

THE GIANT CAOTUS.

As the Most Peculiar of All Forms of Vegetable Life. People in general are but little impressed by the many forms of life...

He cannot listen to the whispering of the leaves, because the trees of his limited world do not grow them. He knows nothing of tangled woods...

The many and varied species of cacti, which constitute the vegetation most familiar to him, are the most peculiar of all forms of vegetable life...

It was a warm Saturday morning. Several women with market baskets were on a Franklin avenue car. A little girl, neatly but poorly dressed...

"Missus, will you tell me when we get to the grocery store?" "What grocery store?" asked the woman, leaning forward kindly.

"The little grocery store on the corner," replied the child. "I told mother I knew where it was, but I can't find it, and her lip trembled."

"Do you know where you live?" asked her new friend, with some anxiety. "O yes," responded a little trembling voice, "I live on Lucky street."

"A queer polyglot religious service was held at the Seaman's bath, at Douglas, Isle of Man. The Gospel was read in Gaelic, a hymn sung in Gaelic, prayer offered in Welsh and a sermon delivered in English."

BREVITIES OF FUN.

"Hannah," said the mistress to her new girl, "you can take that brown serge dress of mine and put it in soak."

"Modern Definitions. — Son. — 'Paw, what's meant by a horse of another color?' Wheeler. — 'A bicycle of another make.' Son. — 'And what's a dark horse, paw?' Wheeler. — 'A nameless wheel.' — Puck.

"A Theory. — Towne. — 'I don't believe that alimony can be legally collected.'" Browne. — 'Why not?' Towne. — 'Well, marriage is generally recognized as a lottery, so alimony must be a gambling debt.' — Truth.

"Her Criticism. — Mistress. — 'Well, Norah, how did you enjoy the scenery?' Norah (who has just returned from a week's outing on the Maine coast). — 'To shpake plainly, mum, th' scenery's not so iligant as it looks.' — Judge.

"William Walker. — 'Yes, mum; I bette ter travel through de country, an' find de farmers so hard up. It makes me really sick at heart.' Mrs. Backdoor. — 'Why, what do they seem hard up for?' William Walker. — 'Her help, mum.' — Puck.

"A Prophecy. — 'That actor doesn't seem at home in his work.' Said a man who makes comments. — 'No,' replied the theatrical manager, gloomily; 'he isn't. But he will be unless business gets better pretty soon.' — Washington Star.

"I can't help thinking I've seen you somewhere before," said the man with the brown leather valise, who was waiting for a train. "My friend," replied the man in the soiled linen duster, who was always waiting for a train, "don't make any effort to help it. It's too hot for the exertion. Let it go at that." And he sauntered on. — Chicago Tribune.

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A FINLAND LOVE STORY.

Ardent Lover Carries On His Suit by Telephone. Mrs. Alec Tweedle has recently brought out a book entitled "Through Finland in Carta," full of racy chat of travel. She speaks of Finland as being, like Norway, "ridled with telephones," and tells the following little story to illustrate the excessive use of the telephone by Finnish folk:

"Pekka was madly in love with Ilma, a wondrously beautiful maiden. He heard rumors that she was trifling with another. He could not stand the torture, even for a few hours, and so rang up the mansion of the family Heikkila.

"Joy. He heard the voice of Ilma in answer, and said: 'If it you, dear one? I, Pekka, am here.' "A soft sigh replied. "Are you glad to hear Pekka? Do you care for him just a little?"

"Yes," sighed the fair maid. "Darling, it is not true that you care for Armas Merikanto?" "No, no," she cried. "You like me—you love me?" "Yes," she softly murmured. "Will you be my wife?" "I will, Pekka."

"Overjoyed, Pekka almost hugged the wooden box that brought him such glad tidings. "When may I come to see you, darling—my little wife?" "Come, Pekka, come for dinner at three o'clock." A few more sweet nothings, and, quite enraptured, Pekka returned to his office routine. At three o'clock, spick and span, with a golden ring in his pocket, he presented himself at the house of the Heikkilas.

"In the salon stood the mother. He went toward her to receive her motherly congratulations. She rushed forward to meet him, as all good mothers-in-law should, and, throwing herself into his arms, she cried: "Take me, Pekka, dearest Pekka; I am yours till death." "Mine?" "Yes. I have loved you long, darling Pekka, and I am ready whenever you can fix a day for our marriage."

"Tableau. Moral: Beware of telephonses." As there are, according to Mrs. Tweedle, some 36,000 more women than men in Finland, the action of Pekka's intended mother-in-law is explainable. — Electrical Engineer.

The English of Americans.

We, as a people, use better English, on the whole, than is used in any English-speaking community in the world. In England, as is well known, many of the inhabitants of one county cannot understand the inhabitants of an adjoining county. A university-tired Londoner cannot translate the uncouth patois of the provinces to his consciousness. The citizens of any one of our states can communicate freely with the citizens of any other state. A Harvard or Yale graduate talks freely and easily with a Colorado miner or a Minnesota farmer. The entire republic is bound closely together by a common, intelligible English speech. In Great Britain the conditions are just the opposite.

A WEATHER EXHIBIT.

