

REFLECTIONS OF AN ARTIST.

Features of a Poor Quality Are Often the Nucleus to a Fine Collection.

"Many a nucleus to a fine art collection has been laid in a few pictures of poor quality," said a well-known art connoisseur to a Washington Star reporter.

EXHIBIT BY THE NEGRO.

It Will Have a Place in the United States Sociological Department at Paris.

Under the auspices of the United States government, the American negro is to have a distinctive exhibit at the Paris exposition.

A limited space has been set aside in the United States exhibit in sociology for this feature. It is aimed to show that "the people of African descent in America are civilized, Christianized, possessors of vast educational privileges."

The leading colored intercollegiate institutions of the United States are arranging for creditable exhibits.

OFFICIAL BATHTUBS.

From This Account We Learn How the Legislators Indulge in Their Abolitions.

Away down in the basement of the capitol, in the midst of the winding and mysterious passages of this subterranean section, are located the congressional bathrooms, where the statesmen cleanse their cuticles at the expense of Uncle Sam.

In both the senate and house wings of the capitol there are barber shops, where statesmen are shaved, and hair tonics, perfumes and soaps furnished by the government.

The Bicycle Among the Hindus. In an article, "A Hindu Hero," in the December number of the Nineteenth Century, Hon. J. D. Rees tells how "at the sixth mile we meet the raja mounted on an elephant, but on a bicycle, and, but that an attendant with a broad gold sash over his shoulder runs in front and another behind, you might almost take him for common clay on a bike."

Armored Trains. Armored trains, which are taking such an important part in the present campaign, usually consist of a powerful engine, three iron tanks, a water tank and a passenger car.

WAS DOING SO AND SO.

Quick Retort of a Level-Headed Youngster to a Rather Pertinent Question.

Frank is a boy of less than five years, sturdy, round-headed and thick in the calves. He is always restless and ever hungry.

It was at a family reunion that he was asked and replied to a question of a personal nature. His retort silenced his inquisitive and would-be jocular uncle, while the remainder of the family—Frank excepted—roared with laughter.

Frank was served badly, for he has a fine appetite, and is not bothered with bashfulness. He bore down on a drumstick with vigor and filled his fat face with the meat.

"What are you doing, Frank?" "The boy was employed on a large mouthful at the time, and, like a skillful general, he attended to the matter in mouth first.

"Oh, I'm doing so and so." He immediately resumed operations on the drumstick.

WHERE ICE WAS SCARCE.

Amusing Experience of a Prima Donna in a One-Horse Southern Hotel.

Miss Dorothy Morton, prima donna, tells of an amusing experience which befell her several years ago when she was playing "one night stands" through the south.

Another call was made. Up he came again, saying: "Yes, missus, I'll bring it directly." Directly might have meant to-morrow or the next day as far as the waiter was concerned.

The old darky moved over to her with an air of secrecy, and in the greatest confidence said: "You see, missus, we've run out of ice to-night on account of you theatrical people."

WRONG SIDE OF THE COW.

An Artistic Blenheim That Was Overlooked by Many in a Detroit Painting.

"It has always seemed to me," says a writer in the Detroit Free Press, "that the pictorial artist should pay just a little attention to truth and nature."

"A pictorial dairy maid is milking a cow. She is a charming creature, the dairy maid. Her hands are not big and coarse; her knuckles are not swollen, and her fingers do not resemble dill pickles."

"Nonchalantly she sits on the left of the animal and milks, milks, milks. She looks, the while, around the landscape and smiles at the hens. Now, if the truth be known, that dairy maid wouldn't be on the left side of that meek-looking bossy longer than two minutes. Her head would be kicked off."

The Coming of Man.

In his article on "Secrets of the Earth's Crust," in Knowledge, Prof. Cole says we have already advanced since Zittel wrote, in 1895: "The problem, where man first appeared on the earth and from what form he sprang, has, in spite of all efforts of modern geology and anthropology, up till now found no solution."

