

AFRICAN ENGLISH.

Some Gems of Humor From Native Post-bag.

A number of African natives once sent a letter to a British official. When the latter opened it he was surprised to read: "Sir,—We beg to ask you to give us your ears and with deep thoughts."

This example of African "pidgin-English" was equalled by a native who marked his letter "urgent." "I have the honor to inform you," he wrote, "that my room at Sabonger is still unsteady. There is no door no kitchen and a bathroom and the people I am using with is useless because they like not themselves."

"There is no key and padlocks supply," he added, "if at all the room is well fixed, the wall is unlookable no whitewash and sealing."

More puzzling still was a note from a native who had been in the British service, and appealed to be taken back. "With a poorest condition I was beg," he wrote, "since I was retrenched out from service... may this mine please your majesty and instruct my being resumes for goodness' sake. Dear Father look! and hear that chop health are major for a foreigner in a strange country. Mercy! Mercy! Mercy! on me."

Another writer complained about everything in general. "Even the quarters which I was supplied by Railway Officer to be sleeping in," he declared, "I never slept there once owing to the station master are not telling me the exact time which the train due here or how many train will run."

"The vile manner," in which an engine-driver carried out shunting duties was the subject of another complaint.

"This driver," the letter read, "is not in favor of the pointman's flag nor will he view the Shunter's signals, but remain murmuring within himself. He then charged the wagons with gravity of his ill will to do so, until contents, palm pots were reduced to entire emptiness."

This writer added: "Had I not been more active than smartness the wagon would have run to point of derailment. I trust the T.M. will kindly some warm instructions in the bosom of this driver."

There is a certain amount of ingenious observation reflected in a report which stated that a driver almost caused an accident by trying to run on to another line on which a train was standing. The report is one which would certainly surprise a railway superintendent in Canada.

"Luckily," declared the complainant, in describing the scene, "Pointman Ojo, long service man, risk his life as hero, dash to the tumbler and threw it over, thinking to be killed. This driver is prouding of his full speed driving that people may say oh, it is Driver brave him," he can drive serious oh we praise him."

The author of another letter made full use of his vocabulary to express his contempt for a fellow native.

"As for you, a common ignorant," he declared, "so far as you are a cleptomaniac, I know you have been destined to misfortunes which the railway will soon find out your games. You will soon entrap yourself."

Having thus paved the way, the writer proceeded: "You seems to forget that your father was only a bell-finger in our church, St. George's Cathedral in Sa Leone, and that you were only a piece-tail. Brat with a tail shirt down to your knees assisting your father on his poor profession. A Mendi tribe besides—the most ungrateful nation in the world. You cloth your wolf's face into a sheepskin and make our house your comfortable home, behold you are a cankerworm."

In conclusion, the writer refers to his "friend" as an "Infidele, a scall-wag, a dead conscience brute, a raw Fagan of the worst integrity, and a cruel beast of the Viper and Tigris brand."

Here is another "gem" recorded in "Up Against It In Nigeria," by "Langa-Langa":

"We citizens of the country—and not denizens—has the pleasure to acquaint with you kind favor to understand for us, though we are ignorant and illiterate before you but not in this point, we want your help now."

"With most profoundly, we have the honor respectfully to approach your very worship," a further letter read; while another native correspondent in his letter subscribed himself, "Your own sorrowman."

Dublin Castle's Jester.

In Ireland, at a military dinner at the Viceregal Lodge, Dean Leigh, who has just written his memoirs, met Bob Williams, "who was attached to the court, in what capacity I know not—unless it was court jester," says Mr. Dean.

He was the originator of a very old chestnut which appeared from time to time. The Secretary for Ireland was then Lord Naas, and as such was controller of the Zoo in Phoenix Park. He had gone up to London, and when there received a telegram from the keeper of the Zoo: "The emu has laid an egg, and in the absence of your lordship we have placed it under the biggest goose we could secure."

A Quiet Hint.

The district visitor was paying her usual call, and poor harassed Mrs. Heath, who had been disturbed in the middle of a heavy day's washing, was thoroughly fed up. "Really, my good woman," droned her visitor, "what one reads in the papers is truly appalling. Indeed, one half of the world doesn't know how the other half lives." "Well, m'm," responded Mrs. Heath, simply, "that ain't your fault, is it?"

Spanish Evil Eye.

Belief in the evil eye is common among the peasantry of Spain. A stag's horn is considered a good safeguard, and small horns, tipped with silver, are frequently hung about the children's necks.

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Critic On Jubilees

Clay Smith, the well-known musical critic of Lyceum and Chautauqua circles, says this about Buckner's Dixie Jubilee Singers, who will be the last night attraction at the coming Chautauqua: "There is perhaps no name in the lyceum or chautauqua better known than 'Buckner.' In the old independent chautauqua days, no program was complete without a Jubilee Company. In those days 'Buckner's Dixie Jubilee' was the criterion for all such companies, and it remains so today. Year after year, they were returned to standard assemblies for a three or four day stay, just as regular as a meter reader, and were always looked forward to by a great majority as one of the big events. 'Why, of course, we must have Mr. and Mrs. Buckner, with their plantation singers, for at least three of our days,' was the common expression of committee members sparring with representatives for their next summer's program."

It is because of this fact that I am going to let you know what a Real Jubilee Company consists of and how they are made. I want you to know what is back of these years of service. This company consists of seven high-grade vocalists, three women and four men, and it isn't a thrown together affair from season to season. It didn't just happen. Nothing worthwhile ever does.

