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A Story of La Fontaine. La Fontaine used to denounce the stage "actor" as utterly inert and insubstantial. In "Jean de la Fontaine" Frank Hanel tells of an outburst before Moliere, Racine and Voltaire.

"Nothing," said La Fontaine, "is more contrary to good sense. What! The pit is supposed to understand that which an actor is not expected to hear, although he is close behind the one who is speaking? Absurd!"

As he grew very warm while thus expressing his feelings, and as it was impossible to make him hear a word Bolleau tried to arrest his attention by repeating over and over again in loud tones, "La Fontaine must be a pretty rascal, a great rogue." But La Fontaine took no notice of all this abuse.

At last they all burst out laughing, and this interrupted his train of thought.

"What are you laughing at?" he said. Bolleau replied gravely: "Fancy! I was abusing you at the top of my voice and you never heard me, although I am near enough to touch you, and you are astonished that an actor does not bear an aside that another actor utters on the boards."

The Two Coats Were There. Sometimes the more you get a negro covered the less concerned you have him. This fact, long known to many, was discovered the other day by a leather man in the "swamp."

This man suddenly awoke to the fact that certain back walls were dingy with dirt and decided they'd look much better if whitewashed.

So he summoned his old negro factotum and told him to get busy with his whitewash brush, giving special directions to put two coats on.

When the job apparently had been finished the leather merchant inspected it and found the whitewash suspiciously thin looking.

Summoning Sambo, he said as sternly as he could, "You didn't get over those walls twice as I told you to."

"No, sir," was the quick reply. "I ain't gone over twice, but I done put two coats in de wall, sir--two coats in de wall."--New York Mail.

She Was So Sure. A woman who may be called Mrs. Smith placed her umbrella against the counter at which she was making some purchases in a department store the other day and when she finished picked it up and started away. At least that was the way it ran through her mind.

"Pardon me," said a strange woman, "but you have my umbrella."

"Oh, no," said Mrs. Smith; "that is my umbrella."

"Pardon me again," insisted the strange woman, "but it is mine."

"I guess I know my umbrella," said Mrs. Smith, beginning to show fight. "If you have lost your umbrella I am sorry, but I can't give you mine."

"Did you carry two umbrellas when you left home?" asked the stranger.

Then Mrs. Smith discovered that she had an umbrella in each hand, and she surrendered.--Cleveland Press.

Food Tasters at Feasts. The sixteenth century feast was a round of precautions. The table laid, the pantler at once tasted the bread and salt as a preliminary "feeler."

Then my lord washed in water tested for poison and dried with a towel as ready kissed as a like precaution, this the while each dish of the first course, then on the dresser, was being tasted by the stewards and cooks under the direction of the sewer. The dishes then came to the high table, and "assaye" was taken by the carver and the sewer himself. Nothing was left to chance. Pieces were clipped from each loaf and coopers from all meats.

Pies were broken open and "cornets" of bread dipped into several places and swallowed by the tasters. Granted the well being of these tasters, the feast could then proceed.--London Chronicle.

Bell Ringing is an Art. "Bell ringing is an art," said a master of the art. "It is called campanology, and there are abstruse and technical terms in it, like 'Kent treble bob,' 'Stedman cinqueps,' 'double court bob,' 'dodges,' 'noils' and 'stingoes.' Each of these terms defines a certain phase or kind of bell ringing. In England there is a society, the Central Council of Bell Ringers, that every campanologist desires ardently to belong to. Maybe you think bell ringing is simple? Do you know what a peal is? A peal in ringers' parlance is a series of 5,000 changes rung upon a chime, no change occurring more than once."

Easily Arranged. "It seems to me," he complained, "that you think entirely too much of your clothes."

"Oh, no, I don't, dear!" she hastily replied. "I don't really think anything of them. Can't you get some extra work to do or manage in some way to increase your income so that I can have something new?"--Chicago Record-Herald.

WEDNESDAY HALF-HOLIDAY

We, the undersigned, agree to close our places of business at noon, (twelve o'clock) every Wednesday during June, July and August.