Cuban Postal Clerks. Of the 600 clerks employed in Cuba by the post office department fully 300 are Cubans.

ATTENDING THE WOUNDED.

Modern Provisions for Treatment of Sufferers on the Field of Battle.

Never have the arrangements for dealing with the wounded been so thoroughly satisfactory a condition as they are to-day, says the Church Family Newspaper. During an engagement, and as the troops advance, the wounded are sought out as quickly as may be possible.

RAILROADS BUILT IN 1899.

About 4,500 Miles of Track Laid in the Year—Best Record Since 1880.

The Railway Age has made a canvass of the country in regard to the building of new railroads during the past year, and finds that about 4,500 miles have been added in that time.

Iowa stands at the head of the list of states in its figures for new mileage with 585 miles to its credit, although the previous ten years had seen little or no additions made to its railroads.

A notable fact about the railroad building of the year is that there has been comparatively little building by new companies, while a number of the older roads have made important extensions.

VALUE OF ORATORY.

Eloquent Flights Are Not of as Much Use Before Juries as Plain Facts.

In an address before the Irish Literary society on "John Philpot Curran," Lord Russell of Killowen, the chief justice, declared the value of oratory to a lawyer is overrated.

"But," he said, "there is a tendency to run to seed in this regard, and to look upon fluency of speech as if it were attainable to their real momentum and power until founded upon a substratum of carefully acquired knowledge and upon solid argument."

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Crime Upon Crime. In sentencing a prisoner to be hanged for the murder of a soldier Lord Eskgrove dilated upon the crime as follows: "And not only did you murder him, whereby he was bereaved of his life, but you did thrust, or push, or pierce, or project, or propel the lethal weapon through the bellyband of his regimental breeches, which were his majesty's!"

Tomb of the Czars. It is not generally known that the remains of all the czars of Russia since Peter the Great lie in a memorial chapel built on one of the islands of the Neva. All the cenotaphs are exactly alike, each being a block of white marble, without any decoration whatever.

MODERN MEANING OF GUN.

The Word Is More Often Applied to the Great Engines of Death.

"The evolution of the word 'gun' forms an interesting study in up-to-date etymology," remarked one of a party of newspaper men, says the New Orleans Times-Democrat.

"Nowadays the nomenclature has curiously changed. By degrees the good old word gun has become monopolized by the long, slim, murderous machines that constitute our modern artillery."

MANY DIFFERENT COCKTAILS.

The Bartender Says There Is No Limit to the Varieties That Can Be Made.

"How many kinds of cocktails are there, do you suppose?" said the bartender. One man said six, another ten, while an Englishman hazarded a thousand, but no one paid any attention to him.

"I don't know," said the bartender. "I have only been in the business ten years, but there are very many. Some years ago when I was in Frisco, a man told me I couldn't make one dozen different cocktails. I told him I could make four times as many."

"There was not, of course, much difference between them, but quite enough for an experienced man to be able to distinguish them, and so I won. The limit to the varieties of cocktail, and I should not be surprised to see an experienced man reach the hundred mark."

FOR SWELLS ONLY.

Rigs Are Not Allowed in Hyde Park, London, Except They Are Expensive.

Americans visiting London for the first time are more than likely to find a hansom the day they arrive and start promptly to see the Row, says a New York exchange. Half the books, stories, newspaper articles, etc., treating of English life make prominent mention of this, the smartest driveway in the world.

WARRING IN THE CHOIR.

Tan Maclaren Says Choralists Quarrel Almost as Readily as Irish Patriots.

Rumors reach one's ears that the power of quarreling within certain church choirs can only be exceeded by the high spirit of a body of Irish patriots, and that there is almost nothing so trivial and invisible but that it will set a choir by the ears, writes Tan Maclaren, in Ladies' Home Journal.

Australia's Gold. Australia's gold production in the last half century has amounted to considerably more than \$400,000,000.

CATS CAN SWIM.

