Albens Reporter

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

B. LOVERIN

EDITOR ND PROPRIETOR

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THE VIOLIN'S FORM.

HISTORY SHOWS IT HAS REMAINED THE SAME THRO' CENTURIES.

It—The Masters of Its Mechanical Shape—Paganini, Its Unequalled Mas-

And at the spot where they appear he hears. nears, Surprised at the unwonted sights of idling, Byron's Don Juan.

But an unhallowed, earthly sound of fiddling.

But an unhallowed, earthly sound of fiddling.

Byron's Don Juan.

The violin consists of three parts, the neck, the table and the sounding board. The strings are tuned in fifths, the compass of the instrument exceeding three octaves. The violin assumed its present shape in the beginning of the syenteenth century. Many attempts have been made to improve upon the original idea, but it is significant that the oldest violins are ever regarded as the best. The instruments manufactured by the Amatl, Stradivarius and Guarnerius families of Cremona are especially celebrated. Stradivarius, or more properly. Antonio Stradivarius, where, in his gloomy workshop, he spent his days and most of his nights. He was in early life a workman in the violin factory of Amatl, asio a famous violinmaker, and there learned his trade. Evidence of his workmanship is thought to appear in many of the Amati violins, which become themore valuable from that circumstance. The violins made by Stradivarius in his prime differ in many particulars from those of previous makers. Though the differences, in themselves, seem trifling, the sum was sufficient to bring the violins of this celebrated maker into the highest repute, even in his own time, and no subsequent maker has been able to effect any improvement in the manufacture of this delicate instrument. The secret of the superior excellence of a genuine Stradivarius violin is believed to be partly in the minish, said to be a secret composition. The greatest improvements he effected were in the bridge, which before his time, was made almost at haphazard, and in fixing the exact shape of the sound holes and their position in the instrument. His violins, in his own time, were sol

The name of Amati was borne by was at that time the near to agricultural district and had many wealthy churches and monasteries. It was, therefore, a greate musical and artistic center, and for two centuries enjoyed almost a monopoly of the manufacture not only of violins but of violas, violencellos, basses, mandolins, guitars and other stringed instruments. The Amatis were the founders of violimmaking in Cremona, and one of the most famous of the family was Nicola, or Nicolo. Cremona continued of the most famous of the family was Nicola, or Nicolo. Cremona continued to be famous for its violins till about 1760, the names of Stradivari, Guarneri, Landolf and Serafin being almost as famous as that of Amati. The value of the violin depends altogether on its qualities and in no degree on the name of the maker, nor on ornamentation. There is a common superstition that every violin bearing the name of one of the great Cremona makers is a treasure from that circumstance alone, but the fact is that the violins of Cremona are very unequal, and while some are practically pricelesses, others are worthless save as curios; not a few, even of those made by Amati and Stradivari, being too weak to bear the strain incident upon the high pitch of the present day.

Why, it may be asked, was the violin called a fiddle? The violin is said to be the modern form of the viola da bracclo, a small viol supported on the arm. It differed from the true viol in having the back as well as the front arched, in the number of strings and in various technical points. Earlier than the viol were the troubadour's instruments known variously as gleges, crowds, rebecks and fidels. They were rested on the shoulder and played with deeply curved bows, and were much smaller than the modern vtolin. Originally they were so small that they produced only shrill notes, fit to accompany boys voices; to get deeper tones for men's voices larger instruments were used, and from them came the viols, and from the violin was refined. The name fiddle, though now used almost always contemptuously or humorously, is the proper English name for the violin. The word comes from the middle Latin vitula, a fiddle, and it is found also in the Teutonic languages in various forms.

also in the Teutonic languages in various forms.

