

Realizing Venice.

The realization of Venice comes slowly, piece by piece, and it is long before one has a properly definite sense of the traffic, and of what that traffic means, in these streets of water, which seem at first to be made for no more than ornament and the promenade of strangers. The dust-carts, when one grazes them in the side canals, begin to suggest other uses in this decorative water; and one day, meeting the gondola of the post-office, rowing hard from the station, one sees another, as it seems, transposition of things. Going under the Bridge of Sighs, one sees the rough, iron-bolted prison gondolas, with their square, felzi of solid wood, pierced by air holes on each side. Crossing the Rialto one looks down on a procession of gondolas that approach slowly, and under the tufted black hoods one sees the white flowers and favors of a wedding. Funerals cross between the Fondamenta Nuove and the cemetery island of San Michele, and the dead people still go in their gondolas, under the last narrowed felzi.

Uncle George's Philosophy.

The hen that does the most cackling don't always lay the most eggs.
Money is the root of all evil, but we're all after the root jes' the same.
If you got occasion to hit the mule do it when you're a-going up hill.
The dog that's so durned lazy he has to lean agin the wall to bark, is always the dog that's busiest aroun' meal times.

A feller will always find the best side of a saloon is the outside.
The music of the hog is sweeter in the pan than in the pen.
Whiskey don't say much in a bottle, but it talks a powerful lot when it gets outside.

It's a heap sight less trouble to do a thing, than to squat aroun' an' wish it was done for you.
The feller that starts a gossiping, generally ends up by lying.
If you can't help—don't butt in.
Only a durned fool runs when he's on the wrong road.
The feller that drinks the health of others, always ends up by losing his own.

An Electric Despatch System.

Various systems for the rapid transport of mail and small parcels have been devised from time to time, and to exploit one of the latest of these a company has recently been formed in Paris. The method consists of an underground conduit or tunnel about 7x12 feet, with two tracks, one placed above the other so that cars can pass simultaneously in either direction. The cars are about twenty-five feet in length, and have a square cross-section about 3½ feet on each side, the ends being pointed. The wheels run on an upper and lower rail, against which side wheels also press in order to keep the cars on the track, especially on curves. There are triphase-current electric motors with which it is hoped to develop a speed of 150 miles an hour. On such a railway a much greater volume of business could be handled than on any pneumatic system, and the precautions are such that the rapid and safe transportation of goods for considerable distances can be accomplished.

Facts and Figures.

About 200 oysters would be required daily to supply sufficient nourishment for one person.

The Empress of Russia has a handkerchief which it took seven years to make. It cost her \$5,000.

Of the near 200,000,000 souls that go to make up the total population of Africa less than 2,000,000 are white.

The railways of the United States employ an army of 1,500,000 men, and the earnings of the various companies last year reached a total of \$2,000,000,000.

During the lifetime of a healthy hen she will lay from 300 to 500 eggs. Her best laying capacity is during her second year.

Stuttering children have lately become alarmingly numerous in Germany. The public schools contain 80,000 of them. The increase in the number is largely due to mimicry.

Japan has a wonderful avenue of trees fully fifty miles in length, and the trees are the tryptomera. Each tree is perfectly straight, and from 130 feet to 150 feet in height and 12 feet to 15 feet in circumference.



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(Translated from German.)

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