Stories of Washington.

Residents of Alexandria Always Delight in Narrating Them.

I HAVE been for some time gathering bits of queer gossip and tradition about George Washington. A large number of his papers are on file in the State Department at Washington. The National Museum has one of the largest collections of Washingtonia in existence. Alexandria is full of unpublished traditions of George Washington. I spent a couple of days there some time ago, and though I found no one living who had ever seen Washington, I got a fairly good idea of him from the stories concerning him which have been handed down from father to son. Mount Vernon is only nine miles from Alexandria. Washington got the most of his supplies at Alexandria. He went there to vote, and until a few years ago the little office in which he did business there still stood. It was at Alexandria that Washington met General Braddock, and with him started out on that disastrous campaign. His last review of troops was made from the steps of an Alexandria hotel about a year before his death, and when I last visited the town I was offered a mahogany bed which had stood in this hotel and on which, it was said, Washington had slept many a time.

How Washington Really Looked.

From the traditions of Alexandria, and from any other sources, I have tried to make up in my mind's eye a picture of George Washington as he really was. He was exceedingly tall, and, when young, quite slender. He had enormous hands and feet. His boots were No. 13 and his ordinary walking shoes No. 12. He was a man of muscle. During his service in the army he weighed 200 pounds, and was so strong that he could lift his tent with one hand, although it usually required the strength of two men to place it on the camp wagon. I mean, of course, when it was folded up and wrapped around the poles. Washington could hold a musket with one hand and fire it. He was a good shot and a good swordsman. The pictures of the father of his country make one think that Washington was a brunette. His face is dark and somber. The truth is he had a skin like an Irish baby, and his hair was almost red. He had a broad chest, but not a full one.

His voice was not strong, and during his last days he had a hacking cough. His eyes were cold gray, and it is said that he seldom smiled, although there is reason to believe that he had considerable humor about him. His nose was prominent. He was particular as to his appearance and fastidious in dress. He wore plain clothes and always kept himself well shaven, acting as his own barber.

Knocked Washington Down.

Washington was an eminently fair man. He had a quick temper, but as a rule he kept it under control. Sometimes, however, it got the best of him. This was the case once in Alexandria. One of the county officers told me the story as we stood on the second floor of the market house in Alexandria and looked down at the open court within it, which is now filled with hundreds of booths where the farmers bring their products for sale on market days. "It was on that spot," said the officer, "Washington was knocked down by Lieutenant Payne. Payne was a candidate for the Legislature against Fairfax, of Alexandria. Washington supported Fairfax, and when he met Payne here, he made a remark that Payne considered an insult, and Payne knocked him down. The story

Washington's Headquarters While Directing Survey of Washington City, 1791.

went like lightning through the town that Colonel Washington was killed, and some of his troops who were stationed at Alexandria rushed in and would have made short work of Payne had Washington not prevented them. He pointed to his black eye and told them that this was a personal matter and that he knew how to handle it. Every one thought that this meant a duel. The next day Payne got a note from Washington asking him to come to the hotel. He expected a duel, but went. Washington, however, was in an amiable mood. He felt that he had been in the wrong and said, 'Mr. Payne, I was wrong yesterday, but if you have sufficient satisfaction, let us be friends.' There was a decanter of wine and two glasses on the table which Washington had ordered to smooth over the quarrel. The two drank together and became such strong friends after that that Payne was one of the pallbearers at Washington's funeral."

Washington as a Drinking Man.

Every one drank in the days of Washington, and the father of his country always had wines upon his table. I have nowhere seen it stated that he ever drank to excess, although he usually consumed five glasses of Maderia wine at dessert. During his youth he was a very fair politician, and among the items of his election expenses when he was a candidate for the house of burgesses of Virginia were a hogshead and a barrel of whisky, thirty-five gallons of wine and forty-three gallons of beer.

George Washington was simple in his tastes, and during his youth he was a hearty eater, but was not particular as to what he had. He wanted plain food and plenty of it. During his later years he ate very little. His breakfast at Mount Vernon was of corn cakes, honey and tea, with possibly an egg, and after that he ate no more till dinner. He kept, however, a good table, and usually had friends with him. I have a book written by Maclay, which gives his experiences when he was in the United States Senate at the time Washington was President. Maclay dined with Washington a number of times, and scattered through his diary are bits of gossip about Washington. At two of the dinners he describes Washington as amusing himself between the courses by playing the devil's tattoo upon the table with his fork. At another time he says: "The President kept a fork in his hand when the cloth was taken away. I thought it was for the purpose of picking nuts. He ate no nuts, but played with the fork, striking on the edge of the table with it."

