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ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Gladstone never travels on Sunday.
France has seventy-six millionaires.
Haverhill (Mass.) makes the most shoes.
A match machine cuts 10,000,000 sticks a day.
An electrical mining machine mines 180 tons a day.
It is said that there are 75,000 women typewriters in the States.
Five of the Haymeyer have been insured for \$100,000 each.
The United States and Canada has 4,000,000 organized farmers.
The United States have twenty-nine of the forty-seven bridges over 400 feet long.
Owing to the spread of influenza, it is stated that the consumption of beer in Bavaria has fallen off.
On Labor Day a monument will be erected at Scottsdale, Pa., to labor leader William Mullen.
The Mayor of Keytesville, Mo., was arrested for throwing paper on the street. He fined himself \$1.
It is curious that there are no direct descendants of Napoleon, Wellington, Washington or Walter Scott.

The Emperor of Germany has ordered some thousands of German factory children to be sent to the seaside at the expense of the State.
The Leeds, England, town council recently unanimously agreed to increase the pay of the burgh police by an average of about 5s a week.
Mr. Balfour, the Irish Secretary, is credited with being an omnivorous reader of American newspapers, and he is reported as having recently said: "I like the snap of the American writers."

Surgeon Parke told the British Medical Association that in the course of his African travels he came across a tribe whose women were so beautiful that they would if brought over to this country create a sensation.

This year's production of coal in the United States will be about 140,000,000 tons. There are 12,000 square miles of coal land in England and 192,000 in the United States. The English output is about 130,000,000 tons per year.

A new machine promises to fill and roll cigars. They say only 14,000 men will be needed to do the work that now employs 58,000 skilled hands. Experts by hand make 500 a day. The machine manufactures 2,000 in ten hours.

At the British Medical Association's closing meeting in Birmingham, a resolution was adopted declaring hypnotism to be worthy of careful and systematic investigation to ascertain its value in the treatment of disease, and denouncing its use as an amusement.

The Duke of St. Albans must be a man of some conscience, for Mr. Sala relates that he actually tried to earn his salary as Master of the Hawks. He imported a number of highly trained hawks from Germany; but finding that the expense of the stud amounted to about three times his official salary he relinquished the attempt. Since then the annual £965 has been taken without any qualms.

What could exhibit a more fantastical appearance than an English beau of the fourteenth century? He wore long-pointed shoes, fastened at his knee by gold and silver chains; hose of one color on one leg, and another on the other; short breeches which did not reach to the middle of his thighs—a coat, one half white, the other half black or blue; a long beard, a silk hood, buttoned under his chin, embroidered with grotesque figures of animals, dancing men, &c., and sometimes ornamented with gold and precious stones. This dress was a correct thing in the reign of King Edward III.

The influence of the ages of parents upon the vitality of children has been investigated by M. Joseph Korosi, of the Buda Pesth Statistical Bureau. From about 30,000 data he draws these conclusions: Mothers less than 20 years old and fathers less than 24 years old have children more weakly and more liable to pulmonary disease than parents of riper age. The healthiest children are those whose fathers are from 25 to 40 and whose mothers are from 20 to 30. In the best marriages the husband is older than the wife, but a woman of 30 to 45 will have stronger children if her husband be a little—not as much as five years—the younger.

At the meeting of the Provincial Bank of Ireland in Dublin, recently, exception was taken to the rule prohibiting clerks whose salaries are under £150 from getting married. The recent discussion in the newspapers was referred to, and several shareholders argued that the clerks should not be prevented from settling down and having homes of their own. Mr. Dickson, M.P., supported the rule as preventing improvident marriages by young clerks of small means, and the chairman, Mr. Whatman, added that the directors would not think of preventing a clerk from marrying a woman of means. Indiscriminate marriage, however, should be restrained. Nothing was done in the matter.

Mr. Joseph Jefferson is said to be the richest actor in America, perhaps in the world, and is certainly a millionaire. He only plays about two-thirds of the season, but makes money whenever he does play. He has a plantation in Louisiana, a farm at Hoboken, N.J., and is building a country seat at Buzzard's Bay, Mass. Mr. Jefferson owns a whole safe deposit vault full of interest-bearing securities, which keep adding to his capital every year. He has also spent a great deal of money on works of art, and has a fine collection of pictures. His taste in this direction may be accounted for by the fact that he is himself an amateur painter in oils of rare gifts, and would undoubtedly have made as good a professional artist as he is an actor.

The newest occupation for women is that of "conversation crammer," whose business it is to coach up ladies for afternoon or dinner parties. The object of the crammer is to provide a short and easy way to the art of conversation. If a lady is going to a dinner where there are to be members of Parliament and politicians, and has not time to get up the latest debate or the latest development of political affairs, she sends for the crammer. She passes an hour or two with the person, gets all the points of the subject on which she wishes to talk, and goes out to dinner superficially prepared for conversation on the question of the hour. The acquirements of the lady crammer are universal. She will learn her pupils to talk on the latest fashions, the latest play, or the newest music. Posing she makes a special study, and the result is that a lady who employs her services can talk on the Royal Academy Exhibition without ever having been near it.

