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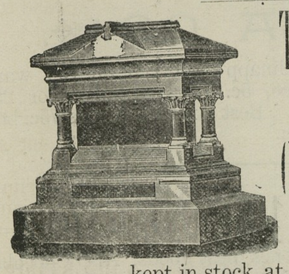
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A Considerate Judge.

A Kentucky congressman tells of a considerate judge in his state who passed sentence on a man convicted of murder. The judge said:

"Mr. Dodson, the jury says you are guilty of murder, and the law says you are to be hanged. It is my wish that you and all your friends on the river know that it is not I who condemns you. It is the jury and the law, Mr. Dodson. At what time, sir, would you like to be hanged?"

The prisoner made answer that it was a matter of indifference to him and that he was prepared to be swung off at any time. The judge continued:

"Mr. Dodson, it is a serious matter to be hanged. It can't happen to a man but once in life unless the rope should break before the neck is broken, and you had better take all the time you can. But since it makes no difference to you you may hang four weeks from today at 12 noon, but you may have a good dinner first."

The First Astor and the Poet.

John Jacob Astor and his son rigidly attended to business in the same office, a little one story building in Prince street, just east of Broadway. Their constant companion there was Fitz-Greene Halleck—Marco Bozzaris Halleck. Halleck became a clerk for Astor in 1832 and worked seventeen years. The employment, he himself said, was not "profitable, but permanent." Astor warned him when he began not to talk to any one of his wealth. The two men became great friends. Halleck spent months with his patron at his country seat and became one of the trustees of the Astor library. The poet frequently rallied the old man on his wealth. "Why, Mr. Astor," he would say, "if I had $200 a year and was sure of it I would be content." The great landowner took him at his word, and in his will, much to the amusement of bohemian New York, left Halleck an annuity of $200.—Burton J. Hendrick in McClure's.

The Chilly House of Commons.

A speaker in the house of commons has to address "the most chilling, nerve destroying audience in the world." Even such a cool headed, seasoned orator as John Bright once said, toward the end of his career, too, "I suppose I ought to be ashamed of myself, but the fact is that I never rise in the house without a trembling at the knees and a secret wish that somebody else would catch the speaker's eye and enable me to sit down again." And Disraeli, who boasted that he had no nerves, declared: "The blare of trumpets, a thousand lookers on, have induced men to lead a forlorn hope. Ambition and one's constituents have induced men to do a far more desperate thing—speak in the house of commons."—London Mail.

Going to Bed In India.

Going to bed in India is a very different process from going to bed at home. To begin with, it is a far less formal process. There is in the hot season no shutting of the door, no cutting yourself off from the outer world, no going upstairs, and, finally, no getting into bed. You merely lie down on your bed, which, with its bedding, is so simple as to be worth describing. The bed is a wooden frame with a webbing laced across it, and each bed has a thin cotton mattress. Over this one sheet is spread, and two pillows go to each bed, bolsters not being used. That's all. Some people do not even have the mattress, preferring the coolness of a piece of fine matting.

Crimes Against Animals.

"The cooks of today," wrote Yuan Mei, a Chinese author of the nineteenth century, "think nothing of mixing in one soup the meat of chicken, duck, pig and goose. But these chickens, ducks, pigs and geese have doubtless souls, and these souls will most certainly file plaints in the next world of the way they have been treated in this. A good cook will use plenty of different dishes. Each article of food will be made to exhibit its own characteristics, while each made dish will be characterized by one dominant flavor. Then the palate of the gormand will respond without freak and the flowers of the soul blossom forth."

Point Not Well Taken.

Mrs. Jenner Lee Ondego—I don't see why they call it "grand opera" when it's in English. It isn't grand opera when you can understand what the singers are saying. Mrs. Selldom Holme—Why, bless you, you can't understand them any better when they sing in English than when they sing in Italian!—Chicago Tribune.

Such Is Life.

"It's a hard struggle to conduct one's business without plenty of capital," observed the man with the ingrowing chin.

"You're right," agreed the man with the mange nose. "If a fellow hasn't got plenty of backing he has to do a lot of sidestepping."—St. Louis Republic.

Women's Clubs.

The British husband regards women's clubs with amusement as places where women eat strange meals and put up with discomforts which would not be tolerated for an hour in a man's club, says the Illustrated London News.

A Centiped.

"See that man? Well, sir, he landed in this country with bare feet, and now he's got millions."

"Gee whiz! He must be a regular centiped."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Wasted Sympathy.

Kind Lady—Here's a nickel. But what are you crying for, little boy? Little Boy—I ain't cryin'. Dis is me regular face.—Hartford Courant.

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Don't Be Afraid of Originality.

