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A LEPAGE PICTURE.

The Work That Brought the Artist Public Recognition.

The label on a certain spring water still in use was designated by Du Maurier, who was probably not overpaid for it, and a New York artist who has since gained distinction eked out the hardest part of his early struggles by designing advertisements for a commercial house. There have been many more perhaps, but the most conspicuous on record is Bastien Lepage, who through this very fact was forced into fame. He was pursued by unmerciful disaster through his youth in his efforts to study art. His mother worked in the fields to keep a sickly boy at school. At fifteen he went alone to Paris, starved for seven years, painted without success, but still—painted. He had just finished a picture to send to the Salon when Paris was besieged, and he rushed with his comrades to the trenches.

On the first day a shell fell into his studio and destroyed his picture, and another shell burst at his feet, wounding him. He was carried home and lay ill and idle for two years. Then he returned to Paris and, reduced to absolute want, painted cheap fans for a living.

One day a manufacturer of some patent medicine ordered a picture from him to illustrate its virtues. Lepage, who was always sincere, gave his best work to this advertisement. He painted a landscape in the April sunlight. The leaves of tender green quivered in the breeze. A group of beautiful young girls gathered around a fountain from which the elixir of youth sprang in a bubbling stream. Lepage believed there was real merit in it.

"Let me offer it at the Salon?" he asked his patron.

The manufacturer was delighted. "But first paint a rainbow arching over the fountain," he said, "with the name of my medicine upon it."

Lepage refused.

"Then I will not pay you a sou for the picture."

The price of this picture meant bread for months, and the painter had long needed bread. The chance of admission to the salon was small. He hesitated. Then he silenced his hunger and carried the canvas to the salon. It was admitted.

Its great success insured Lepage public recognition, and his later work gained him a place among the greatest of living artists.

PROVERBS OF MEXICO.

The noise is more than the powder—the Mexican way of saying it is "hot air."

When it rains, we all get wet—the Mexican way of saying, "Misfortunes never come singly."

The devil is not astute because he is the devil, but because he is old—used to express the value of experience.

When bread is cut, crumbs are left, expressing the fact that we all have a share in our neighbors' good fortune.

After the child is drowned, cover up the well—the Mexican way of saying, "After the horse is stolen, lock the stable."

It is better to go around than to fall down, expressing the fact that it is often better to avoid a difficulty than to try to overcome it.—Chicago Journal.

Would Make Sure About the Soap.

A little boy who had been blowing bubbles all the morning, tiring of play and suddenly growing serious, said, "Read me that thory about heaven; it ith tho gloriouth."

"I will," said the mother, "but first tell me, did you take the soap out of the water?"

"Oh, yes; I'm pretty thure I did."

The mother read the description of the beautiful city, the streets of gold, the gates of pearl. He listened with delight, but when she came to the words, "No one can enter there who loveth or maketh a lie," bounding up, he said:

"I gueth I'll go and thee about that thoap!"—New York Observer.

Entangled in a Live Wire.

If a person is tangled in a live electric wire and you want to extricate him therefrom do not take hold of the victim's hands, as is often done in a case of this kind. You will be shocked if you do. Be sure to grab the clothes alone, and then you are safe, and the current cannot reach you. Do not let anything come in contact with your bare hands but his coat and trousers. Of course if you have thick leather gloves on you can handle with impunity the individual in distress.

Appropriate Ending.

The thoughtful little boy with the high forehead tied an oblong receptacle made of tin to the dog's tail and watched the animal go tearing down the alley.

"For a Scotch collie," the boy explained to the bystanders, "I thought he wasn't quite as canny as he ought to be."—Chicago Tribune.

Softening It.

Boothlet—What do you mean by saying I'm the worst actor you ever saw? Coolly—Well, I've no doubt it did seem rather harsh; but, then, you know, there are so many actors I have never seen!—Boston Transcript.

Irritation Iteration.

"I don't see why you call him stupid. He says a clever thing quite often."

"Exactly. He doesn't seem to realize that it should be said only once."—Philadelphia Press.

For the Serious Moment.

"I hear he refused to take chloroform when he was operated on."

"Yes; he said he'd rather take it when he paid his bill."

HE LOVED THE THEATER.

Farces and Clowns Were the Joy of George III. of England.

