

THE IDLE MOMENT

It was in the book department of a crowded Toronto department store. A lady who had managed to get next to the counter asked for a boy's book on animals; and the young lady sold her "The Jungle," by Upton Sinclair.

The following is one of the best of the many good stories told of Mark Twain. The famous laughing philosopher, it appears, was in the habit of frequenting a certain hotel to have his hair cut. On one occasion, while having his white locks trimmed, he caught sight of a very diminutive boy in buttons, who was standing near by trying to attract his attention in order to present him with a card. With a twinkle in his eye, but looking profoundly solemn, Mark inquired: "Who are you?"

"A page, sir," the boy replied.

"A page!" exclaimed Mark, with feigned scorn. "A page! Why you are hardly big enough for a paragraph."

A novelist who has written one or two rather popular books is very fond of praise when he is sure of its sincerity. Sometimes he hides his identity and talks to people in book shops and libraries about his own works.

On one occasion, he went into a shop to get some novels. The assistant, who didn't know him, after bringing forward several volumes, displayed some of the customer's own works.

"Will you try this, sir?" he said.

The novelist, eager for praise, exclaimed:

"Dear me! I can't stand that man's stuff."

"Can't you, sir?" said the shopman. "Well, to tell the truth, I can't, either."

"What made Scribber's book take the public favor at a bound? It's going into the hundred thousands."

"It's all owing to a mistake of a printer."

"How was that?"

"The Reviewer said the book was 'immortal,' and the printer omitted the 't.'"



BENEFITS FORGOT.

OLD GENTLEMAN (he had been charged across the field by the infuriated animal, and only just scrambled over the gate in time—gasping for breath): "You infernal, un-grateful beast! An' me—been a vegetarian—all my life!—Puck."

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TORONTO

"How did Clipper's wife come to leave him?" asked a man of a mutual friend.

"It was all her fault."

"How?"

"Why, she told Clipper that if he did not get her the bonnet she wanted she would go home to her mother."

"Well, why didn't he let her have it?"

"There it is, you see. He would have done so if she hadn't uttered that threat."

Wall Paper

IT is not the policy of Canadian wall paper manufacturers to let much news leak out regarding their spring designs, while their plans are incomplete. By the end of the month, however, the manufacturers expect to be in the midst of the sampling season. There is a reason behind the reticence of the manufacturers. The tariff on foreign wall paper is none too protective, and great is the rivalry between domestic manufacturers to produce the most exclusive designs. They realize to the full that their successful existence depends to a very large extent upon the exercise of proper judgment in the selection of designs. More pretentious endeavors are being made than ever before in view of the great prosperity of the country; and while the main output of the factories is the "bread and butter" pattern, the more expensive and artistic styles are not being neglected. It was noticed at the end of last season that the average weight of paper sold was heavier than in previous years, and while a great quantity of the cheaper lines have been sold there has also been an increase in the sales of the better grades.