Paganint was the most remarkable genius with the violin that the world ever knew. His technique was somewing wonderful, but mere technique would never have accomplished the results he obtained, nor would it have thrown the musical world into spasms of admiration as he did. The accounts of his playing seem almost incredible. With the first note the audience was spell-bound and remained so to the last. From the violin he drew tones which were unsuspected to exist, and invented and played passages believed to be impossible. Moore said: "Paganini can play divinely, and does so for a minute or so, then come his tricks and surprises, his bow in convulsions, his enharmonics like the mewing of an expiring cat." The main technical features of 'Paganini's playing were his unfailing intonations, his wonderful rapidity and a command never equalled of harmonics. He was wonderfuly tricky, however, and often accomplished effects not understood even by experts, by tuning his violin in a different manner from that usually employed. A certain trick passage running up two octaves while holding B flat seems to be impossible to the brdinary violinist, but, it is said, by tuning a semi-tone higher the passage presents no unusual difficulty. He never allowed snyone to hear him tune his violin, and when professional people attempted to solve the problem of his playing by requesting him to play in private he invariably contrived, in some way or other, to disappoint their expectations. The secret of his execution died with him, and he has never been equalled as a violinist. Paganini was the most remarkable genius with the violin that the world ever knew. His technique was somerising wonderful, but mere technique was somerising seem almost incredible. With the first note the audit more than the first note the audit more affective to the sofa in the sitting room for a total the sofa in the sitting room f

THE ROMAN NOSE

I sing the nose, the kind that grows into a huge proboscle,
'The sort that doctors disg-nose
'Elephantiasis naris ossis.'
'Arann ve folks with the snouts!
Of flat, insipid features,
The muse will none of you, she scouts
Such ordinary creatures.

I sing the Roman nose, the scythe
That mews its way to glory.
Sure signs of natures strong and blithe,
Well known in song and story.
On battlefield, in civil life,
In senate, court and cloister,
The Roman nose is like a knife,
The world is like an oyster. The wight whose nose describes a curve
Like beak of kite or vulture,
Is sure to be a man of nerve,
And off is one of culture.
Is cast your eye o're 'Clio's pages,
Research one fact discloses,
The mighty men of every age
Were men of mighty noses.

Then let us toast the big-nosed host, Let's raise a mighty chorus of loud "amens" from sea and coast, Stertorous and sonorous!
And since the promontoried face
Than others is completer,
God speed the day the human race
Will shame the great ant-eater.

SEEN IN THE TUNNEL.

I am a music teacher by profession, and twice every week I travel some little distance to give lessons at a large school. Everyone who has had experience of similar oft-repeated journeys knows how wearlsome the treadmill monotony of the same route soon becomes, and I myself have a strong sympathy with those professional or business men who contrive—by ingenicus ringing the changes between rail and 'bus—to vary the daily journey from their suburban homes to their offices or chambers. But I nad no choice of routes: I could only reach my bliweekly destination via the Great United Railway; but I contrived to extract some slight amusement from one part of my Journey, train, passel through an abnormally long tunnel, which was usually (probably for the convenience of some of the company's workmen) lighted by lanterns on its wall in certain places. As the train slowly passed (the Great United seldom puts on a very breakneck speed), shadows of the pessengers by the carriage windows are often projected upon the whitewashed tunnel wail, and are visible by the light of these lanterns. I made this discovery one day, when a young lady and gentleman had tak-

and are visible by the light of these lanterns.

I made this discovery one day, when a young lady and gentleman had taken their seats in an empty carriage next to mine. As I passed by, I had noted the pair sitting opposite to each other—the lady gazing abstractedly out of the window, the gentleman almost ostentatiously engrossed in a newspaper. But when their tell tale shadows appeared on the tunnel wall, behold the two figures leant across and exchanged an affectionate embrace: starting apart again as the train emerged into daylight, and sinking back each into their respective corners, with an air of well-affected indifference; little conscious of the amusement their stolen kisses had afforded to the quiet load maid in the next carriage.

small black teg of he seemed particularly solicitous about the security of that bag.