Prof. Moore is Planning One for the Paris Exposition. Prof. Willis L. Moore, chief of the United States weather bureau, has outlined a plan for an exhibit at the Paris international exposition in 1900 which will be one of the most interesting and novel in character of any ever gotten up by a government for an event of the kind.

It is proposed to cable to Paris every morning the results of the observations in the United States, so that charts can be made from lithograph plates over there, which will be as well executed as the ones issued daily in Washington. The obstacle that first presented itself was the great cost it was believed it would entail to cable all the data sufficient to prepare the charts. Prof. Moore, however, has worked out a special cipher for use in cabling the essential points, with the result that he figures the total cost will not exceed \$25 a day. Prof. Moore says maps of the United States, showing all that anyone would care to know about the weather conditions, can be placed in the hands of Americans at a comparatively early hour in the day.

No other government in the world, says Prof. Moore, has the facilities for making a showing in the meteorological line the United States has. The system of gathering the results of observations in places far distant from one another is more perfect in this country than anywhere else, and the science has reached its highest development here.

The widely varying climatic conditions in different sections at the same hour will, Prof. Moore thinks, give foreigners who have not traveled in this country an idea of the vastness of the country that they could not get in other ways, as well as an idea of what an important institution to people interested in farming and business the weather bureau may be made. — Chicago Times-Herald.

MRS. OLIPHANT.

Little Things That Betrayed the Beauty of Her Character. One day in the last week of her life Mrs. Oliphant said: "Many times I have come to a corner which I could see no way round, but each time a way has been found for me."

The way was often found by the strengthening of her own indomitable courage, which as long as her children were left to her never seemed to flag; it was the courage of perfect love. But it is certain that if she had had no moral qualities except courage she could not have toiled on as she did; a saving sense of humor, a great capacity to enjoy what was really comic and everything that was beautiful, made life easier to her, and "the great joy of doing kindnesses" was one never absent from her. So that whatever suffering might be lying in wait to seize upon her solitary hours, there was almost always a pleasant welcome and talk of the very best to be found in her modest drawing room.

If the visitors were congenial her charm of manner awoke, her simple fitness of speech clothed every subject with life and grace, her beautiful eyes shone (they never sparkled) and the spell of her exquisite womanliness made a charmed circle round her. She was never a beautiful woman at any time of her life, though for many years she was a very pretty one, but she had, as a family inheritance, lovely hands, which were constantly busy, in what she called her idle time, with some dainty sewing or knitting; she had those wonderful eyes which kept their beauty to the last minute of her life, and she had a most exquisite daintiness in all her ways and in the very atmosphere about her which was "pure womanly." — Fortnightly Review.

London Weather.

An interesting review of the meteorology of London from 1713 to 1896 was given by Mr. R. C. Rossman at a late meeting of the Royal Meteorological society. In this long period the average number of thunderstorms was 9.7 per annum, the maximum occurring in July and the minimum in February. The average number of fogs was 24.4, and of "dense" fogs 6.8, comparison of decades showing a steady and uninterupted increase of fog since 1841. The average number of days with snow was 13.6 per annum. The snowiest winter was that of 1887-8, with 43 days, while in the winter of 1862-3 there was not a single fall of snow. The mean date of first snowfall was November 9, and of last snowfall March 30. Hail is essentially a spring phenomenon, reaching a maximum in March and April, the minimum being in July and August. The days with hail averaged 5.9 per annum.

Nerve Cells of the Brain.

The human brain is composed of at least 300,000,000 of nerve cells, each an independent organism. The lifetime of a nerve cell is estimated to be about 60 days, so that 5,000,000 die every day, about 200,000 every hour, and nearly 3,000 every minute, to be succeeded by an equal number of their progeny. Thus once in every 60 days a man has a new brain.

Bulletin Financier.

Mercredi, 27 octobre 1897.

COMPTON D'EGANGES (CLEARING) (BOURSE) DE LA NOUVELLE ORLEANS.

Table with 3 columns: Item, Price, and Quantity. Includes items like 'Café', 'Sucre', 'Cacao', etc.

MARCHÉ MONÉTAIRE.

Table with 3 columns: Item, Price, and Quantity. Includes items like 'Or', 'Argent', 'Copper', etc.

BOURSE DE NEW-YORK.

Table with 3 columns: Item, Price, and Quantity. Includes items like 'Cotton', 'Wool', 'Sugar', etc.

CHANGES.

Table with 3 columns: Location, Price, and Quantity. Includes locations like 'London', 'Paris', 'Bremen', etc.

VENTES A LA BOURSE DE LA NOUVELLE ORLEANS.

Table with 3 columns: Item, Price, and Quantity. Includes items like 'Cotton', 'Wool', 'Sugar', etc.

ACTIENS ET BONS.

Table with 3 columns: Company Name, Price, and Quantity. Includes companies like 'Louisiana', 'New Orleans', etc.

MARCHÉ DE LIVERPOOL.

Table with 3 columns: Item, Price, and Quantity. Includes items like 'Cotton', 'Wool', 'Sugar', etc.

MARCHÉ DE NEW-YORK.

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Bulletin Commercial.

Mercredi, 27 octobre 1897.

COTON.

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