Small Boy's Day.

April 1st Has Been His Property in All Ages.

The Lively Jokes of the Times Long breakfast, while, as yet, few have had Gone By.

They Were Much the Same as Now, But the Postival Was Joined In by Everyone-Misty Origin of the Day.

April Fool's Day used to be the jolliest feast day in the calendar. And by the way, we are coming to have a great many festivals in that old calendar of ours; one for every month in the year, and still they are being

The First of April jokes are nowadays mostly confined to the young people, and as they are harmless and only intended to raise a laugh at the expense of the victim, everyone takes them good naturedly.

Special preparations are made for the 1st of April by confectioners, bakers and toy dealers. Delicious looking cakes are baked with interiors of cotlooking candies are liberally supplied

with red pepper.
Through the mails come delightful invitations for dinner, dance or theater, and frequently it is only after an acceptance has been mailed that a glance at the date brings the discomforting knowledge that it is all a hoax, and that the 1st of April is responsible AS IT USED TO BE.

In the good old days this feast day was right generally observed, and one of the chroniclers tells of it in this

way:
"The 1st of April, of all days in the year enjoys a character of its own, in so far as it alone is consecrated to practical toking

"On this day it becomes the especial especially the younger sort, to practice priest, who advised her to go to the physically to become the Empress of a binocent impostures upon their unsuspicious neighbors, thus making them what in France is called 'poissons d' Avril,' and with us April Fool."

The literature of the last century from the Spectator downwards has many allusions to April fooling, but no references to it in our earlier literature have as yet been pointed out. ITS ORIGIN DOUBTFUL.

English antiquarians seem unable to trace the origin of the custom or to say how long it has existed among us. In the Roman Catholic calendar there was the feast of the ass on twelfth day and various mummings about Christmas, but April Fool stands apart from these dates. There is one plausible suggestion that the 25th of March being in one respect New Year's Day, the 1st of April was its octave, and the termination of its celebration, but this idea is not wholly satisfactory.

There is much importance in the fact that the Hindoos have, in their Hull, which terminated with the 31st of March, a precisely similar festival during which the great aim is to send persons away with messages to ideal individuals, or individuals sure to be away from home, and enjoy a laugh at their disappointment. To find the practice so widely prevalent over this earth, and with so near a coincidence of the day, would seem to indicate that it has had a very early origin among

POPULAR IN FRANCE. April fooling is a very noted practice in France, and we find traces of its prevalence there long before it became general in England. For instance, it is related that Francis, Duke of Lorraine, and his wife, being in captivity, in Nantes, effected their escape in consequence of the attempt being made upon the 1st of April.

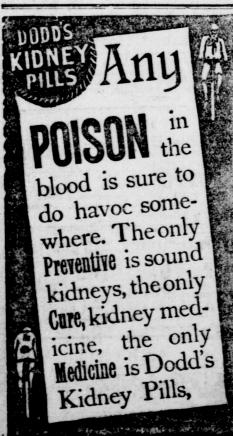
Disguised as peasants, the one bearing a hod upon his shoulder, the other carrying a basket of rubbish upon her back, they both at an early hour passed through the gates of the city. A woman having knowledge of who they were, ran to the guard to give notice to the sentry. "April fool!" shouted the soldier, and all the guards to a man shouted "April fool!" The Government conceived some suspicion and ordered the fact to be proved, but At was too late, for the duke and his wife had reached a place of safety.

AN EXTENSIVE JOKE. Sometimes the opportunity is taken by ultra-jocular persons to carry out some extensive hoax upon society. For example, in March, 1860, a vast multi-tude of Londoners received through the post a card having the following nscription, with a seal marked by an inverted sixpence at one of the angles. but having to superficial observation an official appearance:

Tower of London: Admit the bearer and friend to view the ceremony of washing the white lions on Sunday, April 1, 1860. Admitted only at the white gate. It is particularly requested that no gratuities be given to the war dens or their assistants."