A George Washington Fish Story.

Washington, at this time, had some trouble in keeping up his establishment. When the Revolutionary War closed he had plenty of land, but little money. He had exhausted his private fortune during the war, and he had to borrow enough to take him to New York to be inaugurated as President. The result was he was quite careful of his expenses, and would not tolerate extravagance. An instance of this kind occurred one day when he found the first shad of the season on his table. The President

MARTHA WASHINGTON.

was very fond of fish, and when the shad was brought into the dining room his nostrils dilated as the savory odor struck them, and he asked:

"What fish is that?"

"A shad," replied the steward, excitedly; "a very fine shad. I knew your excellency was extravagantly fond of this fish, and was so fortunate as to procure this one in the market. It was the only one, sir, and the first of the season."

"But the price, man? The price? The price?" demanded Washington, sternly.

"Three—three—three dollars," stammered the steward.

"Take it away! Take it away!" said Washington. "It shall never be said that my table sets such an example of luxury and extravagance."

And so the $3 fish was taken from the table, to be devoured by the servants.

The Richest Man of His Time.

As the years went on Washington's lands increased in value, and when he died he was one of the richest men of his time. He owned lands and stock and negroes, and his estates amounted to thousands of acres. He had houses in Alexandria and property in Washington. He had valuable lands near the present site of Pittsburg. He was throughout his life a money maker, and I was told at Alexandria that when he was a boy he got $5 a day and upward for his surveying. He put his surplus money into lands, and an advertisement in a Baltimore paper of 1773 states that he had 20,000 acres of land for sale on the Ohio River. His will, which is now kept about twenty miles from Washington, in the safe of the old Court House at Fairfax, Va., gives a detailed statement of every article he possessed down to the calves and sheep. His personal estate was then put down at $532,000, and this included a vast amount of tobacco, large numbers of cattle, sheep and horses, nearly all of which he willed to his wife. This will is now kept in a wooden box, the top of which is covered with glass. It was torn in two some time ago by some careless sightseer, and since then no one has been allowed to handle it. The account books which are kept here in the State Department show that Washington was very careful about keeping a record of his expenditures. He put down everything, and among other items you see here and there the amounts which he lost at cards. In April, 1772, he lost $100 in this way at the house of Rev. Bouscher, and a little further on there is an item stating "Paid for toddy for self, Walker and others, at a little jamboree near the Drummond Lake, five pounds." During the time he was candidate for the house of burgesses of Virginia, when he bought the whisky above spoken of, his losses at cards and at the horse races are frequent. The curious thing about his accounts is that there was almost always a deficiency at the end of the year which he could not account for. This made no difference, however, with his starting a new year with a fresh account, for one item at this time is as follows: "By cash, either lost, stole or neglected to charge, 144 pounds, 8 shillings and 11 pence." In other words, he was short that year over $700.

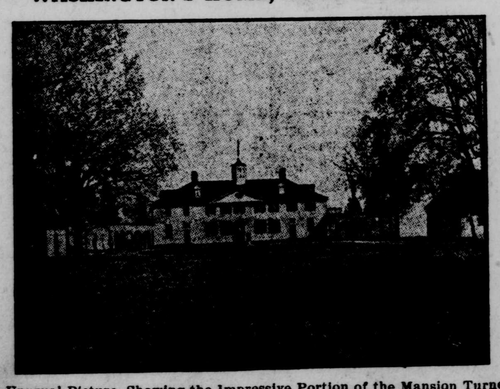
Economical, But Not Stingy.