As I seated myself in the third-class compartment I observed another man, tall and thin, hurry up to the carriage where the old gentleman was seated and take the vacant place opposite on him: then the train started and I leaned back my aching head against the hard back of the carriage and tried to doze a little. I awoke as the trainentered the tunnel; I felt too weary to amuse myself with my usual "notes" taking"—but as I glanced listlessly on the tunnel wall I observed that a tall shadow was bending over that of the old gentleman and apparently arranging something over or around the up per part of his figure.

"I suppose they are father and son, and the son is wrapping up his father in his rug against the draughts." I thought, lazily, for a strange lassitude seemed weighing me down, mentally and physically. Then the train gave a studden jerk and the tall figure flung out its left hand against the carriage door as if to steady itself, and I noted that this hand had a curious deformity—one finger lacking from it, the third finger having apparently been removed at the second Joint.

I got out at the next station as usual, and managed to crawl home; but the succeeding days and nights were blanks to me for a week or more. I alarmed my elderly cousin, Tabitha, who shares my little home, by going off into a dead faint immediately I entered my house; and it was found that I was sickening with a kind of low fever, which kept me in bed for some time and from which I believe! Isould

and robbed and murdered in the ranway, for, on the train's arrival at the
London terminus, the bag of jewelry
was missing, and 'Mr. — was found
lying dead, with a handkerchief steeped in chloroform fastened over his face.
The jeweler was an elderly man with
a weak heart, and the chloroform,
which was perhaps only designed to
stupety him, had killed him. No dew
had yet been found to the identity of
the murderer. The guard at the local
station fancied that he had seen a man
follow the old gentleman into the carriage, but had taken no particular
note of this person, nor could even be
positive that a second traveler had entered the carriage.

As Tabitha talked on, the syents of
that last journey of mine flashed back
suddenly on my mind.

"Tabitha, I ought to give information to the police," I cried, sitting up
suddenly, and then hastity poure out
my story in return. Tabitha liesend
with rather provoking increduity.

"Do you think you really saw all
that?" she asked, gently replacing me
on the sofa and shaking up my belilows." "You know. dear, you have been
ill so long—and you have tancied all
sorts of funny things—you day been
ill rous fancy, like the rescit.

But I was persistent, and appoaled
to the doctor, who called shortly after
wards. I do not think he either alto
gether believed my story, but he ac
quiesced in my desire to communicate
with the police authorities; "it will
quiet her mind, at least, and it is very
bad for her to excite herself in this
way," I overheard him remark to Tabitha in the passange.

So I made my "desposition" in all
due form to the authorities; and I
think the police were fine inclined to
attach importance to my statement
than my two previous listeners had
seen enter the carriage?" I was asked.

"Could I identify the man I had
seen enter the carriage?" I was asked.

attach importance to my than my two previous listeners had been.

"Could I identify the man I had seen enter the carriage?" I was asked.

"Yes," I repiled after a pause, "I believe I could. I noticed that he was tail and thin, with very dark eyes and an unpleasant, sinister expression of countenance; and then there was the peculiarity of his left hand," and I mentioned the mutilated finger which I had seen shadowed on the tunnel wall.

I saw by the faces of my interrogators that they considered this "an important piece of eyidence," though they made no comment upon it. I was told I should be communicated with if my evidence was required, but the months sped away, and the "robberry and murder of a gentleman upon the G. eat United Railway" seemed likely to pass into the category of those undetected crimes which remain mysteries to the ond.

Nearly a year had flown. Tabiths and I were visiting some old friends at a quiet, west-country seaside place.

The murder and the likelihood of my being called as a witness had almost passed out of my recollection, when a chance incident recalled both to my mind.

Tabitha and I had been lingering

Puget Sound Flax.

Every fresh test of the quality of Puget Sound flax results in confirming the claim that it is the equal of any in the world and far superior to most. The progress in establishment of its production as a steady and permanent industry is nevertheles very slow. The Federal Government has given aid in securing experiments in culture, and it is not probable that further appropriations can be had except to maintain the station. An effort will be made to persuade the State Legislature to extend financial aid, but the outlook for it is not promising.

