

The wife of the great French naturalist, M. Geoffroy Ste. Hilaire, once lost a handsome diamond necklace, and the house was in an uproar in consequence of the vanished bauble. Incidentally the naturalist mentioned that a favorite baboon, which he kept upstairs, had been playing for some days past with a necklace precisely similar to the one described. He was indignantly asked why he had not taken the necklace from the animal. "I thought that it belonged to him," calmly made answer M. Geoffroy Ste Hilaire. The naturalist had lived so long with animals, he had become so thoroughly absorbed in their habits and idiosyncracies, that he could see no kind of incongruity in a monkey possessing a diamond necklace. Thus Fraussham, the Norwich polytheist, when somebody left him a legacy of £25, proposed to buy a pony with the money. It was notorious that he could not ride, and he was asked what he wanted a horse for. "To walk about with and talk to," was his reply.

There are in use between Albany and New York thirteen electric clocks, two of the number being placed in the waiting rooms, and one in the dispatcher's office at the Grand Central Depot, New York. The time on the clock at the depot at East Albany corresponds exactly with the time in New York. Each one of the clocks is connected with the general superintendent's office in New York, in which the railroad time is kept on what is called the "big clock." Conductors, train men, and others, are compelled to keep their watches in strict conformity with the superintendent's clock. It is set by standard time, and connected with the time service department of the gold and stock telegraph. The time is distributed all over the line each weekday, as follows: At 10 o'clock 58 minutes and 3 seconds A. M., the word "time" is sent by the main office to the telegraph stations between New York and Albany. This word is repeated for 28 seconds, during which time operators must see that their instruments are adjusted. At 10 o'clock 28 minutes and 50 seconds, seconds commence beating, and continue for 50 seconds. The word "switch" is then sent over the wire, and operators having electric clocks connect them immediately with the circuit known as No. 9 wire. Ten seconds are allowed in which to make the connection. At 11 A. M., with one touch of the New York key, the hands on the different clocks are set to 11 o'clock.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Jewelers' Circular* in Louisville, Ky., writes that he has in his possession a curious ring, which formerly belonged to his great-grandmother, who lived in Germany, and that he is inclined to think it was Martin Luther's wedding or engagement ring. On the inner surface is engraved, "D. Martino Luthero—Catharina W Boun, 13 Juni, 1525." The owner describes his treasure as follows: "On one side of the ring is carved a representation of the Crucifixion; the cross is carved through the gold, and the outlines of the figure stretched upon it are very fine. In the centre of the cross-piece of the cross is a fine ruby, around which are carved these letters, I. N. R. I. Just at the foot of the cross on the right is carved a head with a Bishop's hat on it, and on the left side of the cross is a palm; on the other side of the ring are carved a ladder and spear, and between these is an anchor around which is twisted a rope. The gold in the ring is very fine

and of a pale hue, and has not the appearance of being so old. I can trace it back about 150 years. How the ring was obtained by my great-grandmother I do not know, but the family were ardent Lutherans, and I think may have gotten possession of the ring in this manner." Martin Luther was undoubtedly married on the 13th of June, 1525, but his wife's name was Katharina von Born, not Catharina W. Boun, and the present owner of the heirloom will probably do well to take a reasonable pride in possessing a ring which once belonged to his great-grandmother, without attempting to identify it with the hero of the German reformation.

**IN LIGHTER VEIN,**

QUIEN SABE?

If the dance is most terribly hot,  
And the stairs have not one vacant spot;  
If we happen to go  
Where the cool breezes blow,  
Who will know?

If the moon most discreetly doth hide,  
And the path it is not very wide;  
What if closely we walk,  
The better to talk,  
Who will know?

If the light is so very obscure,  
And the rose is so hard to procure,  
If one gently doth bend  
Assistance to lend,  
Who will know?

If young toads gambol wild in the shade,  
Then what marvel that one grows afraid;  
If for safety from harm  
One leans on an arm,  
Who will know?

If "bangs" are a little bit crushed,  
And cheeks are a trifle more flushed;  
Well—and if it is false,  
The cause was the waltz,  
Who will know?

W. G. THEVISTON in "Our Continent."

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Published by A. FISCHER, 11 Saint Bride Street, London, E. C., England.

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**Jewelers' Publishing Company, Publishers,**  
149-151 STATE STREET, CHICAGO.

**New York Office, 206 Broadway,**

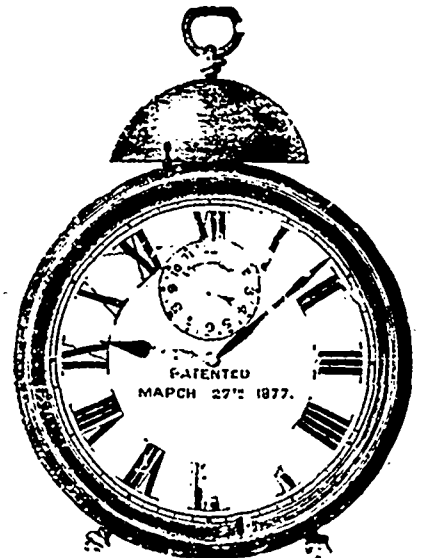
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