An Old Fisherman Relates a Reliable Story in Illustration of That Fact.

"Can cats swim?" was asked of an old fisherman, according to a New York exchange.

"I supposed, of course, that that was the last of the cat, but the next morning the first thing I saw when I went out of the house was the cat sitting on the veranda."

"I suppose the bag had a weak spot in it somewhere, the bricks were heavy and sharp-cornered and swinging the bag round that way started it more, and the cat was desperate; and with the bag that way it scratched and tore its way out and got to the wharf and claved its way up and came ashore."

YOUR PROPER WEIGHT.

Prof. Huxley Tells How the Normal Man's Avoiding Should Be Distributed.

Prof. Huxley gave the following table of what a full-grown man should weigh, and how his weight should be divided:

Weight, 154 pounds, was put thus: Muscles and their appendages, 69 pounds; skeleton, 24 pounds; skin, 10 1/2 pounds; fat, 28 pounds; brain, 3 pounds; thoracic viscera, 3 1/2 pounds; blood which would drain from body, 7 pounds.

This man ought to consume per diem: Lean beefsteak, 3,000 grains; bread, 6,000 grains; milk, 7,000 grains; potatoes, 3,000 grains; butter, 600 grains; water, 220,000 grains.

His heart should beat 75 times a minute, and he should breathe 15 times a minute. In 24 hours he would breathe 1,750 cubic feet of pure air to the extent of 1 per cent; a man, therefore, of the weight mentioned ought to have 500 feet of well ventilated space.

THE BIBLE FOR STYLE.

Author of "Crises of the Cachelot" Tells Where He Learned to Write.

Frank T. Butler, whose stories of the sea have won him great fame, never had proper education. He was a poor boy, and his youth was spent in toil. Asked to what source he owed his power of writing, he answered: "The source of my 'style,' as you are pleased to term it, is the Bible. I began reading that earlier than I can remember; I am 43 years of age, 15 years of which I spent at sea, climbing up from cabin boy to chief mate, and I have read the Bible through from cover to cover 25 times. You cannot quote me the first half of any verse but what I will be able to give you the second half. Nothing has taken hold of my heart and soul like the Bible. I used to preach in the open air, and sometimes, when I felt I had no words of my own, I would recite a whole chapter by memory from Isaiah or Job or one of the Gospels. The Bible and John Bunyan have really formed my style. But then there's the inspiration of the sea! What colors in sky and water! Dip your pen in those, and you can't fail to be picturesque and interesting."

A Typical Australian Tribe.

Prof. Hadden read a paper on the customs and characteristics of a fairly typical tribe of Australia, the Yarikanna, of Cape York, North Queensland. Among the peculiar customs noted was that children must take the "land" or "country" of their mother, that a wife must be taken from another country, and that all who belong to the same place are regarded as brothers and sisters.

Drying Linen in Balloons.

A Paris laundry has started a novelty in the drying and purifying of linen, and has succeeded in convincing most of its customers that the notion is a good one. The air about 150 feet above the house tops is particularly good for linen, say the proprietors, and they accordingly send for shirts and collars for a balloon trip. Bamboo frames are attached to a captive balloon, and the linen, "rough dry," is fixed to the frames and sails away in the air. The balloon makes six ascents daily, and an extra charge is made for each article that undergoes the treatment.

Largest Army Ever Used.

The total force sent out to South Africa is the largest number of British troops ever put into the field at one time. At Waterloo Wellington was in command of 67,000 soldiers, while in the Crimean war only 25,000 were engaged in any single battle.

A GRAVEYARD PROMOTER.

An Enterprising Missourian Who Has Become a Plutocrat in the Business.