The success of flax production will depend chiefly upon the enterprise and perseverance of a few farmers who will pay attention to the requirements of good flax, and will unite to purchase the inexpensive machinery necessary to turn the farm product into mercantile flax. This they can ship abroad to the manufacturers and insure a fair profit on their investment.—Seattie Post-Intelligencer.

The Worst River on Earth.

The Worst River on Earth.

"The scourge of China." is what they call the Yang-tse-Kiang River. During the last 200 years its floods have fourteen times forced the massive dams of the central provinces and each time covered its banks with thousands of human corpses. In 1883 its inundant nearest the province of Human corpses. In 1883 its inundant nearest the province of Human corpses. In 1883 its inundant nearest the province of Human corpses. In 1883 its inundant nearest the province of Human corpses. In 1883 its inundant nearest the province of Human covered to the province of Human covered to the province which covered in the human covered to the second covered a few years since, which mated at 750,000, even after deducting the hundreds of thousands that succumbed to the subsequent famine or those slain by marrauders and hunger-crazed cannibals The Worst River on Earth.

Penological
They broke the news to the convict as gently as possible, but he was nevertheless quite overcome.
"Pardon?" he shricked, "surely you jest. You shock me, Pardon? For me? After I have been habituated to every luxury? It will kill me, Mercy! I implore you, mercy!"
But there was no mercy. The will of the law was inexorable..—Detroit Tribune.

But there was no mercy. The will off the law was inexporable.—Detroit Tribune.

Mark Twain in Trouble.

Few of Mark Twain's friends know of the plucky fight he is making, with adversity, or how badly he has been used by forbune. In a word, Mark Twain, who, a couple of years ago, thought himself a rich man, is to-day worse than penniless. Since his return from Africa, a few months ago, he has been living in very modest lodgings in London, going nowhere and sieins but one or two friends, working all day and every day at a history of his trip around the world. With the proceeds of this book he hopes to be able to pay off his creditors and to leave something for his family. Mark Twain lost practically everything when Webster and Company falled, and the lecture trip around the world which he ture trip around the world which he ture trip around the hope of retrieving his fortunes did not turn out a finantial success for him. So, more than sixty years of age, in poor health, and is a strange country, America's greatest the st humorist is perhaps working harder than ever before.

MILITARY MAGICIAN.

THE NATURAL SUCCESSOR OF HERR MANN AT ANGEL ISLAND.

apt. Chas. Humphries, of the U.S. Navy, Odd Experiences.

Neither the army nor the ranks of amateurs are places to which the mind women natural. The in search of a great artist of neer mancy, yet the lace exists that since the death of Herrmann the greatest prestidigitator in the United States is an amateur, in the army, and he is Captain Charles Humphries of the Third Artillery, now stationed at Angel I land.

The captain has been here only about two weeks, says the San Francisco Call, having been ordered hither from New Orleans, where he was stationed for a number of years, and where he is famous in his pastime of legedermain. He is a short, stout man, about 40 years old, and he laughingly says that he is the only fat magician in the world.

Being in the army and not dependent upon magic for his bread, the captain studied and experimented without experiencing that oppressive feeling of having to turn his knowledge into money. While pursuing his investigations with this freedom facilitated his attainment of excellence, it militated against affording bim a reputation in the art. He persisted in continuing in the ranks of an amateur. Though he held humself in readiness to Tespond to the call of charity, or any other worthy cause, he would not accept pay for his services, the only amount he would receive being such sum that barely remunerated him for his expense in getting up or as would cover the outlay from his own pocket in giving the entertainment.

