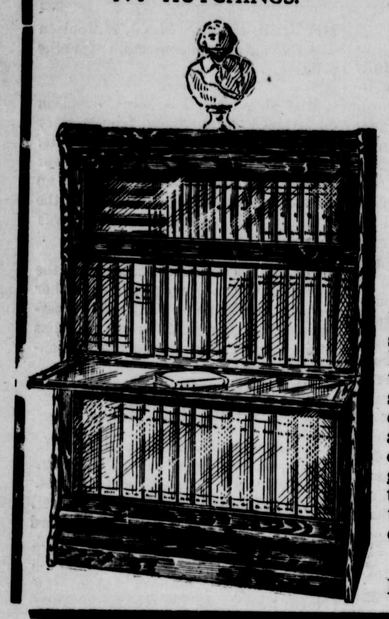
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Fen Picture of Bunyan.

In the life of John Bunyan by W. Hale White the author of "Pilgrim's Progress" is described as follows: "He appeared in countenance to be a stern and rough temper, but in conversation mild and affable, not given to loquacity or much discourse in company unless some urgent occasion required it. He never boasted of himself or his parts. He abhorred lying and swearing, being just in all that lay in his power to his word, not seeming to revenge injuries, loving to reconcile differences and make friendship with all. He had a sharp, quick eye, accompanied with an excellent discerning of persons, being of good judgment and quick wit. As for his person, he was tall of stature, strong boned, though not corpulent, somewhat of a ruddy face, with sparkling eyes, wearing his hair on his upper lip after the old British fashion, his hair reddish, but in his latter days time had sprinkled it with gray. His nose was well set, but not declining or bending, and his mouth moderately large, his forehead something high and his habit always plain and modest."

The Art of Drawn Work.

Perfilado, or drawn needlework, occupies the same place in Mexico as lace does in Brussels. The city of Matamoros is the center of its production, and large quantities of this beautiful work are exported to the United States. Women and girls are employed in the manufacture, and some of it is very expensive, for a year may be required to make a single piece. The linen or silk is placed in a frame, the threads are drawn out one way, and with a needle and the finest spool thread the design is worked. Perfilado is taught in the public schools. Among the articles made are handkerchiefs, tablecloths, bedspreads and covers for chairs or lounges. The work is hard and difficult, and the earnings are on an average less than a shilling a day.

Onions as Weather Prophets.

One of the rites performed by the French peasants on New Year's eve is the forecasting of the weather for the coming year by means of onions.

When the bells ring for midnight mass they scoop out the middles of twelve onions, set them in a row on the kitchen table, fill them with salt and name them for the months of the year. Then when they return from mass they examine the condition of the salt. If it has melted in any of the "months," those months will be rainy; if the salt remains dry, it indicates drought; if half melted, the first fortnight of the month will be wet.

The peasants have such implicit faith in this means of foretelling the weather that they plant their crops in accordance with the prophecy of the onions.

The Fifteenth Century Gambler.

In the time of King Henry IV. of England the "smart set" managed to play bridge or its equivalent without shocking the susceptibilities of those who think it wrong to play for money. The fifteenth century gambler, according to one historian, "played at cards for counters, nails and points in every house more for pastime than for gain." "Everie scholar or petyte (little one) that plaies for money is to be expelled," ordains a grammar school charter of the period. One of the duties of hospital sisters was "to make dilygentt searche amonge the poore for cards or dice."

Insulted His Legs.

Apropos of knee breeches a correspondent of the London Express quotes an anecdote from Captain Gronow's "Recollections" which puts the whole case in a nutshell. The baillie de ferrette was always dressed in knee breeches, with a cocked hat and a court sword, the slender proportions of which greatly resembled those of his legs. "Do tell me, my dear baillie," said Montrond one day, "have you got three legs or three swords?" Soon after which, we should imagine, the baillie went home.

Damages Enough.

There had been a railway collision near a Scottish country town, and an astute local attorney had hurried to the scene of disaster. Noticing an old man with a badly damaged head lying on the ground, he approached him with notebook in hand. "How about damages, my man?" he began. The injured man waved him off with the remark: "Na, na; ye'll get nae damages fae me. It wasna me that hit yer bloomin' auld train."

The Other Kind.

"Do you think there is anything remarkable in love at first sight?" asked a romantic youth.

"Not at all," replied his cynical friend. "It's when people have been looking at each other for four or five years that it becomes remarkable!"

The Retort Amiable.

Mistress—I don't want you to have so much company. You have more callers in a day than I have in a week. Domestic—Well, mum, perhaps if you'd try to be a little more agreeable you'd have as many friends as I have.

Serious Mistake.

Dr. Cutts—I made an awful mistake when I diagnosed that man's case as appendicitis. Dr. Slash—What did the operation disclose? Dr. Cutts—That he didn't have a cent.—Cleveland Leader.