The trick was highly successful; cabs were rattling about all that Sunday morning vainly endeavoring to find the

Usually the old-time jokes were very simple,a wise young school boy sending his younger brother to see a famous etatue descend from a pedestal at a given hour, or to the bookseller's for



a "History of Eve's Grandmother," or to the cobbler's for a little strap oil, which usually invited a sharp strap-ping for the amazed youngster's shoul-

For successful April fooling it is necessary to have some considerable degree of coolness and face, and also some tact, in order to know how the victim can be most readily imposed upon. It may be remarked that a large proportion of the busines is effected before and about the time of occasion to remember what day of

the year it is. A funny story is told of a French voman, who, on or about the 1st of April, borrowed without leave a much bejeweled watch belonging to her next door neighbor. Upon being taxed with and convicted of the theft, the oulprit tried to palm it off as an April fool joke, but the judge would have none of it, and condemned her to prison until the coming of April Fool's Day in the next year.

It is strange that there has been little or no improvement in the jokes of April 1. Reliable authorities assert that the old gentleman of colonial days were made victims of hat hidden bricks just as old gentlemen are today, and that the small boy has been invariably the culprit in all the ages.

EFFECT OF A LENTEN SERMON.

A Confession That May Save an Innocent Man From the Guillotine.

Paris Dispatch in the London Times. has occupied seven days at Rome assizes. In August, 1892, a man named ton or wool, and the most innocent- Louis Cauvin, was convicted of the murder of Mme. Moutet, a rich widow living near Marseilles, chiefly on the evidence of her maid servant, Marie Michel, 15 years of age, who stated that she assisted in the crime, and who had previously been tried as an accomplice and acquitted. Cauvin was sentenced to hard labor for life.

In March, 1895, Marie Michel went before the Marseilles magistrates, and stated that she alone had committed the murder, and that Cauvin was innocent. Her confession was scarcely are not a married man," was the recredited, for some of its details appeared inconsistent with the facts, but she persisted in it, and, at the instance of Cauvin's family, she was put on her trial.

magistrates. At the trial the judges showed skepticism as to her story, urging that the scratches found in the contrary, and explained the tardiness of her confession by saying that she she now walks for exercise, would be discovered without her intervention.

pardon. He was a traveling oil dealand told him she had heard her misscream, whereupon she frightened and had run to inform him. He went back with her, and him. found that Mme. Moutet had been murdered.

He denied the girl's former allegation that he had promised her money if she would help in the crime. Mme. Moutet had told him that she had made a will in his favor, and had desired him at legacy duty. He accordingly, finding mann, now dead. her dead, took the bonds, which were, A COUNTESS BAITS BULLS. her dead, took the bonds, which were,

of his guilt. ally the prisoner was convicted and sentenced to five years' imprisonment. She expressed delight that Cauvin's innocence has thus been recognized. The jury at once signed a petition in her favor, Cauvin being informed by his counsel of the result, said: "I owe my life to you; but who will restore to me my poor wife?" His wife died heartbroken when he was sentenced. He will now be tried over

MONTREAL EAST FALLS INTO LINE

again.

An Important Statement from Alphonse T. Lepine, M.P.

Of the many wise acts of the member in the House of Commons for Montreal East, it is a question whether to any is more widely important than his indorsation of the good effects that come from the use of Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder. Mr. Lepine has used this medicine himself, and found that it gave all the relief in the case of catarrh that it promises. The results acomplished by this medicine are a superb swimmer, too, rivaling Queen simply wonderful. In Toronto there is Christina of Spain and Queen Pia of the case of Captain Ben Connor, of 198 Berkeley street, who was cured of catarrhal deafness of twelve years' standing by the use of this medicine It relieves in ten minutes. Sold by all druggists. Sample bottle and blower

How Edison Learned to Tell Stories.

Cleveland Plaindealer.