With a disposition of the merriest in the world—the very soul of good nature, Captain Humphries holds himself in readiness to give his entertainments when called upon for the raising of money he has invested in the expensive paraphernalia of a magician it is as difficult to estimate as it is to enumerate the number of tricks that the captain of dollars in this kind of property. "I have not got all my things here," said the captain to the writer, "but I have a real deal more here than any prestidigitator in the conurty ever carries on the road with him; I can give a difficent entertainment every night for two weeks, and g



almost obstantiationally encrossed in a many newspaper. But when their field and revenanced an affectional and exchanged an affectional and exchanged an affectional and an affectional and an advantage of the strain energed into daylight, and sink-like the two figures learn across and exchanged an affectional and the incoming tile galled as a witness has almost a contract the color of the strain energed into daylight, and sink-like the strain energed into daylight and sink-like the strain energy in the forward property in the country night for two weeks, and give the strain energy night for two weeks, and give the strain energy night for two weeks, and give an accordance to the strain energy night for two weeks, and give an accordance to the strain energy night for two weeks, and give an accordance to the strain energy night for two weeks, and give an accordance to the strain energy night for two weeks, and give an accordance to the strain energy night for two weeks, and give an accordance to the strain energy night for two weeks, and give an accordance to the strain energy night for two weeks, and give an accordance to the strain energy night for two weeks, and give an accordance to the strain energy night for two weeks, and give an accordance to the strain energy night for two weeks, and give an accordance to the strain energy night for two energy night for

out of the bottle is by breaking it. It would be a rare exploit to get the coins in the bettle in full view of the audiench, or in any manner, but to fire them into it is an act which puzzles the most observing. Of the clever tricks done in the changing of one thing to another there is a long list; The changing of ink and water from one receptacle to another by a wave of the wand, these being at opposite ends of the hall; the changing of sawdust to candy; of cotton placed in two cans into milk, sugar and hot coffee seved to the audience. He has developed the hat trick to a prominence hitherto unattained by any magician; he takes an endless variety of objects out of the hat, among them being a live canary in a big cage. He says he can take any thing out the hat that he can handle, though he does not seem to be limited by even this, for among the objects he takes from the hat is a 13-year-old girl. Innumerable card tricks also the captain does and under his direction the cards perform strange actions—the proper card called for by the audience springing out of a pack upon touching it with a wand. Solid metal rings, separated and shown to the audience are thrown into links of a chain in an instant. The instantaneous growt of fl wers from a pot of sawdust is another trick. Increasing of the size of a handkerchif in the washing, decreasing it in the wringing burning it to cinders and the restitution of it from the ashes—these and hundreds of others the captain has smet with some odd incidents. Some years ago while stationed at Fortress Monroe he was giving an entertainment at the theatre at Old Point Comfort for the benefit of the Johnstown for the Albert of the Johnstown for the Albert of the Johnstown for the was occonfounded with the box trick that he was requested to give it again, on the fallowing night. This he

was to run two nights and the audience was so confounded with the box
trick that he was requested to give it
again on the following night. This he
consented to do, but next morning he
found that popular curlosity had become so intense over the trick that
during the night some one had got
into the theatre and smashed his box
in an endeavor's to see whether the
thing came apart or not. The captairy
was in a quandary, for it required
highly seasoned wood to make a box,
but the quartermaster came to his ald
and furnished him with lumber and a
carpenter made the box, using wrought
nails and clinching them on the inside.
When the box was finished it was inspected by the officers in the army,
who expressed great surprise that the

A CRIMINAL LAWYER.

THE HIGH NAME MR. B. B. OBLER Q.C. HAS WON.

in place of the \$000 feet, which is now given to it by Professor Colemea—a condition somewhat similar to the experience of Mount Hood, in Oregon, which, when being gradually reduced from its presumed height of 16,000 to 11,000 feet, brought out the facetous remark that with a few years more of grace the mountain would be a hole in the ground. It is not alone the miner explorer, however, who is responsible for the perpetuation of great errors of observation. Sir Samuel Baker, the discoverer of the Albert Nyanza, the second great basis of the Nile, stated that from his position on the lake no boundaries of it ould be traced southward to the limits of visson; whereas Stanley and other have since shown that not only did the lake terminate within a few miles of where Baker stood, but that its southern shore was actually bounded by high mountains.

