FIGHT OF DUCK AND OYSTER

Bivalve Conquered by Clinging to the Fowl's Bill Until the Bird Was Drowned.

Not long ago there occurred a lively contest in Maryland waters between a duck and an oyster. The oyster was victorious, but it was a fatal victory, for when the bivalve had killed the duck there appeared a man who killed the oyster and ate them both.

The combat between the duck and the oyster was of the rough and tumble kind. The duck was large and full grown. It was of the diving species frequently seen in those waters.

Now when the oyster feeds it opens its shell so wide that the full oyster itself is plainly visible. The sight of such a morsel was too great a temptation for the duck. He made a headlong plunge, inserting his bill between the oyster's open shell.

Like a flash the shell closed on the duck's beak. Then came a struggle for life. The oyster, which was quite a large one, was dragged from its bed, with three smaller bivalves clinging to it, the cluster being heavy enough to keep the duck's head under water.

In this way the bird drowned. Its buoyancy was sufficient to float it with the oysters, and thus it drifted near the dock, where it was captured. When taken from the water the oyster was clinging to the bird's beak with such force that considerable difficulty was had in breaking its hold.

WAS HER EYESIGHT FAILING?

Woman Who Could Not See the Tail of the Comma Went to Oculist.

Sometimes a comma makes a good deal of difference to the meaning of the sentence you happen to be reading. A woman who has reached the age of being called "Madam" by most shopkeepers, but whose friends always tell her how young and girlish she looks, was reading a newspaper paragraph. It didn't make any sense, so she read it again. Then she yanked the paper up close to her face, leaned toward the window and studied it out in a better light. Then she saw the tail on the comma. What had looklike a perfectly good period was after all but a division of a sentence.

She sat for a moment with the paper in her lap. Then she rose, walked to her looking glass, studied herself for a few seconds, put on her hat and hastened to an oculist. "I will not wait," said she to herself, "until I try to thread the point of a needle or humiliate myself by stooping to pick up a coin on a car platform and find it is a nail head worn smooth. I will turn my old age milepost as gracefully as possible. I wonder," said she with a sigh, "if the tail of that comma was perfectly plain, or was it blurred in the newspaper I was reading?"

Feeding a Convalescent Child.

When my small son was convalescing from a recent illness the doctor ordered hot gruels, broths, etc., and I realized that it would require some finesse to get him to take them.

So after I had prepared the little dishes for the tray I rolled paper into cones and stood one up over each little cup. Then I pinned a penny flag onto one cone and, lo! I had Company "D" in camp and sonny and I went visiting.

We stopped first at the captain's tent (where the flag was) and he partook of the treat offered. Then he went gayly from tent to tent, eagerly lifting up the paper cones to see what was beneath.

The next day I made a log cabin out of toasted bread strips piled log cabin fashion. It inclosed a cup of beef tea, which he drank because it was presented in a way that appealed to his imagination.

We played soda fountain and he paid for his hot drinks with toy money, and thus I accomplished my purpose without friction.—Harper's Bazar.

Natives Eat Earth in West Africa.

Natives of West Africa, in French Sudan, practice "geophagy." Although the practice is common in many parts of the world, this particular case is remarkable for the systematic way in which the dirt is collected, and for the fact that it occurs in a well cultivated region, where food is abundant. The earth consumed is a clay, which is found intercalated among the grits of the region in beds of various thickness. The deeper layers are preferred, and for this reason the natives dig galleries, which are so crudely constructed that falls of earth frequently occur, sometimes with fatal results. When an unlucky miner is thus buried no attempt is made to rescue him, as it is believed that the divinities of the mines require an annual victim. It is stated that individuals not infrequently consume seven and a half pounds of clay daily.

Man Gets a Bouquet.

One foggy morning recently a Lackawanna ferryboat was in collision with a tug. No great damage was done, but for a few moments considerable excitement prevailed among the commuters. One woman in particular rushed to the rail, and in her panic seemed bent on leaping overboard. An athletic young man restrained her, assuring her there was no danger. At length she was sufficiently calmed to speak, and then, clinging to her preserver's arm, she gasped: "You know, I'm a spinster and a suffragette, but there certainly are times when a man is a mighty good thing to have around."—New York Press.

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THEY HAD PLENTY OF CLUBS

Postmaster of Cherrydale Village Names Over Its Various Organizations for the Stranger.

