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GOSSIP.

A missionary in China was endeavoring to convert one of the natives. "Suppose me Christain, me go to heaven?" remarked Ah Sin. "Yes," replied the missionary. "All lite," retorted the heathen, "but what for you no let Chinaman into Amelica when you let him into heaven?" "Ah," said the missionary with fervor, "there's no labor party in heaven."

As an illustration of the alleged imperviousness of a Scotsman to a joke, the following story is told:

An Englishman, an Irishman and a Scotchman, travelling on foot in the Old Country, came to a crossing of roads, where was a guide-post directing travelers to the principal towns of the district and on which was printed the distances. Beneath this had been painted, by some joker, the following: "If you cannot read this notice ask the shoemaker across the way." The Englishman and the Irishman, seeing the absurdity of this addendum, laughed heartily, but the Scotchman failed to see where the laugh came in, till in the middle of the night as they roomed together at a wayside inn, when the other two were awakened by a loud laugh from Sandy. Enquiring the cause of his merriment, with another guffaw, he replied: "Why the shoemaker might not be at home."

Governor Van Sant of Minnesota is a mild-mannered and obliging man, but after a recent incident in which he was the central figure, he remarked with sincere feeling:

"It's a long worm that has no turnings, and it's about time to turn when I am made a side-show feature."

He visited the State fair grounds, and entered a restaurant with his secretary for a hasty lunch. The Governor was recognized, and shown all possible attention, but as he was about to begin eating, he was surprised to hear the "barker" outside the tent shout, as he swung the dinner bell vigorously:

"Step right this way to get your nice warm lunch. Only chance you may have to see the Governor of Minnesota eat. He is just sitting down to the table, and he can't get through for half an hour. Plenty of time to watch the whole performance, and shake his hand when he gets through. Come right in and watch him feed, and it won't cost you one cent extra, as long as you order the regular bill-of-fare."

In a few minutes the tent was crowded, and the blushing Governor and his fidgety secretary had to grin and bear it, until they could obtain their purposely-delayed orders, and show the crowd how the Chief Executive "fed" when he was roaming at large.

A clergyman who has just returned from a trip to England tells a story he heard there of the marriages made on certain feast days, when no fee is charged, and the young couples come in great numbers a long distance to take advantage of the custom.

The custom is not general, but local, being confined to certain rural places in the vicinity of Manchester and Oldham. "Upon one of these occasions," tells the clergyman, with a chuckle, "a delegation of fifty young people from Oldham and the surrounding country journeyed to Manchester, making a picturesque grouping at the old English church of St. Mark's. Each one of the men carried a long staff or stick, as the people there call a cane, and each of the young women brandished an umbrella, the use of which will be presently seen.

"After the ceremony of marrying the lot was concluded and the crowd was going down the church aisles, one young woman hurried back and interrupted the rector as he was going to the vestry.

"I theenk, meenster," she panted, "that you have married me to the wrong felly!"

"Don't let that worry you," said the rector, who was in a hurry, "scrt yourself as you go out, you're all married fast enough," and acting on his advice they sorted out the right pairs.

"On their way back to Oldham they bought the things necessary to light housekeeping, stringing the lighter kitchen utensils on the sticks and umbrellas poised on their shoulders."

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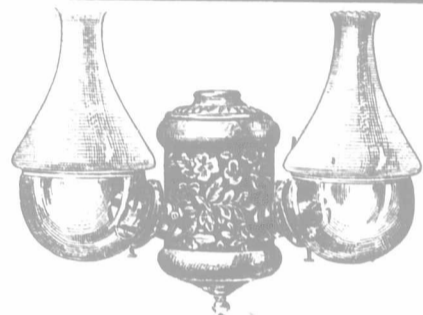
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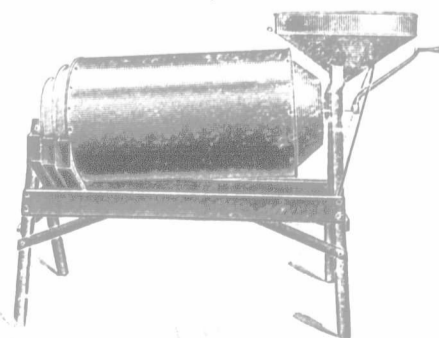
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