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AN ECCENTRIC BUTCHER.

His Bills Were Queer, and So Were His Eating and Praying.

In 1720 there died at Romford, in Essex, England, a well known butcher of that town named Wilson. Mr. Wilson, it appears, was notable for his integrity in business and for the gentleness of his manners—two qualities which, perhaps, would scarcely have entitled him to the notice of posterity had he not also exhibited a remarkable addiction to psalmody, extraordinary proficiency in penmanship and a highly peculiar manner of eating his dinner.

Such butcher's bills as he sent to his customers had never been seen before and have never been seen since. They were all exquisitely written by his own hand, but the top line would be, perhaps, in German text, the second in Roman letters, simulating the finest print; beef would be in one style of writing, mutton in another, lamb in a third, while each of these kinds of meat would be still further distinguished by a different color of ink.

He was a great friend to the church, observing all its ordinances and a trifle more. Every Sunday he entertained the congregation with a solo, singing the psalms by himself until the minister came into the desk. And on every fast day, while all the rest of the congregation went home to their refreshment and rest, between morning and evening service, he never quitted the church, but went about from pew to pew repeating the Lord's Prayer and singing appropriate psalms until he had performed these favorite devotions in every pew in the church.

He had a large appetite and seemed determined that all Romford should know it; for, instead of sitting down quietly to dinner in his back parlor, he would usually saunter forth into the street with a leg or shoulder of lamb in one hand, a large knife in the other, a small loaf of bread in his pocket and a handful of salt in the bend of the arm which carried the joint; and thus equipped would perambulate the town, eating as he went, until he had consumed the whole of this very substantial meal.—Chambers' Journal.

WRIGGLING SIGNS.

How the Movable Effect is Obtained in Electrical Designs.

A great many electric signs are of the moving type. Walk down most any city street after dark and you will see many illuminated signs of novel and interesting design. Here a long red and blue snake seems to be wriggling from the street to the top of a building. On the other side a wheel is rapidly revolving, below it yellow smoke is issuing in clouds from a huge brown cigar. There is also a large theater sign which suddenly flashes into view, only to disappear after an interval long enough to read it.

It is quite puzzling to the ordinary pedestrian to explain the wonderful light effects. It is apparent that the light is obtained from electricity, but this is about all that is understood. In such signs as where a snake seems to be wriggling along, a cat chases a rat, words that spell themselves letter by letter and in all other similar signs the effect is produced by a mechanical device called a "flasher," which lights the tiny electric sign lamps in the order required to produce the effect. This flasher is driven by a tiny motor. The flasher is made up of a number of fingers, and each finger drops in its turn upon a metal plate that is electrically connected with a certain letter or series of letters, or, in the case of the snake or rat chasers, with certain bulbs. The flasher is driven rapidly, and in this way the snake can be speeded around its course very swiftly. Where the only effect desired is a sign in which one letter is illuminated at a time the flasher becomes a much simpler device, but in all cases the underlying principle is the same.—New York Tribune.

Helping the Coffee.

Some of the coffee sold roasted and ground causes complaint. Most of it can be improved a little. Trouble seems to be that it is not roasted enough and needs another touch of fire. You know the less it is roasted the more it weighs. Put a couple of tablespoonfuls in a sensless agate quart steapan or cup and set it on the stove, gas or blue flame and shake it while it gets another scant parching, never letting it get hot enough to smoke or scorch. Set it aside till it gets cold and then pour on the water and flush up in the regular way.—New York Press.

Didn't Hit Him.

John Wesley had a reputation for cheerfulness. In his journal he writes: "I preached in Halifax to a civil, senseless congregation. Three or four gentlemen put me in mind of the honest man at London who was so gay and unconcerned while Dr. Sherlock was preaching concerning the day of judgment. One asked, 'Do you not hear what the doctor says?' He answered, 'Yes, but I am not of his parish.'"

His Early Promise.

"Does my boy?" inquired the parent, "seem to have a natural bent in any one direction?"

"Yes, sir," said the teacher. "He gives every indication of being a captain of industry some day. He gets the other boys to do all his work for him."—Chicago Tribune.

Just Our Luck.

Williams—This is a queer world. Walker—Right you are. A man's shoes will often get untied, but never just as he is ready to take them off.—Judge.

