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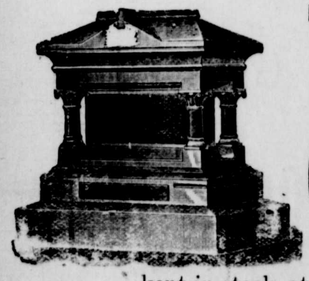
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POETS AND THUNDER.

A Description by Byron and a Comment on It by Scott.

Byron in the third canto of "Childe Harold" describes a thunderstorm in Switzerland which occurred at midnight on June 13, 1816. He notices the awful stillness which precedes it:

All heaven and earth are still, though not in sleep,
But breathless,
until
From peak to peak, the rattling crags among,
Leaps the live thunder! Not from one lone cloud,
But every mountain now hath found a tongue,
And Jura answers, through her misty shroud,
Back to the joyous Alps, who call to her aloud!

The description is too long to quote, and, indeed, too well known, but Sir Walter Scott's criticism on it may not be so well known. He says:

"This is one of the most beautiful passages of the poem. The 'fierce and far delight' of a thunderstorm is here described in verse almost as vivid as its lightnings. The live thunder 'leaping among the rattling crags,' the voice of mountains, as if shouting to each other, the plashing of the big rain, the gleaming of the wide lake, lighted like a phosphoric sea, present a picture of sublime terror, yet of enjoyment, often attempted, but never so well, certainly never better, brought out in poetry."—Notes and Queries.

A HOT CHALLENGE.

Colonel Frank Wolford and His First Kentucky Cavalry.

In the essays by Eugene Newman on public men and events a good story is told of Frank Wolford, who commanded the First Kentucky cavalry of the Union army and who later was a representative in congress from that state.

It was said that the colonel of the First Kentucky had some novel commands that he "fired" at the boys, such as "Huddle up, thar!" "Scatter out, thar!" and "Form a line of fight!" It is related that when some West Point officers were sent out to investigate and report on the efficiency of certain volunteer regiments Wolford's cavalry fell under their scrutiny, and they criticized it very severely. Wolford heard them patiently and then said:

"See them two rigiments over thar? One is a Michigander and the other an Ohier squad. You have just passed them as all right. Now, I know nothing about your drills, your evolutions and your maneuvers. My boys know how to ride, how to shoot, how to fight and how to stand fire, and you take them two rigiments over thar I showed you. Station them whar you please—on any ground, in town or country, in field or in forest—and I will take my rigiment, and what we don't kill or cripple of them me and my boys will chase out of the state of Tennessee before the sun is in the heavens tomorrow morning."

Types of Old World Beauty.

It is said that when artists are seeking for models the palm for beauty and symmetry of figure is given to the girls of Spain, while the daughters of rural Ireland are a good second. The pretty faces and graceful throats are found among English maidens. A model for a perfect arm would be sought for among Grecian ladies, while a lady of the Turkish harem would be regarded as the possessor of a daintily commendable hand. Italians are usually good in figure and some of the most beautiful models, perfectly proportioned, are derived from the women of sunny Italy. Frenchwomen, as a rule, are not in request, being too thin and vivacious for the purpose, while the face and limbs of a German frau are too commonplace for artistic work.—London Standard.

When the Negro Was Created.

The Mexican Indians, as well as those of most of the Central American republics, have a superstition to the effect that the negro was made before either the white man or the Indian or even before the sun was created. They account for his color by declaring that he was made and dried in the dark. Their own race, they say, was made in the morning of the first day between daylight and sunup. On this account they delight in a term which they apply to each other and which signifies "dawn people." The white man, "who fears darkness and cannot stand heat," was made, according to their belief, at noon on the first day of creation.

Mme. de Remusat.

Mme. de Remusat had features so perfect that her contemporaries said she was worthy to sit as a model for a Greek goddess. The flesh of her face closely resembled alabaster, and yet she was not pale and did not give the impression of being in delicate health. Her beauty attracted universal attention to her, no matter where she went, and even in old age she retained most of her good looks.

Sarcastic.

In Boston the other day a young lawyer who spends most of his time trying to seem busy and prosperous went out for awhile, leaving on his door a card neatly marked, "Will be back in an hour." On his return he found that some envious rival had inscribed underneath "What for?"

No Chance For Ennui.

Aunt Ann—How do you girls get along at your club? Miss Mandy—Well, of course, we don't get along at all, but we have a good deal better time than if we did.—Chicago Tribune.

It Didn't Work.

Jackson—Some time ago my wife and I agreed that it would be best to tell each other our faults. Waxton—How did it work? Jackson—She hasn't spoken to me for six weeks.

THE UGLY OCTOPUS.

