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A TIP FROM A SHARK.

THE REWARD THAT IT BROUGHT TO A PAIR OF SHARP MEN.

How a Grateful Wool Broker Became a Millionaire and an Intelligent Immigrant Became a Tavern Keeper—A Story of New South Wales.

One of the most interesting spots in Sydney is the point in the famous harbor known as "Mrs. Macquarie's chair." It is the eastern point of the domain, and the great natural seat in the rock facing down the harbor is said to have been a favorite resting place of the wife of Governor Macquarie, who represented the British government—also as governor general of Australia—in Sydney in the early days of the nineteenth century. "Mrs. Macquarie's chair" has long been the favorite resort of suicides and sweethearts, and many murders have been committed near the spot. It was also the main resort of shark fishers in the days when a reward was given for each shark fin delivered at the water police station, the object, of course, being to thin out the dread man eaters from the harbor where they became plentiful and dangerous as the city of Sydney grew in size.

It was there one night that a broken down immigrant came to a strange turn in his fortunes. Not able to obtain employment, he spent his last shilling in a fishing line and shark hook and cast off from "Mrs. Macquarie's chair." After patiently waiting for some time, another tramp joined him, and this changed the luck, for he immediately got a fine "bite." It took the two all their time to haul the shark ashore, but when they got him in he proved a beauty—25 feet 10 inches long. They cut off his fin—15 shillings' worth in the morning—and, being anxious to make all they could out of the haul, proceeded to "rob" the monster. They had often read of diamond rings, gold watches and pocketfuls of sovereigns being found inside sharks, for while these fish can digest a man, they are not able to negotiate metal.

Inside, among other things, they found the body of a German, and from the papers in his pocketbook it was apparent that he must have been in London about three weeks before. Indeed in his overcoat pocket there was a copy of a London newspaper dated 20 days previously. It was in 1870, before the cable was laid between Europe and Australia, and the steamships took over six weeks on the voyage between London and Sydney. The paper contained news of the outbreak of the war between France and Germany, and it was apparent that the German, living in London, had been recalled home to serve in the army of the fatherland, had either jumped or fallen overboard in the channel and had been picked up by this great shark, which belonged to the fastest of his species.

In the morning the immigrant had a good wash and brush up and a full feed on his 10 shillings, having given 5 to his companion and sent him about his business. He had conceived a great idea and wished to have as few confederates as possible. Asking a policeman who was the greatest wool broker in Sydney and getting the address, he went straight down to the office, where his peculiar earnestness soon got him an audience with the busy broker. No one in Sydney at that moment dreamed of war between France and Germany, and wool was being sold merrily at ninepence a pound.

"Well, my man, what can I do for you?" asked the broker.

"I want you to tell me," said the poor immigrant, "what the price of wool would be in Sydney should war break out between France and Germany. It is ninepence now."

"About 3 to 4 shillings," said the broker.

"Very well," replied the visitor. "Now, the French troops are marching on Berlin, and what promises to be a long and bloody war has actually begun."

"Nonsense," said the broker. "The mail from London came in yesterday, bringing news up to six weeks ago, and there is no news of that wild sort."

The immigrant thereupon unfolded the London paper, dated three weeks previously. There was no humbug over that. There could be no humbug about it, for such a paper could not be produced in Sydney, and besides its matter gave abundant proof of its genuineness. Wool was already 4 shillings a pound on the London market.

On the Wool Exchange people thought that broker mad when they saw him buying up all the wool on the market and wiring offers all over the colonies. He made a "corner," at any rate, purchased all the wool in Australia and looked happy. Sure enough, in a few weeks' time out came the news by the mail steamer, and up went prices. The broker sold out for 3 shillings and more a pound and realized some £4,000,000 on the deal.

He gave the intelligent immigrant an old suit of clothes and a £5 note for his "tip," and this set the poor chap up in the world. He has got along so well through the lucky stroke that he is now keeping a public house in Woolloomooloo.—London Free Lance.

His Most Useful Book.

First Passenger—What book has helped you most in life?

Second Passenger—The city directory.

First Passenger—The city directory?

Second Passenger—Yes; I'm a bill collector.—Syracuse Herald.

A curious official regulation demands that all the old linen of the Ceylon hospitals shall be burned every three months. A government official comes round on a periodic linen inspection and condemns holey sheets, towels, etc., to a fiery fate.

INTUITION.

How does it know—this tiny hidden thing—
Within its wilderness of tangled grass,
The hour when summer's languid footsteps pass
And southward flying birds are on the wing,
While earth is dumb with August's silencing?