G. Scott Elliot, in his recently published work, "A Naturalist in Mid-Africa," in turn corrects Stanley's errors with the no insignificant statement that "Mount Gordon Emmet, that "Mount Gordon Emmet, that when the high of the high mountains, but quite insignificant hills, if they had any existence at all." He also sald: "I spen and trouble in trying to discover where on earth the enormous freshwater sea, discovered and present much time and trouble in trying to discover where one arth the enormous freshwater sea, discovered and the Stanley, ould possibly be. This, of course, it is now clear, had no existence whatever." And finally, as the latest negative contribution to gegraphical knowledge, we have in the Jackson-Harmsworth report from Franz-Josef land (recently brought to London by the vessel of the expedition, the Windward), the assurance that and a trace of the so-called Peterman Laund of Lieutenant Bayer could be discovered and that even Lichy Land was merely a disjointed archipedagic mass of entirely inconsiderable extent.

The Life of a Clam,

The Life of a Clam.

The clam's body is completely enshrouded in the mantle, except for two openings, through one of which the foot can be pushed out. The other is for the siphon, "what is commonly known as the "neck" of the clam. In some respects the clam may be a little better off than we are, for he has a little brain in his foot and also a ghand for secreting strong fibres. With this he spins a byssus by which he can attach himself to whatever he likes. He does not seen that the clam to the likes. He does not to the bottom of the byssus. Then he thrusts his syphon up through the mud and water until it reaches the surface. The siphon is made up of two tubes, the water flowing in through one and out the other. When the inflowing current, ladm without the inflowing current, ladm himself to whatever flowing in through one and out the other. When the inflowing current, ladm himself end other. When the inflowing current, ladm himself end other. When the inflowing current, ladm water flowing the other tube.

The clam's eggs are carried by the mother on her gills. When there are infined out and retained for food while the water with them the mother on her gills. When there are nother on her gills. When there are no fish the water they soon hatch, and the little ones swim about until ind some fish to which to attach themselves. They live for a time on the mucus of the fish, and then drop off, sink to the bottom and form burrows for themselves. This curlous semi-parastic life is no doubt a reversion to the habit of some ancient ancestor.—

What becomes of a ship that slinks in mid-ocean? If it is of wood, it takes, in the first place, considerable time for it to reach the bottom. In one hundred or more fathoms of water a quarter of an hour will elapse before the ship reaches bottom. If sinks slowly, and when the bottom is reached it fails gently into the soft, oozy bed, with no crash or breaking. Of course, if it is laden with pig iron or corresponding substances, or if it is an iron ship, it sinks rapidly, and bed, with no crash or breaking.
Of course, if it is laden with pig iron or corresponding substances, or if it is an iron ship, it sinks rapidly, and sometimes strikes the bottom with such force as to smash in pieces. Once sunken, a ship becomes the prey of the countless inhabitants of the ocean. They swarm over and through the great boat and make it their home. Besides this, they cover every inch of the boat with a thick layer of lime. This takes time, of course; and when one generation dies another continues the work, until finally the ship is so laden with heavy incrustations, corals, sponges and barnacles, that if wood, the creaking timbers fall apart and slowly but surely are absorbed in the waste of the sea bottom.

Iron vessels are demolished more quickly than those of wood, which may last for centuries. The only metals that withstand the chemical action of the waves are gold and platinum, and glass also seems unaffected. No matter how long gold may be hidden in the ocean, it will always be gold when recovered, and this fact explains the many romantic and adventures.

The Turn of a Leaf.

week.

Again and again during that time the leaf had fluttered invitingly, before him, mutely pleading like a burning batter cake to be turned over, but again and again Puffer had procrastinated.

Smoking? Yes, it was smoking—My Lady Nicotine, whose adorers burn an incense of greenbacks at her shrine. Yes, the leaf to be turned was leaf tobacco, a very poor material for the good roads movement, but nevertheless a material which doubtless furnishes in its plug form at least one-half of the roadbed of the place where asphalt, macadam and Belgian blocks give precedence to good intentions as paving matter.

