

FAMILIAR PHRASES.

Many Used in Our Daily Conversation Have Unknown Sources for the Most of Us.

How few of the phrases that we introduce into our daily conversation have we ever traced to their source? Take, for instance, the expression "As good as a play." Which among us have realized that its parent was none other than Charles II., who used it whilst attending the House of Lords during the passing of the Divorce Bill? "Lend me from my friends." Again, how rarely it is remembered that this was the wish of Marshal Villars to Louis XIV., or that "Eureka" was the exclamation of Archimedes when he had solved an anxious problem. It was Tallyrand who said "Surtout, point de zèle," and Chateaubriand's words, "I have wept and believed," so often misquoted. The words "Let the cobbler stick to his last," have been attributed to many wrong men, instead of to the right person, the painter Apelles, who really uttered them, and also those "No day without its line."

Brougham's "The pursuit of knowledge under difficulties" and "The Schoolmaster is abroad" are familiar indeed, but not always credited to him. About Wellington's "The Government of the Queen must be carried on" there is rarely a mistake. "Rich beyond the dreams of avarice" was bequeathed to us by Dr. Johnson, who tucked the phrase on to Messrs. Barclay and Perkins at the sale of their brewery. Lamb claims the oft-quoted "Brilliant flashes of silence," and Warburton "Orthodoxy is another man's doxy."

The French phrase-makers are masters of their art. L'homme absurde est celui qui ne change jamais, an aphorism of Barthelémy, will be quoted for centuries to come; so, too, "God favors the heaviest battalions," which, first vaguely introduced by Tacitus, was put into crystallized form by Voltaire. "Twas Voltaire also who exclaimed, Si Dieu n'existait pas, il faudrait l'inventer." To the fervent Saint-Simon we owe the assertion "The Golden Age is before, and not behind us." "Let him who loves me follow me" was spoken by Napoleon, and that other brilliant soldier, Comte de Larochelle-Jaquelin, addressed to his men the well-known words, "If I advance, follow me; if I withdraw, slay me; if I fall, avenge me." The French Revolution brought forth many memorable phrases. "Do you think revolutions are made with rosewater?" was asked by Chamfort. An unforgettable relic of Napoleon's is that "There is only one step from the sublime to the ridiculous." "Another such victory and we are undone," sometimes attributed to Napoleon, was in reality said by Pyrrhus of Epirus. That a person is "indebted to his memory for his jests and his imagination for his facts," is due to Sheridan, who of happy phrases has left his country a peculiarly rich legacy.

Ivan the Terrible.

Ivan IV. of Russia, called Ivan the Terrible, was not a pleasant person. Even at his meals he was rather testy. On one occasion he threw over Prince Gorskoff, who had failed to be witty, a tureen of scalding soup, and as the prince endeavored to escape the czar plunged a knife into his side. The unhappy noble fell dead, and Ivan, remarking that he had carried the joke far enough, bade his physician attend to him. "It is only God and your majesty," replied the medical man, "that can restore the prince to life. He is quite gone!" The czar, somewhat disconcerted, took a pleasant way of forgetting it. It chanced that a favorite noble came at this moment, whereupon His Majesty took hold of the corpse by the ear, and, using his knife he cut the ear off and flung it into the face of his old friend. The noble received the ear with many acknowledgments of his master's condescension.

Ivan was still in the teens when he had one of his attendants worried to death by dogs on the public highway; and in one of his so-called frolicsome moods he would let slip wild bears among the affrighted citizens in the streets and would calmly say his prayers while gazing at the slaughter, making compensation says a historian, "for any irregularity in the matter of flinging a few coins to the wounded after he rose from his knees." It is even said that Ivan went so far in his insane freaks as to compel parents to slay their children, and children to slay one another, and where there was a survivor "the amiable monarch," if he was not too weary, would slay him himself, and would laugh at this conclusion to so excellent a joke.

Tennyson's Birthplace.