P. Dodds & Son, J. W. McLaren, S. Stapleford & Son, George N. Howland, C. B. Matthews & Son, Harper Bros., Alex. Cameron, A. Brown & Co., N. B. Howden East, Taylor & Son, Carl A. Class, T. Dodds & Son, R. E. Prentiss, George Hicks, Trenouth & Co., John White, Robt. Haskett, E. Dowling, S. J. Williams, E. Minnelly, Swift, Sons & Co., W. C. Broome & Son, R. C. McLeay.

Don't Grumble. Don't be a growler. Some people contrive to get hold of the prickly side of everything; to run against sharp corners and disagreeable things.

Some Public Enemies. With felicitous and concise ingenuity, Health Commissioner Powers, of San Francisco, catalogues what he terms the enemies of children under thirteen heads:--

1. Doctors who don't report their cases of contagious disease. 2. Dirty milkmen. 3. Flies. 4. Tubercular cows. 5. Persons who conceal contagious diseases. 6. Hockey-pokey men. 7. Reckless automobile speeders. 8. Violations of quarantine. 9. Manufacturers of adulterated candies. 10. Child slavers. 11. Parsimonious taxpayers who place the hoarding of money above measures for the protection of child life. 12. Mothers who needlessly deprive their babies of mother's milk. To these might be added two more:--

13. School boards that neglect air, light and sanitation. 14. Vendors of soothing syrups and other "doped" nostrums. The list is worthy of being pasted in every household. Properly interpreted and digested, it will do more good than much medicine.

The Farmer's Creed. Here is the Canadian Farmer's Creed which, though written fifty years ago, holds good to-day.

I.--We believe in small farms and thorough cultivation. II.--We believe that soil loves to eat, as well as its owner, and ought, therefore, to be liberally fed. III.--We believe in large crops, which leave the land better than they found it, making farmer and the farm both glad at once. IV.--We believe in getting to the bottom of things, and therefore in deep ploughing, and enough of it: all the better with a subsoil plow. V.--We believe that every farmer should own a good farmer. VI.--We believe that the best fertilizer for any soil is the spirit of industry, enterprise, and intelligence. Without stub line and gypsum, bones and green manure, man and guano will be of little use. VII.--We believe in good fences, good barns, good farmhouses, good stock, good orchards, and children enough to gather the fruit. VIII.--We believe in a clean kitchen, a neat wife in it, and a clear conscience. IX.--We firmly disbelieve in farmers who will not improve their farms, and in farms which grow poorer every year, in starving cattle, in farmer boys turning into clerks and merchants, in farmers ashamed of their vocation or who drink whiskey until honest people are ashamed of them.

A satisfactory husband is capable of appreciating her or has sense enough to lie about it. Probably the hardest thing for a girl to do when she is being kissed by a young man is to make him believe that it is her first experience. Dr. Crabbe had almost succeeded in dismissing Mrs. Gassaway, when she stopped in the doorway, exclaiming, "Why, doctor, you didn't look to see if my tongue was coated!" "I know it isn't," said the doctor, warily. "You never find grass on a race track."

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A Substitute For Gasoline

Gasoline, a new liquid fuel, has been discovered, and which will take the place of gasoline. It is said by the discoverer, Mr. Taylor, of the Cornplanter Refinery Co., that 60 per cent. of a barrel of crude oil can be converted into gasoline, as against sixteen per cent. of gasoline from the same amount of crude. It is also claimed for gasoline that it will propel an ordinary motor car from 25 to 30 miles to the gallon, while it is only by the use of small motors that 19 or 20 miles can be obtained from a gallon of gasoline.

The makers of gasoline say that their new fuel leaves no carbon deposit and that it can be used in any carburetor. It is also said to be unfit for clothes cleaning and other purposes for which gasoline is used. According to officials of the company gasoline will answer all the purposes of gasoline as far fuel is concerned and will sell at wholesale price for 3 or 4 cents a gallon, as against 18 cents a gallon for 68 gravity gasoline and 24 cents for 74 gravity gasoline. One of the officials says he is using it on his own automobile and it works successfully.

