SMITHSON AND HIS REPUTATION.

He May Have Been a Poor Actor, but His Heart Was in the Right Place.

Smithson, once an actor, has had for a long time the reputation of being a cold-hearted, designing, crafty fellow. He has come by this reputation gradually, no one knows exactly when the first symptoms of coldness showed themselves. Some of his old time acquaintances say that since the day following his summary dismissal from the Play-well company Smithson has been a changed man. Not a few of them think that there is now no hope for him. There are a few optimists, however, who believe that in Smithson's heart there still burns a flame of kindliness that only needs to be fed to make him the whole souled, splendid fellow he was a few years ago.

This small band of optimists met in the flat of one of their number the other night. The conversation drifted from one subject to another. They talked of the propositions for membership in the Players, and about other subjects of interest to actor folk. Finally, Augustus Frankville said, "Fellows, I have good news about Smithson."

"Good! what is it?" they all cried in chorus.

"Well," continued Frankville, "I was walking down Sixth avenue from the park this afternoon when I saw him walking about a block ahead of me in a most shiftless and dejected manner. From what I could see of him I was sure that he was desperately hungry. His general appearance was bad. I concluded to keep an eye on him and to find out if possible how he was keeping body and soul together. He is too proud to beg from his former friends, you know.

"He went on a few blocks, hesitated before a saloon and went in through the side door, which was just opposite the free lunch counter. I went into the saloon through the front door and stood at the bar within two feet of him. It was late in the afternoon and the free lunch had mostly disappeared. There was left only one piece of corned beef and two miserable slices of bread. Smithson made for that counter totally oblivious to everything and with as much decorum as one could expect from a hungry man.

"He lost no time in making a sandwich out of what remained on the lunch counter. He looked at it eagerly and was about to eat it when a dirty little hand appeared under the small swinging door and tugged at his coat. At the same time in a sharp whisper there came this appeal from the owner of the hand: 'Say, mister, give us a sandwich? I'm hungry.'

"Poor old Smithson cast one glance at the sandwich and another at the dirty hand of the street boy. In an instant he put the sandwich into the dirty hand. The lunch counter was left bare and Smithson's stomach was empty. I tell you, fellows, old, broken down Smithson has been maligned."

Smithson's reputation is not so bad now.—New York Tribune.

Eggs Within Eggs.

We have never been convicted of telling fish stories, nor yarns of any kind that sounded in any degree fishy, but here is one for the yarn spinner to improve upon: Mrs. Dr. Campbell recently found two eggs, the fruit of a Plymouth Rock hen, which were fully as large as goose eggs. Upon breaking these eggs they were found to contain the yolk and yellow in the same proportion found in other eggs, and in addition to this each one contained another perfectly formed egg of a yolk and yellow inclosed in a hard well formed shell. This inner egg is of the shape and size of the ordinary hen's egg. One of these peculiar combinations was opened at one end enough to let out the ingredients of the large eggs, while the inclosed still remains incased in the outer shell and will be carefully preserved for inspection by the curious.—Centralia (Mo.) Courier.

Austrian Jew Baiters Thrashed.

In a Prater restaurant a few evenings ago a young and clean shaven man was seated alone at a table with a glass of beer before him. Three men came in and sat down at the same table. They thought the beardless youth was a Jew and began to annoy him. For some time he kept perfectly quiet and pretended not to notice them. As they continued to amuse themselves, suddenly he sprang up and faced the three, who had risen simultaneously. Without saying a word he placed himself in a boxing attitude, and in a few seconds the three "Jew" baiters lay in a heap on the floor with their faces bruised. On recovering they left the place. The young man sat down and called for more beer. He is an English jockey, the winner of several of this season's races in Vienna.—Vienna Cor. London News.

A Company of Soldiers Prostrated.

Nineteen soldiers were marching along the highway at Bourges to reach the artillery practice ground when a thunderstorm broke over them and in a minute drenched them all to the skin. They began trotting, but had not advanced much when a terrible stroke of lightning came and in an instant laid the whole detachment prostrate on the ground. After a short time some of the men recovered and rose to their feet. They called to their comrades, who rallied and rose slowly one after another. But four remained immovable. They were taken to the hospital. Three were restored to life, but the fourth was dead. He had a deep wound on the crown of his head and his chest was burned as over a furnace.—Chicago Herald.