Few men of any rank or time have ever derived so much unaffected pleasure from the theater as George III. In fact, in the words of a contemporary, it was "as good as a play to hear the royal laughter and note the genuine enjoyment of his majesty." "He is said," Thackeray wrote, "not to have cared for Shakespeare or tragedy much. Farces and pantomimes were his joy, and especially when the clown swallowed a carrot or a string of sausages he would laugh so outrageously that the lovely princess by his side would have to say, 'My gracious, monarch, do compose yourself!' And he continued to laugh and at the very smallest farces as long as his poor wits were left him."

So frequent were George's visits to the theater that "his face was the most familiar in London to playgoers, who took no more notice of his presence than if he had been a simple citizen, except when his boisterous laughter drew attention to him and started others laughing out of irresistible infection." As familiar a spectacle as that of his majesty purple and rolling with laughter was to see him sleeping as peacefully as a child between the acts.

So partial was he to actors that he permitted and even smiled at liberties which he would have resented in any one else. On one occasion, when Parsons was playing in "The Siege of Calais," the actor walked toward the box in which George was sitting and addressed him in the words of his part: "An the king were here and did not admire my scaffold I would say: 'Hang him! He has no taste,'" a piece of impudence which threw his majesty into a fit of laughter.—London Tit-Bits.

PRONUNCIATION.

Read Over This Test and Then Consult Your Dictionary.

The following rather curious piece of composition was placed upon the blackboard at a certain teachers' institute and a prize of a dictionary offered to any person who could read it and pronounce every word correctly. The book was not carried off, as twelve was the lowest number of mistakes in pronunciation made:

"A sacrilegious son of Belial who has suffered from bronchitis, having exhausted his finances in order to make good the deficit, resolved to ally himself to a comely, lenient and docile young lady of the Malay or Caucasian race. He accordingly purchased a calliope and coral necklace of a chameleon hue and securing a suit of rooms at a principal hotel he engaged the head waiter as his coadjutor. He then dispatched a letter of the most unexceptional caligraphy extant, inviting the young lady to a matinee. She revolted at the idea, refused to consider herself sacrificable to his desires and sent a polite note of refusal, on receiving which he procured a carbine and bowie knife, said that he would not now forge fetters hymeneal with the queen and went to an isolated spot, severed his jugular vein and discharged the contents of the carbine into his abdomen. The debris was removed by the coroner."

The mistakes in pronunciation were made on the following words: Sacrilegious, Belial, bronchitis, exhausted, finances, deficit, comely, lenient, docile, Malay, calliope, chameleon, suit, coadjutor, caligraphy, matinee, sacrificable, carbine, hymeneal, isolated, jugular and debris.

The Triumphant Spider.

A little garter snake about five inches long went to sleep in a wheelwright shop, and a big black spider spun a web around the reptile. When the little snake awoke it was literally in the toils and began to struggle. It finally managed to free its body, but not its head. Meanwhile the spider was industriously spinning fresh threads, stopping occasionally to give the snake a bite. Then the real fight commenced and lasted for an hour. The snake could not get away, but it tried its best to bite the spider, without avail. Weakened by its futile efforts and the successive stings of the insect, it gradually ceased to struggle and finally died. Then the spider, presumably triumphant, disappeared under the wall.

The Buttered Side.

A woman who is a close observer of children was out walking in the country one day, she relates, when she saw a little girl with solemn big blue eyes sitting on a doorstep munching a huge slice of bread and butter. The only peculiarity about the operation was that she was holding the buttered side of the bread toward the ground.

"Why do you hold your bread and butter that way?" asked the lady.

"Tause," whispered the little maiden confidentially, "mamma says bwead always falls butter side down, so if you hold it butter side down to start wif and then dwop it, why, of course, it falls butter side up."

Paid Her Back.

"Gracious, my dear," said the first society belle spitefully, "I trust you're not ill! You look so much older tonight."

"Do I, dear?" the other replied sweetly. "I feel quite well. And you—how wonderfully improved you are! You look positively young!"

A Subtle Distinction.

"Did the critics like your performance of Hamlet?"

"The critics," answered Mr. Stormington Barnes, "liked it. But a large number of persons who assume to be critics did not."—Washington Star.

Nothing more completely baffles one who is full of trick and duplicity than straightforward and simple integrity in another.—Colton.

MARRIAGE IN MEXICO.

