# A. LEVINE

—THE PRACTICAL—

Watchmaker, Jeweler, and Optician.

XMAS is nearly here and I will say a few words in plain talk. There are towns where people have to put up with being compelled to buy in one store, but you ought not. You have a broad field before you. I am here to protect you from all this experience and you ought to appreciate and patronize me as well as others by purchasing your Xmas and Wedding Gifts from me, and that would be to your own benefit. Keep competition in existence and you will draw the benefit.

Solid Silver Ladies' Watches from ($2.75 and up) ..... $2.75
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Practical Watchmaker, Jeweler and Optician.



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## WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

**How Marconi Received His First Transatlantic Message.**

One cold December day in 1901 Guglielmo Marconi sat still in a room in the government building at Signal hill, St. John's, N. F., with a telephone receiver at his ear and his eye on the clock that ticked loudly near by. Overhead flew his kite bearing his receiving wire. It was 12:30 o'clock on the American side of the ocean, and Marconi had ordered his operator in faroff Poldhu, 2,000 watery miles away, to begin signaling the letter S—three dots of the Morse code, three flashes of the bluish sparks—at that corresponding hour. For six years he had been looking forward to and working for that moment, the final test of all his effort and the beginning of a new triumph. He sat waiting to hear three small sounds, the br-br-br of the Morse code S, humming on the diaphragm of his receiver, the signature of the ether waves that had traveled 2,000 miles to his listening ear. As the hands of the clock, whose ticking alone broke the stillness of the room, reached thirty minutes past 12 the receiver at the inventor's ear began to hum, br-br-br, as distinctly as the sharp rap of a pencil on a table. The unmistakable note of the ether vibrations sounded in the telephone receiver. The telephone receiver was used instead of the usual recorder on account of its superior sensitiveness.

Transatlantic wireless telegraphy was an accomplished fact.—From "Stories of Inventors," by Russell Doubleday.

## THE PORTABLE WATCH.

**It Was Probably First Used In the Sixteenth Century.**

There is uncertainty as to when the portable watch, as we understand it today, came into use. It was probably at the close of the sixteenth century. Queen Elizabeth owned a large number of watches. Mary, queen of Scots, was the possessor of a skull shaped watch. In fact, the "death's head" pattern was at that time much in vogue. Endless were the styles, for there were watches shaped like books, pears, butterflies and tulips. The Nuremberg egg was a special shape and was first made in 1600. Those queer shapes of watches prevented their finding a place in the pocket. When was the fob first used in the dress of man? The German of fob is "fuppe," and it is believed that it came from England through the Puritans, "whose dislike for display may have induced them to conceal their timekeepers from the public gaze." This conjecture is strengthened by the fact that a short fob chain attached to a watch of Oliver Cromwell in the British museum is in point of date the first appendage of the kind known. The watch is a small oval one in a silver case and was made about 1625 by John Midnall of Fleet street.

## ORIGIN OF PARISHES.

**They Were Founded In 668 by the Archbishop of Canterbury.**

Theodore, archbishop of Canterbury in 668, is regarded as the founder of the parochial system. Parishes were originally measured by and made to follow the lines of existing townships, a parish being, in short, the township in its ecclesiastical character. Where a township was too small to require or to support a separate church and priest two or more townships were united to form one parish.

In other cases the clergy of manorial churches built by the nobles had no jurisdiction over a parish extending to the limits of their lord's estate. Thus no legislative act was needed, and parishes were mapped out gradually, as the multiplication of churches and clergy, which Theodore did so much to effect, made it desirable to define clearly the areas within which the clergy had to work. It was not till long after Theodore's death—Green says about the middle of the eighth century—that this division of the country into parishes was completed.—London Telegraph.

**The Folly of Betting.**

Lord Brampton, better known as Sir Henry Hawkins, the great English criminal lawyer, judge and sportsman, in his reminiscences, in telling of what cured him of betting, relates that Harry Hill, one of the "characters" of Tattersalls, gave him this piece of advice as a youth:

"Mr. Hawkins, I see you come here pretty regularly on Sunday afternoons, but I advise you not to speculate among us, for if you do we shall beat you. We know our business better than you do, and you'll get nothing out of us any more than we should get out of you if we were able to dabble in your law, for you know that business better than we do."

**King George's Fat Pocketbooks.**

George IV. from the time he was a young man constantly carried a pocketbook, into which he thrust bank notes, letters, trinkets and keepsakes. As soon as the pocketbook became full he used to put it away and substitute for it a new one. This when filled was laid aside and replaced in like manner. When the king died it devolved on the Duke of Wellington to examine the monarch's effects, and he discovered an entire chest of drawers filled with fat pocketbooks, which contained not less than $50,000

**The Limit.**

He—I don't think your brother John likes me. She—Oh, I'm sure he does. Why, he told me today you were a regular brick; he went further, in fact, and said you were a regular gold brick. —Philadelphia Ledger.

