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Stories About Well-Known People

The Man Who Refused an Ambassadorship.

Perhaps it was a reciprocal spirit which prompted Britain's new Prime Minister to suggest Mr. Austen Chamberlain should succeed Sir Auckland Geddes as Ambassador at Washington, since the United States sends a famous politician to represent it at the court of St. James'. Mr. Chamberlain declined because he thought the high dignity of an Ambassadorship was offered him as a solatium for not being given an important office in the Government; and he is not to be smoothed down like that.

Most men drift into politics, but Austen Chamberlain was trained from boyhood by his father for a political career. There has always been something of the machine-made politician about him, very capable but rather out of touch with the human world. One of the disadvantages of being the son of a great man is that people constantly say: "Ah, but Austen isn't the man Joe was."

Twice he has been within grasp of the Premiership. Years ago when Mr. Balfour retired he would have had it were it not that Mr. Walter Long had champions; so both stood down and Mr. Bonar Law, rather a dark horse, was selected. Now when Mr. Bonar Law retired Mr. Chamberlain had been leader of the house and his party and might have had full claim had he not got into disfavor because of his association with Mr. Lloyd George. So he was pushed aside for Mr. Stanley

Baldwin. If Austen feels a little peeved with fate that only shows he is human.

A Handless Artist.

Though he lost one hand in the war and suffered permanent disablement of the other, Mr. H. Weaver Hawkins still pursues his career as an artist. That he has very considerable skill is evident from his etchings and water-colors which are on view at Elliott and Fry's Galleries in London.

Mr. Hawkins manipulates his brush or etching point with what remains of his mutilated arms. The writer's opinion, which is shared by many eminent critics, is that his work can be appreciated on its merits without any allowance being made for his physical disability.

School Teacher's Big Idea.

The broadcasting of the Empire Day messages of the King and Queen in the most remote parts of the empire was the idea of Mr. J. Payne, headmaster of the North Road Council School, Southall.

"I thought of the idea several years ago," Mr. Payne said, "but it was only this year that I summoned up courage to bring it forward."

"Last January I wrote to the Gramophone Company and suggested that His Majesty should be asked to send a message. The company proposed that I should approach the board of education."

BRITISH INVESTMENT IN THE DOMINION

COMMENT IN OLD COUNTRY PAPERS ILLOGICAL.

Republic to the South Rapidly Increasing Investments in Canadian Securities.

The past month has seen considerable caustic comment in the British press upon the matter of British losses in Canadian investment. Editors have gone so far as to opine that the losses sustained in a rather outstanding and unfortunate, but at the same time unusual, case would seriously militate against the flow of other British capital Canadawards, and the summing up of their editorials was almost direct advice to avoid the Dominion as a bourn for surplus funds. However one may regard the particular instance which has occasioned such bitterness, one cannot help but realize the futility of the attitude adopted. Canada would not be the sole loser from such action, and for some years now the Dominion has been prospering without the aid of British capital.

Practically all losses of British capital may be traced primarily to the same evil root—a negligence on the part of the British investor to properly investigate the proposition in which he deposits his money and an endeavor to operate Canadian development from a base several thousand miles away. The claim has never been made that all Canadian investments are sound and have honest backing, but the country does give assurance that there are such reliable outlets for invested capital. It has consistently pointed out that it is the business of the investor to make close investigation and scrutiny and determine one from the other.

American Regard Different.

Canada might be considered an unfortunate locality for the investment of funds if the experience of other countries in Canadian investments was not directly the opposite. The best possible proof that the British comment is illogical and the investors are their own worst enemies, is the huge amount of American capital in Canada which is daily swelling in

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Masterpieces of Fiction That Were Dictated.

The man who walks about his study or lounges in an easy chair whilst his secretary takes down a dictated novel or article for the Press is sometimes regarded as a product of these modern days of hustle.

Yet there are great precedents, for both "Paradise Lost" and "Paradise Regained" were dictated. Milton was blind and unable to transcribe his own works. His method was to compose a number of lines in his mind, and then dictate them to anyone who happened to be handy.

Wordsworth, the great interpreter of nature, used to ramble over hill and dale composing poems. When, after his death, an inquirer asked an aged villager if he knew him, the old fellow said: "Aye, sure, I've oft seen him goo hummin' past." He was referring to the poet's habit of murmuring his lines as he walked.

In this way he could compose and memorize a couple of hundred lines. When he returned home he would call his sister or his wife to his side, and dictate the whole to them whilst they wrote.

Sir Walter Scott is another example. The whole of "Ivanhoe" and "Guy Mannerling" was dictated to secretaries, who took turns in striving to keep pace with him. But it was not Scott's usual habit to dictate. He was unwell at the time and unable to write.

It is certain that the Iliad of Homer, as well as most of the ballad literature of the world, were spoken or sung for years, perhaps for ages, before they were committed to writing.

Michaelmas Daisies.

'Tis more than mid-October, yet along the narrow garden

The daisies loved of Michaelmas keep sturdily in flower;

For tho' the evenings sharply fall, they find a way to harden

The crop of comely blossoming that makes for me a bower.

