TO THE PUBLIC!

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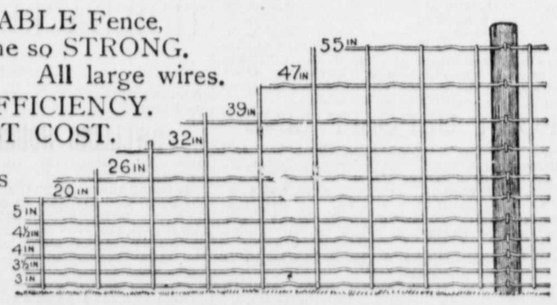

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WHY HE DIDN'T MARRY.

Phil May's Story of an Australian Prisoner.

Phil May, the English artist, worked in his youth on the Bulletin of Sydney, Australia. Occasionally the young man would be assigned by the Bulletin people to the police courts, and from these assignments he would bring back sketches, now humorous and now pathetic, that were admirable.

One of the best of the Bulletin sketches portrays a thin, hangdog man in the prisoners' bar talking to a very mild and sympathetic looking judge. Mr. May's story of the sketch was that the prisoner had been dragged before the judge every few months for a number of years.

"Your face is familiar here," the latter now said.

"It is, your honor, worse luck," returned the prisoner.

"Are you married yet?"

"Not yet, sir."

"Not yet, eh? How long is it now that you have been engaged?"

"Seven years, your honor."

"So long as that? Why in the world haven't you got married in all that time?"

"Because, your honor," the prisoner explained, "Ann and I haven't managed to be both out of jail at the same time."—Boston Post.

British Museum Lottery.

The British museum was begun with $500,000 raised by a lottery scheme. Of that lottery, authorized in 1753, the archbishop of Canterbury, the lord chancellor and the speaker of the house of commons were the managers and trustees. Ths amount was $1,500,000, raised by fifteen dollar tickets, to provide $1,000,000 for prizes and $500,000 for the purchase of the Sloane collections and the Harleian library and for cases, house room and attendants.

The operations of one "Peter Leheup, Esq.," says the London Chronicle, made the lottery notorious. He fraudulently "cornered" the tickets, 6,000 or so of them passing by his aid to a Sampson Gideon, who sold them at a premium.

An inquiry instituted by the house of commons resulted in the prosecution by the attorney general of Leheup. The penalty was a fine of £1,000, but this was by no means excessive, as £40,000 was Leheup's estimated profits from the fraud.

China's Alum Mountain.

In China, about twelve miles from the village of Lionchek, there is, according to a writer in the Liverpool Post, a mountain of alum, which, in addition to being a natural curiosity, is a source of wealth for the inhabitants of the country, who dig from it yearly tons of alum. The mountain is not less than ten miles in circumference at its base and has a height of nearly 2,000 feet. The alum is obtained by quarrying large blocks of stone, which are first heated in great furnaces and then in vats filled with boiling water. The alum crystallizes and forms a layer about six inches in thickness. This layer is subsequently broken up into blocks weighing about ten pounds each.

Humble Pie.

We often hear of eating "humble pie." In the old hunting days of "Merrie England," when a stag was brought down, the "quarry was broken" on the spot, the choice parts of the venison being reserved for the huntsmen, while the entrails, heart, liver, etc., called in the hunting language of the day the "numbles," were given to the common people.

Of these they made a pie called "numble pie." Hence to eat "numble pie" became to abase oneself—apologize abjectly. The transition from "numble pie" to "humble pie" was easy, especially in view of the significance of the word.

He Learned a Great Truth.

It is said of John Wesley that he once said to Mistress Wesley: "Why do you tell that child the same thing over and over again?" "John Wesley, because once telling is not enough." It is for this same reason that you are told again and agin that Chamberlain's Cough Remedy cures colds and grip; that it counteracts any tendency of these diseases to result in pneumonia, and that it is pleasant and safe to take. For sale by M. A. Toulson

NAPOLEON'S LETTER.

How the Initial "M" Punctuated the Great Conqueror's Career.

From Marengo to Moscow was the long swing in the pendulum of Napoleon's life, the one the greatest battle out of which he came with his life, the other the abyss which engulfed him. Mr. J. M. Buckley, who is a literary expert on coincidences, points out how strangely the letter M played a part in the life of the great conqueror.

Marboe was the first to recognize the genius of Napoleon at the Ecole Militaire. Melas opened to him the way to Italy. Mortier was one of his first generals. Moreau betrayed him, and Murat was the first martyr to his cause. Marie Louise partook of his highest destinies. Metternich conquered him on the field of diplomacy.

Six marshals—Massena, Mortier, Marmont, Macdonald, Murat and Moncy—and twenty-six of his generals of divisions had names beginning with the letter M.

