

GUARDING HIS OWN PROPERTY.

Jackson's Method of Dealing with Avaricious Merchant. "Here," said the Virginia veteran, "is another Jackson yarn."

WHEN A QUEEN BATHES.

Spanish Royalty in Seclusion Sports with the Sea Waves. The fashionable bathing resort of Spain is in San Sebastian.

Passing Beliefs.

Read the famous chapter in Victor Hugo's "Shakespeare" about the precise knowledge of the world and the universe as imparted by the philosophers and learned men of Greece.

Called.

The comedian boarder who owed five weeks' back pay was in one of those facetious moods. "Madam," he chuckled, spearing a green strawberry and holding it above his saucer.

Woman's Place in the World.

The "half angel, half idiot" period is over in the woman's world. She is fighting her way into every sphere of human activity.

From the Ode.

Gunner—How do you like that cigar, old man? You see, my wife bought me a box the other day. I think it is called the "Samson."

Gunner—What's the trouble?

I guess it is called the Samson because it is so strong. Gayer—Hm! I thought perhaps it had Samson's hair in it.

Bad Judgment.

William—Did the baby come from heaven, mama? Mama—Yes, dear. William—Huh! That kid didn't know when he was well off, did he?—Chicago Daily News.

REDDLING A BLACK BEAR.

Maine Sailor Offers One That Can Churn and is House Broken. Three sailors walked into the office of Director Smith of the Central Park menagerie yesterday and wanted to know what was the market price for black bears.

PUCK'S SCHOOL OF CRIME.

Chances for All Who Would Graduate from Home to Penitentiary. Why work honestly on a small salary when we can show you by mail how to double your income without interfering (at first) with your present employment?

For Nature Students.

William Archer, the noted English critic, said at one of the meetings of the reformed spelling board in New York. "I have been rather surprised, here in the States, with the general ignorance of what we spelling reformers are trying to do."

Pronunciation of "Girl."

Concerning the pronunciation of "girl," it is to be feared that only very careful English people fail to rhyme it with "pearl" nowadays. The song of a few years back—"My dear little girlie, girlie, with hair so nice and curly, and every morning early—"

The Art of Skip-Reading.

Skip-reading is an accomplishment of our own time. An ordinary man or woman of to-day can extract all the requisite information out of a newspaper in less than five minutes by the exercise of this new sense—for it is little else than this. The eyes race down a column, pick up instinctively an essential word here and there, and the brain fills in the intervals intelligently, producing a précis which is sufficient for the purpose.

Metals and Metaphors.

"It is most amazing," said a metallurgist, "how the world relies on metals for its metaphors and similes. Thus an orator is silver-tongued or golden-mouthed. An explorer is bronzed by African suns. A resolute chap has an iron will. A sluggard moves with leaden feet. An ostrich has a copper-lined stomach. A millionaire has tin. A swindler is as slippery as quicksilver. A borrower has brass."

STORY OF A SEA SERPENT.

It Knocked an Oaraman Out of His Boat. Mr. McNaughton, as his name signifies, is a Scotsman, and is consequently scarcely likely to exaggerate. He has been visiting Cleveland, in Somerset, and relates the following story of a strange adventure, says Reynolds's Newspaper. The incident was, he says, witnessed by many spectators.

CAN FORETELL THE WEATHER.

Scientist Thinks Animals and Birds Have That Power. Are the tree toads, swallows, and fishes trustworthy barometers? Prof. Robert Leudmayer, of the University of Prague, assures the world that many species of animals probably sense electric waves emanating from distant storms.

Beware of the Dog!

A wealthy gentleman recently had a party of his men friends at his home and entertained them by having a gifted lecturer deliver a stereoscopic talk on the tropics, which he had just visited. The slides were very beautiful, and so engrossed did the entire audience become in the lecture that every one failed to notice the entrance of a pet dog belonging to the host.

Pussy Willows.

