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—THE PRACTICAL—

Watchmaker, Jeweler, and Optician.

XMAS is nearly here and I will say a few words in plain talk. There are towns where people have to put up with being compelled to buy in one store, but you ought not. You have a broad field before you. I am here to protect you from all this experience and you ought to appreciate and patronize me as well as others by purchasing your Xmas and Wedding Gifts from me, and that would be to your own benefit. Keep competition in existence and you will draw the benefit.

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Price 25 Cents.

Manufactured by

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A COONSKIN FARE.

It Would Have Paid the Traveler to Let the Change Go.

Many years ago, as the story runs, when coonskins were worth six bits apiece in Arkansas and a regular fee of two bits was assessed for ferrying a horseman across the St. Francis river, there came along a traveler whose entire capital consisted of but a single pelt, and the ferryman hadn't a cent of change in his pocket.

The traveler was bound to cross, but refused to pay three times as much as the man who passed before him or the one who was to come next. The ferryman would not wet an oar unless payment for his services was assured. Here was ample foundation for an argument, and presumably the opportunity was not neglected. But a satisfactory arrangement was finally reached, the traveler getting value received for his coonskin by being wafted thrice across the stream. This of course would leave him on the right side, and neither party to the trade would have cause for complaint. Such was the generous spirit of accommodation which obtained in these earlier days, such—but hold on a bit.

On the second trip the ferryman chanced to inspect the coonskin closely and found that it was by no means up to the recognized standard. Maybe it had been killed too early in the season or was not properly stretched. Anyway, he decided that four bits was all it was worth, and the traveler frankly admitted the soundness of his judgment, acknowledged that he had received its value in the double ferriage and forthwith started on his fifty mile ride up the river to the nearest point where it was fordable.—Field and Stream.

A LONG LOST CITY.

Tanagra, the Site of the Modern Town of Gremada, In Greece.

Gremada is the name of the modern city in Boeotia, Greece, which occupies the site of the ancient city of Tanagra. The old town was a rich and luxurious place, greatly renowned for the cockfights that were given there. It had the honor of being the birthplace of Corinna, the great poetess of the fifth century before Christ, and perpetuated her memory by a majestic tomb, on which she was represented five times crowned in remembrance of the five victories which she had gained in the lyrical contests with Pindar. Despite this comparative celebrity it appeared destined to the eternal sleep of forgetfulness when after more than twenty two centuries of silence chance drew to it the attention of archaeologists.

In 1870 the inhabitants of the neighboring villages while digging in their fields exposed to view some tombs which the French have assigned to the nineteenth century before the Christian era. The discovery of these first sepulchers was the cause of excavations, during which a quantity of other tombs were discovered, all situated along the roads which led from the walls of Tanagra in the direction of Thebes, Chalcis, Harnia and Platae.

Among this mass of tombs belonging to several centuries the most interest attaches to those of the fourth century before the Christian era on account of their contents. It was in these particularly that the statuettes known today under the name of "Tanagra figurines" were for the most part discovered.

He Lost His Dignity.

A pompous individual from the east, says a Texas newspaper, happened to be traveling in western Texas and stopping at a hotel, when trouble started among some cowboys, who prepared to conduct the argument with revolvers.

"Stranger," said a Texan to the pompous man, "it would be a good idee fur you to lay down on the floor till this dispute is settled."

"It does not comport with the dignity of a Boston gentleman of my professions," said the pompous gentleman, "to wallow in the dirt on the floor."

"You may be right, stranger," answered the Texan as he prepared to recline, "but my opinion is that you had better lose yer dignity fur the time bein' than to have the daylights let into your system by a 44." He lost his dignity.

A Curious Legend.

Easby abbey, the ruins of which lie close to the river Swale, a short distance from Richmond, in Yorkshire, England, is the home of a curious legend, says Photography. One of the main walls of the building is cracked and toppling, but has not yet fallen to the ground. Nor do the natives expect it to do so, at least not until it receives the impulse which it is said to await. For a tradition relates that the wall, when it does fall, will bury in its ruins a newly married couple, and as the tale is well known the chance of a honeymooning pair resting beneath its shade is remote.

She Gloated.

A Fort Fairfield (Me.) woman was awakened at 3 one morning by a furious ring of the telephone in her house. Feeling from the wildness of the ring that somebody's house must be on fire or that somebody was bleeding to death, she scampered downstairs and nervously seized the receiver, only to hear a shrill soprano voice shriek: "Got your washin' done yet? Had mine out half an hour ago."

Quite the Contrary.

Woman of the House—You're not one of these labor agitators, are you? Goodman Gonrong (with his mouth full of pie)—No, ma'am. I'm a rest agitator.—Exchange.