"I suppose that your town is almost too small for the club movement to have affected it much. A town of only eight hundred inhabitants seldom has many clubs, I believe," said the stranger within the gates of Cherrydale to the postmaster.

"Well, we ain't clubbed to death as some places seem to be, but when you come to count 'em up we got considerable many clubs for a town of our size. We got a Woman's Club o' two hundred members, an' a Village Improvement Club, an' a Ladies' Social Club, an' a Friday Afternoon Club, an' a big Choral Club, an' a Current Events Club, an 'a Library Club, an' a Dickens Club, an' a Thought an' Work Club, an' a Art Club, an' a mixed club that calls itself the Progress Club, an' a Dancing Club, an' five whist clubs an' a Euchre Club, an' a Saturday Night Club. Then the W. C. T. U., an' the Odd Fellows, an' the masons, an' Knights o' Phythias, an' the D. A. R., an' the G. A. R., an' the Ancient Order o' Hibernians, an' the Eastern Stars, an' the Sons o' Temp'rance an' the Christian Endeavorers all have societies here, an' they are tryin' to start a Y. M. C. A., an' a Y. W. C. A. Then with the Grange, an' the Boys' Brigade, an' five churches, an' some Boy Scouts, an' a Lend a Hand Society, an' a Handicraft Society, an' the Good Samaritans, an' the Helpers' Guild, we got considdable many clubs, after all. Each of 'em has a fair an' a couple o' entertainments a year, so there's something goin' on a good deal o' the club time, even if the club movement ain't hit us very hard yet."—Judge.

HOW BETHLEHEM WAS NAMED

Pretty Story of the Origin of the Pennsylvania City, Now Industrial Center.

It was not unfitting that Bethlehem the center of missionary enterprise and social service should have the name of the birthplace of the Christ. But the name was given it under doubly fitting auspices. In December, 1741, Count Zinzendorf, the friend and protector of the Moravians in Saxony, came to visit them. The original log dwelling sheltered both the people and the cattle. It was in this house that they were sitting on Christmas eve. Suddenly Count Zinzendorf arose and led the way past the partition to the part where the cattle were stabled, and there around the mangers they sang Christmas songs. After that they could think of no name quite so fitting as Bethlehem.

But in spite of church institutions Bethlehem is no longer a religious community. It is industrial. With the coming of industry have come conditions of which David Nitschmann, founder of Bethlehem, never dreamed.

It wasn't an example of the old brotherhood when, in 1909, five men were discharged because they had signed a petition to the management of the Bethlehem Steel corporation asking for the elimination of Sunday work. It wasn't an example of brotherhood when in 1910 another man was discharged for avoiding Sunday work, and then three more because they served on a committee that protested against this man's discharge.—John A. Fitch, in The Survey.

In Imminent Danger.

Mr. and Mrs. Aschenbrenner were touring Europe, and had just arrived at Pisa. Mrs. Aschenbrenner was all excited upon reaching the Leaning Tower and eagerly pattered up the spiral stairway, leaving her husband languidly awaiting her return.

As she weighed a shade over the 200 mark, her husband always dug up an excuse when it came to accompanying her on any altitudes above easy falling distance.

He was just pondering on the beautiful flow of unintelligible language used by their guide, when from the topmost rampart came the "Hi-lee, Hi-lo" trill from his wife, who was leaning far out and waving a scarf.

Mr. Aschenbrenner obligingly looked up and then came to life with an anguished roar: "Gretchen, for your life, get back! You're bending the building!"

Her Nationality.

In the lowest grade of a New York public school the teacher was gleaning from the children who had newly entered the class statistics of nationality for her annual report. They are extremely interesting in New York public schools, for they include youngsters from every known corner of the globe. Having enrolled Germans, Syrians, Poles, Irish, Australians, Natalians, Arabs, Montenegrins and others, the teacher asked a flaxed haired mite—hoping to hear the rare word "American"—"What are you, Florence?" Mindful of her home training, Florence promptly and cheerfully replied: "I'm a suffragette."

Vanity in Wearing Hair Long.