"It seemed like a waste of time," said a gentleman who passed an evening with Mr. Edison, in Norwalk, Ohio, recently, "to hear Mr. Edison rolling off story after story, and demanding of all his acquaintances to tell him more, when we knew how much information we might have re-ceived from him. I finally asked him how he got to be such a story teller. 'Well,' he replied, 'when I was quite a young man I was a telegraph operator during the war. I was stationed at St. Louis, which was a sort of distributing point for a large district, and when we could get our batch of stuff off, and we still had several hours to put in, I used to get pretty tired. Then we would begin to call up the operator at the other end of the line and gossip with him. I always liked stories, and if Chicago had a good one, he would wire it to me. Then I would send that off to Louisville and New York and Cincinnati, and hear them laugh over it by wire back, "Ha, ha," over the wire. In this way we would get all the best stories that were going, and we would always write them out for the day men. It got to be a sort of passion after a while, and has stuck to me ever since."

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A Female Sandow.

Maria Therese of Austria Can Lift a Man and Hold Him Aloft Arm-High.

Daring Athletic Feats of Other Royal

You may not have heard, but it is true, that empresses and queens have often achieved distinction by equestrian feats that one does not expect to witness except in a circus. A certain royal lady won renown as one of the foremost conjurers of Europe. It was reserved, however, for the tall and statuesque Archduchess Maria Therese of Austria, consort of that brother of the Emperor who is the next heir to the throne, to earn fame by feats of muscular strength that savor some-

what of the variety show. Two years ago she was losing the ele-gance and elasticity of her fine figure, and began a course of calisthenics. She soon acquired a remarkable proficiency with the Indian clubs, dumb bells, etc. This led her to other methods of developing the muscles, such as punching-the bag, wrestling and putting the hammer and the shot. Austrian journals, official and semi-official, say that she has now developed such an aston-An extraordinary charge of perjury ishing amount of strength that she is able to raise a full-grown man from the ground by one hand, and to hold him aloft in her extended arm for several seconds.

RIDES LIKE A COSSACK. The Archduchess once rode horseback from Reichenau to Guns and back, a distance of considerably more than 100 miles, without stopping. A court dignitary ventured to remonstrate with the Emperor about the matter, urging that the Archduchess was by such imprudences endangering not only her health, but also the succession to the crown. "Ah, it is easy to see that you

ply of his Apostolic Majesty. The Archduchess is a bold mountaineer, and unaided by professional guides, she has made some exceedingly difficult ascents in Austria and in Swit-According to her own account. some zerland. She paints beautifully, too, Lenten sermons filled her with re- sculptures well, writes cleverly, and is morse, and she first confessed to a singularly well fitted mentally and

sport-loving people.
AN EMPRESS OF CIRCUS FEATS. Empress Elizabeth of Austria, once face of the victim could not have been a performer of daring circus feats of made by a girl, but she maintained the equestrianism, has been compelled to cease riding because of her health, and had hoped that Cauvin's innocence however, covering distances that would weary an amateur pedestrian.

Queen Henriette of Belgium, by birth Cauvin was, of course, brought up an Austrian Archduchess, continues, in from prison, and on his appearance spit of her snow-white hair, and rank of moles, bats and dormice. Marie Michel, with sobs, implored his as a grandmother, to occupy her time with circus riding. A year ago she gave er, and had called at Mme. Moutet's in the riding school of the royal palace ouse. His version was that, an hour at Brussels a semi-public performance, afterwards, the girl went to his house in which she and her daughter Clementine put their horses through all kinds of fancy paces and trick riding with the skill of professionals. They leaped their horses through burning hoops and over flaming hedges, and her Majesty jumped a pet horse over a dinner table favorite mare.