A little girl recently saw some pussy willows for the first time. The teacher who showed them to her was so familiar with them herself that she assumed the child must know how they grew and so merely said: "See what soft little gray fur coats they have on!"

Lé Still in the Ring.

The several groups of Dakotas or Sioux, declares Indian Commissioner Leupp in the Youth's Companion, number in round terms 30,000, and the Chippewas 20,000. They are settled in what used to be known as the Northwest—that is, the region tributary to the Great Lakes and the upper Mississippi. In the southwest the Navajos outnumber all other groups of a single name. More than 200,000 live on a reservation nearly twice as large as the state of Massachusetts, or about one-third the size of New York.

DISEASES OF THE DECEASED.

Colored Man's Knowledge Might Well Have Puzzled Professor. Representative John Sharp Williams tells of a coroner's inquest in Georgia, wherein the coroner was endeavoring to elicit information from a colored witness named Ben Botts. "Did you ever hear the deceased complain of any ailment?" was the first question put to Botts. "De who, sah?" "The deceased."

CORNER STONE OF EMPIRE.

Horse Has at All Times Been Potent Factor in War. From the earliest times the horse has been a potent factor in war, and to-day his education is a delicate and serious matter; undertaken at great expense by all the nations of the world. Germany needs a million horses for cavalry and artillery to put her colossal forces in the field.

Deceptive Mirror.

"One's reflection in a mirror never does one justice. Comfortable thought for the plain and pretty alike! Complexion, expression and color are all really better than the shining glass makes them appear. Let not her to whom nature has been sparing of her charms despair. If she would see herself in the deceptive mirror as others see her with the eye, or as nearly as possible, let her hasten to a draper's shop and buy a quantity of soft, pure white material—gauze, if possible; if not, Swiss or India muslin will answer very well. Be sure to have it pure white, and after polishing the surface of the mirror gather the material at the center of the top and bring it down softly at either side, framing the glass in."

Flew Too High at First.

The mistakes inexperienced music teachers make in mapping out courses of study for their pupils are almost incredible. A young girl came to me for lessons recently, says Robert D. Brain, in the Etude, and I found that the course she was studying was as follows: For exercises she had the entire list of Beethoven sonatas in two volumes, having already "been through" the first volume; for a solo she had Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsodie No. 9. She could not play any of the scales, and had to be put back to easy studies and a simple waltz by Durand.

Home Champagne Popular.

The conclusion of the bureau of statistics from the study of the champagne production in the United States is that the quantity of champagne fermented in the bottle "champagne" wine produced in this country at present is nearly one-half as great as the importation of wine of the same general class; or, in other words, that about one-third of the genuine champagne wine now consumed in this country is of domestic production and the proportion which the home product forms of the total is rapidly increasing.

What a Question!

"I suppose that Blink's lawn will now be worth looking at," he told me to-day he'd just bought a new line of hose. "And do you suppose he'll allow his wife to walk across the lawn in them?"—Bohemian.

He Used to Be Fat.

Biggers—You look 40 pounds under weight, have you been sick? Jiggers (sarcastically)—I have; don't I show it? Biggers—You certainly do, but you never looked so well in your life before.

GREATEST OF ALL HARVESTS.

John J. Ingalls' Magnificent Eulogy of Grass. Grass is the forgiveness of nature—her constant benediction. Fields trampled with battle, saturated with blood, torn with the ruts of cannon, grow green again with grass, and carnage is forgotten. Streets abandoned by traffic become grass-grown like rural lanes, and are obliterated. Forests decay, harvests perish, flowers vanish, but grass is immortal. Relegated by the seven hosts of winter, it withdraws into the impregnable fortress of its subterranean vitality and emerges upon the first solicitation of spring. Sown by the winds, by the wandering birds, propagated by the subtle horticulture of the elements which are its ministers and servants, it softens the rude outline of the world. Its tenacious fibers hold the earth in its place and prevent its soluble components from washing into the waiting sea. It invades the solitude of deserts, climbs the inaccessible slopes and forbidden pinnacles of mountains, modifies climates and determines the history, character and destiny of nations. Unobtrusive and patient, it has immortal vigor and aggression. Banished from the thoroughfare and the field, it hides its time to return, and when vigilance is relaxed, or the dynasty has perished, it silently resumes the throne from which it has been expelled, but which it never abdicates. It bears no blossomy of bloom to charm the senses with fragrance or splendor, but its homely hue is more enchanting than the lily or the rose. It yields no fruit in earth or air, and yet, should its harvest fail for a single year, famine would depopulate the world.—John J. Ingalls.