Few places in England are more freely visited than Somersby, the birthplace of the late poet-laureate, and scarcely any so little cared for. It is true, an admirer has placed a memorial brass within the church, but since ill-luck came on the squire's family neglect has been very busy. The rectory itself is in the hands of prosperous, frugal farm people, who have let the lawn where Arthur Hallam read "the Tuscan poets" and the girls sang "a ballad to the brightening moon" go largely into wilderness, while some of its is turned into a cabbage garden. The dining-hall, built by the poet's father, is in tolerable preservation, and would make an ideal home for a Tennyson museum. The walls, like those of many other houses in the neighborhood, are built of a kind of mud, and already show symptoms of decay. Could the nation not acquire the place before it is too late? No very great cost would be involved, and even that could be met by making a slight charge for admission. — The King.

An Irish Paradox.

"Paralysis?" said an Irishman. "It's the dis'ase that makes ye so that every time ye move ye can't stir." — Sydney Town and Country Journal.

THE STAGE

"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players."

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

At the Chatham Grand:— Monday, Feb. 16.—Robert Mantell in Hamlet.—Mantell reported good, support not reported strong.

Wednesday, Feb. 18.—Pittsburg Orchestra, assisted by George Hamlin, tenor.—Good musical production.

Pauline Johnson, under auspices of A. O. U. W., Feb. 19th.

Friday, Feb. 20.—A Sister's Love.—Reported fair.

Dates of Robert Mantell and a Sister's Love companies are now subject to change.

(Supplied to The Planet by Press Agents.)

CLEVELAND.

The Pittsburg Orchestra, conducted by Victor Herbert, with Schumann-Heyne as soloist, gave a concert at Gray's Armory 29 before a large audience.

TOTOITO.

Harry Rich, a Toronto actor, who has been with La Voyage en Suisse Co. up till recently, has had to return home to this city with an attack of locomotor ataxia, and he is now laid up in the hospital in a very precarious condition. His many friends here are preparing a monster benefit for him, which will be given in Massey Music Hall in February.

Madame Albani appeared at Massey Music Hall January 30, assisted by Madame Beatrice Langley, Adele Berne, Katherine Jones, Albert Archdeacon, John Cheshire, and Frank Watkins.

Uncommon Colds.

"It is just a common cold," people say, "there's no danger in that." Admitting their statement, then there are uncommon colds, colds which are dangerous, for many a fatal sickness begins with a cold. If we could tell the common cold from the uncommon we could feel quite safe. But we can't. The uncommon variety is rarely recognized until it has fastened its hold on the lungs, and there are symptoms of consumption.

Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery cures coughs, bronchitis, "weak" lungs and other diseases of the organs of respiration. It increases the supply of pure, rich blood and builds up the emaciated body.

It took a severe cold which settled in the bronchial tubes, writes Rev. Frank Hay of Northville, Jefferson Co., Kansas. After trying medicines labeled "Sure Cure," almost without number, I was led to try Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. I took two bottles and was cured, and have stayed cured. When I think of the great pain I had to endure, and the terrible cough I had, it seems almost a miracle that I was so soon relieved. That God may spare you many years and abundantly bless you is the prayer of your grateful friend.

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A New Issue of the Subscribers' Directory

For the District of Western Ontario, including the Chatham Exchange, will be issued early in September. Orders for new connections, changes of address, changes of names, duplicate entry of names, etc., should be placed at once to ensure their appearance.

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WOMEN WHO WERE MARRIED IN SPIKE OF THEMSELVES.

Some Matrimonial Experiences That Would Seem to Justify Voltaire's Cynical Declaration That "Any Man Can Wed Any Woman."

"Any man can marry any woman," Voltaire once cynically declared, "if he only pursues her long enough." This, at any rate, was the experience of Jacob Halliday, a well known character in the north of England a couple of generations ago.

Never did a lover win a wife under such discouraging conditions as Jacob, for after his first proposal he was soundly horsewhipped by the young lady's father and ducked in a convenient pond.

"I'll ask her again next year," Jacob spluttered as he emerged from his bath, the fire of his passion not a whit quenched by his cold douche. "Regularly once a year, on the anniversary of his first proposal and immersion," Nicholson says in his biography of Mr. Halliday, "Jacob attired himself in his finest raiment and presented his petition, always with the same negative result. When he presented himself, now a middle aged man, for the twenty-fourth time, the lady greeted his appearance with a peal of laughter. 'It's no good, Jacob, I see,' she exclaimed. 'I may as well give in now as later, but what a faint hearted creature the importunate widow was compared with you!'"

