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A CREDIT CHECK SWINDLE.

Trick by Which One Firm Got Dollars Without Selling Shirt Waists.

That there is no end to the ways of imposing upon the suffering New York public was illustrated by the failure of a small store recently. The newly appointed receiver was surprised by having many women come to his office with credit checks. These checks were for small amounts, ranging from $1 to $10. At first the receiver couldn't understand it, but upon investigation he learned the details of a pretty system of fleecing.

The firm, it seems, had made a specialty of silk and cotton shirt waists. These were, with few exceptions, shapeless, ill fitting garments, and when the unfortunate women shoppers got home with their purchases and put them on they were disgusted to find that the bargain sale waists were baggy and puckery and altogether so poorly fashioned that it would be next to impossible to make them fit even by a complete ripping up and remaking. Such being the conditions they invariably took the goods back and demanded other waists or their money. It was contrary to the principles of the firm to refund money, and as they seldom had waists more becoming either in style or shape than the ones returned, they were driven to the extremity of credit checks.

"We will get in a new supply of waists in a few days," was the suave assurance of the manager and his well trained assistants. "Your check will be good at any time, and when we replenish our stock you can select a waist that suits you."

But the new stock never arrived, and in spite of the good dollars received from deluded customers without decreasing their capital of waists, the firm became insolvent and then the women began to come with credit checks. So far the receiver has been unable to compensate them for their loss through the swindle which, in its way, was rather neat.—New York Sun

AARON BURR'S MAGNETISM.

He Conquered All Feminine Hearts Without an Effort.

"From the time the beautiful and brilliant Mme. Jumel had been a young girl and when Aaron Burr was only a captain in the American army she had been more than once under the spell of his strange fascination," writes William Perrine in The Ladies' Home Journal. "Burr had introduced her to the celebrated Margaret Moncrieff, had desperately flirted with her and had implanted within her an admiration which was still alive when he was an aged social exile. She had written of him in earlier days that he appeared to her to be 'the perfection of manhood,' that his figure and form had been fashioned in the mold of the graces and that he was as familiar with the drawing room as with the camp.

"'In a word,' she said, 'he was a combined model of Mars and Apollo. His eye was of the deepest black and sparkled with an incomprehensible brilliancy when he smiled, but if enraged its power was absolutely terrific. Into whatever female society he chanced by the fortunes of war or the vicissitudes of private life to be cast, he conquered all hearts without an effort, and until he became deeply involved in the affairs of state and the vexations incident to the political arena I do not believe a female capable of the gentle emotions of love ever looked upon him without loving him. Wherever he went he was petted and caressed by her sex, and hundreds vied with each other in a continuous struggle to offer him some testimonial of their adulation. Subsequently Mme. Jumel was married to Burr, who was nearly 80 and she nearly 60. The marriage was not a happy one, and the two soon separated."

Old Apothecaries and Doctors.

The offenses of apothecaries in the middle ages were numerous and the punishment in some cases a whipping. The worst was the improper sale of poisons—that is to say, except when not duly prescribed by a known physician of reputation, and even then not to put down in a register the name of the doctor and person to whom such prescription containing poison was delivered, was punishable likewise. The sale of poison for drugging fish was prohibited and also that of inferior drugs by any apothecary. To prescribe himself (unless a doctor could not be found) was an offense punishable by a whipping, and all preparations sold by him had to be made up in the presence of the doctor or of another apothecary. A barber surgeon might only prescribe for exterior applications "according to surgery," but we are not told what was the penalty in such a case.—Gentleman's Magazine.

Her Meanness.

An American hostess, on the occasion of a gathering of distinguished people, was endeavoring to add to the pleasure of a Frenchman by talking to him in his native language. Noticing that her lack of fluency was irksome to the lady and desiring to relieve her embarrassment, with praiseworthy amiability the foreigner said:

"Pardon, madame, somewhat the French is difficult for you. I am able to understand your mean-ness if you will speak English."—London Chronicle.

At the Finger's End.

"My niece," said the doctor, "has joined an organization they call the—the—strange I can't think of the name. I had it at my tongue's end a moment ago—oh, yes, I remember it now. They call it the Thimble club."

"Then you didn't have it at your tongue's end," objected the professor. "You had it at your finger's end."—Chicago Tribune.

AN EASY GOING BEAR.

Photographing a Big Grizzly in the Yellowstone Park.

I said to my cowboy friend, "Do you know this bear?"

He replied: "Waal, I reckon I do. That's the old grizzly. He's the biggest b'ar in the park. He generally minds his own business, but he ain't scared o' nothin, an today, you see, he's been scrappin, so he's liable to be ugly."

"I would like to take his picture," said I, "and if you will help me I am willing to take some chances on it."

"All right," said he, with a grin. "I'll stand by on the horse, an if he charges you I'll charge him, an I kin knock him down once, but I can't do it twice. You better have your tree picked out."