Puffer's father had advised him to at once turn the leaf. Puffer's wife, influenced by his nervous and irritable state, had enthusiastically seconded the motion, for Puffer had been a veritable bear about the house.

At the store there was the same unaimity of feeling regarding Puffer's contemplated act. Puffer had been so cross and exacting and unreasonable that every employe from the humble business manager to the haughty elevator boy was praying that he would catch that leaf collar and elbow so to speak, and turn it over and glue it down.

Their supplications were about to be

to speak, and turn it over and guie it down.

Their supplications were about to be answered. Puffer had resolved to act on New Year's Day.

For one week—seven whole days—Puffer had abstained from the use of tobacco, but now—now he had resolved togturn over a new leaf and smoke to his tobacco heart's content.

Poor Blood

When a horse is poor in flesh, a new harness won't give him strength. If a house is cold new furniture won't warm it. new turniture won't warm it.

If your strength is easily exhausted; work a burden;
nerves weak; digestion poor;
muscles soft; if you are pale
and worn out, the trouble is
with the blood. It is not so
much IMPURE blood as
POOR blood. Pills won't
make this blood right; nor will make this blood rich; nor will bitters, nor iron tonics, any more than a new harness will more than a new harness will give strength to the horse, or new furniture will make a house warm. For poor blood you want something that will make rich blood. SCOTT'S EMULSION of Cod-liver Oil with Hypophosphites is the best remedy in the world for enriching the blood. We have persented a book telling you We have prepared a book telling you more about the subject. Sent Free-Forsale by all druggists at 50c, & \$1.00.
SCOTT & BOWNE, Belleville, Ont.

Been Employed Upon Many Notabl

No man has won a higher name for nimself in the profession of law their has Mr. B. B. Osler, Q.C. In the conduct of a criminal case he is unsurpassed, and those accused of serious crimes are pto think their innocence already proved if he can be retained for the defence, In the capacity of Cown prosecutor, which he has so often held, he has always manifested the greatest fairness towards the accused, and has never allowed eagerness to bring about a verdict in favor of his concentions to overshadow his sense of justice. He has a wonderfully clear head, and has the gift of their most effective and logical sequence. His address to a jury is always a masterpiece of convincing eloquence, angletis manipulation of a reluctant or recalcitrant witness is perfect in its way. Under cover of amost winning and confidential manner, he elicits the most damaging contil with him is ant to come of the worst in the encurier. He has a fesions, and the witness who cssays a till with him is apt to come off the worst in the encounter. He has a remarkable and ready wit, and his flashes of humor are greatly relished. He has been engaged either as counsel for the Crown or the defence in almost every important crimipal case in Ontario during the past ten years, and each one has increased his reputation.

Mr. Osler was born in 1839 at Tecumseth, Simcoe county, his father being

The Life of a Clam, MR. B. B. OSLER, Q.O.

MR. B. B. OSLER, Q.O.

Rev. Featherstone Lake Osler, rector of Te umseth and Gwillimbury townships, and later of Ancaster and Dundas. Mr. B. B. Osler's early education was obtained at the Dundas Grammar school, and afterwards he entered Toronto University, where he distinguished himself in his studies, and graduated with the degree of LL. B. Having chosen the law as a profession, he studied diligently, and having been called to the bar entered into practice in Dundas, where he speedily acquired a larke practice and began to be recognized as a lawyer of exceptional ability. From 1876 to 1881 exceptional ability. From 1876 to 1881 exceptional ability. From 1876 to 1801 exceptional ability of the sucception and ed to Toronto, when he entered the well-known firm of McCarthy, Osler, Hoskin & Creelman.

