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Weather Wit.

THE FUNNY SIDE OF WIND AND RAIN.

The weather, more especially our British variety, has probably been the occasion of more humour and ill-humour than any other earthly institution. Here are some examples of wit at the weather's expense.

We have been told of a place where the cows froze stiff all the winter, and when spring came they thawed out and supplied the inhabitants with ice cream all the summer. Sydney Smith has described a day so hot that he wished to strip off his flesh, and sit in his bones. There have been times so wet that the very ducks began to climb trees, and fogs so thick that a man has kissed a pretty neighbour in mistake for his own wife or sister.

Change of Climate.

It is not only a great subject, it is also a great joke. The remark one hears to the effect that "This weather's no joke," is not to be taken seriously. And that other remark, "Funny weather we're having," enshrines the literal truth.

Variation of temperature is a source of much humour. "What you need," once remarked a doctor to his patient, "is a change of climate." "Change of climate?" cried the man. "That's what the master with me. If the climate would only keep the same a few days running I would be all right!"

Too Much Weather.

The mutability of the weather reminds one of the indignant customer who returned to the shopman saying:

"Look here, that barometer you sold me a month ago has got out of order. It won't work." "No wonder, sir. Look what a lot of weather it's had lately!"

There is nothing to beat the story of the American tourist, who came across a man out West sitting on a stump. "How's the weather treating you?" he asked. "Pretty tolerable, stranger," replied the man. "I had some trees to cut down, but a cyclone came along and levelled them for me." "That was a piece of luck," cried the tourist. "Yes; and then," continued the man, "there was a storm, and the lightning set fire to the brushwood and saved me the trouble of burning it." "Remarkable! But what are you doing now?" "Oh, I'm just waiting for an earthquake to come along and shake the potatoes out of the ground."

A Scots Prophet.

As a set-off to this example of American exaggeration, here is a choice bit of Scots weather wisdom.

Once an old Scots weather prophet at Whittingham informed Mr. Dal-four that "It's gann to rain seventy-two days, sir." "Come, come!" said the statesman. "Surely the world was entirely drenched in forty days?" "Aye, aye!" was the response; "but the world wasna' sae weel drained as it is noo."

What the statesman-philosopher replied is, unfortunately, not recorded.—John O'London.

California Sunkist Oranges, all sizes; California Apples, Lemons, Walnuts, Hazel Nuts, Brazilian Nuts, Almond Nuts, wholesale and retail at GLEESON'S, 108 Water St.—Feb 13, 1918.

A Nasty Hint.

"Well, John," asked the colonel, on a morning visit to his stable, "and what do you think of my new mare?" "She's certainly a fine looking 'oss, sir," responded the groom, "but I'm afraid her temper's a trifle touchy." "What makes you think that, my man?"

"Well, she don't appear to take kindly to nobody, sir. She don't even like me to go into the box to feed her."

"Oh, she'll settle down in a day or two. The surroundings are strange, you know. I don't think there can be anything wrong with her temper."

"Nor didn't I at first, sir," said John, "but you see, she kicked me out of the box twice, and when you comes to think about it—well, that's a sort o' hint, like."

Some Jumble.

"I have called to see your daughter, Emily, hasn't attended school lately," said the school attendance officer, as he stood at the cottage door. "Cause I think she's learnt enough," retorted Emily's mother, shortly. "Why," exclaimed the visitor, "she's only passed through two classes yet!" "Ain't that enough?" asked the woman. "I dunno what edification is acomin' to! When I was young if a gel understood the elements of distraction, provision an' replenishin' an' the common dominter, an' knew all the rivers and their obituaries, the currents an' the dormitories, the provinces an' the umpires, she was reckoned to have edification enough to see her through."



LONELY.

They're all away
And the house is still,
And the dust lies thick
On the window sill.
And the stairway creaks
In a solemn tone
This taunting phrase:
"You are all alone."

They've gone away
And the rooms are bare.
I miss his cap
And a parlor chair,
And I miss the toys
In the lonely hall,
But most of all
I miss his call.

I miss the shouts
And the laughter gay
Which greeted me
At the close of day,
And there isn't a thing
In the house we own
But something says:
"You are all alone."

It's only a house
That is mine to know,
An empty house
That is cold with woe.
Like a prison grim
With its bars of black,
And it won't be home
Till they all come back.

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Russia's Professions.

Russia has all the time spoken as if peace were her one ambition. But, all the while, she has relentlessly prosecuted her war of aggression and conducted herself generally in such a way as to give the Allies—and particularly France, which is peculiarly susceptible to such influences—grave cause for suspicion. In short, Russia's every action has seemed to belie her pacific professions.

Everything now depends on the attitude the representatives of the Soviet Government adopt at the conference with the Polish representatives at Bismk. If the Russians show that they are prepared to carry out their publicly declared intentions to respect the independence, and the territorial integrity of Poland—if, as Mr. Bonar Law expressed it on Monday, they do not attempt to impose Brest-Litovsk terms on their enemies—the crisis will be over.