Through his letters now owned by the Government one may see here and there certain correspondence which shows that he was very hard up at times. In 1785 he wrote that he could get no wheat on credit, and that he had no cash to pay for it. Three years later he urges a man to pay the $1000 which he owes him, and says he has put off the sheriff three times already, and that he needs this money to pay his taxes. He was not afraid to dun his debtors, and he is said to have been one of the shrewdest dealers among the planters of his time. He was always preaching economy to his servants, but on the whole was somewhat lenient, as, for instance, he employed one man, a carpenter, making a contract with him for a year and providing therein he was to have four days in which he might get drunk about Christmas. Washington was economical, but not stingy. He could not endure waste of any kind, and he went over his estate doing his best to stop the leaks. In one of his letters home he urges that the greatest economy be used in feeding the hay at the mansion house. He writes:

"I enjoin upon you to particularly guard against Mrs. L. Washington's Charles and her boy in the stables, both of whom are impudent and self-willed and care not how extravagantly they feed or even waste, for I have caught the boy several times littering his horses with hay. I see no sort of necessity for feeding the horses either grain or hay when they are not used or any horse that is at liberty and able to provide for itself. I can plainly perceive that in a little time there will be nothing either for my negroes or horses to eat without buying it, which will neither comport with my interest or inclination. By Stuart's report I find he still continues to feed horses with corn instead of cut oats, as I directed. What two saddle horses are those which stand in the mansion house report? I know of none but the one Mr. Whitling used to ride." The planter who demanded reports like that must have been a good business man.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

WASHINGTON'S HOME, MOUNT VERNON.



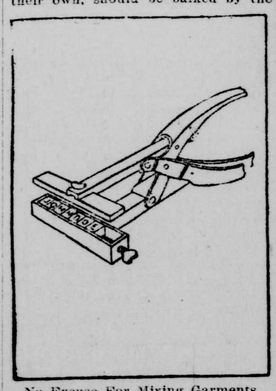
An Unusual Picture, Showing the Impressive Portion of the Mansion Turned Away From the River. From a Hitherto Unpublished Photograph by George R. King.
—Christian Endeavor World.

NEW KING OF THE BELGIANS.

ALBERT, WHO HAS SUCCEEDED TO THE CROWN OF BELGIUM.

Marks Names on Clothes.

Persons who have peculiar ideas of ownership, and who are as willing to wear other people's clothing as their own, should be balked by the



No Excuse For Mixing Garments.

clothes marker designed by a Pennsylvania man. This device, which resembles a ticket puncher more than anything else, has two long jaws, the lower one deep and hollow with space for the setting of type inside. A box of type comes with the marker and the owner's name, or the name of any member of his family who wants to stamp his or her clothing, can be set up in the type case, where a screw clamp holds it firmly in place.

The type is then moistened on a pad saturated with indelible ink and the name stamped on the shirts, undergarments or other clothing. The chief advantage of such a device is that it will make the identification of garments certain and will aid laundries in keeping their goods properly sorted. To people who travel much such a marker is invaluable.—Boston Post.

Must Be Retained.

Mr. Hitchcock may go any length in cutting down the department deficit as long as he does not abolish the stove in the country office. — Cleveland Plain Dealer.

A Large Order.

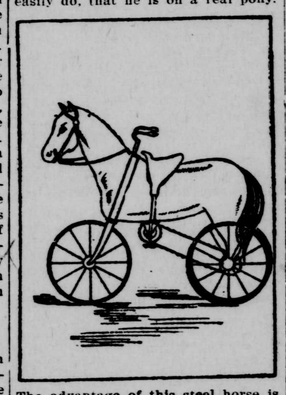
"Wanted — A steady, respectable young woman to wash, iron and milk two cows."—Home Chat.

Patridge Invades Court Room.

A big partridge became frightened a few days ago and flew into the court room at Machias without noticing that the window was closed, according to the Kennebec (Me.) Journal. The janitor heard the crash of breaking glass and put the intruder out. The bird did not care to leave and made its way through the window into the jail dining room. It was taken to an open field and liberated.

Hobbyhorse Cycle.