The Queen is a wonderfully clever 24 inches high in his favor, and had desired nim at her death to take possession of the conjuror, too, having been instructed her death to take possession of the conjuror, too, having been instructed together on one famous occasion, in together on one famous occasion, in bonds at once so as to avoid paying by the great magic professor, Her-

The widowed Comtesse de Paris, so tastes and manners, shares with her Medical evidence was given as to son-in-law, the King of Portugal, a pashysteria, and much irrelevant matter sion for bull fighting, and on her eswas, as usual, introduced, but eventu- tate near Seville she enjoys organizing bull fights, she herself, armed with a lance, taking the part of a picador. Her son-in-law, King Carlos, is as skillful and courageous a torrero as she is a picador, and in the presence of his court has laid low many a bull. While the Comtessee de Paris tackles the bulls on horseback, the king daringly assails them on foot. He is not the first king of Portugal to achieve fame as a bull fighter; for one of his ancestors, King John V., surnamed "The Magnificent," was in the habit of descending in the arena himself once in a while to show his subjects his dexterity as a torrero.

Queen Margaret of Italy's sister-inlaw, the young Duchess of Genoa, is the only red-haired princess of the blood in Europe. Her time is devoted fencing, tennis, calisthenics, horizontal bar practice and sprinting. She has achieved distinction by her skill in handling a boat, and by her long rides on horseback from Turin to Munich and back again on the same horse on the occasion of her annual visits to her relatives in Germany. She is Christina of Spain and Queen Pia of Portugal. Queen Pia of Portugal wears two medals for saving life at sea at the peril of her own.

EMPRESS DRIVES A TROIKA. The widowed Empress of Russia excels in driving a troika, three horses sent by S.G. Detchon, 44 Church street, abreast, the two-wheelers being kept Toronto, on receipt of 10 cents in silver at a trot, while the third maintains a steady, unswerving canter. It sounds very easy, but is very difficult, and the Dowager Czaritza is one of the few Russian women who have mastered it. The widowed Queen of Naples is the hero of the siege of Gaeta, and the only Lady Knight of the Russian Order of St. George, an honor conferred solely for exceptional gallantry under fire. She is a skilled sailor, and alone often sails a small boat, in all sorts weather, across the English Channel from Folkestone to Boulogne. Her sister, the Empress of Austria, races horses, her entries bearing the pseudonym of "Count Isolla."

Acquiring Knowledge.

"Papa, what is an old saw-not the saw you saw with, but the kind this paper speaks about?" "What old saw does the paper speal

about?" "That's what I wan't to know. It says: 'Everybody has heard the old saw, "never look a gift horse in the mouth." I want to know where the

saw comes in." "Well, there's your old saw. An old saw is an old proverb."
"Why shouldn't you look a gift horse in the mouth?"

"Because-because it's bad taste. It's ungrateful, and all that sort of thing.' All what sort of thing?" "Why, to look a horse in the mouth that has been given to you shows that -it shows that you are not thinking

of the giver, but at the value of the gift." What would anybody want to look a horse in the mouth for?" "To tell how old it is." (After a pause.) "Papa, can you tell

Pure, rich blood is the true cure for nervousness, and Hood's Sarsaparilla is the One True Blood Purifier and

how old a saw is by looking at its

PROFITS OF DIAMOND MINING.

Net Income from the De Beers Mines in South Africa, \$11,222,840 Last Year.

The South African diamond mines of the De Beers Consolidated Mines Company yielded last year a profit of \$11,-222.840. The diamonds taken from the mines sold for \$15,530,790. The expenses of operating the mines for the twelve months, including a liberal allowance for deterioration of plant and for interest on debentures, were about \$8,525,000. Money received for rents, profits on various investments, and mis-cellaneous sources of income brought up the year's profits to the sum men-

Dividends at the rate of 25 per cent per annum were paid, which disposed of about \$5,000,000 of the profits, and and invested in consols and other sure things, thus assuring another year's dividend in advance. From all of which it will be seen that diamond mining comes about as near to what it is cracked up to be as anything does in this world of disenchantment.