A SCHEME OF JOHN'S.

Fear of Landlady Greater Than His Love of Sleep. John was a sleepy-head, so celebrated, indeed, that he had never been known to wake up by what his family called a natural process. So when he went off to college it was only natural that he should be presented with alarm clocks from two of his numerous aunts. "One will be enough, dear," said his mother, but John took them both. He set the alarm of one at the hour of rising and placed it at the head of his bed; the other he set 15 minutes later, and each night placed it at the head of the stairs outside of his landlady's door. Then he wrote home an account of how it worked. As his alarm went off in the morning his first thought was that the clock on the stairs would make itself heard in 15 minutes. This aroused him so fully that he was able to spring out of bed on the instant.

Roses in Legend and History.

When the captive Jews in Babylon hung their harps upon the willows, the air was sweet with the fragrance of growing roses; and upon returning to their own land the exiles are said to have carried with them seeds of the flowers which had brightened their captivity. Thus Syria became the home of roses. Even the name of this country is derived, according to some philologists, from "Seri," meaning "a wild rose." In the Sanskrit, the oldest of Hindu myths declares that Vishnu had found his wife in the heart of a rose. Since the day of Vishnu, many another has found his wife, if not in the heart of a rose, by means of a rose. "My love I speak in flowers," and the rosebud has been especially entrusted with the lover's message. From "Lewards of the Roses," by Mrs. A. S. Hardy, in the Circle.

Battle with Ferocious Rats.

In a battle with rats, Abraham Hunsberger, of this place, killed 28 which had attacked him, while as many more escaped. When the fight began he struck at one huge gray rat with the hoe; the animal squeaked, and in an instant the loft was full of rats, which attacked Hunsberger, grabbing at his legs and tearing his trousers with their sharp teeth, others jumping on his back and snapping at him. Hunsberger, dropped the hoe, frightened, and endeavored to get out of the loft through a trap door. The door had "caught," and, finding he could not get it open, he again grabbed the hoe, and, with part of the handle as a weapon, fought the infuriated little animals.—Lansdale (Pa.) Dispatch to Philadelphia Record.

Pennsylvania's Disappearing Timber.

An idea of the rapidity with which the timber is disappearing from some sections of Pennsylvania can be obtained from the following figures, which refer to the timber cutting on the Hicks Run tract, in Clearfield county: Original size of tract, 9,000 acres; timber cut the first two years, 3,000 acres; still standing, 6,000 acres; amount of timber cut, 50,000,000 feet; amount standing, 200,000,000 feet; daily capacity of sawmill, 200,000 feet; daily shipments, 15 carloads; amount of timber in Hicks Run yard, 6,000,000 feet; time of operation, two years; estimated time to cut standing timber, four years; number of men employed, 500 to 1,000.

No Answer Required.

Tommy—Paw! Mr. Tucker—What's the trouble now, my son? Tommy—Wah-ah-ah—that the magazines don't make their readin' matter as interesting as they do their advertising pages?

HORRORS OF DARK AGES.

