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## A HEARTY LAUGH.

**It Is a Blessing, This Reflex of a Sunshiny Soul.**

The cold, chilling atmosphere which sometimes pervades a reception or other social gathering is often entirely dissipated by the hearty, ringing laughter of some simple, genuine soul who is bubbling over with fun. The stiffness and constraint which a minute before embarrassed the whole company are relieved as if by magic.

There is something in genuine, spontaneous humor which removes all restraint, scatters embarrassment, relieves tension and welds souls together as no introduction or conversation can. It puts the shy at ease, dissipates prejudice, gives confidence to the timid and reassures the shrinking soul. The cheery smile or the spontaneous laugh awakens sympathy and arouses feelings of friendliness. It seems to melt all barriers.

Oh, what riches live in a sunny soul! What a blessed heritage is a sunny face, to be able to fling out sunshine wherever one goes, to be able to scatter the shadows and to lighten sorrow laden hearts, to have power to send cheer into despairing souls through a sunny and a radiant heart! And if, haply, this heritage is combined with a superb manner and exquisite personality, no money wealth can compare with its value.

This blessing is not very difficult of acquisition, for a sunny face is but a reflection of a warm, generous heart. The sunshine does not appear first upon the face, but in the soul. The glad smile that makes the face radiant is but a glimpse of the soul's sunshine. —O. S. Marden in Success Magazine.

## UNIQUE FEATS.

**Odd Physical Tricks That People Here and There Can Do.**

A group of traveling men were discussing unique feats and physical tricks that people here and there can do.

"I know a Chicagoan," said one, "who can whistle a tune and hum its accompaniment at the same time. He whistles through a flat, not through the usual round hole, and the deep, musical accompaniment together with the shrill sweetness of the whistle makes a mighty attractive thing to hear."

"I knew a barber," said the second drummer, "who had a unique way of cracking nuts. He would place a nut between the back of his head and a stone or brick wall, and then he would give himself a sharp rap on the forehead with his fist. The nuts would crack open every time."

"A Manayunk man," said the third, "can give his head a jerk that turns back his eyelids. He has to turn them down again with his fingers. This is an ugly feat, and I'm glad it is rare."

"I knew at school," said the fourth drummer, "a boy named Bucky Adams who could play tunes by snapping his fingers. The thumb and first two fingers of each hand would work away busily, and forth would come the clearest, sweetest, faintest music. I used to sit with Bucky Adams, and many a tedious school session would he make shorter and pleasanter with this odd gift."—New York Press.

**Pure Olive Oil.**

If olive oil congeals in freezing weather, it is a sign that it is adulterated with lard. Very few bottles of so called olive oil will stand this simple test—in fact, we seldom get the pure thing, and, if we did, the chances are that we could not eat it. At least, that was the experience once upon a time of one woman who used a great deal of mayonnaise dressing upon her table and had supposed that she doted on olive oil. An Italian friend bestowed upon her a flask of the peculiarly green fluid. To her surprise, not one of her family, herself included, could bear its taste. There was a tang to it which showed them that they had never eaten olive oil before and that they never wanted to eat it again. So they gave the flask away.—New York Telegram.

**Thackeray's Apology.**

Thackeray once wrote in a note to a friend, alluding to an incident occasioned by one of his articles in Punch: "I thought over the confounded matter in the railroad and wrote instantly on arriving here a letter of contrition and apology to Henry Taylor for having made what I see now was a flippant and offensive allusion to Mrs. Taylor. I am glad I have done it. I am glad that so many people whom I have been thinking bigoted and unfair and unjust toward me have been right and that I have been wrong, and my mind is an immense deal easier."

**A Great Idea.**

"My new play is sure to make a hit," said the great actress. "It gives me an opportunity to display twenty new gowns."

"Gracious!" exclaimed her friend. "How many acts?"

"Only four, but in one of them the scene's at a dressmaker's."—Philadelphia Press.

**Talents.**

As to the great and commanding talents, they are the gift of Providence in some way unknown to us. They rise where they are least expected. They fail when everything seems disposed to produce them, or at least to call them forth.—Burke.

**Evolution.**

"There is an old proverb that a man becomes what he eats."

"Then I suppose all the cannibals will be missionaries in time."—Cleveland Leader.

Philosophy does not regard pedigree. She did not receive Plato as a noble, but made him so.—Seneca.

**The Congressional Library.**

In its fine building the library of congress should be safe against destruction for many centuries. Fire has cost the world many of its greatest collections. It ruined the ancient Alexandrian library of the Ptolemies when the Christians sacked the temple of Serapis in the year 275. It cost the world thousands of ancient manuscripts that were stored in Constantinople when the Crusaders captured the city. Twice the library of congress has suffered by fire—first at the destruction of the capitol by the British in 1814 and again in 1851. In its present housing it is protected by every possible safeguard and directed in its development by the most expert of custodians. And with a sense of pride in which all Americans must share the nation has given to its foremost sculptors and artists the opportunity to enrich its walls with their works. It is a monument to American thought and learning, which must grow in value and significance with each year. —New York World.