In 1885 Mr. Osler gaye undisputed proof of his talents in connection with the rebellion prosecutions. In which he took a prominent part. He has frequently acted as Crown prosecutor, and has ilgured in many important cases. Among others, the celebrated Birchall case, where he won fresh laurels. In the Hyams case, the sensational evidence in which will be well remembered, Mr. Osler acted as Crown Attorney, and his work in that capacity was the subject of much eulogistic remark. He has defended many prisoners accused of serious offences, and his efforts in their behalf have been singularly successful. In 1882 Mr. Osler became desirous of entering Parliamentary life, and contested the constituency of Welland, his opponent being Mr. John Ferguson, who proved the successful candidate. In 1891 he was retained by the Government as counsel in the well-known McGreevy-Connolly investigation, and added very considerably to the reputation he had already made. He acts as counsel for several corporations, and his services are eagery sought after. He is justly looked upon as among the ablest men in his profession. Mr. Osler is also a bencher of the Law Society. A FREAK AMONG FLOWERS.

Venus' Fly Trap and Its Almost Huma Action.

Now and again, in exploring American woods and swamps, botanists have come across floral curiosities, that almost bridge over the great guir that divides the animal and vegetable kingdoms, says the Designer. One of these, to be met with nowhere in the world tave in North Carolina, is scientifically cussified as dionoea muscipula, but

is colloquially known as "venus lly trap."

In appearance the extraordinary plant is prettily but unassumingly the leafless flower stem, running from six to eight inches in height and surmounted by a cluster of five petalled blossoms, rising erect like a rosettlike bed of leaves. It is in the edge of the leaves that the death dealing apparatus is set—for this modest little plant, which is so delicate that it dies of the slighest injury to root or stem, sustains its life by feeding upon the unwary insects that chance to alight upon its leaves, enticing them to their destruction by exuding from the edges of its fatal traps a viscous fluid, somewhat resembling honey.

The traps consist of two soft, velvety leaves, fringed with delicate bristles and hinged together on one ride. The unsuspecting fly, lured by the honey, alights on these bristles in anticipation of a feast, but at the first touch of its feet the hinges close, the two leaves come together, the bristles interlook, and the hapless insect is imprisoned in a cell from which escape is impossible.

prisoned in a cell from which escape is impossible. Under the stimulus of the victim's struggles the tiny glands with which the inner walls of the trap are furnished pour forth a secretion which Darwin analyzed as a vegetable gastric juice, resembling that which insures digestion in animal life. Under the influence of this curious fluid the fly is actually digested alive, and its juices being extracted the trap doors are reopened and the skeleton is flung out.

are reopened and the skeleton is nuis out.

The scientists declare that the plant unquestionably lives upon the juices of its victims, but one or two expert florists take exception to this statement. It is worthy of note that, although the habit of the plant is carnivorous, experiments have proved that it lives longer and thrives better when so inclosed that no insects can reach it—a superabundance of its favorite diet apparently rendering it even more delicate than it is by nature. The set of muscles controlling its leaves are said to resemble those of the human eyelids.

"Amo, Amas, Amat." "Amo, Amas, Amat."

Mr. Cumpox's son was studying his
Latin lesson. There was the tremolo
of discouragement in his voice as he
remarked;

"I don't seem to get along with this
lesson very we'l, fa her."

"Can't you say any of it?"

"Yes; I can say 'amo, amas, amat,
and then I always forget what comes
next."

next."
"What does those words mean
Johnny?" asked Mr. Cumrox, who do "What does those words mean, Johnny?" asked Mr. Cumox, who deserves credit for being always ready to add to a somewhat deficient early education. "They mean 'I love, thou lovest, he doves."

"It does seem too bad to see you starting in so soon," the old gentleman mused, "with the difficulties that has always surrounded that verb. But you might as well commence young to learn that them words in cone way or another cause two thirds of the botheration that occurs in this life."

"Please, can I quit school, then?"
"No, it wouldn't be any use. You couldn't doder 'em and you n'ight as well go right along and get as familiar with them as roes'ble. You'll find that learn'n' 'em ain't half the worry that handlin' 'em is after ye know 'em Cheer up, J hnny, and remember that most of your truble is still ahead of you."—Washington Star.

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