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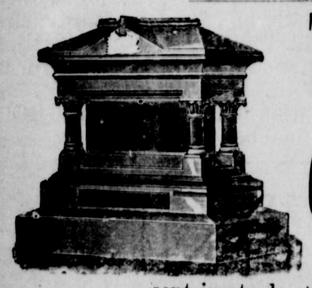

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SPENDTHRIFT BALZAC.

Extravagance of the Man Who Had a Mountain of Debts.

"With Balzac's rising fame rises the mountain of his debts," writes a critic. "These, starting from his two disastrous years of printing and publishing in Paris, accumulated until at the top of his literary renown he had to hide from his creditors in a garret under the name of his landlady or his washerwoman. In 1837 Balzac, at that date the best known and the most debated novelist in France, owed 162,000 francs, about $32,500. Then he must needs buy a cane which was the talk of Paris, some gold buttons for a new coat, a 'divine opera glass' and a dressing gown beyond words and give a dinner to the dandies of the opera respecting which Rossini said that 'he had not seen more magnificence when he dined at royal tables.'

"Balzac three times a millionaire would still have buried himself in debt, for the mental exaltation of his creative hours was reproduced when he broke loose from the galley bench. He lavished in anticipation the wealth he had dreamed would be his. This gone, he borrowed anew or devised another of those schemes that were to enrich him beyond the possibilities of literature. His schemes were essentially a part of Balzac, the sovereign, unconquerable visionary.

"He would transport oaks from Poland to France; nothing like oaks from Poland to make your fortune three times over! Behold him again gravely working out his plan to make a corner in all the arts and putting up the Apollo Belvedere for competition among the nations—to act as auctioneer to Europe—the 'child man,' as his devoted sister, Mme. Surville, used to call him."

CHAINED BOOKS.

The Custom at One Time Extended to Lincoln's Inn, London.

When one looks in bookshop windows nowadays and contemplates the bewildering abundance of volumes of all kinds of literature offered at the low price of $1.50 or less he finds it difficult to realize that time was when a Bible cost as much as $10,000 in our present money. No wonder it was kept chained in churches. The Black Books of Lincoln's Inn, London, show that this practice of chaining obtained there. There is an entry during the reign of King James I. "that decent stooles be provided and that moveable desks be also made and chains for the book," and a few years later the inn payments include 20 shillings for twenty dozen of chains and rings for the library, and there is a fresh order made that "all considerable bookes be chayned."

It appears that none of the existing books in the library retain their chains or any part of them, but a considerable number—about forty—still have riveted to the binding the ring or hasp by which the chain was attached, and many more show the mark left by rings now removed.

The "moveable desk" and the "decent stoole" were essential appurtenances of a chained library of any size. Even the zeal of a mediaeval student was not equal to holding a chained folio. In the accounts of the Middle Temple "chayns for the bokes of the librarie" is a constantly recurring item, and a reader in Gray's Inn in bequeathing his library gives 40 shillings to the intent that he—the trustee—"maie by chaynes fasten so many of them in the librarie at Gray's Inn as he shall thinke convenyente."

Mrs. Gummidge.

We have her with us always. Her nose droops, her mouth turns down at the corners, her complexion is generally sallow, her eyes lusterless, and when small tribulation or great calamity happens to the family she "feels it more than the others." Wonderful is Dickens' delineation of Mrs. Gummidge, whom little Davy found such treasure trove for his interested observation; who, when the chimney smoked or the potatoes failed, wept silently, because, forsooth, "I feels it more than others." She is the girl at school who forever is having her feelings hurt. "Very sensitive," say her friends; "very self conscious," sniff her critics.—Philadelphia Telegraph.

Paris Court Trials.

The demand for seats at a Paris court trial is utilized by the poor to turn an honest franc. The courtrooms usually admit of but forty visitors other than the regular court officers. It is common for a crowd to collect in front of the court many hours before the door is open and wait patiently in line. Just before the trial begins, when the doors are open, these men, who have perhaps been standing all night in the rain, are glad to sell their places for a few francs.

Her Conclusion.

"I've got my opinion of a woman that can't cook," growled William De Kikkur, glaring at his better half. "I suppose that if our cook would get married I'd starve to death!"

"You needn't worry about that, William," said Mrs. De K. gently. "Our cook has been married once, and I don't consider it at all likely that she would care to"—

But her irate spouse had slammed the door behind him.—Cleveland Leader.

Hourglass Waists.

"Doctor," said a fashionable belle, "what do you think of tight lacing?"

The doctor solemnly replied, "Madam, all I can say is that the more a woman's waist is shaped like an hourglass the sooner will her sands of life run out."

The head of a theological school once said, "I've seen so many fools succeed and so many geniuses come to nothing that I have ceased to prophesy."—Christian Register.

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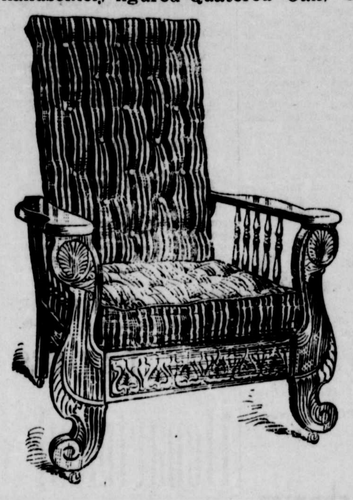

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DELINQUENT

Tax Notice

THE COUNTY TREASURER hereby noifies al delinquent tax payers that unless a settlement is made

Before April First

that their Tax Bills will be given to the sheriff on that day for collection.

As the Treasurer shall insist on prompt settlement of all taxes delivered to the Sheriff, he respectfully requests all parties interested to make a settlement before such time and thereby save themselves the extra expense.

WALTER H. HADAWAY, Treasurer

feb25-tf.

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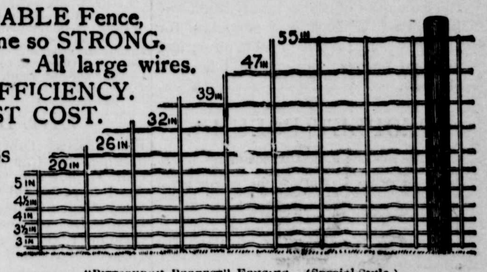

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