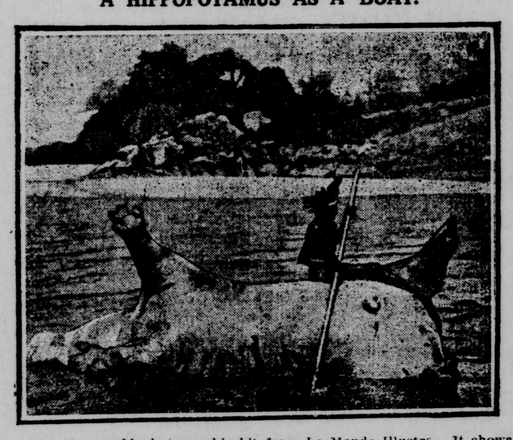
A new kind of velocipede, and one which will give the boy an added pleasure in riding it, is that designed by an Illinois man. It works the same as an ordinary velocipede, but the saddle, instead of being a mere framework, is on a horse body, which gives the rider the impression of being mounted on a pony. The steering bar runs up through the neck of the horse and the saddle, of course, is in the same position it would be on a real animal. Below the body of the horse is the gear wheel and pedals, the pedals being in relatively the same position that stirrups would be. Mounted on this lifelike vehicle, a small boy can pedal away and persuade himself, as small boys can so easily do, that he is on a real pony.



The advantage of this steel horse is that it is not likely to run away or throw its rider and needs much less attention than the flesh-and-blood article.—Washington Star.

Fast freight line service of this country uses 32,000 cars.

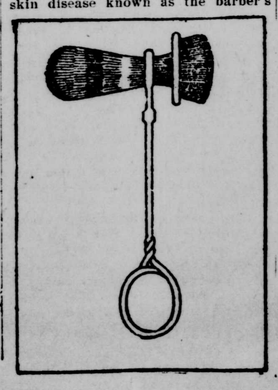
A HIPPOPOTAMUS AS A BOAT.



Here is an odd photographic bit from Le Monde Illustre. It shows a negro riding on the carcass of a dead hippopotamus and paddling down a Soudanese river. Naturally Mr. Roosevelt's African exploits have invited the attention of other seekers of adventure to that part of the world, and the French papers are not behind in their use of the photographs lately taken there.

New Shaving Brush.

In few lines of business has sanitation made as much progress in recent years as it has in the barber's. Nowadays that extremely unpleasant skin disease known as the barber's itch is seldom seen, and many men who formerly insisted on shaving themselves are willing to trust themselves in a shop. One of the best inventions which make shaving a cleaner job is the lathering utensil devised by a New York man. This is nothing more than a shaving brush with the bristles at right angles to the handle, like a shoe brush, but at the back is a set of rubber stubbles by which the lather may be rubbed into the beard. The stubble can be quickly cleansed after each use. Such skin affections as are caught in barber shops are invariably contracted when the barber rubs the lather in, the germs being secreted under his finger nails. The brush shown in the cut eliminates the necessity of the barber using his fingers for this purpose.—Washington Star.



There is one mill in Minneapolis which turns out between seventeen thousand and eighteen thousand barrels of flour each day.

Penny postage is proposed between Great Britain and Turkey.

The Sunday-School

INTERNATIONAL LESSON COMMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 20.

Subject: The Golden Rule—Temperance Lesson, Matt. 7:1-12 —Commit Verses 7, 8.

GOLDEN TEXT. — "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them, for this is the law and the prophets." Matt. 7:12.

TIME.—Midsummer A. D. 28.
PLACE.—Horns of Hattin.

EXPOSITION.—I. The Sin and Folly of Judging Others, 1-5. Judging is God's work, not ours (Ro. 14: 2-4, 10-13; 1 Cor. 4:3-5; Jas. 4:11, 12). We are neither called nor competent to sit in judgment upon others. If we attempt it we shall reap exactly what we sow, we "shall be judged." We shall be judged by God (Jas. 2: 12, 13), by other men (context) and condemned by ourselves, in the very judgment we visit upon others (Ro. 2:1). Of course, it is not meant that we shall abstain from all estimates of others (see v. 6). It does not mean we shall not be ready to condemn others even when appearances are against them (1 Cor. 12:5, 7, R. V.); and when for purposes of deciding what to do we must form an adverse opinion, even then we must not regard that opinion as infallible, irrevocable or final, but leave the final and decisive judgment with Him to whom it belongs, God. The practice of judging one another is rending the church of Christ. If we will not judge others we "shall not be judged" (Luke 6:37). In our giving also, as well as in our judging we shall reap just what we sow (Luke 6:38). Men will give to us as we give to others, and so will God (Phil. 4:19; 2 Cor. 9:6). Generosity pays. When we measure out to others, we are really measuring to ourselves. Most men are sharp-sighted to see a mote in another's eye, but pass unnoticed a beam in their own. Jesus meets this strange injustice with a startling "why?" There is no clearer proof of our selfishness than that we judge others by such different standards from those by which we judge ourselves. One great reason of our harsh judgment of others is that we fancy that it covers up or atones for our own faults to discover faults in others. It does not (Ro. 2:1, 2, 21; 14:12). Jesus calls the one so blind to his own faults and so open-eyed to the faults of others, by no soft name, "hypocrite." That is just what he is.