Do not be afraid of being original, even eccentric. Be an independent, self reliant new man, not just one more individual in the world. Do not be a copy of your grandfather, of your father or of your neighbor. That is as foolish as for a violet to try to be like a rose or for a daisy to ape a sunflower. Nature has given each a peculiar equipment for its purpose. Every man is born to do a certain work in an original way. If he tries to copy some other man or to do some other man's work he will be an abortion, a misfit, a failure.

Do not imitate even your heroes. Scores of young clergymen attempted to make their reputations by imitating Beecher. They copied his voice and conversation and imitated his gestures and habits, but they fell as far short of the great man's power as the chromo falls short of the masterpiece. Where are those hundreds of imitators now? Not one of them has ever made any stir in the world.—Orison Swett Marden in Success Magazine.

Why Arctic Waters Are Yellow.

Arctic explorers never tire of telling how beautifully yellow the waters of the northern sea appear. To those who live on the seashore in temperate and tropical countries the stories of travelers concerning the yellow waters of Greenland and Iceland are taken with the proverbial "grain of salt," but scientists have declared that the arctic seas are yellow, and it was Scoresby who first explained the cause of its peculiar color. Perceiving that the waters were of an unusual color, he had some drawn up and examined it with his microscope. To his surprise, he found that the color was due to the presence of minute animalcules, each so inconceivably small that a single drop of the water contained upward of 20,000 of the little creatures. At that rate a pint of the water would show 170,000,000, each sporting about in his place without disturbing or crowding his neighbor.

Bees as Burglars.

It appears that the monarchies of bees, well governed as they seem to be, are afflicted nevertheless by organized criminal classes—sneak thieves and highway robbers. Some of these robber bees go in strong bands to pillage and are able to storm and sack a hive. After the slaughter they carry all the provisions home. Some colonies of bees never work; they live entirely by robbery and murder.

There are also thieves who creep unperceived into strange hives to steal honey. If successful they return afterward with hordes of burglar bees, break open the honey safes and carry away the contents. But the most curious fact is that these bees can be artificially produced, according to Buchner, by feeding the larvae upon honey mixed with brandy.—London Tit-Bits.

Beating of Dead Hearts.

Hearts of cold blooded animals will beat for a comparatively long time after death or removal from the body (if kept cold and moist) because of powerful internal collections of nerves known as ganglia, whose automatic impulses cause the regular contractions of the muscles. Similar ganglia exist in man and other warm blooded animals, but their action is less prolonged. Scientists have ascertained that a turtle's heart will beat after removal if put on a piece of glass, kept cool and moist and covered with a bell jar. I believe it has been known to beat thirty-six or even forty-eight hours. Twelve or fourteen hours is a common record. —St. Nicholas.

Only Medals For Bravery.

In the Japanese army men are not promoted for distinguished conduct on the field and officers do not assume the rank of a superior officer who may be killed. By distinguishing themselves they gain nothing but decorations. The Order of the Golden Kite is a most coveted honor. Every man seeks to obtain it not only because it carries with it certain monetary rewards, but for the honor which its possession bestows on the wearer. No officer attains higher rank except by going through the necessary course of study and passing the examinations. Mere bravery cannot bring promotion.

She Couldn't Help It.

"Why in the world," asked the beautiful young widow, "have you promished to marry him if you don't love him?"

"Oh, I just had to. He was desperate."

"Hum! Said he'd go and shoot or drown himself, I suppose."

"No. He said he'd go and propose to you."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Forced Latitude.

Miss Sweet—The little boy that is playing with your brother is scratching up the parlor furniture terribly! Miss Van Fleet—I know it, but if I tell him to stop he'll go home and tell the whole family that I'm cross, and his big brother is my latest catch.—Detroit Free Press.

Wanted Details.

The schoolteacher was describing her encounter with an impertinent tramp.

"And then," said she, "I fainted."

"Wit' yer left or wit' yer right, mum?" promptly inquired little Johnny Boxer, the pugilist's son.—Pittsburg Post.

Opportunity.

"Opportunity comes," said the old proverb, "with feet of wool, treading soft." You must have the instinct of an artist for the approaches of this good genius. You must listen for it.—Samuel Johnson.

A spoonful of water added before beating an egg increases the amount of froth; a pinch of salt hastens its coming.

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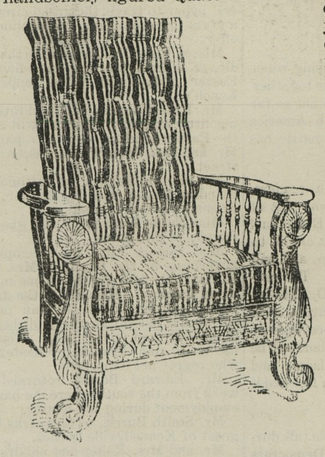
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