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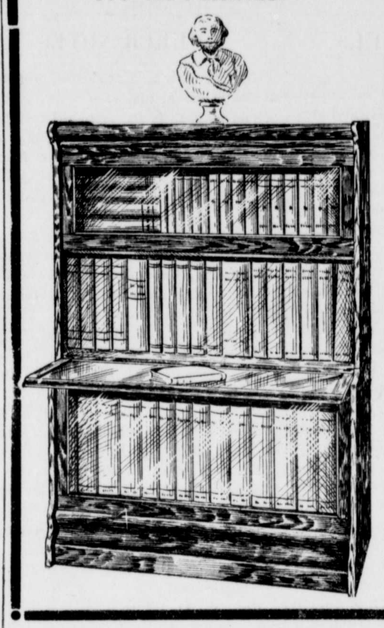

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A Visit From Dean Swift.

The Irish reformer, Father Mathew, used to tell of a remarkable visit made to his grandfather by Dean Swift. Mr. Mathew lived near Dublin and invited the eccentric dean to dine and spend the night at his house. A large party of the neighboring gentry were bidden to meet him.

The dean drove up to the house and, summoning the butler, asked the names of the guests.

"Tell your master," he shouted, "I will meet no such people," and drove away in a fury. Before he reached the lodge gates, however, he changed his mind, returned, alighted and demanded to be shown to his room.

When his host came to him Swift said, "I am willing to accept your hospitality, but I will not meet your guests."

He was told that his meals should be served in his room, as if he were at home. He remained thus isolated for two days, then came down in high good humor, joined the party and extended his visit for four months.

An Introduction to Napoleon.

In December, 1812, when Napoleon, after his disastrous Russian expedition, made his secret and hurried journey from Smorgoni to Paris, the following incident occurred: At Gragom the snow lay too thick for the emperor's carriage to proceed, and Count Wonsowicz was informed by the postmaster that a Pole, M. Wibeski, living near, had lately ordered a most convenient traveling carriage mounted on runners for his newly married daughter.

At first the Pole refused the most pressing offers for its purchase, but when he learned that the carriage was required for the emperor's use he not only yielded, but asked as its price that he might be presented to the emperor. Napoleon complied; but, unwilling to accept the carriage as a gift, he gave orders that 1,000 ducats ($2,000) should be handed to the owner.

Blue Beard.

Blue Beard was a real man, and the so called fairy story is true in all its essential details. Blue Beard was Baron Gilles de Rais, an enormously rich Breton nobleman, who fought with distinction under the banner of Jeanne d'Arc and was marshal of France at the age of twenty-five. After the war he plunged into the wildest dissipation. His great fortune was largely increased by the dower of his first wife, Catherine de Thouars. His favorite diversion was murdering babies and dabbling in their blood. The church caused his arrest and trial. He was condemned and was hanged at Nantes, but was converted in prison, and his last words were to implore the forgiveness of those whose families he had decimated by murder.

Undressing Made Easy.

A gentleman who near the close of the eighteenth century accompanied Baron von Swieten on a visit to the old Duke of Sachsen-Hildburghausen relates the following in his memoirs: "The duke regularly goes to bed every night at 8 o'clock. When leaving the sitting room to proceed to his rather distant sleeping apartment he has a number of his valets posted all along the line of route. One of them takes possession of his wig, the second divests him of his coat, and so on, until by the time he has reached the goal he is ready to slip into bed without more ado."

Aesthetic Italian Laborers.

With the exception of the silent Sicilians, the Italian immigrants are generally fluent talkers and extremely intelligent. I have known a Neapolitan who could neither read nor write quote from Dante, Petrarch and Tasso. It surprises you to hear a group made up of an asphalt mixer, a sailor turned waiter and a barber and baker who had stuck to their trades discuss the sculpture on a new court building or when upon another night the same men wrangle over the merits of Verdi or Mascagni and end by humming and singing in chorus "Parig, O Cara."—World's Work.

Diplomatic.

"Did you see anything that particularly struck your fancy when you were looking round the furniture shops today?" asked a young husband of his lately made wife on her return from a tour of furniture inspection.

"Yes," she replied. "I saw something exceedingly pretty in looking glasses."

"I have no doubt you did," he observed, "if you looked into them."

The halo of a calm, sweet peace rests upon that home.

A Tough Specimen.

"Seen Edwin's new horse?" asked one villager of another.

"I have," was the reply.

"Well, what does it look like?" asked the questioner.

"Well, it looks," said the other man slowly, "as if Edwin had taken it for an old debt."

The Wishbone.