The church for hundreds of years fought strenuously against long hair, declaring it to be vain, as doubtless it was, and is. Most of the merry, pleasure-loving monarchs in history and their subjects wore the hair in fastidious and elaborate ways. On the other hand, the Spartans, the stern followers of Cromwell, and the Puritans wore their hair short. The wax figures in hair-dressing shops, adorned with masses of puffs and curls, lead one to think that the present-day methods of hair-dressing are not unlike those practiced hundreds of years ago. It seems certain that, while women still continue to consider puffs and switches as part of the necessary paraphernalia of the head, men have discarded long hair for good and all, with the exception of the few musicians, poets, c[illegible] ters who think it incumbent o[illegible] to let their locks grow long.

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Not a Bad Precedent.

Some of the beauties of ancient Rome had marble busts sculptured of themselves, on which were placed different wigs corresponding to the changes of style and coloring. If modern woman followed suit there would be fewer atrocious coiffures.

A mirror should reveal unbecomingness, but it does not seem to do so. A bust of oneself, bedecked with chignon, psyche, Greek coils or the present daguerreotype disfigurations, could not fail to be a convincing proof of ourselves as others see us.

The greatest beauty cannot afford to trifle with her hairdressing. It is only the plain woman who boldly defies looks to be in the style.

Linguistic Donnybrook.

"I observe that the natives of Terre Haute are indulging in a controversy over the proper pronunciation of the name of their fair city," said the commercial traveler. "Some insist upon the good old home flavored 'Terry Hut,' while the more cultured, affecting horror at such provincialism, declare it should be 'Tear-ah-Hote,' and still others prefer 'Tear-Hautay.'

"I see opportunities for extensive trouble in this discussion. What if other places which have suffered by rank Anglicizing in their names should follow the example of the Indiana town? The result would be a linguistic Donnybrook. Consider the possibilities of these common methods of pronunciation.

"Baton Rouge, Batten Ruge; Bellefountaine, Belfountain; Boise, Boys; Charlerol, Charley Roy; Des Moines, Dee-moyne; Detroit, Dee-troite; Dubois, Duboys; Fond du Lac, Fondelak; Gallipolis, Gal-police; Montpelier, Montpeelier, and Prairie du Chien, Prairie doo-Sheen."

BUTCHER'S SON WAS A KING

But Orelius Antony I. Did Not Rule Long Over Araucania in South America.

The death of "Princess" Marguerita, daughter of "King Orelius Antony I.," in a poorhouse on the Danish island of Reyagade brings to light a romance known to few, and half forgotten even by these.

"King Orellus Antony I." was the son of a French butcher who lived at Perigord, the city of pies. His name was Antoine Tounens. He studied law, but having a taste for adventure, set out for South America. That was in 1861.

His wanderings took him to Araucania, where he persuaded the inhabitants to set up an independent monarchy and make him king. This did not suite Chile, which sent a force of troops to Araucania. King Orellus Antony I. was put in prison and remained there until the French government obtained his release. His efforts to be reinstated on the vacant Araucanian throne were futile and the former king returned to France and obtained employment as a waiter in Asnieres. He died there in 1878.

While her father reigned in faroff Araucania the Princess Marguerita, an only child, was supported by revenues from the Araucanian treasury. It was a generous supply of money that was sent to her and she had many suitors. Eventually she married a Danish officer, who had saved her life in a shipwreck.

Just before King Orellus Antony I. was deposed the consort of the princess committed suicide. The princess went to live in Denmark, and, her supplies having ceased, she was obliged to seek refuge in the almshouse, where she died.—New York Sun.

Plea for Proper Education.

Sir John Gorst is trying to rouse the British mind to a sense of the futility—even to the viciousness—of an educational system which bears small relationship to the practical needs of the time. His indictment is not lacking in directness. "A starved and stunted race," he says, "is being allowed to grow up as a legacy for the next generation to deal with, for in most elementary schools children are only drilled, not educated." Again, "The higher and university schools are still fettered by mediaeval systems which makes the acquisition of learning to be produced at examinations the main work of the students." It would seem that our American system is not the only one which needs overhauling.

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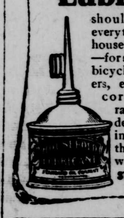

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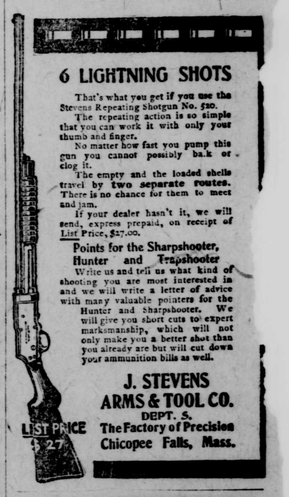

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