It Is One of the Most Repulsive and Hideous of Creatures.

A greedy, voracious, relentless creature is the octopus, and a most formidable enemy even to man, for it is easier to cut or tear off one of those terrible long arms with its two rows of suckers than to induce the creature to relinquish any prey it has laid hold of.

These suckers also enable it to drag its body into very narrow crevices, from which scarcely any force will avail to remove it.

Like its beautiful brother the argonaut, it defies its enemies by ejecting ink, but the octopus is so subtle and clever that he can vary the color of his ink according to the color of the ground he is passing over, and, as he is very active and darts about at lightning speed, he constantly escapes being caught.

He is an unsociable creature, apparently quite satisfied with his own society, as he roams about alone, seeking what he may devour on rocky shores, where he may be met with of all sizes, varying in length from an inch to two or more feet.

The octopus has one very curious habit—when resting he coils up some of his arms into a semblance of the shell of the argonaut.—Pearson's Weekly.

A MARKET PRIMER.

It Tells About the Butcher and the Way He Sells His Meat.

What is the man doing behind the counter?

He is selling meat. Let us watch him.

What is the lady going up to the counter for?

To buy meat from the greasy man with the white apron.

What does she ask for?

A five pound roast of porterhouse.

What does he give her?

A seven pound roast.

Then does he charge her only for what she asked for?"

No, indeed. He charges her for what he chose to give her.

Didn't the lady know what she wanted?

Evidently the man didn't think so.

Can't he tell the weight of a piece of meat when he picks it up?

Certainly he can. Otherwise he would never be able to know that he is always selling you a piece of meat several pounds bigger than you wanted.

Why does the man do this?

It is impossible to associate constantly with greasy things and not become pretty smooth yourself. Now run and play.—Baltimore American.

FISHING LINES.

The Very Finest Are Those Formed From Silkworm Gut.

Silkworm gut forms the best line for fishing purposes, partly on account of its great tenacity and partly because it is so transparent. Every year a sufficient number of Spanish silkworm grubs are selected for this purpose. After they have eaten enough mulberry leaves and before they begin to spin they are thrown into vinegar for several hours. Each insect is killed, and the substance which the grub in the natural course would have spun into a cocoon is forcibly drawn from the dead worm into a much thicker and shorter silken thread.

The threads are then placed in pure water for about four hours and afterward dipped for ten minutes in a solution of soft soap. The fine outer skin is thus loosened so that the workman can remove it with his hands. The threads must be dried in a shady place and are often bleached with sulphur vapor until they acquire the bright appearance of spun glass.—London Telegraph.

The Waiters.

Usefulness of any man or woman lies principally in the willingness back of the hands to do as well as they possibly can whatever comes their way. As a rule, it will be found that the most useless persons in the world are those who are "waiting" for something to turn up. And by the same sign it is a fact that the most useful beings are those who have taken up the first thing that came to hand and done the best they could with it. These people usually find something to their liking in the long run, too, and if this be denied them they have the good sense to learn to like what comes.

Long Flight by Night.

Nearly all small birds make their long flights by night, spending the daytime quietly feeding and resting, so that if on any day in May the treetops are full of flitting little warblers it is no sign that the following day will find them still there. Some kinds, like phoebes, song sparrows, meadow larks and bluebirds, come very early—as soon as the snow is all gone and the south sloping hillsides begin to feel warm and "smell of spring."—St. Nicholas.

Nothing of the Kind.

"Now, sir," said the advocate, cross examining a witness, "your answers are not satisfactory. I am afraid you are slightly ambiguous."

Witness (with great indignation)—I am naething o' the kind, sir. I'm a strict teetotaler.—London Tit-Bits.

Suspicious.

Junior Partner—The bookkeeper has been married nearly six months now. Senior Partner—Well? Junior Partner—Well, he hasn't asked for a raise in salary. Senior Partner—Heavens! We'll have to have his accounts examined.—Philadelphia Press.

Be brave in trouble; meet distress with dauntless courage; but when the gale for prosperity blows be wise, no less, and shorten sail.—Horace.

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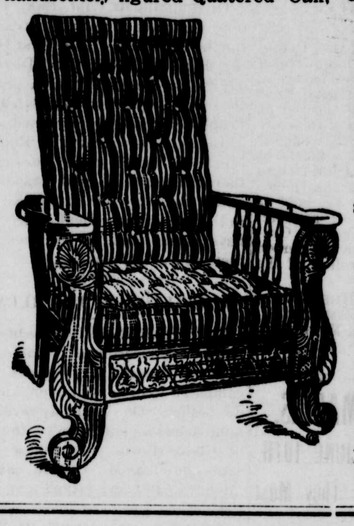
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