

BOOKS FOR BLIND CHEAPER

New Method of Printing, Discovered in France, Has Lowered the Cost Materially.

Books for the blind are to be very much cheaper because of a new method of printing them discovered in France, and free libraries for the blind are to be established throughout the provinces of France.

"Books with raised letters used by the blind are generally very expensive. They have, up to the present time, been of two distinct types: First, those which were stereotyped, the manufacturing process being so expensive that frequent printing of new books is made almost impossible; second, those written by hand by some blind person whose good will does not prevent him from making frequent inaccuracies, and who can make but one copy at a time, and that only slowly.

SHE HAD KEPT NOTHING BACK

Young Lady With Seven Transfers Explains Deficiency to Street Car Conductor.

Seven bright young girls, each in a new gown and all in the highest spirits, boarded a street car in Philadelphia. The announced intention of all was to transfer at a certain junction, and to this end the girl in the red hat, who appeared to be the leader of the expedition, got seven transfers.

The conductor looked at her, and on each side of her, and all around her. She was oblivious. Then he asked: "Where are the others?"

The girl looked startled and confused for an instant, and then she said, with cold dignity: "Those are all the transfer man gave me."

Germany's latest fad seems to be the "Endosbad," destroyed by a Berlin engineer, and claimed to be the first transportable covered swimming bath which affords a practical substitute for the usual expensive buildings.

The swimming basin is inexpensive and may be easily transported to any convenient location. The water supply may be obtained from a lake, river, springs, or from the town water works, as the use of the filter minimizes the amount of fresh water necessary and so reduces the number of germs that the water is purer than when freshly introduced.

Artificial Wood.

Louis Carre, in England, has invented a process for the artificial production of wood from straw or dried grass. It is proposed to use the wood, not only in the manufacture of matches, for which purpose it is said to be cheaper than natural wood. The straw is passed through crushing rolls and then through cylindrical cutters, which divide it into strips.

Parent Vine of All Grapes.

Hugo Lilienthal, who believes that he has discovered the parent vine of all grapes in the world—the vine which produced the enormous clusters of grapes found by the spies of Moses on their first entrance into the Holy Land—is superintendent of parks in Berkeley, California. The specimen was found by him in Palestine in 1884. Claim is made that the improved plants now produce bunches of grapes 30 inches long. Lilienthal has not grown the plant in Berkeley, but declares that when it is distributed it will be one of the wonders of the world and will treble the grape-growing capacity of the country.

Worth Nothing.

Judge—Prisoner, have you anything further to add to your defense? Prisoner—All that I ask you to consider, my lord is the extreme youth of my counsel.—Exchange.

TEACHING MONKEYS A LESSON

Daubed With Treacle and Tartar Emetic, They Never Refined Sugar Cane Patch Again.

It is said that for cool impudence and sheer audacity the hill monkeys of the Himalayas stand alone. They slip into the bugalows at Dalhousie and, it is averred, carry off anything that is not too heavy for them to handle. They spring from tree to tree, from house to house, gayly disporting the articles they have stolen from the breakfast or dining rooms of the Dalhousie people.

Few people like to shoot a monkey, and so the little fellows grow bolder all the time. A story is told of an Englishman near Dalhousie who was trying to protect his sugar cane patch with a great trench and a palisade covered with nails. All to no avail, however.

The owner walked down to it one morning and found a row of monkeys seated on the palisade. The moment he came within reach they threw his own sugar cane into his face, after which they got down and strolled away, leisurely munching. Such things were not to be borne. He chased a lot of monkeys into a tree, felled the tree and caught four or five young monkeys. The parents walked near in great perturbation, anxiously watching while their infants were painted from head to foot with treacle and tartar emetic. On being allowed to go they rushed off into the fond and welcome arms and were immediately carried up into the woods and there assiduously licked clean from top to toe by their loving parents. The inevitable effects followed, and the unhappy condition of the old monkeys can easily be imagined. They never rifled that patch of sugar cane again.

VIEWPOINT OF OTHER FELLOW

How Attorney General Wickersham Selected His Playmates When He Was a Boy.