Vicious Conjured Up in Torture Rooms of Ancient Tyrant. The horror of horrors in all Italy is found at Padua, known as the torture rooms of that demoniac monster of cruelty, Ecelino, a thirteenth century ruler of Verona, Padua, Vicenza and Brescia. His cruelties finally became so intolerable that the church, proclaimed a crusade against him. The peasant rose and a farmer killed the brute with a scythe. I was shown an upright box in which was the skeleton of a victim. Two apertures enabled the condemned to see a table, just out of reach, crowded with food and drink. To-day, it is stange food and the wine is colored water, but the realism is intense. The climax of shudders was reached when I came to a block in the center of a small square room. Nailed to the chopping block, severed midway between the wrist and elbow, lay the dainty hand of a woman, just as it had been chopped from the living arm! The instant my eyes saw this sight the cell seemed to resound with the shrieks of the terrified woman, and, although the head I gazed upon was of wax, the mental shock produced was dreadful beyond conception.—Brooklyn Eagle.

ARE LOFTIEST OF MINES.

Worked by Incas and Now to Be Opened by New Company. It is thought that the old Caylloma silver mines in Peru are probably situated at a greater elevation than any other considerable mines in the world. Their altitude varies between 14,000 and 17,000 feet. They were worked by the Spaniards in the sixteenth century, and before that, it is believed, by the Incas. An English company is now preparing a hydro-electric plant for them. This plant will be situated at an altitude of between 15,000 and 16,000 feet. It will derive its power from a waterfall on the Santiago river, and in a dry season from Lake Huallacho, one of the sources of the Amazon. The power will be transmitted by cable about three miles. At the highest mines the pressure of the atmosphere is only eight and one-half pounds a square inch, and water boils 24 degrees below the ordinary boiling point. Youth's Companion.

One Step at a Time.

It is wonderful how much practical wisdom about the smallest perplexities of daily life comes to men who keep both their feet and their wishes still until Providence—the world prefers to call it "circumstances"—clears a path for them. No doubt in all our lives there come times when we seem to have been brought into a blind alley, and cannot see where we are to get out—but it is very rare indeed that we do not see one step in advance the duty which lies next us. And be sure of this, that if we are content to see but one step at a time, and take it, we shall find our way made plain.—Rev. Alexander MacLaren.

To Satisfy a Grudge.

Sir Thomas Lipton, apropos of bachelorhood and marriage, said in an after dinner speech in Chicago: "Bachelors, I admit, are villains, but it is a shame to play such tricks on them as it is customary everywhere to do. A nasty trick was played on a bachelor friend of mine at a dance. A woman was reproaching him for never having married, when her husband, a little bored, perhaps, said gruffly: 'He says he could have cut me out and married you if he had wanted to.' The woman started. 'Indeed!' she cried. 'Why didn't he do it, then?' He says he owed me a grudge, the husband explained, with a chuckle."

How She Prepared.

A French gentleman anxious to find a wife for a nephew went to a matrimonial agent, who handed him his list of lady clients. Running through this he came to his wife's name, entered as desirous of obtaining a husband between the ages of 28 and 35—a blonde preferred. Forgetting his nephew, he hurried home to announce the discovery to his wife. "The lady was not at all disturbed. 'Oh yes,' she said, 'that is my name. I put it down when you were so ill in the winter and the doctors said we must prepare for the worst.'"

Light-Toed Gentry.

"The best pickpockets," said the detective, "are the Hindus. You have to call them light-toed as well as light-fingered, for they can lift a watch or purse as easily with their feet as with their hands. Trained from childhood, these bare-footed rascals are wonderfully skillful with their toes. This gives them a great advantage. A Hindu in a crowd will stand with his arms ostentatiously folded and sneak with his foot the wallet from your trousers pocket."

Tragic Nine of Diamonds.

Carefully preserved at Stairs castle, the Aberdeenshire seat of the earl of Erroll, is a single playing card which recalls a never to be forgotten tragedy. It is the nine of diamonds (hence called, to this day "the curse of Scotland"), on which the duke of Cumberland wrote his order for the butchery of the brave Highlanders who were taken prisoners at the fateful battle of Culloden.

On the Job.

Merchant (to applicant for clerkship)—and have you had much experience in this line of business? Applicant—Lots of it. Why, I've been in 13 different situations of the kind within the last three years.