Yet autumn wears an apron, and the apron's sweet with lendings

Of colors matched with comeliness of blossom and of leaf,

And daisies dear to Michaelmas, with dances and with bendings

Forbid my heart to weary for the summer's beautiful sheaf.

Old Time has made a nosegay. He is welcome to his plucking,

Of tiger-lilies, lad's-love, and the tall cathedral spires,

Of lupins, and snapdragons where the bee is fond of sucking,

And all the flowery likelinesses of youth and youth's desires.

Old Time has got my nosegay; but the gloaming finds me cheery,

Because the gloaming is itself a flower of lovely hue!

The more I look at what remains, the less the world seems dreary,

For quiet breathes at Michaelmas, and well-worn friends are true.

—Norman Gale.



Do You Know the Animal?

Country Magistrate — "Well, what have you been arrested for—shooting birds?"

Sam—"No, sah, jedge, your honor, I've 'rested feh on'y jes' shootin' a little craps."

How Cameras Help Doctors.

Photography is receiving the attention of doctors as a means of early diagnosis of smallpox and other diseases involving a rash.

Photographs of children have shown the symptomatic measles rash developing under the skin days before it was visible to the eye.

"I have been able to tell in advance by means of photography that children were sickening for measles," said a London practitioner.

"This method should be valuable in smallpox cases. People in contact with known cases could be photographed before any rash develops on the outer skin. If the camera revealed the disease on them, they could be removed to isolation before they became infective."

The Australian women have needles made of a little bone from the leg of an emu, and they thread them with the sinews of opossums, kangaroos or emus.

Minard's Liniment for Dandruff.

Alms in Autumn.

Spindle-wood, spindle-wood will you lend me, pray,

A little flaming lantern to guide me on my way?

The fairies all have vanished from the meadow and the glen,

And I would fain go seeking till I find them once again.

Lend me now a lantern that I may bear a light,

To find the hidden pathway in the darkness of the night.

Ash-tree, ash-tree, throw me, if you please,

Throw me down a slender branch of russet-golden keys.

I fear the gates of Fairyland may all be shut so fast

That nothing but your magic keys will ever take me past.

I'll tie them to my girdle and as I go along

My heart will find a comfort in the tinkle of their song.

Holly-bush, holly-bush, help me in my task,

A pocketful of berries is all the the alms I ask;

A pocketful of berries to thread in golden strands,

I would not go a-visiting with nothing in my hands—

So fine will be the rosy chains, so gay, so glossy bright,

They'll set the realms of fairyland a-dancing with delight.

—Rose Fyfe.

Nothing Affects Music.

Music is independent of space. You can have a symphony of Beethoven played in every musical centre of the world at the same time if you have a sufficiency of musicians capable of rendering it. Time does not touch it. Neither does that other great barrier to the common artistic enjoyment of civilized nations, the difference of languages, affect it. The translator of a masterpiece is not merely a copyist, his personality is not merely interposed, like the personality of all copyists, between the spectator and the original producer. To compare painting with language, you are compelling him to copy in tempera what was painted in oils, or to render as a drawing what was originally a colored picture.

No progress will make it possible for a masterpiece of one language to be in the same full sense a masterpiece in another. It must always be confined to the country of its birth, and in the main to those who have learned from infancy the language in which it is rendered. No such limitations attach to the art of music. All can understand it whatever be their mother tongue.

Now that the thoughts of so many of us are occupied in extending widely among the whole community the highest, the greatest and the best of pleasures, it may be accepted that of all the arts and of all the finer forms of imagination, that which chooses music as its means of expression is the one which has the greatest future among the masses of all nations.

Invented by Accident.

The automatic system of signalling was discovered accidentally at a spiritualistic seance. The many uses of borax were discovered through the accidental preservation of a dead horse in Yellowstone Park, in the United States.

The system of coupling signals and working them all from one point and with a single action was the thought of a lazy pointsman, who hated to move. It was the burning of a starch factory which introduced to the world a cheap gum, and it was the omission of a workman to put size into the paper he was making which produced the very first blotting paper.

To the upsetting of a tool-chest we are indebted for cast-iron cement, and the accident of a child playing with a bottomless oil flask which his brother, a Swiss mechanic called Argand, placed idly over the frame of his rude oil lamp, gave birth to the lamp-chimney.

A glass cutter let some aquafortis drop on his spectacles, and etching on glass was the result. Howe's sight of his wife darning, with the eye of the needle first, gave him the root idea of his sewing machine; and the school-

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boy son of Bessemer innocently suggested an improvement in the process of steel manufacture which doubled its efficiency, a missing link which had baffled the most skillful men in the business.

Minard's Liniment Heals Cuts.

Betty's Spelling.

Father—"How do you spell 'rat'?"

Little Betty—"R-A-T."

"Yes. Now, can you spell 'mouse'?"

"Of course I can, father! You spell it just the same way, only with little letters."

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