How does it know the time for purplish haze
Or guess the wondrous transformation scene
Which sets the field and forest all ablaze?
Yet, in shrill notes, from drowsy ways of green,
Breaking the spell that passing summer sways,
The cricket first proclaims the autumn days.
—Henry Cleveland Wood in Ainslee's Magazine.

FREAKS IN LUNCH ORDERS.

Waiter Calls Attention to the Imitative Habit Among Patrons.

One of the amusing things to be noticed at the lunch counters is the habit of imitation. If the man on the end studies the bill of fare and then orders a ham sandwich, pumpkin pie and a glass of milk, all his neighbors are likely to duplicate his order, and soon there will be a whole row eating exactly the same things. Sometimes this similarity of appetite causes serious embarrassment. This is invariably the case if the occupants of the high chairs shift about the same time and the men on the end have numerous chances to set examples for 20 or 30 patrons. Then the pumpkin pie or sandwiches are sure to give out before the noon hour is past.

"It's funny how lazy people are," said one of the waiters at a down town lunch place. "There are lots of men who won't look at a bill of fare, and they just stare over the counter and ask for anything that comes into their heads if they don't happen to see another fellow eating just what they want. If we have something sort of out of the ordinary, like fried oysters, something that can be written on the card in ink, so it will make a good impression on the public, it's a losing investment if the fellow on the end near the door happens to pick it out. Then every one that passes him sees the oysters, and soon there is a regular chorus of yells for oysters. There ain't a patron that wants corn beef hash or cold cabbage.

"People are just like sheep or geese. They like to follow a leader if it's in nothing but eating. I've seen big worded articles about thoughts and ideas being catching or contagious. Any philosopher who has a chance to wait on a lunch counter would believe in that theory. Ideas are as catching as the measles, and don't you forget it."—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Alcohol and the Brain.

A lecture delivered by Dr. Victor Horsley in England on "The Action of Alcohol on the Brain" showed how fibers connect all parts of the brain so that it acts as a whole. It was desired to find out whether the brain as a whole works as well with alcohol as without. One way of testing this was by testing the reaction time, the length taken in perceiving a given signal. He tried a complex experiment, showing a signal with a number on it which was not to be signaled back unless it was above ten. This took longer, involving association of ideas, and the time from the very first was prolonged by alcohol. Professor Horsley said that chloroform, ether, nitrous oxide and similar narcotics acted in the same way. Alcohol produced a dissolution of the nerve centers.

Kraepelin had tried the action of alcohol on muscular power by means of the pressure dynamometer, which was squeezed at regular intervals. After a rest alcohol was taken, and at first there was a little increase, soon followed by a notable decrease. Under the influence of tea there was no decrease at all. He showed a diagram constructed by Dr. Aschaffenberg representing the amount of type set up by certain compositors in a quarter of an hour before and after taking alcohol. The amount was made less by alcohol.—Argonaut.

The Stool of Repentance.

"Any infraction of the rules at Girard college," says the Philadelphia Record, "is punished with 20 minutes on a stool of repentance. When the institution first adopted this scheme of punishment, one stool was enough. As the college expanded the stools multiplied, and today no less than 64 four legged, painless instruments of discipline are in more or less constant use in a room devoted exclusively to the punishment of those who have transgressed the rules. There is absolutely nothing to the disciplining except the order to sit on a comfortable stool for 20 minutes and 'think it over.' Any of the lads would sooner take a sound thrashing and have done with it, but the stool of repentance has proved itself an ideal punishment, and it has come to stay at Girard college."

Could Take a Hint.

It was late, but he still lingered.

"I have been trying to think," the young woman remarked after a pause in the conversation, "of the motto of the state of Maine."

"'Dirigo,'" said young Spoonamore, reaching for his hat, "and I will go, but it will always be a consolation," he added, with a profound bow, "to know, Miss de Muir, that you once called me 'dearie!'"—Chicago Tribune.

Exercise Enough.

"I thought your wife was going to join our physical culture class this year, Mr. Smythers?"

"She did intend to, but we've got a girl who has been over from Sweden only six weeks, and my wife has to talk to her by making signs."—Chicago Times-Herald.

Take away my first letter, take away my second letter, take away all my letters, and I am still the same. What am I? The postman.

The rose was an emblem of immortality among the Syrians, and the Chinese planted it over graves.

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Quart New Orleans Molasses, 1 Bar Best Oleine Soap	15c
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