THE WALL STREET GAME.

Advice to Those Who Would Buy and Sell on Margin.

"A broker once told me that there was one rule which he would give if he dared to his customers to guide them in selecting stocks for trading purposes. 'Take a piece of chewing gum; reduce it to an adhesive condition, mold it into a form convenient for throwing; throw it at the board. Buy or sell the stock indicated by the spot on the board to which it adheres. Go to Europe for three months.' By following this advice, he said, the customer would have a chance—not much of a chance, it is true, but some chance. If however he reads the financial page of the newspaper and listens to the gossip in the brokers' offices, he has not even the gambler's chance, since he will be doing exactly what the powers back of the market want him to do in order that they may as quickly as possible get his principal before it is exhausted by the constant nibbling of the broker.

"A well-to-do man showed his ingenu-ous bride a check for \$1,800. 'Do you see this check? Now with this I'm going to buy sugar. Sugar is going up, and I'll give you the profits.' Sugar went down, and he lost his \$1,800. The lady asked for an accounting. 'My dear, sugar went down. The money is lost.' 'And you haven't even any sugar?' she asked plaintively. 'Not even any sugar?'

"As a means of making money speculating on margin is worthless; as a means to loss and ruin it has no rivals. With the large number of sound investments constantly offered by banking houses to the public on terms which offer a reasonable chance of increasing value, together with security of principal and income, it should no longer be necessary for men and women to put their savings into margins."—Edward Sherwood Meade in Lippincott's.

JUVENILE PRODIGIES.

Master Betty at the Age of Twelve Played Richard III.

Of all juvenile prodigies was there ever one to compare with Master Betty, the infant Kosciusko? The press of the day voted him "a very extraordinary phenomenon, . . . playing marbles in a morning and Richard III. in the evening; . . . an inspired being . . . of exquisite judgment and sensibility, . . . the energy of whose delivery was such as to leave all description at a distance. . . . The intelligence of manner, the eloquence of the eye when speech was denied, the rapid yet judicious transitions from prostrate affliction to dignified resentment, are qualities which a Garrick might display." The Edinburgh manager was in fear that the young actor's voice would not fill the house. "My dear air," said the twelve-year-old genius, "I beg you will be under no apprehensions upon that score, for if my voice does not fill your house my playing will."

Writing for the stage seems always to have attracted the prodigy. Douglas Jerrold wrote his successful farce, "More Frightened Than Hurt," before he was fifteen, and Lope de Vega, the famous Spaniard, was not fourteen when his first play was produced. And William Ireland produced his Shakespeare forgeries, which were good enough to deceive the learned, when he was about fifteen.—London Chronicle.

Measuring Moonlight.

The full moon is said to give a great deal more than twice the light of the half moon. The ratio is approximately as nine to one. Taking advantage of the extreme sensitiveness to light of a selenium cell, experimenters have measured the amount of light coming from the moon at different phases, with the result above mentioned. The reason for the remarkable difference shown is to be found in the varying angles of reflection presented by the roughened surface of our satellite to the sun. The moon is brighter between first quarter and full than between full and last quarter. The cause of this is evident in the more highly reflective character of that part of the moon that lies west of its meridian.

The Old and the New.

He was an old timer slowly adapting himself to modern customs and acquired wealth. He had progressed as far as the open back shirt and was proud of it. The coat front was yet to be attained.

"Just look at me," he said to some friends calling on him while he was dressing. "By heck! When I came to this town I hadn't a shirt to my back, and now—now I haven't a back to my shirt!"—Judge's Library.

Berlin's Outdoor Life.

Berlin is an amazing contrast to Paris and London in the complete absence of a leisured, well-to-do class with outdoor tastes. It has no Thames, no Ranelagh or Hurlingham, no weed-eudy Brighton, hardly any motoring do-naughts. Its fat races are attended by dowdy tens where the race courses within reach of London are thronged with smart thousands.—Berlin Cor. London Bystander.

Fraid of Him.

"You never go to banquets with your husband."

"No. I'm always afraid that they'll ask him to make a speech."

"And he can't make one?"

"That's it exactly. He can't. But if he were asked I just know he'd get up and try."—Detroit Free Press.

Truth is clothed in white, but a lie comes forth with all the colors of the rainbow.

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