**Too Curious.**

One well known New York woman has discovered, like some others of her sex, that it does not pay to be too curious. One of the old family retainers is a Scotchman named William, who does not believe in glossing over the truth for the sake of sparing his listener's feelings. The woman in question, although possessed of considerable charm of manner, is not a beauty and knows it. Her husband, recently deceased, was a remarkably handsome man, and his wife was one of his sincerest admirers. One day when she was looking at her husband's picture on the mantel in the sitting room William was fussing around the grate, and in a moment of impulse she asked:

"William, what do you think made such a handsome man as Colonel S. marry such a plain woman as me?"

William looked from the portrait to the speaker, meditated a second and answered:

"Must have been heaven's will, ma'am."

**The African Drum.**

The African drum appears in varied and often picturesque forms. The natives make drums out of shells, tree trunks or earthenware, covered with the skin of some wild animal or sometimes with india rubber. Of the original calabash drums there is probably only one specimen in Europe. Some of the drums are highly ornamented either by painting or carving. One specimen, indeed, has puzzled travelers, for there is depicted on it unmistakably a cross and also a head of European type. A drum found in upper Lualaba has a unique peculiarity in the way of a "sympathetic cord," formed by means of a small tube ingeniously inserted in the side of the instrument, which causes, when the drum is beaten, a vibration resembling that of the reed pipe.—Southern Workman.

**A Plea For Soup.**

A learned doctor, pleading for soup on every dinner table, says: "A person comes to dinner weary and hungry and needs first something to stimulate the secretions of the stomach. The first course, hot soup, does this by its action upon the nerves which control the blood vessels. Taking the soup slowly is an aid to digestion, and if not a favorite dish fish or oysters can be substituted, serving the same purpose. The joint or roast can then be taken with benefit to the system, and the game, vegetables and sweets should follow in their order, not necessarily in courses for the plain family dinner, however."

**Mileage of the Blood.**

The mileage of the blood circulation reveals some astounding facts in our personal history. Thus it has been calculated that, assuming the heart to beat 69 times a minute at ordinary heart pressure, the blood goes at the rate of 207 yards in the minute, or seven miles per hour, 168 miles per day and 6,320 miles per year. If a man of eighty-four years of age could have one single blood corpuscle floating in his blood all his life it would have traveled in that same time 5,150,808 miles.

**Watch and See.**

A well known horseman describes a fact in natural history which may not be generally known. It is that all four footed beasts in making the first movement in walking, running or any sort of forward motion always employ the left hind leg as a starter. Even a child if put down on all fours and bidden to advance in that position will make the first move with its left leg, its hands at the time occupying the place of an animal's fore legs.

**An Accomplished Fact.**

"Grandma, may I take that piece of chocolate you left on the table? I will be so good."

"Yes, you may take it."

The little girl does not move.

"Why don't you go and get it?"

"Oh, grandma, dear, I ate it first!"

**Something He Had Forgotten.**

Small Boy—Mister, kin you change a ten dollar bill? Mister—No, sonny. That belongs strictly to my wife's share of the domestic duties. I might have been able to change one long ago, but I'm clean out o' practice now.

**An Awful Stab.**

"And you call this chair unique? Why, it isn't any older than I am!"

"Well, ma'am, that may be, but it's antique, ail right."—Houston Post.

**Exaggerated.**

A publisher advertises: "'The Wives of Henry VIII.' Third thousand." Surely there is some exaggeration here. —Punch

**Pawning a Bank Book.**

The pawning of the wedding ring has become a pathetic commonplace to those who are familiar with police court and coroner's court stories or with the private petitions for help of the deserving and undeserving poor. But we confess that with the Westminster magistrate we have never heard before of pawning bank books. Yet on expert pawnbroker's evidence elicited by police inquiry it is found that this is not at all an unusual practice. In the vast majority of cases it would seem to be a simpler matter to draw on the bank account rather than borrow on the strength of it from the pawnshop. But one of the unfortunate possibilities of the practice is revealed in the particular case mentioned at Westminster. A picture frame maker, wishing to withdraw £3 from the bank, could not find his bank book and then learned that his wife had been putting the book in and out of pawn for eight years, having borrowed £7 10s. on it the first time, and of course she had been paying interest on her various transactions.—London Pall Mall Gazette.

**Robinson Crusoe, Economist.**

When the average boy spends the delighted hours of imaginative youth in devouring the pages of "Robinson Crusoe" he has, like most people of more mature years, no idea that he is perusing a work of profound philosophy written by one of the greatest political thinkers of the English speaking race.

Taken with a knowledge of the facts of the career of De Foe, "Robinson Crusoe" can properly be considered a story intended to illustrate the heavy burden of trouble placed upon any single individual isolated from his fellows and compelled to maintain his existence without their aid. The tale shows in an inimitable way how all civilized men are interdependent. Regarded from this point of view, the author of the most widely read work of fiction ever written becomes an object of particular interest to all thinkers upon politics.—William N. Hill, M. D., in Watson's Magazine.