Curious Chinese Medicines.

The Chinese medical writers recommend such remedies as tiger bones, bear's gall, ground blood, tree bugs, fossil crabs, fowls' gizzards, elephant blood, "insects of nine smells," dew falling in the dark of the moon, cow hair, ground bones of cow's knee, Job's tears, snake skins, ground rhinocerous horns, hedgehog skin and claws, dried silk worms, and many other remedies equally absurd and foolish.—St. Louis Republic.

Troublesome Brides,

Young married people are the most troublesome customers except babies that a photographer has, and few photographers like to see a couple in their wedding finery enter a gallery. The man never makes any objection, he generally has trouble enough to keep his hands out of his pockets, but the bride seems to consider it a part of her duty to find fault with everything. She will object to the accessories, to the way the folds of her dress fall, to the groom's pose, to the size of her feet and hands in the negative, to everything and everybody, apparently just to find fault. Pleasing her is out of the question, so the photographer generally does the best he can and lets her grumble.—Interview in St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

What a Tarpon Can Do.

As the steamtug Mollie Mohr was coming up the river from the jetties she ran through a school of tarpon about half a mile below the city. Three of these huge fish leaped clear across the tug's forward deck, one of them narrowly missing Tom Ross' head; the second struck the cabin, near where Captain Marshall and a fireman were standing, and made a dent as large as a man's fist in the hard wood. The third struck and bent an iron drift bolt half an inch in diameter, and glancing off hit William Schunfield between the shoulders, knocking him senseless; in fact, it was thought for a time he had been killed, and it will be some time before he will be able to resume work. Captain Marshall says the river for a considerable distance was alive with these silver kings, leaping around as if all the tarpon family had concluded to celebrate nineteen feet of water on the Brazos bar.—Houston Post.

Books in Raised Type for the Blind.

Last year alone the British and Foreign Blind association embossed 8,500 books in English, French, German, Latin, Greek and other languages for the use of blind readers. About 250 seeing volunteers are, we are informed, engaged in writing out the first copies of books in Braille for this association, and seventy paid blind writers are employed in making copies. Besides these, the association continues to publish its two magazines for the blind, Progress, started by the late Dr. T. R. Armitage in 1881, and Playtime, a magazine in uncontracted Braille for children, which made its first appearance last summer. —London News.

The Fierce Tortoise Shell.

Sometimes the flesh of the tortoise shell turtle is eaten, but it is not good for much. There are two species—the "tortoise shell" and the "hawksbill"—with not much difference between them. Although their diet is a vegetable one, they are much more fierce than the carnivorous loggerhead. They bite very severely, and those who catch them sometimes receive very painful wounds. —Interview in Washington Star.

Cheap Enough, Certainly.

"I felt so cheap during the ceremony," confessed the bride to her dearest friend.

"Why, my de[illegible]"

"Because pa g[illegible]e me away."—Detroit Free Press.

The Fresnel Lens.

One of the greatest of human inventions is the Fresnel lens, now used in all lighthouses, which condenses the light by an arrangement of compound refractors so as to throw all the rays in a single sheet. By its means a first order light, naturally of 450 candle power, obtains a power of 12,000 candles.—Washington Star.

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For Washington, week days, 5.00, x6.20, 6.25, x7.10, x7.20, x8.00, 8.35, x9.30, x10.20, (10.35 a. m., 12.00 p. m., 45 minutes) 12.15, x2 10, x2.30, 2.50, (3.45 45 minutes) x4.15, 5.00, x6.00, 6.18, x6.50, x7.15, x7.40, x8.18, 9.05, x9.55, x10.15 and 11.30 p. m., Sundays 6.25, x7.10, 8.35, x9.30, x10.20, (10.35 a. m., 12.00 p. m., 45 minutes) 1.05, x2.10, x2.30, (3.45 45 minutes) 5.00, 6.18, x6.50, x7.15, x7.40, x8.18, 9.05, x9.55, x10.15 and 11.30 p. m.

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For Ellicott City, *4.00, †6.32, †8.10, ‡9.35, †11.00 a. m., †1.10, ‡1.35, †3.30, †4.20, *5.30, *6.30, *8.30, *11.15 p. m.

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