Murat, duke of Bassano, was the counselor in whom he placed the greatest confidence. His first great battle was that of Montenotte; his last was that of Mount St. Jean. He gained the battles of Moscow, Montmirail and Montereau. Then came the assault of Montmartre. Milan was the first enemies' capital and Moscow the last in which he entered.

He lost Egypt through the blunders of Menoa and employed Miollis to make Pius VII. prisoner. Malet conspired against him, afterward Marmont. His ministers were Maret, Montalivet and Mollien. His first chamberlain was Montesquieu.

Wordsworth's Secret.

And Wordsworth's secret? Any poet's secret? Well, for aught we can see, it remains a secret, a something as far beyond human subtlety to explain as it is beyond human ingenuity to produce. "The wind bloweth where it listeth." "Genius," "inspiration"—it is hard to get on without the old words, vague though they be. Nay, it is precisely because they are vague that they serve so useful a purpose. Even Professor Raleigh, after speaking almost contemptuously of "impatient critics" who seek to account for Wordsworth's "amazing inequality" by assuming that sometimes he was inspired, at other times not, is heard a little afterward lamenting that in Wordsworth's case, as in Coleridge's, "the high tide of inspiration was followed by a long and wandering ebb."

One feels like quoting Lowell, whose arrow in such competitions is apt to hit the white. Wordsworth, he says, "was not an artist in the strictest sense of the word; neither was Isaiah, but he had a rarer gift, the capability of being greatly inspired."—Bradford Torrey in Atlantic.

Phil May and His Models.

Many of the figures in Phil May's book "Guttersnipes" were sketched from memory while staying up the river.

"One day," he said, when speaking on the subject, "I saw a delightful little model for my purpose, a dirty, ragged bit of girl humanity. I spoke to her and wrote a message on my card for her to give to her mother. Next morning she came in charge of an older sister, as tattered and unkempt as herself. When I had made my sketches of the two of them I asked the elder one if she had any more sisters like herself. 'Oh, yes, four or five, worse than I am.' 'Bring them round,' said I. 'Is the little un to come again?' she asked. 'No, I've done with her.' The next day they came, the little un included. She had persisted in it, for she said: 'He's my artist. I found him first.'"—London Tit-Bits.

Fireproof Wood.

Though there are a number of different kinds of wood, ebony, ironwood, etc., of such close, hard fiber that even the fiercest fire has difficulty in "getting hold" of it, there is only one sort, so far as now known, that is practically fireproof. This is a small, scraggy tree, a native of South America, called the shopala, with thick, tough, stringy bark full of a sort of fire resisting sap. This curious shrub grows largely on the great, grassy savannas, which are swept by fire almost every year during the heat of the summer. There it thrives splendidly, for the annual scourge only kills off its bigger and hardier competitors and leaves the ground free for the growth of this vegetable asbestus.

Smart Sayings.

Lord Palmerston's reply to the illiterate member who asked him, "Are there two hens in 'Oniton?" is a specimen of his rather boisterous chaff. "No; only one. That's why heggs are so scarce there."

Mr. Disraeli's comment upon a portrait of himself, "Is it not hideous—and so like?" exhibited a discernment not common with unflattered sitters.—"Twenty Years In Parliament."

The Social Side.

Mrs. Waldo-Cecil—He has a barrel of money.

Edith Waldo-Cecil—But is he all right socially?

Mr. Waldo-Cecil—Oh, yes; he hasn't the least idea how he got it!—Puck.

Piling It On.

Dedude—That man called me a liar, a cad, a scoundrel and a puppy. Would you advise me to fight for that?

Old Blunt—By all means. There's nothing nobler in this world, young man, than fighting for the truth.

As Others Knew Her.

"She seems to be a natural flirt," he said.

"Natural?" the woman impatiently replied. "There's nothing natural about her but the framework."—Chicago Record-Herald.

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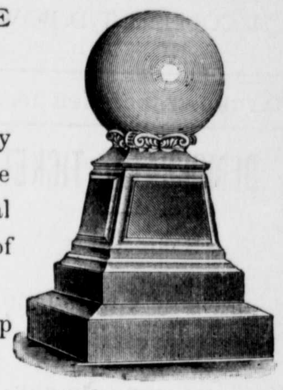

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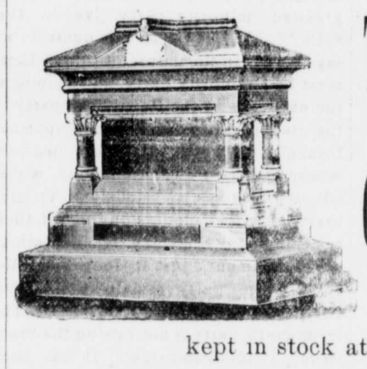

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