II. The Folly of Feeding Hogs Pearls, 6. There is a proper sphere for exercising our powers of discrimination. When we give out truth we should seek to give it to those who will appreciate it, and should suit our message to our audience. A dog loves his vomit and a hog wallowing in the mire (2 Pet. 2:22). When we find men wedded to their filth, it is both vain and dangerous to cast the pearls of God's holy truth before them. We should turn from them. But it is well to note that verse 6 is preceded by verses 1-5, and not to judge too hastily that another is a dog or a hog.

III. The Wisdom of Prayer, 7-12. Jesus begins His stirring words on prayer with three commands, each of which is accompanied with a corresponding promise. Remarkably brief are the commands, remarkably expressive are the promises. The enjoyment of the promises is conditioned upon obedience to the commands. Command one, "Ask." What love on God's part to command us to pray as if we were conferring a favor on Him by doing it. Surely if we don't obey, it is a grievous sin and insult to Him. If we do, what then? "It shall be given you." It is the easiest thing in the world to get things; just "ask" for them (Jas. 4:2; ch. 21:22; Jno. 4:10; 14:13, 14; 15:7; 1 Jno. 3:22). We ought always to be at this (Luke 18:1-8). But earnest asking does not stop with asking, it also seeks and knocks, and it finds and has the door opened to it. Jesus puts the power of prayer very strongly, "every one that asketh receiveth." Note that He does not say that every one who asks gets everything he asks, but "every one that asketh receiveth." There is a way of asking that gets the very thing asked every time (Jno. 15:7; 1 Jno. 3:22; 5:14, 15; Jno. 14:13, 14), but in everyone's prayer there is power, and every real prayer effects something. And there is power in seeking and knocking. Some men never find anything of any worth, for they do not really seek. No door of marvelous opportunity opens to some men because they have not the faith and earnestness to knock. Jesus' argument to prove God's readiness to answer prayer is beautiful and absolutely conclusive. To sum it up in four words, God is a Father. How the scientific and metaphysical and theological objections to God's answering prayer disappear before that conception of God. Jesus founds His "Golden Rule" of life upon this conception of God. He begins it with "therefore." Since God is our Father and gives good things—all good things, pre-eminently the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13)—to them that ask, "therefore" everything we desire men to do to us we should do to others. This sums up the whole O. T. revelation of duty. The "Golden Rule" requires not merely that we should not do to others what we would not have others do to us, that is negative (the Confucian Golden Rule); the Christian "Golden Rule" is positive and requires that we should do unto others all that we desire others to do to us.

The Forests of the Niger.

The insects of Africa are expert disease carriers, and they come in such numbers on the Niger that one hardly dares to use one's lamp or go too near a light of any sort at night. These forests on the Niger are deadly places for all their haunting attraction and take a big toll both of European and native life. Yet the first three days on the Niger, with all its mud and its smell and its mangrove flies and its frogs and its crickets, are enough to give the newcomer an inkling of the drawing power, the fascination, of what is probably the most unhealthy country in the world. —W. B. Thompson, in Blackwood's.

European Dress Recommended.

The Keun Chi-Chu (the War Department) has sent in a memorial to the throne that orders may be given to the officials and individuals of the Chinese empire to adopt the dresses of foreign style by wearing short jackets.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR NOTES

FEBRUARY TWENTIETH

Topic—Intemperance and Other Sins of the Body. Rom. 8: 1-14.

Drunken folly. Esth. 1: 10-12.
Wine's weakness. 1 Kings 20: 10-21.
The temple desecrated. 1 Cor. 6: 9-20.
A solemn warning. Eph. 5: 3-12.
An unruly member. Jas. 3: 2-12.
A threefold foe. 1 John 2: 15-17.

The body is sure to die, and when it dies it puils down with it whatever is bound to it, even the soul (v. 6).

Christ in us cannot make our fleshly body immortal, but He does far better: He gives us a glorious body for the immortal soul (v. 10).