He who commits injustice is ever made more wretched than he who suffers it.—Plato.

## THE TIRED COWBIRD

DOWNRIGHT LAZY IS THIS BLACK HOBO OF THE ORIOLE TRIBE.

**It Builds No Nests of Its Own, but Lays Its Eggs In the Nests of Other Birds and Never Troubles Itself About Rearing Its Young.**

The cowbird was born so tired that if he could compel any other bird to gather his food for him he would do so, but he cannot, so he scratches about all day among the herds of cattle and sheep and goes to roost at night in great bands of hundreds of his relatives, always selecting a bushy tree, such as a cypress, for a night's perch. All up and down the Mississippi river valley is the common summer home of these birds, for only in the depth of winter do they retreat to the warmer mesas of Mexico, whither most of the other birds have preceeded them. In the spring following such a winter they are the first to return, filling all the new year air with their chatter and lining the barnyard trees.

You must not think that the glossy black and brown birds so plentiful around southern California barnyards during the winter months are cowbirds, for they are not. They are called "grackles" and seem to be more like crows than blackbirds. You can find their nests, big, bulky affairs, in the orange and cypress trees of almost any of your ranch homes. There are many, many members to the blackbird family, the sweet voiced meadow larks and the gorgeous golden orioles as well as the more sober colored blackbirds and grackles, and of all these but one forces the hatching of her eggs and the feeding of her young on to another bird mother.

In England the cuckoo has this same habit, but the American cuckoo builds her nest and sits on her eggs as nicely as any robin or dove could do. Sometimes our road runner so far forgets herself as to lay her eggs in the nest of a quail or a meadow lark, but not often, but when she does the bird upon whom Mrs. Road Runner tries to impose generally breaks the strange egg or else goes away and leaves the nest alone. Then the field mice and the wood rats have a feast, to which sometimes the road runner comes herself, for she is very fond of eggs as long as they are not her own.

But the cowbird never makes any such poor job as that. She always selects the nest of some smaller bird—in regions where warblers are plentiful the home of one of these little singers is most frequently chosen—and there as many eggs as she thinks the owner of the nest will submit to are laid. Sometimes the warbler goes right on incubating the intruder, but now and then the two old birds get together and dump the egg out on the ground. Nests have been found in which the warblers put a mud floor over the first nest and built another one on top of it, leaving their own eggs to spoil because they knew no other way to rid themselves of the cowbird. If the cowbird comes back by the repaired nest she will put another egg in it, and generally this egg is hatched and raised by the foster pair on whom it has been forced.

It requires about ten or eleven days for the young cowbird to break the shell, while most other birds of its size are two or three days longer, and thus he has a good start on the other nestlings in point of growth. When hatched the cowbird is larger than the sparrow or the warbler and consequently gradually crowds them into the background, taking all the food that should belong to them. As they grow weaker from this he grows stronger, and it is not long until he tips them out of the nest and is sole master of the two old birds, who work ceaselessly to satisfy his awful appetite. In a very few days he gets too large for the little nest and goes out into the branches, where the old birds still continue to feed him in a way they never do their own young after they have left the nest. In Mexico and South America there is a cowbird that sometimes builds a nest of her own and sits upon and hatches her own eggs, but no such thing ever happens among the black hoboes of the oriole family found farther north.

How many eggs a cowbird lays no one knows, but as many as seven have been found in one nest of the oven bird, a kind of thrush found in the eastern states. Usually, however, only one egg is laid in each nest, especially if the birds to whom the nest belongs are small and the nest too little to hold more than one of the cowbird's young in comfort. The parent cowbird never disturbs the eggs of any of the birds in whose nests she leaves her own, knowing full well that if she did so the nest builder would in all probability desert her home or throw the strange egg out. Oftentimes more than one cowbird lays in the same nest, and, as no two eggs of these birds are ever exactly alike in color, you may be sure that no cowbird knows her own egg half a minute after she has laid it.—Los Angeles Times.

**Liked Wooden Ships.**

Admiral Farragut was a "very old fashioned sailor, with a strong prejudice in favor of wooden ships," says Captain F. S. Hill in his "Twenty Years at Sea." The admiral had gained his victories in such ships and declared himself "too old a dog to learn new tricks." In the Mobile fights his flagship was the wooden ship Hartford, though he was urged to take the new ironclad Tecumseh. It was a noteworthy coincidence that the Tecumseh was the only vessel lost in the battle. She was sunk by a torpedo and went down with her captain and more than a hundred of her crew.

Every man has just as much vanity as he lacks understanding.—Pope.


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