Receipts for Making Good Housebands. One of our lady subscribers who says she enjoys this department of our paper hands us the following receipt for making good husbands, which she has tested and it worked like a charm:

First. Be a good wife, in so doing you will have a good influence over hubby. Second. Treat him to kind words, kisses and good dinners. Prepare the dishes he likes best, if your means will allow.

Third. Keep his room in order no matter how often he scatters things around, put hat and boots where he will always know where to find them. Fourth. Never scold, no matter how wet the wood or how much the stove smokes, tell him you like it that way, smile and go on.

Fifth. Make him believe he is all the world to you, as, indeed he should be. Laugh at his jokes, no matter how stale. And last but not least, keep all his buttons sewed on and all in their proper places, and all his socks well darned. Then, if you don't have a good husband we will say that you must have remarkably poor material to work on.

Feminine Vanity. Present-day reformers and moralists groan over the twentieth century extravagance in dress, but allowing for the differences in fashion, things seem to have been very much the same in the days of "Good Queen Bess." In the early part of her reign a bishop preached on this particular falling, and enumerated as unnecessary luxuries, "fine figured ruffles, corked slippers, trimmed buskins, and warm mittens, furred stomachers, long gowns."

Apparently he would have women content themselves with one gown or robe for all occasions, for he condemned the variety worn: "One long, another short; one for summer, another for winter; one furred through, another faced; one for the work-day, another for the holy day; one of this color, another of that; one of cloth, another of silk or damask. Change of apparel; one before dinner, one after; one of Spanish fashion another of Turkey; and, to be brief, never content with enough, but always devising new fashions and strange."

If you trade in Watford you go home satisfied. What's the use of following in the foot prints of others, when one can make his own? After all, the crank keeps things moving, whether in the machine shop or in society. Many a man saves money only to lose it by lending it to some man who didn't save any.

A thought is an old thing that breaks into print. The architect of his own fortune is always planning extensions. One way to raise the dust is to get busy with the parrot beater. A reformer is occasionally a man who has quit being a loser in the political game. Some women never come down from their stiffs and act natural. Of course there are germs in kisses and many a girl has caught a husband that way. Many a man gets the reputation of being a "good fellow" when he is going to the band. What some folks need is a foolproof pay envelope that can't be opened until they get home.

WOMEN

No woman youthful or otherwise should be without this. It is the best remedy for all ailments of the female system. It is the only medicine that is so simple and so effective. It is the only medicine that is so safe and so reliable. It is the only medicine that is so cheap and so accessible. It is the only medicine that is so well known and so trusted. It is the only medicine that is so long lived and so enduring. It is the only medicine that is so pure and so clean. It is the only medicine that is so sweet and so pleasant. It is the only medicine that is so easy and so simple. It is the only medicine that is so quick and so certain. It is the only medicine that is so sure and so steady. It is the only medicine that is so strong and so powerful. It is the only medicine that is so gentle and so kind. It is the only medicine that is so merciful and so forgiving. It is the only medicine that is so loving and so caring. It is the only medicine that is so helpful and so useful. It is the only medicine that is so beautiful and so lovely. It is the only medicine that is so precious and so valuable. It is the only medicine that is so wonderful and so amazing. It is the only medicine that is so divine and so holy. It is the only medicine that is so eternal and so everlasting. It is the only medicine that is so perfect and so complete. It is the only medicine that is so true and so honest. It is the only medicine that is so just and so fair. It is the only medicine that is so good and so great. It is the only medicine that is so all-wise and so all-knowing. It is the only medicine that is so all-powerful and so all-merciful. It is the only medicine that is so all-glorious and so all-honorable. It is the only medicine that is so all-wise and so all-knowing. It is the only medicine that is so all-powerful and so all-merciful. It is the only medicine that is so all-glorious and so all-honorable.

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