There is no race that has made the rapid strides in music in the short space of time and with such limited opportunities as the American Negro, and this, in spite of the great handicap they labor under. The Dixie Jubilee Singers have had only one change in the personnel in the past seven years. Is it any wonder their ensemble is noted for its perfect phrasing and blending? It takes years to get this teamwork in a company. I say with perfect understanding of the broadness of the statement that W. C. Buckner has done as much and possibly more for his race, musically, as any living member. Like his old friend, Paul Lawrence Dunbar, he is an artist, and is dead in earnest, and his whole life is wrapped up in his work. Some one has said: "The greatest single factor that goes to make success in any walk of life is the love and personal interest you have for your work."

No one who has ever met Mr. and Mrs. Buckner can doubt their sincerity and singleness of purpose, and there is no one who has ever listened to their carefully planned and executed program but will immediately realize they are listening to the best.

Yes, "Jubes" may come and "Jubes" may go, but the Dixies are a standing emulation of Tennyson's brook. We are all for you, Buck.

FARM LABORERS' EXCURSION VIA CANADIAN PACIFIC

Canadian Pacific Railway will again run Farm Laborers' Excursion to Western Canada this year on August 4th and 18th. The fare for going journey will be \$20.00 from St. John and any other points in the province on the line of the Canadian Pacific. From

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points east of St. John and in Prince Edward Island, the fares will be made up of the lowest one way second class fare to St. John plus \$20.00, war tax additional. For the return journey fare will be \$25.00 from Winnipeg to St. John and other points in New Brunswick on the line of the Canadian Pacific. To points east of St. John and in Prince Edward Island, lowest one way second class fare additional.

Every person purchasing farm laborers ticket will be furnished with verification certificate, which when filled in at Winnipeg by farmer, to show that the holder of coupon has been hired to work in the harvest fields, will entitle the person to purchase ticket from Winnipeg to any point in Manitoba, Saskatchewan or Alberta, but not west of Edmonton, Calgary or Macleod, at the rate of one half cent per mile, but not less than 50 cents.

The Canadian Pacific will operate the required number of special trains from St. John, the first to leave at 3:30 p.m. Eastern, or 4:30 p.m. Atlantic or 5:30 p.m. St. John Daylight time, other trains to follow at intervals in the late afternoon and evening of August 4th.

Special accommodations on the trains will be provided for ladies or family parties travelling together. There will also be arrangements provided for passengers procuring food on the journey.

Any further information required can be obtained on application to any Canadian Pacific Agent and excursion tickets are on sale at all our offices.

AROOSTOOK JUNCTION

An auto party with three autos had a very pleasant trip to Portage Lake, Maine, last week, going via Presque Isle and Ashland, Me., and returning via Mapleton. The party consisted of Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Hopkins, Captain H. H. Hopkins, wife and family, LeBaron Hopkins and wife of Andover, Mr. and Mrs. Long of Long Settlement, and Mrs. R. W. Demmings and Miss Irene Demmings and A. B. Gains and wife.

Miss Glenna Monteith and brother Jackie are visiting their grand-parents at Mapleton, Me.

Victor Monteith is visiting his grand-parents at Northampton.

Mrs. M. E. McDougall and granddaughter Dorothy, are visiting Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Flewelling.

Miss D. M. Langley who has been home for some time returned to her business at Fort Fairfield today.

Mrs. N. C. Turner spent the week-end at St. Stephen.

Dr. G. B. Post and family visited Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Turner last week.

Mrs. T. H. Manzer and son Gordon are on an auto trip to St. John, Sussex and other places.

Miss Albert Melver is paying a visit to Miss DeLong at Hampton.

Misses Daisy Boone, Ruby Hathaway and Gladys are having a ten days outing at Chipman.

Mrs. L. C. True has returned from a visit to St. John.

L. C. True, P. G. of the I. O. O. F., will be visiting delegate from Aroostook.

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took to the Grand Lodge at Truro. J. F. Flewelling, trainman is Trainman's Legislative Delegate to Fredericton.

The Ladies' Institute held their weekly meeting last week at the home of Mrs. J. L. Monteith.

Work is just commencing on the trunk road between Aroostook bridge and Andover bridge at Perth, and a building has been erected on Stanley Waugh's farm for a cookhouse and headquarters. It is expected that over a hundred men and 40 pair of horses will be employed.

More than 100 men are employed on the dam extension at the Aroostook Power Plant at Aroostook Falls.

A special train left Aroostook Jct. on Saturday evening, conveying five car loads of trotting horses to Presque Isle for the racing there.

Miss Mary Bowmaster spent the week-end at her home in Tilley.

D. B. Jewett, C. P. R. operator, has been relieving H. Blakeslee, agent at Perth Jct. during his vacation.

Raspberries and mosquitoes have both been a plentiful crop this summer, and parties going out after raspberries have had both exquisite pain and pleasure gathering in the luscious fruit, together with a large and painful crop of "skeeter" bites, aided by the wild and woolly tribe of black flies which, like the poor, are always with us.

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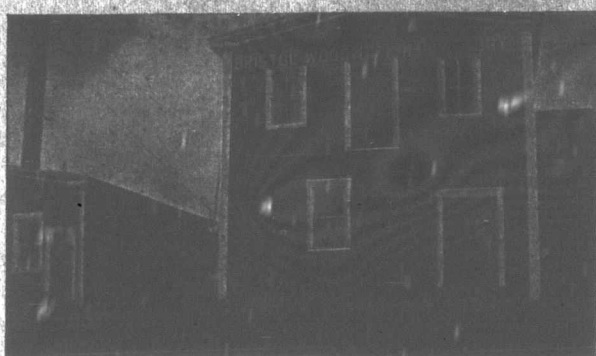
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