"You eastern people are not the only enterprising inhabitants of the globe," said an enthusiastic man in a New York business house, according to the Sun of that city. "I have a neighbor in Penicost county, my state, Missouri, who is a sort of plutocrat in graveyards. Some years ago he opened a tombstone factory in his part of the state, and as he marked down the price, he had quite a boom in his business. In a short time there was a monument or headstone at every grave in the cemetery, and as live people do not buy tombstones, this man's business was hit by what your Wall street folks call a flurry. What does he do but go to another town not far away and buy a graveyard of his own, and put down the price of lots. This caused quite a cemetery boom until all the lots were disposed of. As soon as some of the people began to die the enterprising tombstone dealer was again in the whirl, or, as my old friend Wilbur F. Storey was wont to say of his paper, on the top crest of the advancing wave. In a year or so he had every grave in the cemetery marked with his goods, and another third hit his business. But he rallied, went to another town, invested in another graveyard site, and manipulated this scheme as he had the others, and with like results."

"That makes three cemeteries he has started, filled and marked, and the last time I saw him he told me he was looking for another. He is now known as a graveyard promoter."

NIGHTKEYS FOR CHRISTMAS.

Why a Brooklyn Man and Wife Received Them from Their Next-Door Neighbors.

A Brooklyn man and wife have had two peculiar experiences which have caused them to be talked about in their neighborhood. For a few months ago they went out for the evening and forgot to take a nightkey. The servant went out the same night. When the man and his wife returned and failed to get a response to their ring, the husband smashed one of the windows, and crawled in. In this way he opened the door and admitted his wife, says the New York Sun.

One experience of this character is sufficient to make an impression, but it left no warning on the mind of this man. Not long after the incident he and his wife again went out and forgot a night key. Failing to get in on their return the man sent his wife to a neighbor's while he went over to a hotel nearby to borrow a jimmy, as he had decided to get in with that and save the expense of a window glass. Armed with the implement he returned, and after considerable effort he forced the door, walked upstairs and found his neighbors and his wife enjoying themselves. He had forced the doors of his neighbors' house, adjoining his own, and architecturally a counterpart of it. Their wife made the discovery that she had the key of her house.

Among the Christmas offerings received by the man and wife was a bunch of night keys.

ODD CALENDARS.

There is One Used in Russia That is Twelve Days Ahead of Everything Else.

The most out-of-date almanac is that possessed by Russia, while the palm for the "largest circulation" goes to that issued from Peking. Incredible though it may sound, it is nevertheless a fact that the land of the Great White Bear still cherishes a calendar which is 12 days ahead of everything else, says the Cincinnati Enquirer.

It is true that our own calendar was 11 days out until 1752. That our English forefathers put it straight by dropping those spare days out of the reckoning, much to the dismay of the uneducated. The public state of mind at that time may best be realized from the fact that it led riotous mass meetings, to protest against the "robbery," with banners and banners. From the latter of which blazed forth its grievance: "Give us our 11 days!" Indeed, it was not until several heads had been broken by the swords of the military that those who still remained intact cooled sufficiently to appreciate the fact that the change was inevitable, and not merely the outcome of a government dodge to fleece the workman out of 11 days' pay.

The Scots and Davanags.

In a paper on "Recent Ethnographical Work in Scotland," read before the British association, Mr. Gray described his observations on the color of the hair and eyes of the schoolchildren of East Aberdeenshire. The pigmentation of the Scotch children was shown in a table and compared with the continental districts, whence, according to tradition and history, the lowland Scots derived a large element of their population—viz.: Schleswig-Holstein, Lueubeurg, and Mecklenburg-Schwerin, the reputed original seats of the Angles and Saxons. The tables showed that the three north German districts were more blonde than East Aberdeenshire. Germany got from north to south, and we must go as far as upper Bavaria to get a district approximating in pigmentation to East Aberdeenshire.

Was Thoroughly Soaked.

At Wichita in the early days a spiritualistic seance was held, which a cowboy attended, who, after trying other notables, asked for "any man who was drowned in Noah's flood." A shadowy individual appeared and after a ground or two induced the cowboy to ask: "I suppose you're burning all the time?" "Burning?" whispered the ghostly visitor in reply. "I should say not. I ain't dried out yet."

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS

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