Some one asks whether success is most due to luck, pluck or brains. The answer is easy—all three.

ABUSE OF ATHLETICS.

Muscle Building Does Not Necessarily Improve the Health.

Athletics may be good or evil and in the same manner as a two edged sword.

The prime object in athletics is improvement of the general health. One writer has said that health, like happiness, does not exist. He said the body consists of a number of mechanisms which have the closest and most exact relations, and as they approximate to harmony there is health, but when disordered there is ill health.

To obtain good health muscle building is not a necessity. One cannot judge of the person's health by the size and hardness of the muscles. The converse may be true.

To obtain health one must not be in a perfectly trained condition owing to the effects of severe training on the nervous system.

There is no evidence to prove that athletics and muscle building improve the constitution.

One should always keep in mind the fact that built up or hypertrophied muscle has a tendency to degenerate. The heart, being a muscular organ, shares in this tendency.

In regard to the moral side of the question, it remains to be proved that athletics per se corrupt the morals. Dr. F. R. Sturgis is confident that athletics improve the morals of a community.

Although the evidence for and against athletics is contradictory, the whole subject may be summed up by stating that athletics are beneficial when properly and judiciously applied and very injurious when the precautions above mentioned are ignored or carelessly regarded.—Medical Record.

A WOODEN INTRODUCTION.

How Gainsborough Got Acquainted With Thicknesse.

Gainsborough, the artist, was born at Sudbury, in England, and there, says Lord Ronald Gower, he designed his first work of art. The orchard of his father's place had been repeatedly plundered of fruit. No one knew who the thief might be until one day young Gainsborough saw there a rough looking man leaning his elbows on the brick wall. He made a sketch of the fellow, and from this portrait the thief was afterward identified.

Later the boy cut out a rough figure from wood and painted it in oils in the likeness of this man. The scarecrow was known as "Jack Peartree." It probably represents Gainsborough's first attempt at working in oils.

It was the means of introducing the artist to one of his most intimate friends, Thicknesse, the lieutenant governor of the Landguard fort, near Ipswich. Thicknesse was one day walking with a friend when he perceived what seemed to be a melancholy faced countryman, with his arms locked together, leaning over the garden wall.

He pointed out the doleful figure to his companion, who, it seems, was acquainted with it.

"He has been there all day," said the gentleman. "I pity him. He must be either mad or very miserable."

Thicknesse insisted on approaching the wretched man and to his delighted surprise found him to be Jack Peartree. So charmed was he with Jack that he lost no time in becoming acquainted with the author of Jack's being, with the result of a warm and lasting friendship.

Doubtful Economy.

"Of course," he said, "I appreciate the motive that actuates you in your efforts to get along without a girl, but"—

"Well?" she said inquiringly as he paused.

"Taking everything into consideration," he went on, "is it true economy?"

"Isn't it?" she demanded.

"Well, I hardly feel competent to pass judgment on the question," he replied. "I have just received our family physician's bill for the treatment of those three cases of acute dyspepsia that developed in the family during the last month. Now, perhaps"—

But she was just as mad as if he hadn't tried to break it to her gently.—New York Press.

The English Face.

An American woman not long since returned from abroad was heard to say that what chiefly struck her in the English faces she met during her walks was their resigned expression.

"They didn't look sad, and they didn't look happy," she explained, "but they one and all had the air of awaiting the worst and being prepared for it. And that," she added vindictively, "is the only state of mind possible with the English climate."—New York Tribune.

Worried.

"Why, dear," said the poet's wife after the acceptance of his first poem by a magazine, "what is the matter? You seem to be awfully downcast."

"Yes," he sadly replied. "I am. I'm worried about our child. The sons of great men seem to have such a poor chance to turn out well, you know."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Too Easy.

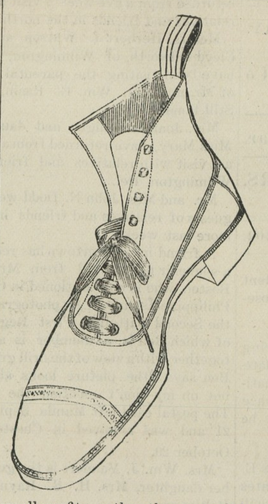
"De man dat goes through de world findin' fault," said Uncle Eben, "has pick'd out sech an easy job for hisself dat he can't expect much appreciation."—Washington Star.

Her Gray Locks.

Mr. Oldboy—Always respect gray hairs, my boy, Tommy—Why? My ma doesn't. Mr. Oldboy—You shouldn't say that. Tommy—She wouldn't dye them if she did.

Your levelers wish to level down as far as themselves, but they cannot bear leveling up to themselves.—Johnson.

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Respectfully,

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Sept. 17, 1904. CHESTERTOWN, MD.

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