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The latter boasted much of the prowess of the pugilist, but Broughton was not very imposing physically, and Frederick the Great expressed the opinion that any of his grenadiers could make quick work of the pugilist. A match was therefore made between Broughton and a picked man from a grenadier regiment, a giant who stood nearly six feet and a half, and who looked able to whip Broughton with one hand. The English boxer, however, found it only child's play to punch the big soldier, and the pride of the regiment was soon stretched out on the ground, very much hors de combat. Since then, it is alleged, the Prussian royal family has inherited a prejudice against boxing. So it is quite easy to understand that the German soldiers had no relish for the hearty wallops of the good two-handed punchers in the ranks of Tommy Atkins.—B. W.

**A Good Wife**

"She was a good wife to me. A good wife, Good bless her." These words were spoken in trembling accents over a coffin lid. The woman asleep there had borne the heat and burden of life's long day, and no one had ever heard her murmur; her hand was quick to reach out in a helping grasp to those who fell by the wayside; and her feet were swift on errands of mercy; the heart of the husband had trusted her; he had left her to long hours of solitude, while he amused himself in scenes in which she had no pleasure nor part. Children had been born to them. She had reared them almost alone—they were gone! Her hand alone ministered to their wants. Then she had comforted him, and sent him out strong and whole-hearted while she stayed home and cried. What can a woman do but cry—and trust? Well, she is at rest now. But she could not die until she had promised to "bear up" and not to fret, but to remember how happy they have been. They? Yes, it is given so. For she was blessed in living, and he in receiving. It was an equal partnership after all. "She was a good wife to me." Oh man! man! why not have told her so, when her ears were not dulled by death.

**Laziness**

The trouble with Hiram H. Hazy, whose prospect of riches is slim, is that he is plainly lazy, and work is a nightmare to him. He sees the procession of the winners, with prizes and medals bedight, and he, most dejected of sinners, remarks that his luck is a fright. He sits in the shade and discourses of war, and such topics, all day, and keeps up his spiel till he hoarse is, while others are harvesting hay. He talks of the needs of our navy, and proclaims that our army is punk, while neighbors are hustling like gravy, and earning the shimmering plunk. And so while the others are drilling around in a praise-worthy cause, he sits by the post office killing the time with a lank pair of jaws. He's talking of men and of measures infecting this land of the free; while others have comforts and pleasures, he's broke, as he always will be. He might have a home and an auto, he might have a watch and a chain, a lawn with a fountain and a grove, if he would be active and sane. His friends are all tired and disgusted, with seeing him sit in the shade, but Hiram would rather be busted than banish a hoe or a spade.—Walt Mason.

**The British Fist**

I read in the papers the other day that "fists and the butts of rifles" were principal weapons employed by the British troops when they piled pell-mell into the German trenches in the progress of the great drive. It is now easier to understand why the Germans were driven back, mile upon mile, in such disorder. For the good solid fist is far from being a favorite in Germany, where boxing is an almost unheard-of sport. Even when the matter of including boxing in the Olympic games was taken up, the delegates from Germany made many objections. Even amateur boxing is frowned upon in the Kaiser's country, and the Emperor is alleged to have a prejudice against the game. There is a story to the effect that the British sport has been under the ban of the Hohenzollerns ever since 1748, when Jack Boughton, then champion of England, visited Prussia as the protégé of the Duke of Cumberland.

**A PAIR OF SHOESTRINGS.**

The Matter of Length and How to Tie a Bowknot That Will Hold. A shoestring is "six-fourths" long when one does not specify the length required. "Six-fourths of what?" is likely to be the question put by the layman. When a man buys a new pair of shoes the strings in them are just long enough. When he buys the next pair of shoestrings they are too long. The strings that come with the shoes are four-fourths long, the next pair will be six-fourths unless the purchaser asks for and can get four-fourths. These lengths have to do with men's high shoes. There is not the same trouble in the case of low shoes. Some shoestrings will wear a long time, but they will become brown. Others will not wear so long, but will retain their original blackness. The strong strings that turn brown are of linen or very strong cotton. The others are of mixed cotton that hold their color. Many people prefer the less durable shoestring, not only because it holds its color, but because being of a less hard fiber it stays tied better than the other. A few of the millions of shoestring wearers know how to tie a bowknot that won't come untied. The method can be explained without a diagram. Instead of tucking the bow once over before drawing the knot tight, tuck it twice over. A fiddle string used for a shoestring would not come untied if the knot were made in that way. This knot can be untied in the same way as the other, by pulling at the ends.—Philadelphia Record.

**TRAPPED A SEAGULL.**

Queer Contest of Strength Between a Bird and a Bivalve. At first thought it is hard to imagine how a clam could endanger the life of a bird. That such a strange circumstance is not impossible is shown by the following incident: A settler on one of the small islands near Vancouver was returning to his home by way of a beach of hard sand when he beheld an unusually large flock of seagulls gathered in a compact mass and beating with beaks and wings upon the sand. Evidently they were attacking some enemy. Overhead dozens of gulls wheeled and screamed in evident excitement. The settler was almost upon the fighting birds before they burst apart and flew, chattering, toward the clouds. One, however, lay flapping upon the ground, and the man saw that a monster clam held the gull's beak in a vise-like grip. It was too heavy for the bird to fly away with, and for all the gull's frantic struggles it could not loosen the clam's tenacious grip. With his hunting knife the man pried open the shells and freed the captive. The gull was exhausted from its desperate efforts and at first could only stagger like a drunken sailor toward the water. Finally, however, it flew away and soon returned in the van of a cloud of gulls come to inspect the enemy that had trapped one of their tribe.—St. Andrews Beacon.

**Lip Reading Detectives.**

In a Vienna school for the deaf and dumb, where lip reading is taught, a course has been established for the special purpose of teaching the art to detectives. The possibilities of lip reading, says the author of the account in the Volta Review, have been exaggerated. But they are sufficient to cause authorities to think the instruction of detectives worth while. When a detective becomes proficient, he is able to learn something of the conversation between people who are visible, but out of earshot. The article says that at from 50 to 100 feet it is possible for an expert to get the general run of a conversation. Some reading has been done with glasses at a distance of 125 feet. Instruction and practice in the art must be very thorough if the detective is to use it to real advantage in his work.

**Transforming Clothesline Posts.**

A suburban resident grew tired of the wooden clothesline posts in his back yard. He incased them in chicken wire netting and planted sprouts of honeysuckle around the posts. He then nailed a little bird house to the top of each. In a short time the honeysuckle had completely covered the unsightly posts and a pair of bluebirds built a nest in one of the houses. Many of this man's neighbors took up the idea, and honeysuckle vines and bird houses now make the clothesline posts of his locality a pride to their owners.—House and Garden.

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