The average yield of diamonds was 0.85 carat in each load of clay. The average value of the diamonds mined was 25s. 6d. a carat, say \$6 12, At the close of the fiscal year the company had 3,360,256 loads of clay on its floors ready for the sifting process. This was taken into account as being worth in diamond possibilities, 1s. 6d. a load, although the clay has usually average 2s. 6d. a load. This would make the real profits, realized or in sight, even more than stated in the figures given above. And last year's results showed an increase in revenue from diamonds produced and sold of \$1,428,955 over the previous twelve

An increased price was received for diamonds last year over the previous year, and the directors believe that the present high rates will be fully maintained if the output is carefully regu-There is a good deal of skill necessary in the manipulation of an output of \$15,000,000 worth of diamonds a year. The company's future is comfortably assured for some time, at least, as a diamond syndicate has purchased the output of the mines up to Dec. 31 next at a price equivalent to \$18,000,000 for the twelve months of this year. This is an increase to the company's profits of about \$2,500,000 over The syndicate bought the product of the mines from July 1, 1895,

Facts About Dwarfs.

Dwarfs have always been looked upon with an affectionate wonderment. In Rome they were so popular that the manufacture of freaks was a recognized trade. A traditional recipe for dwarfing is the application to the spine of an ointment made of grease

Among the earliest famed dwarfs, Philetus of Cos should be mentioned. He was a poet, and the tutor of Ptolemy Philadelphus, and was said to be so light that he carried weights in his pockets to keep himself from being blown away. He should never have tried such vain anchorage in our western cyclone tract. Nicephorus Calistus mentions an Egyptian dwarf, aged 25, and no larger than a partridge. Athecovered with flowers and lighted can- naeus crowds Munchausen by telling delabras. Then she drove a team of of a poet named Aristratus, so small twenty-in-hand, herself mounted on her as to be invisible. Marc Antony owned a dwarf, Sisyphus, recorded as less than

Peter the Great gathered 70 dwarfs 1710; had a dozen at a time drawn in a one-horse carriage, and celebrated a toy wedding and a miniature wedding course, was regarded as confirmation astonishingly masculine in all her feast with a bridegroom 33 inches high, joyment of the Emperor. The Russians, last century, had a veritable dwarf mania, the midgets serving as pages and hostlers to the dogs. Turkey they are still in great demand, and a deaf and dumb dwarf is the ideal guard of a seraglio. The good people of Liege once boast-

ed a woman of 32 inches, who lived to be 100 years old. In William and Mary's time a German woman was exhibited who was the mother of two children, and was 13 inches high. A man of the same size was exhibited later, and the cosmopolitan list should include "the little Scotchman," a former dominie, who was two feet six inches tall at the age of 60. Simon Paap was a Dutch dwarf of much symmetry. He was 28 inches high, 28 years old, and 28 pounds heavy, unless the recorder was a poet. Charles Stratton (Tom Thumb) was

not the first dwarf to use that name. It is known as early as 1597, and in 1887 C. G. Carus examined a Dutch "To mThumb" who was 26 inches tall at the age of 18.

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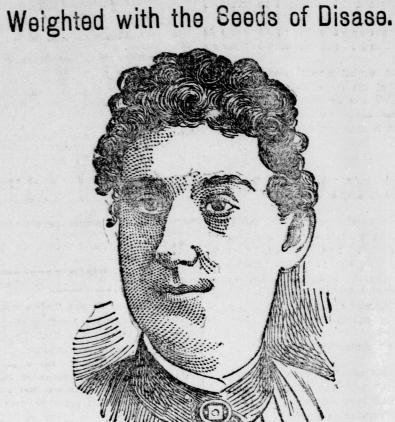
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says: "For fifteen years I suffered from nervous diseases and other serious wives, mothers and daughters are anxi- troubles. A lady friend recommended me. I can sleep well now, and my ap-

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