Cruel Fate's Favors.

The Poet—My mail contains nothing but rejected manuscripts! His Wife—And mine nothing but invitations to millinery openings!—Brooklyn Life.

On and Off.

Knobbs—They say poverty egged him on to the stage. Snobbs—Yes, and the gallery egged him off.—Princeton Tiger.

Her Smuggled Necklace.

Women who are the soul of rectitude in all other things will not hesitate to evade the law when it comes to smuggling. For some reason or other they do not consider smuggling dishonest, but rather as an exciting sort of game to play. Every woman who goes to Europe spends hours of her preparation to return in devising means of bringing things in without paying duty.

Men are much more honest about the things they bring in, and not long ago I heard of a case in which a man humored this smuggling tendency in his daughter, but took good care that she should not be discovered evading the law.

His daughter had purchased a valuable diamond necklace in London and announced her determination to bring it in without paying one penny of duty. There was no reason in the world why she should have chosen to do this, as her father was a very rich man and could have paid the duty without noting its absence from his bank account. But she wanted the excitement, and her father agreed to let her have her own way. She brought the necklace in in a small bag, which her father asked her to let him hold for a moment or two, and it was not for nearly a year that she found out her father had declared the ornament and paid the duty on it. At any rate, she had had her amusement.—New York Post.

Young Roscius.

One of the strangest figures of the British stage was Young Roscius. His other name was William Henry West Betty. He lived until Aug. 24, 1874, although he had made his last stage appearance on Aug. 9, 1824, at the age of thirty-two. Theatrical history has no parallel to his childhood. It was this little Irish boy who after seeing Mrs. Siddons had declared that he must die if he did not become an actor. He took Belfast by storm in 1803, when not quite twelve, and nearly stifled scores of Londoners on Dec. 1, 1804. Foot guards and officers were overpowered by the crowd, and gentlemen charged through the boxes and jumped by twenties into the "pit" for places. Master Betty brought $86,050 to Drury Lane in twenty-eight nights. William Pitt adjourned the house of commons to let members see him as Hamlet, and his boom lasted until 1808. His adult return to the stage was brief and a failure.

A Royal Accomplice.

One day when Francis I. was in his chapel attending mass with several of his noblemen a well dressed pickpocket went and stood behind the cardinal of Lorraine and abstracted his purse, but unable to do this without the king perceiving it he put up his finger to intimate that the latter should keep silence. The king took it for a practical joke and said never a word. But after the service he asked the cardinal what he had done with his purse. The prelate, not being able to find it, was very much annoyed and took the king to task, who greatly enjoyed the fun, and at length ordered the purse to be restored to the cardinal. The thief did not, however, come forward, and the king discovered too late that he had been tricked.

Sass Costs Money.

When Fanny Kemble spent her summers in Massachusetts she engaged a neighbor to drive her regularly about the country. On their first excursion he began to discuss the crops and the history of the people, when Mrs. Kemble said in her dramatic fashion, "Sir, I have engaged you to drive, not talk." The farmer kept his peace and when the vacation was over sent in his bill. "What is this item, sir?" she asked. "I do not understand it." With equal gravity he rejoined: "Sass, $5. I don't often take it, but when I do I charge!" The bill was paid, and it made a firm friend of Mrs. Kemble ever after.—Christian Register.

The American Eagle.

Our baldheaded eagle, so called because the feathers on the top of his head are white, was called the Washington eagle by Audubon, the great naturalist. Like Washington, he is brave and fearless, and as his name and greatness are known the world over so can the eagle soar to heights beyond others. The eagle was adopted as the emblem of the United States in 1785, since when it has been used on the tips of flagpoles, coins, United States seals and on the shield of Liberty.—Washington Star.

Untiring.

"When I took you into partnership," said the indignant father, "I expected you to be untiring in your devotion to the interests of the business."

The son took one foot down from the desk long enough to strike a match to light his cigarette.

"I think I have been," said he. "You never have noticed me tire myself yet, have you, pa?"

Garden of the Soul.

Each bud flowers but once, and each flower has but its minute of perfect beauty, so in the garden of the soul each feeling has, as it were, its flowering instant, its one and only moment of expansive grace and radiant kingship.

Brilliant.

"Did my diamonds call forth any comment?" asked Mrs. Cumrox.

"Yes, indeed," answered Miss Cayenne. "I heard several people refer to you as the human chandelier."—Washington Star.

Dear Things.

Miss Shugger—What a self possessed woman Miss Passay is! Miss Pepper—Yes, and I don't imagine she'd ever get a chance to dispose of the property.—Cleveland Leader.

Heaven takes care that no man secures happiness by crime.—Alfieri.

Conditions That Unfit For Marriage.