We owe nothing to the created body, but we owe everything to the Creator of the body; and we cannot pay that debt if we live for what He has created (v. 12.)

When we put to death what is lower we begin to live in what is higher. This is the only law of progress from lower to higher (v. 13).

Thoughts.

Whatever causes one to lose control of one's self is intemperance; it may be alcohol, it may be a ball dress.

Any intemperance makes the next act of intemperance easier, and tends to perpetuate itself.

Gluttony is a sin of the body, and we cannot tell how gluttonous we are till we try to see how simply we can live.

Immodesty is a sin of the body, and fashion is no excuse for it, or estom, or the example of others.

Illustrations.

Every intemperate act makes a groove in the mind, and at last the ruts get so deep that the wheels of thought cannot be turned out of them.

Overeating is like a clog in a steampipe, and it is sure to result in an explosion of the life-forces.

Sloth is a sin of the body. The slothful man is like a horse that only hauls hay enough to feed itself.

EPWORTH LEAGUE LESSONS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

How To Pray—Luke 11: 1-13; Mark 11: 24, 15.

The rabbis gave prayer formulas to their pupils. John Baptist taught his disciples to pray. The disciples of Jesus had been with him, had seen him, had heard him pray. It appeared to them as though it were friend talking to friend. Surely, there is some connection between his marvelous life in public and his constant habit of prayer. Would not the Master teach them his wonderful secret? And so they come to him, saying, "Lord, teach us, take us into your school, teach us to pray."

Quick was the glad response, and "the prayer that teaches to pray" came from the Master's lips, encouraging the definite act of prayer and suggesting great and profoundly significent ideas to be embodied in true prayer. Simplicity and brevity are taught in this first lesson, but "after eighteen centuries Christendom knows no expression of thoughts and feelings so full in so small a compass, so rich, so majestic in prayer and petition" (Geikie).

The prayer suggests, as does the passage chosen from Mark's Gospel, that the true spirit of prayer is absolute, undivided self-dedication to God, our Father and complete harmony with the divine will. Six petitions are used, and first in order and in importance are those relating to God, reverence for the divine name, the coming of the kingdom of God, and universal obedience to the will of God. The desire for God's glory and the universal extension of His Kingdom. Then follow the expressions of desire for personal blessing, for daily food, for pardon, and for divine help in spiritual struggle.

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus had taught them of God's fatherless and the certainty of answers to prayer, and he now repeats in these verses (Luke 11: 9-13) this teaching, especially emphasizing the Father's willingness to give the Holy Spirit to them that ask, and showing clearly our duty to ask and seek and knock.

AN INCIDENT OF MORGAN'S RAIDERS.

This thrilling incident happened on the morning of July 14, 1863, on the Little Miami Railroad, which ran out of Morrowtown, Ohio. John Redmon was the engineer of a special train filled with recruits who were to be taken twenty-five miles away to Camp Dennison.

Just before the start was to be made, word came that General Morgan and his cavalry were in the vicinity; but the volunteers were enthusiastic and wouldn't hear of delays. They were enough, they said, to take care of all the guerrillas in the Confederate army!

Everything went well for the first two-thirds of the journey; but at Loveland word was received that Morgan was nearby, lying in wait for this very train. The trainmen were anxious to turn back; but the army officers and recruits insisted so strenuously that they go forward, boasting that they were sufficient protection, that one of the railroad officials told the engineer to proceed if he wished to. Redmon had his favorite locomotive, the John Kilgour, and didn't know what fear was; so he signaled "All aboard!" and started.

Morgan's raiders suddenly appeared at Danger Crossing, only four miles from their destination, and opened fire; but the engine men ducked, and the train went ahead at full speed. The volunteers set up a great shout of derision for the Confederates and praise for Redmon; but a short distance farther on a huge pile of ties and rocks had been placed on the track and when the Kilgour struck it, it was hurled into the ditch beside the track.

The fireman was instantly killed; but Redmon escaped without being seriously injured. The volunteers were easily captured by the Confederates and sent to a Southern prison. —Sunday Magazine.

FIGURATIVELY, OF COURSE.

Youngwed—"I always crack up my wife's biscuits."

Mr. Bachelor — "Heavens! Are they as hard as that?"—Boston Transcript.

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