Poland knows—if British Labour does not—how anxious this country has been for peace. Short of her very existence being imperilled—and, with it, the future peace of Europe—Poland has been made to realise that any sticking for terms on her part would lose her the last vestige of British sympathy. What more could Labour ask?

It would only be in the unfortunate event of Russia seeking to exact altogether intolerable conditions that we and our Allies could even think of taking such measures as are open to us to enable Poland to continue her resistance. And in that case, as Mr. Lloyd George did not fail to point out to the deputation which waited on him on Tuesday, Labour's apparent sympathy would be largely to blame.

It should be clear to everybody that, unless the Treaty of Versailles is to be regarded as but another "scrap of paper," we cannot allow Russia—or, for that matter, any other Power—to push military advantage too far. And, while nobody in this country wants war, we could not afford to see Poland squelched—not even to please Lob-out.—Glasgow Weekly Herald.

To clean a clouded vinegar crust, put a teaspoonful of lye in it; let this remain for a few days, then wash out.

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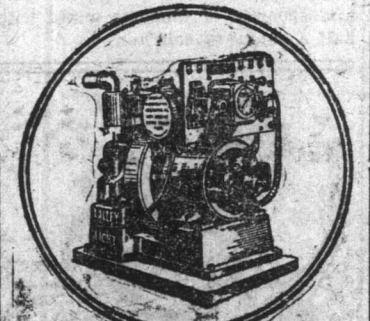
Civil Service Litterateurs

Famous Men who Worked in Government Offices.

One would not expect, perhaps, to find a poet at the Board of Trade, yet it is only a few short years since that eminently prosaic Government department commanded the services of Mr. Austin Dobson, the veteran poet and litterateur, who attained his eightieth birthday early in the present year. While at the Board of Trade Mr. Dobson had for colleagues Mr. Edmund Gosse and the late Cosmo Monkhouse, both poets of distinction.

Nor do these three names exhaust the literary associations of the Board of Trade. John Locke, the author of the "Essay on the Human Understanding," was at one time a commissioner there. He was succeeded in the post by Matthew Prior, the eighteenth-century poet.

Chaucer as Comptroller.
As a writer of verse de societate Mr.

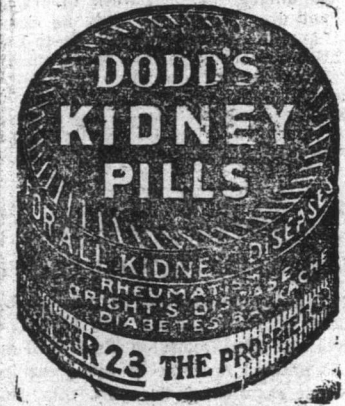


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LALLEY-LIGHT



Dobson is in the direct succession to Frederick Locker, the author of "London Lyrics," and Locker himself was a Civil Servant. The earlier years of his official life were spent at the Admiralty. He appears to have exhibited a delicate fastidiousness with regard to his duties, for, according to Sir Algernon West, he "always wore kid gloves in the office for fear he should dirty his hands with ink."

Trollope at The G.P.O.

Andrew Marvell, the Cromwellian poet, served for a year in a branch of the Civil Service.

Anthony Trollope was an employee at the General Post Office. In more recent times St. Martin's-le-Grand, has furnished literature with Mr. W. W. Jacobs and Mr. A. B. Walkley, the dramatic critic of the Times.

Joseph Addison, of Spectator fame, held for a brief period the important appointment of Secretary of State, which he resigned for a pension of £1,500 a year.

Robert Burns was an exciseman at Dumfries. The post brought him in an annual salary of £70, which was increased to £80 when he became a port officer.

For thirty-five years Matthew Arnold was a Government inspector of schools. Edmund Spenser held the post of

private secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland.

Mr. Clement Shorter, the editor of the Sphere, began his career in a department of Somerset House, which also harboured for a number of years the late William Michael Rossetti, brother of the poet, and himself a fairly prolific writer.

Finally, there is the case of Charles Lamb, whose activities were divided between the writing of essays and his official duties at the East India House.—Ex.

Household Notes.

Before using put new enameled saucepans in warm water, bring to a boil and cool.

Diced watermelon and pineapple combined with lemon juice make a good cocktail.

Rice is delicious prepared with grated cheese, baked, and served with tomato sauce.

Children should have food which requires chewing, as this makes their teeth strong.

Fresh fish cutlets, breaded and baked, may be made of almost any variety of fish.

Soap should never be boiled in an iron vessel; porcelain and granite iron are better.

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American Beauty trimmed with Buff
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LADIES' BELTED SLIP-OVER SWEATERS with Tie; fancy knit, short sleeves, Turquoise, American Beauty, Salmon, Buff. \$9.50.	LADIES' SWEATER COAT with pockets, in Turquoise, Peacock, Kelly. \$10.00.	LADIES' TUXEDO SWEATER COAT, fancy knit. Am. Beauty trimmed with Black. Turquoise trimmed with Black. Peacock trimmed with Buff. Plain Buff. China. Price \$13.50.
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