The grizzly came on, and I snapped him at 40 yards, then again at 20 yards, and still he came quietly toward me. I sat down on the garbage and made ready—18 yards—16 yards—12 yards—8 yards, and still he came, while the pitch of Johnny's protests kept rising proportionately. Finally at five yards he stopped and swung his huge bearded head to one side to see what was making that aggravating row in the tree top, giving me a profile view, and I snapped the camera. At the click he turned on me with a thunderous g-r-o-w-l, and I sat still and trembling, wondering if my last moment had come. For a second he glared at me, and I could note the little green electric lamp in each of his eyes. Then he slowly turned and picked up a large tomato can.

"Goodness," I thought, "is he going to throw that at me?" But he deliberately licked it out, dropped it and took another, paying thenceforth no heed whatever either to me or to Johnny, evidently considering us equally beneath his notice.—E. Seton-Thompson in Scribner's.

TOOK CENTURIES TO BUILD.

Cologne Cathedral Was In Process of Erection 632 Years.

While the first stone of Cologne cathedral was laid on Aug. 15, 1248, and the body of the edifice was not opened until Aug. 15, 1848, 600 years later to the very day, it was not, however, until Aug. 15, 1880, that the splendid structure was finally reported completed, having thus occupied in building the record time of exactly 632 years.

The castle of Kingsgoberg, which stands at the southern extremity of Jutland, took 204 years from the laying of the foundation stone to the rigging of its master's banner on its highest flagstaff. Its foundation stone was the skull of its builder's bitterest enemy. Three months after its laying Count Jhorsing, the builder of the castle, was killed. His son was then in swaddling clothes. He did not continue his father's work until aged 24.

On his twenty-fifth birthday he was thrown into prison by the son of the man whose skull lay in the earth of Kingsgoberg's foundation stone. In this manner master after master of Kingsgoberg was stopped putting another stone toward the completion of the founder's work till civilization intervened.

Restormel castle, in Cornwall, took 90 years to build, of which period exactly one-third was occupied in excavating the foundations. The solid rock upon which it stands is almost as hard as iron. Indeed Restormel means in Cornish "the palace of the iron rock."

Milan cathedral was begun in 1386 and finished under Napoleon in 1805, 419 years.

The Duomo, at Florence, was commenced by Arnulfo in the year 1294, the last block of marble being placed in position in the facade in presence of the king on May 12, 1887, a period of 593 years.—Stray Stories.

Kent and Burr.

James Kent, whose famous "Commentaries on American Law" is classed with Blackstone as the greatest textbook on law, was a great admirer of Alexander Hamilton, and when the great Federalist was killed by Aaron Burr in a duel he became the implacable enemy of the latter. One day long afterward when in New York the judge saw Burr on the opposite side of Nassau street. He went across the street as fast as his years would permit and, brandishing his cane in Burr's face, shouted:

"You're a scoundrel, sir, a scoundrel, a scoundrel!"

Burr proved equal to the emergency. He raised his hat and bowed to the ground and then said in his calmest professional tone, "The opinions of the learned chancellor are always entitled to the highest consideration."—Argonaut.

Working the Head of the Family.

It's a wise boy who knows how to work his father, and in this precious age most boys are wise. Louis' father works in Omaha, but Louis himself lives with his grandma in western Nebraska. Like most boys do, Louis writes to his fond father only when he wants money or something new in wearing apparel. Last week he wrote, enumerating a number of articles he needed. Among other things he wrote:

"Please send me some stockings. You better send bicycle stockings because they last longer than the other kind. Are you going to send me a bicycle on my birthday to wear with my bicycle stockings?"—Omaha World-Herald.

THE MAN WHO DID.

All doctors in my town failed to relieve me of rheumatism. I have used about half a bottle of Nelaton and feel so much improved, that while I may not need it, I enclose P. O. order for $1 for one more bottle of the remedy that has been such a God send to me. I cheerfully recommend Nelaton to anyone suffering with rheumatism.

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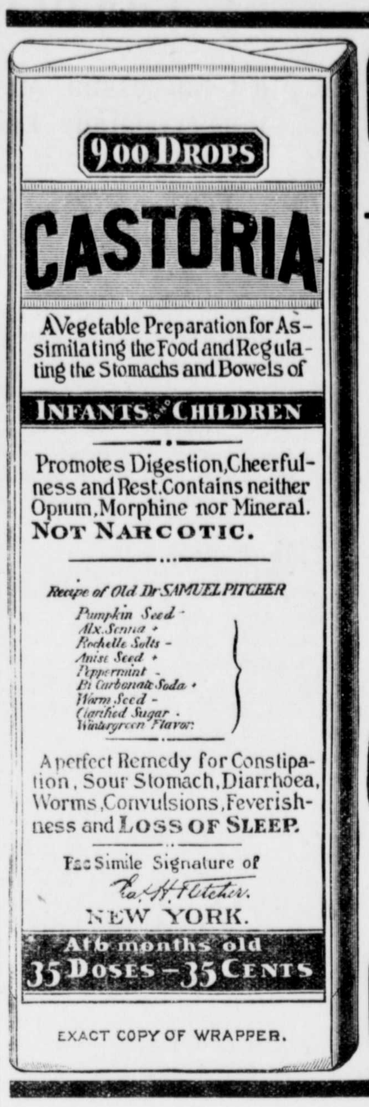

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