The low paid employee today can succeed as well alone as with a wife, which his ancestors could not do. At the same time his selfish enjoyments are greater without her, for he may live irresponsibly, without a motive to save and with all his surplus available for wayside pleasures of an antisocial sort. The disintegrating forces of a great city upon homeless youth are too obvious to need emphasis. The wage earning girl, on her part, is likely to acquire the taste of fragmentary, pointless and unproductive spending. Both form habits harmful to the altruistic motives of group living—of the home idea. A man who goes from the saloon, street corner or cheap pleasure club, a girl who leaves the dance hall and pavement glitter to make a home for him, the bare necessities of which are hardly met by his wages, are not qualified by their experiences to bring to a successful issue the supreme test of character that makes stable a high standard.—Professor Simon N. Patten in Independent.

A Soft Answer.

It was in 1872 that George Chesmore Bromley, author of "Long Ago and Later On," became a member of the Bohemia club of San Francisco and soon found himself "Sire of the Low Jinks," which occasion he vividly recalls, and especially his arrival at home afterward. He writes: "My dear little wife awoke at my entrance and inquired the time. I looked at my watch and replied, 'Ten minutes past 10,' and then laid the watch on the mantelpiece. Having some doubts as to the correctness of my reply, the little woman arose and looked for herself. 'What time did you say it was?' she asked again. 'Ten minutes past 10,' said I. 'Ten minutes past 10! Why, it only lacks ten minutes of 2,' said she. 'Is that so?' said I. 'Why, bless my soul, how time flies! I had no idea that I had been home so long.' This was another occasion when I realized that 'a soft answer turneth away wrath.'"

Wrestling With the Spaniard.

When Walter Williams, from Columbus, Miss., was in Spain in the summer of 1903 he called upon a provincial editor in the interest of the St. Louis exposition. The next day the paper had the following: "Walter Williams of the United States purchased the state of Louisiana and next year will give a celebration, to which he invites his fellow journalists of Europe." Mr. Williams again called upon the editor and thoroughly explained matters. The editor apologized and printed this correction: "Governor Francis of Missouri has purchased a large tract of land in the Great American desert, and Walter Williams is here to invite the journalists of Spain to a show which the governor will give next year." Mr. Williams fled the place, fearful the editor might explain some more.

Rossetti's Awful Breakfast.

It was at one time arranged that Dante Gabriel Rossetti, his brother William and Swinburne and George Meredith should live together in a certain house. Meredith happened to see Dante Gabriel Rossetti at breakfast and changed his plans. Meredith himself tells the story. "It was past noon," says he. "Rossetti had not yet risen, though it was an exquisite day. On the breakfast table on a huge dish rested five thick slabs of bacon, upon which five rigid eggs had slowly bled to death. Presently Rossetti appeared in his dressing gown, with slippers down at heel, and devoured the dainty repast like an ogre." That meal was too much for Meredith, and he sacrificed three months' rent rather than see it repeated.

The Sphinx's Riddle.

The riddle which the sphinx propounded to the Thebans and the solution of which she made a condition of her withdrawal from the state was as follows: "What animal has one voice, at first four, then two and at last three feet?" Œdipus discovered the answer to be "man," who in infancy, from using his hands as well as his feet in walking, may be said to have four feet (all fours), in after life employs but two, and in old age to these he adds a staff, which may be reckoned a third. Upon this solution being given the sphinx is said to have thrown herself headlong from the citadel.

The Simple Life.

In my wanderings on foot when I walk through the provinces of Europe and talk to the people and fish and learn I find that what people lack most in life is simplicity, the poor man as well as the rich. It consists not in plain dress, but in plain living, in simplicity of heart, of personal beliefs and respect for the beliefs of others.—Rev. Charles Wagner.

Preparedness.

Begin the morning by saying to thyself, I shall meet the busybody, the ungrateful, arrogant, deceitful, envious and unsocial, but I, who have seen the nature of the good, that it is beautiful, and that of the bad, that it is ugly, can be injured by none of them.—Marcus Aurelius.

Cause For Sorrow.

Brown—Smith is down with brain fever. Green—You don't say so! Brown—Yes. The doctor says if he recovers his mind will be a blank. Green—Well, I'm sorry to hear that. He owes me $10.

Spiteful.

Kate—Do you think it's true that people catch anything through kissing? Madge—Oh, I don't think so. See how often you've been kissed and you've never caught anybody yet.

He who brings ridicule to bear against truth finds in his hand a blade without a hilt.—Landor.

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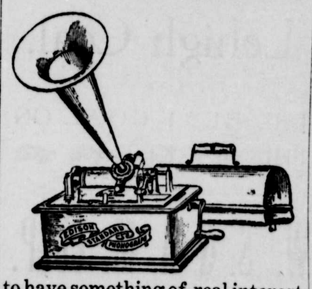
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