**To "Pound" Words.**

When the reputability of punning is under discussion it is well to bear in mind that the very name of the jest confesses to a degree of atrocity. To "pun," according to the London Chronicle, is to "pound" words, to beat them into forced conditions, so the philologists believe. "He would pun thee into shivers with his fist," says Thersites in "Troilus and Cressida," meaning physical "pounding." "Pun" is not a slipshod development of "pound," but its original form, the Anglo-Saxon verb being "punian," and "pun" or "poun" having developed a final "d," just as "soun" became "sound" and as the illiterate turn "gown" into "gownd." Curiously enough, "pun" and "pound" have no connection with "punching" a man's head, which is simply "punishing," contracted, or with "punching" a ticket, which goes back to the Latin "pungere," to prick or puncture.

**Sir Humphry Davy.**

Sir Humphry Davy married a widow as peculiar as himself. His pet affectation was a lack of time. He was always in a hurry. He pretended that he had no leisure to dress himself, and when a change of linen became necessary he simply put one shirt over another until he was known to have on five or six shirts at a time. Of course he could not wear this amount of apparel without appreciably increasing his size, and his friends not in the secret were sometimes surprised to see him fall off in apparent weight twenty pounds in a day. His wife's great anxiety was to keep him "fit for company," but as he did not care a fig for company she had no easy task, and domestic discord was a common thing.

**Ancient Cups.**

The cups of the Assyrians closely resembled our saucers. Every nobleman and gentleman had his own cup and cup bearer, the latter of whom always accompanied him to a feast, carrying before him the cup of gold, silver, crystal or marble, which his master only used on state occasions. Saucers for cups were introduced in the latter part of the eighteenth century and at first were greatly ridiculed, the persons who employed them being said not to be able to drink without having two cups.

**Two Different Matters.**

"I cannot understand, sir, why you permit your daughter to sue me for breach of promise. You remember that you were bitterly opposed to our engagement because I wasn't good enough for her and would disgrace the family."

"Young man, that was sentiment; this is business."

**Selecting Judges.**

Dr. Franklin thought that judges ought to be appointed by lawyers, for, added the shrewd man, in Scotland, where this practice prevails, they always select the ablest member of the profession in order to get rid of him and share his practice among themselves.

**Cured His Mother of Rheumatism.**

"My mother has been a sufferer for many yeaas from rheumatism," says W. H. Howard of Husband, Pennsylvania. "At times she was unable to move at all, while at all times walking was painful. I presented her with a bottle of Chamberlain's Pain Balm and after a few applications she decided it was the most wonderful pain reliever she had ever tried, in fact, she is never without it now and is at all times able to walk. An occasional application of Pain Balm keeps away the pain that she was formerly troubled with." For sale by M. A. Toulson, Druggist.

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**Dreams.**

A scientist explains some of the strange phenomena of dreams by saying that they are due to what he calls "hereditary memory." He takes the "falling through space" dream and points out that after suffering the mental agony of falling the sleeper escapes the shock of the actual stopping. The explanation is that the falling sensations have been transmitted from remote ancestors who were fortunate enough to save themselves after falling from great heights in treetops by clutching the branches. The molecular changes in the cerebral cells due to the shock of stopping could not be transmitted because victims falling to the bottom would be killed. In a similar manner by reverting to the habits of animals which existed centuries ago the same investigator finds an explanation for the mental state experienced by individuals in various dreams—the "pursuing monster" dream, the "reptile and vermin" dream, color dreams, suffocation dreams, flying dreams and the like.

**Quack Medicines of Bygone Days.**

Nearly everything in the animal kingdom was formerly used in the healing art. In the oldest medical book now known, composed in Heliopolis, where once Joseph served in the house of Potiphar, we find "means for increasing the growth of hair, prepared for Schesch, the mother of Teta, the king of upper and lower Egypt."

Dogs' teeth, overripe dates and asses' hoofs were carefully cooked in oil and then grated. As Teta lived before Cheops, this recipe for hair oil is older than the great pyramid at Gizeh and is supposed to date back more than 6,000 years. The heads of venomous serpents have held an important place in medicine. A strong broth made from them and mixed with salt and spices and 100 other remedies was employed under the name of theriac as a cure for every conceivable disease. Three drops of the blood of an angry cat gave relief to the epileptic.

**Camp Tidbits.**

The muskrat may be broiled over the hot embers, with sliced bacon so arranged that the drippings run over the musquash as it cooks, or it may be made into a stew with vegetables and pork, and in this case the longer it simmers over the fire the better will be the results. Only seasoned campers ever have an opportunity to feast on the delicious nose of a moose or know the delights of marrowbones of deer split and mixed with parched cornmeal and cooked all night, or dried venison pounded to fragments and cooked with rich bear's fat, musk turtle soup, porcupine steaks, with hellbenders as a side dish. And, although thousands of muskrats are killed and eaten every year in Maryland and Delaware, probably but few of my readers in the northern states will experiment with this rodent.—Outing.

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