When Attorney General Wickersham was a plain, every day citizen and lived in Tenth street near Fifth avenue, New York, a few years ago, the tide of immigration was already beginning to flow in that direction. In consequence, it was a rough crowd of boys of all nationalities that gathered about the curb to play their street games.

Master Wickersham was frequently admonished by his mother to avoid the neighborhood toughs. On one occasion she emphasized her remarks by saying: "You know what I mean, son; play only with boys whose fathers are gentlemen."

This speech made quite an impression on the lad. A few days later he entered the library, where his mother was entertaining guests, accompanied by a dirty, unkempt little Italian.

Queen's Mild Rebuke.

The carriage of Queen Victoria of Spain was checked for a moment in the crowded street, and she was at once the target for all eyes as she sat waiting quietly. Waiting to examine more closely the beautifully embroidered garment which the queen was wearing, an American lady raised impulsively an opera-glass which she was carrying and scanned the queen closely, although only a few feet apart.

Suddenly, to her dismay, she was brought to the realization of her extreme rudeness by meeting the queen's eyes full in the glass—that spoke the rebuke plainly, although the steady look was both kind and patient.

Instantly the glass was lowered, and with scarlet cheeks the lady's face expressed an unmistakable apology as Queen Victoria raised a mildly reproving forefinger and shook her head slightly with a little smile as the carriage moved on.—Youth's Companion.

Moderns Outdo Ancients.

Stories of the ancients who performed prodigious feats pale into insignificance compared with modern accomplishments. For example, the story of Leander, who swam the Hellespont with the prize-winning object of passing an hour in the presence of his sweetheart. Now, the body of water known in ancient times as the Hellespont is in these days called the Strait of Dardanelles, and the distance across is rather less than a mile. Compared with such a swim as that of Captain Webb, who first swam across the Strait of Dover, a distance of 21 miles, Leander's performance seems not only credible, but insignificant.

Rivers Fight for Existence.

The discovery that there is a kind of struggle for existence and survival of the fittest among rivers is one of the most interesting results of the modern study of physiography. A notable example of this contest is exhibited by England's two biggest rivers, the Thames and the Severn. Between their valleys lie the Cotswold Hills, and exploration shows that the Severn, by eating backward among these hills, where softer strata underlie them, has diverted to itself some of the headwaters which formerly flowed into the Thames.—Harper's Weekly.

SUPPER PAID FOR ITSELF

Clever Trick by Which Liszt and Rubini Packed House for Their Second Concert.

An article in an Italian review contains an interesting story of Liszt, the composer, and Rubini, the tenor. Touring together, they visited a town where a great financial success was expected. But they were disappointed, for when they entered the hall they found only fifty persons present.

Rubini was furious, and said he would not sing; but Liszt calmed him. "You must sing," he said; "this small audience is evidently composed of musical connoisseurs of the town, so we should treat them with respect."

Liszt set the example with a grand overture, and Rubini sang to perfection. Liszt gave another piece, and then addressed the audience. "Ladies and gentlemen," he said, "I think that you have had enough music. Allow me to ask you to take a little supper with us."

The invitation was accepted, and Liszt and Rubini entertained the audience to supper at their hotel, at a cost of twelve hundred francs. When the guests separated the hosts thought the affair had been a joke about which nothing more would be heard, but they decided to give their concert as advertised on the following night. To their astonishment the hall was packed; there was no standing room. The whole town had turned out on the chance of an invitation to supper.

YOUTH HAS BRIGHT FUTURE

Woman Customer Is Much Pleased Over Concession She Won From Young Clerk.

Miss Ellis, descending the steps of Bennett & Buck's hardware store, met Mrs. Lane going up. "What they got?" Mrs. Lane demanded in a tone that said, "Nothing much, I guess!" "I didn't look around," replied Miss Ellis. "I knew what I wanted," holding out an ungainly bundle, "and I got it—a hand bellows for my fireplace. I went in, and Mary Baker's third no fourth—boy came right up to me and asked what he could show me. I told him hand bellows. He brought some up and said they were a dollar.

"Is that the best you can do?" I asked him. "The very best," he says, "but I'll tell you what I'd do, