

WHAT TUPPER SAID.

Most Victorians will remember the Victoria theatre meeting at which Sir Hilbert Tupper spoke, and the colloquy between that gentleman and ex-ayudant Keith Wilson. The question and answers were:

Ald. Keith Wilson—I should like to ask the hon. gentleman three questions: First, why did these postoffice officials not get the money that was voted for them? (Great cheering.)

Second, why did they not get the money that was voted for them? (Great cheering.)

Third, why did they not get the money that was voted for them? (Great cheering.)

Matchmaking in Kerry. A Case in Which £10 Made a Difference in a Dowry.

At Tralee quarter sessions, before Judge Shaw, a farmer named Thomas Marshall, of Mount Nicholas, Ballymahon, sued Thomas McEllistrim, a farmer of Abane, in the same parish, for £10 due on foot of a marriage agreement.

Mr. O. H. McEvoy, J.L.B., appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Thomas Huggard for the defendant.

Thomas Marshall, plaintiff, deposed that in March, 1892, he got his son married; his brother-in-law came to him and said, "I would like to join with you, and I have a girl worth £100 for your son."

THE DISAPPEARING GUN.

Present day experiments with modern artillery have furnished nothing more wonderful than the disappearing gun carriage, which affords protection to both gun and men from hostile projectiles and at the same time deprives the enemy of a target to fire at.

The old form of earth forts with large embrasures through which the guns are fired, are now useless on account of the storm of projectiles that would be hurled against them by the small-calibre rapid-firing guns.

Masonry is worse than useless, for it would easily be shattered by well directed shots of the modern heavy artillery, and the flying fragments of stone would be as dangerous and deadly as the fragments of a bursting shell.

England has some fortifications of stone covered with armour plates of sufficient thickness to keep out the projectiles. If guns fire through small embrasures, and the field of fire each is limited to comparatively few degrees, a large number of guns are required to defend the works.

How Whitechurch Won the Victoria Cross, at Chitral.

When everyone else had come in it was found that Baird and Whitechurch were missing, and it was supposed that they had been cut off and killed; but, sometime afterward, they made their appearance in the garden, and not at the main gate of the fort, poor Baird being in a dying condition.

As they crossed the polo ground, three of the men who were carrying the stretcher were killed by successive shots. As each man fell, his place was at once supplied by another, and when a fourth was hit, it was clear that the stretcher could no longer be carried, so Whitechurch partly carried and partly dragged Baird along the ground.

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SUCCESSFUL TESTS OF THE GORDON DISAPPEARING GUN.

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ORCHESTRAL CURIOSITIES.

Some queer instruments used to produce realistic effects.

The orchestra attached to a theatre which is in the habit of playing realistic drama, thus introducing upon its boards steam engines, ships, race-horses, and similar things, uses, besides some very queer instruments, whereby certain sounds necessary to the surroundings of the scene may be success fully produced.

Take, for instance, the roaring of a lion. None of the ordinary brass instruments will give this effect, and the notes of the double bass, to produce the desired sound, a special instrument must be used, technically known as a "lion-roarer."

The roar of a horse galloping along the road several contrivances exist. One way, as simple as it is effective, is to take coconut shells, cut in half, and strike them against some hard surface.

These are wooden blocks, cut into the shape of a horse's hoof, to which real horse shoes are attached, and this something queer instrument is played by striking the shoes upon a piece of marble or stone.

When the train first starts the operator strikes slowly, and gradually increases the pace until, when the engine is supposed to have got up steam, he strikes the cylinder as quickly as he can.

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A HOME-MADE AVIARY.

Women Who Love Birds Can Rear Them at Small Expense.

It is the manner of keeping pets particularly the French canaries in cages that are roomy, decorative little bird-houses; built of this ground glass, wood and wire; provided with syphon water-cups, self-cleaning seed boxes, and spacious to keep the small prisoner content and healthy.

The persons who reared how easily and inexpensively this might be done devoted to this purpose the space of one very small balcony, jutting outside one of her long drawing-room windows.

Its building was the work of two days, and when the woodwork was painted a nice sober green, the neighbors conclude that the unoffending ad-ventive, in the shape of plants, instead of the proprietor of the aviary, had the floor of the one time balcony covered with pebbles.

Within a week mother nature asserted herself, and they deserted their cages, first to spend their nights and then to begin nesting in one of the fir trees. After a bit was added a couple more of these birds to the aviary, then introduced to the canaries were a pair of bullfinches and a pretty chaffinch, a pair of pretty Java parrots and lastly a mocking bird.

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SAHARA OSTRICH FARMS.

A Frenchman Advocates the Starting of These in the Great Desert.

A Writer in La Revue Scientifique suggests that the French Sahara, upon the southern edge of Algeria, may be profitably used for the breeding of ostriches. The Barbary ostrich was once greatly prized for its plumage, and the ostrich feather houses of Paris made their reputation, so that there are no more plumes of the sort to be had, and the Parisian houses have lost their monopoly of ostrich feathers.

It is believed that there are now in South Africa at least three hundred and fifty thousand ostriches domesticated and bred for their plumage, and the writer says that there is no reason why Northern Africa should not become quite as important a region in this industry. The Sahara, it is explained, is by no means the exclusively arid and sandy waste that the popular imagination makes it.

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