ODDS AND ENDS.

The labor question: "Is it six o'clock yet?"
Fire and brimstone left Sodom without a house and Lot.
It is easier to live within your income than to live without one.
Troubles sometimes come singly. All children are not twins.
The ballet girl doesn't kick at what she is paid, but for what she is paid.

A Long Branch belle has a girdle made of silver dollars. What a waist of money.
Stern Parent—"Young man, can you support a family?" "Please, sir, all I want is Sarah."
"Oh, I wish I'd been a man!" cried Mrs. Bjanson.
"I wish to heaven you had!" retorted Mr. Bjanson.
A woman can disguise her wrinkles, debts and deceptions from a man, but she can never hide them from another woman.

Wickars—"They tell me, Professor, that you have mastered all the modern tongues." Professor Polyglot—"All but two—my wife's and her mother's."
Mistress—"I am surprised, Bridget, to see you straining the jelly through one of the fine napkins." Bridget—"Ye needn't mind, mum. It isn't a clean one."

A thoroughgoing tetotaler has recently remarked to us confidentially that the only objection to a gospel temperance tent is the fact that the ropes will get tight.
What is it the German philosopher says? "A handsome woman is always right." "That was the way he said it. I suppose he meant that pretty girls are never left."

Excited Citizen—"Officer! Officer! A man has just jumped off that pier." Policeman (who can't swim)—"Well, there ain't no law agin bathin' with clothes on, is there?"

According to a south paper, there is a gentleman writing a book entitled "Two years in a kennel." Perhaps he has been one of those men we are frequently told about as having gone to the dogs.
Papa who used a bad word when he tore his trousers—"I forgot myself then, Sammy. It was wrong of me to say such a word." Sammy—"Oh, you needn't apologize, papa! I often use it myself."

A story is told to illustrate Darwin's freedom from scientific bigotry. Having been told that music had an influence on plants, he procured somebody to play a bassoon for several days close to some growing beans!

Editor of Agricultural Paper—"Look here; here's a man who asks the silliest questions!" Assistant—"How about it?" "Why, he asks me the best way to cure hams, and doesn't state in his note what's the matter with them!"

The time may come when politics will mean all that is noble and good; when a small boy will give his little sister the bigger half of the apple; when a tramp will work and a stray dog won't bite; but the day will never dawn when a fly can tickle a drowsy man's nose without making him jump.

The latest instalment of Joseph Jefferson's autobiography in the *Century Magazine* contains a touching story of the relations between Tom Robertson, the author of "Caste," and poor Artemus Ward, then rapidly dying. A strong attachment had sprung up between them, and the devotion of his new-found English friend was touching in the extreme and characteristic of Robertson's noble nature. Just before Ward's death Robertson poured out some medicine in a glass and offered it to his friend. Ward said: "My dear Tom, I can't take that dreadful stuff." "Come, come," said Robertson, urging him to swallow the nauseous drug; "there's a dear fellow. Do now, for my sake; you know I would do anything for you." "Would you?" said Ward, feebly stretching out his hand to grasp his friend's, perhaps for the last time. "I would indeed," said Robertson. "Then you take it," said Ward. The humorist passed away but a few hours afterwards.

TRIALS OF A YOUNG PROFESSIONAL MAN.
He (feeling his way)—"An honorable man should marry only for love."
She—"Certainly, O! certainly—if he can afford it."

WELCOME TO IT.
Servant—"The butcher is at the door, sir, and says he wants his bill."
Howard—"Return the bill to the gentleman, Mary, and express my regrets at keeping it so long."
HARD LUCK.

"Why so down-cast?"
"I lost a magnificent umbrella yesterday."
"Leave it in the car?"
"No; I met the owner of it on the street and he recognized it at once."

ANYTHING TO OBLIGE.
Father—"Don't you ever let me see you sitting in a hammock with a young man again."
Dutiful Daughter—"All right, pa. I'll have it removed to a place that isn't overlooked by your study window."

LOVE AND BUSINESS.
Ethel—"Did Harry seem very much put out when you told him you didn't love him well enough to marry him?"
Agnes—"No, the brute. He merely said, 'Well, business is business,'" and left the house."

HE MISUNDERSTOOD.
Patient—"Doctor, that plaster on my back doesn't seem to do me any good."
Doctor—"Is it porous?"
Patient (in astonishment)—"No, sir; its as solid as any other fellow's back."

VEKED WITH A "DEVIL."
A minister in a Scotch town was greatly incensed at the attentions paid to his only daughter by a young printer, and occasionally took very harsh measures to prevent the youthful lovers meeting together. One Sunday, on going into the pulpit, he discovered the professor of the "art preservative" sitting in a conspicuous place in the front of the gallery, and so determined to improve the occasion. After the preliminary exercises the minister stood up to deliver his sermon, and rather astonished the congregation by saying: "My friends, as usual I came with a text prepared and thought out, but since coming into the pulpit I have seen occasion to change my mind and I shall now speak to you from the words, 'My daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.'" It is said that the sermon delivered on that occasion had the effect of putting a stop to the clandestine courtship.

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