of the game are patting to the tee, curling around stones in the line of the tee, striking out opposing stones which have the advantage of position and placing the stones to block the opponent's play. Each team has a "skip" or captain who directs from the opposite end of the rink the position the player should make his stone occupy. When the skip plays another member of his team directs him in turn. Sweeping is an important feature of the game as when the stone comes down the rink slowly the ice is swept before it making it smooth and allowing the stone to travel freely. There are many other features of the game which makes it an attractive sport and one requiring the greatest skill, but above all is the good fellowship the game engenders, for a "curler" is a synonym for manliness and bon comradeship.

Unruffled.

"Say, you," cried the victim in the crowded trolley car, glaring up at the transgressor, "my feet are not made to stand on."

"That's so," replied the other pleasantly. "You don't need 'em for that while you've got a seat, do you?"—Philadelphia Press.

Unkind Supposition.

"Professor Koch" remarked the observant boarder, "has discovered a method of extirpating mosquitos and thus annihilating malaria."

"I suppose," added the cross-eyed boarder, "that he will dose them with his consumption lymph, or elixir of life, which he discovered a year or two ago."—Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.