When you pull a wishbone with a friend and make a wish, which end wins, the big end or the little end? In some houses the small end wins, and in other houses the big end wins. It's like a cold. Some say starve it, and others say stuff it.—Atchison Globe.

No Side Stepping.

"It seems he met her at a hop, promptly proposed, and now they're to be married."

"Strange that she should take that step at a hop."

"She took it at a jump."—Philadelphia Press.

No one who has not a complete knowledge of himself will ever have a true understanding of another.—Novalis.

An Astute Blind Man.

A blind man possessed $500, and, fearing that somebody might steal it, he buried his treasure in a corner of his garden. A neighbor saw him at his work and in the night stole his money. The blind man on discovering his loss and suspecting his neighbor went to him and said: "My infirmity renders me diffident, and few are the persons whom I can trust. You are one of those few, and I have come to tell you a secret and to ask your advice. I am the possessor of $1,000 in gold. I have hidden half of it in a place which I believe to be secure. Do you think I would do well to put the other half in the same place?" "Yes, by all means," replied his neighbor. "Were I in your place I would do the same. There is no knowing what may happen if you keep your money in your house." Having given his advice, the thief, hoping to get the rest of the blind man's money, hastened to replace the half he had stolen, and thus the astute blind man recovered his property.

A Fall and a Lesson.

An English gentleman traveling some years ago in Ireland took a hammer and tacks along with him because he found dog's eared carpets at all the inns where he rested. At one of these inns he tacked down the carpet, which, as usual, was loose near the door, and soon afterward rang the bell for his dinner. While the carpet was loose the door could not be opened without a hard push, so when the waiter came up he just unlatched the door; then, going back a couple of yards, he rushed against it, as his habit was, with a sudden spring to force it open. But the wrinkles of the carpet were no longer there to stop it, and, not meeting with the expected resistance, the waiter fell full length into the room. It had never entered his head that so much trouble might be saved by means of a hammer and a dozen or even half a dozen tacks until his fall taught him that makeshift is a very unprofitable sort of shift.

A Costly Jest.

It was a jest pure and simple that brought about the war between England and France in 1087 and ultimately cost the great William his life. William, of course, was "great" in more senses than one. So stout was he in fact by reason of his idle and luxurious life that he could not walk from place to place, but had to be carried. One day his contemporary, Philip of France, delicately remarked at dinner that William was "like a fillet of beef on casters and ought to be exhibited at a prize monarch show." Naturally William heard of this and in a furious rage ordered his troops to invade at once. This was done, and a war commenced which ended in the English king being thrown from his horse and killed while superintending the siege of Nantes.

Adaptable Woman.

It is always a mystery how we change our figures, our faces and our gait with every change of fashion, but there is no denying the fact that women do seem to accommodate themselves to Madame la Mode in this way. One year they will be of the drooping, languid, Rossettian type; another, they will be completely Georgian in face and style, and then, hey, presto, fashion waves her wand and every one is magically transformed into a sturdy, square shouldered, across country looking person, with a face to match and a corresponding air.—London World.

How Whittier Raised Some Money.

An interesting story is told of the poet Whittier showing his ingenuity in getting subscriptions for a good cause. There were a number of carriage makers in Amesbury, where he resided, and, being once unable to collect cash in consequence of the prevailing commercial depression, he suggested that each might contribute some part of a carriage—one the wheels, another the body, etc. Thus all the parts of a complete carriage were given, and it was sold for the amount required.

Breaking It Gently.

"You were a long time in the far corner of the conservatory last evening," suggested the mother. "What was going on?"

"Do you remember the occasion on which you became engaged to papa?" inquired the daughter, by way of reply.

"Of course I do."

"Then it ought not to be necessary for you to ask any questions."

Thus gently the news was broken that they were to have a son-in-law.

Not Running on Tick.

"You seem to be very quiet all of a sudden," said the clock key.

"Yes, I'm all run down," replied the clock. "Time is money, they say, so I guess I must be bankrupt."

"That being the case," replied the key, "I'll appoint myself receiver and proceed to wind up your affairs."—Chicago News.

Easily Pleased Then.

Nell—So their engagement is off? Belle—Yes. She says he was too hard to please. Nell—That's funny. He must have changed since he proposed to her.—Exchange.

Confidential.

"Do you love me?" said the paper bag to the sugar.

"I'm just wrapped up in you," replied the sugar.

"You sweet thing!" murmured the paper bag.

Happy.

Ethel—How happy Gladys looks tonight! Edythe—Yes, she expects to have a chance to accept Fred or turn down Charley, and she doesn't care which.—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

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