Sheridan took an equally bold course when he sought to win the fairest of the beautiful daughters of Linley, the composer of Bath, who was strongly opposed to the suit of the brilliant young poet and dramatist. His lady-love, too, was beset by an army of suitors, many of them far more eligible than the penniless law student. The circumstances called for bold and decisive action. After threatening to destroy himself if the lady refused his advances and fighting a couple of duels with one of his most formidable rivals Sheridan took the bold step of running away with Miss Linley and conducting her to a French nunnery, where she remained in confinement until, succumbing to her lover's daring and persistence, she consented to marry him.

An amusing and characteristic story is told of Lord Beaconsfield in the days when he was wooing Mrs. Lewis, to whom in later years of married life he was so touchingly devoted.

One day Mrs. Lewis, who was then living in retirement at her seat in Glamorganshire, saw a gentleman walking leisurely up the drive. "Jane," she exclaimed to an old servant, "I really believe that horrid man Disraeli is coming up the drive. Do, please, run to the door and say I'm not at home." Jane opened the door to the undesired caller and gravely announced her message. "I know," Disraeli coolly answered, "but take my bag to a bedroom and prepare luncheon. I will wait until Mrs. Lewis is ready to come downstairs," which, of course, Mrs. Lewis felt compelled to do a few minutes later.

"Oh, dear, what can I do with such an obstinate, thick skinned man?" the widow asked desperately later in the day when Disraeli showed no sign of raising the siege. "Marry him, I suppose, ma'am," was Jane's philosophic answer, and, as the world knows, the persistent wooer had his way in the end in this as in most other things in life.

A judge, not long deceased, used to tell a diverting story of his wooing. In those days he was a struggling and obscure lawyer without even the prospect of an income, and the woman on whom he had set his affections was the daughter of a purse proud man with a high sounding name who was strongly opposed to giving his daughter to a "penniless lawyer."

"Do you know, sir," the father thundered when he was asked for his daughter's hand—"do you know, sir, that my daughter's ancestors have all been noblemen and that one of them was a favorite minister of Queen Elizabeth?" "Oh, yes, I know all that," the young barrister placidly answered, "and do you know that Queen Elizabeth once slapped your ancestor's face, and unless you are more civil I will do the same for you?" It is scarcely surprising that so bold and daring a lover had his way in the end, even in the face of such a barrier of ghostly noble ancestors.

The late Prince Bismarck, it is said, won his wife in much the same way. Although he had not known the lady of his love more than a few days and her parents were not even aware of his existence, he presented himself one day before them and boldly asked permission to marry their daughter. In vain the father fumed and blustered and threatened to have the young man forcibly ejected from the house for his impudence. "I am sorry to annoy you, sir," the young soldier said, "but I must respectfully decline to leave the house until I have your consent." Nor did he, although the consent was given in these ungracious words: "Well, I suppose you must have your way, but I cannot compliment my daughter on her choice of a mule for a husband."

He Feels It.

"Does a draft give you cold chills down your back?" asked the philosopher.

"It does," replied the wise guy, "when my bank account is overdrawn."

Bobby's Comment.

Little Bobby was inspecting the new baby for the first time, and his dictum was as follows:

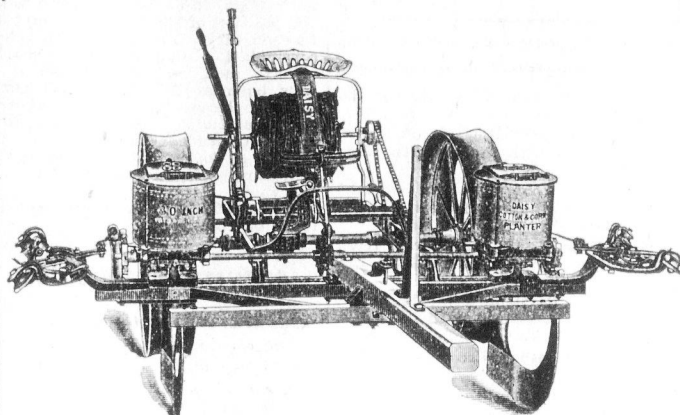
"I s'pose it's nice enough, what there is of it, but I'm sorry it ain't a parrot."

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