How the Engagement and Wedding Ceremonies Are Celebrated.

The Mexican people are hospitable to a fault, always welcoming their friends even though they have not enough to eat themselves. And they religiously visit the sick, including those who have contagious diseases. They are also addicted to public social functions, the invariable mode of entertainment being the dance. They are fond of music, though not proficient in the art of making it, probably more from lack of opportunity than from lack of capacity. The violin and guitar are the usual instruments of music, the repertory of the local musicians being usually limited to a few tunes which are in equal demand for the dance and for the funeral.

One of the most interesting and beautiful of the social functions is the prendorio. When a young man wishes to marry he asks for the girl of his choice of the parents, not of the girl herself, and if she is given the prendorio at once follows, ushered in by shooting and demonstrations of joy. The bride and bridegroom are publicly presented to their future parents-in-law, after which the company pass in procession in front of the couple, each one dropping a piece of money into the hands of the bride. Then follows the inevitable dance. This public betrothal is considered almost as binding as marriage, and I have heard of but one instance in which the compact was not kept, the recreant bridegroom in that case being visited with ostracism. The betrothal is usually followed by marriage just as soon as the services of the priest can be secured. The marriage ceremony is followed by a feast more notable for the abundance of things to drink than for things to eat and by the usual dance. Indeed the festivities are often prolonged for several nights after the wedding.—Southern Workman.

THE AGE OF STARS.

Color Aids the Astronomer In Making His Calculations.

As a star contracts from the surrounding nebulous matter from which it was thrown off its temperature rises, and with this augmented heat occurs a change both in the star's spectrum and color. Redhot iron is not nearly so hot as white hot iron. By observing the various changes in tint which the metal undergoes the foundryman is able to tell with considerable accuracy its degree of heat. A somewhat similar method of gauging a star's temperature, and therefore its age, is relied upon by the astronomer. Color, then, and spectroscopic analysis enable the astronomer to estimate the age of orbs that are only beginning to exist as stars and others whose light is fast fading.

After having coagulated, as it were, from a nebulous mass, a star assumes a color that may be best described as an intense bluish white, much like that of the electric arc. Stars of that hue are, therefore, in their infancy. Then comes the white stage, followed by the yellow, orange and red, each succeeding hue indicating greater celestial antiquity than the last. Up to the yellow period the star as it contracts grows hotter and hotter. Then a gradual cooling takes place. Accompanying the changes in color are changes in the spectrum of the star—changes that indicate a modification in physical structure. In the bluish white period of a star's infancy the characteristic wide lines of hydrogen gas predominate in the spectrum. As the color changes, the lines of calcium, magnesium and iron appear, the hydrogen lines gradually becoming thinner and those of calcium broader.—Booklovers Magazine.

Traffic in Human Skin.

The skin grafting experiments which have been so successful of recent years have led to a new form of livelihood, which is fairly remunerative. Several of the London hospitals have on their books the names and addresses of many men and women who have undertaken to sell portions of their cuticle whenever the necessity arises, and it is said that quite a regular traffic is now being done in the buying and selling of human skin. The persons who are willing to sacrifice their flesh for money are by no means confined to the poor and destitute class.—London Mail.

The Postal Union.

The first step toward the formation of the postal union, which has had such wide results, came from Germany in the shape of a proposal for an international postal congress. This met at Berne in 1873, when twenty-two countries joined the union, including the whole of Europe. A second congress met in Paris in 1878, when ten other countries came in, and the official title, "International Postal Union," was definitely fixed. Its sphere was further enlarged at congresses at Lisbon in 1885 and at Vienna in 1891.

The Attraction.

Prim Mother—My son, I am afraid you are going to make a mistake in marrying Miss Easyways. Both she and her mother are fearfully lax housekeepers. Son—I know it, mother; that's what caught me. It's so comfortable over there, you know. I can sit down anywhere in the parlor without being told that I'm mussing things up!—Detroit Free Press.

An Uneasy Seat.

"Pa," said Tommy, opening the paper, "who sits on the seat of war?"

"No one," responded papa, "because the seat of war generally has a tack in it."—Baltimore Herald.

The great question is not so much what money you have in your pocket as what you will buy with it.—Ruskin.

Command great fields, but cultivate small ones.—Virgil.

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J. D. BACCHUS,

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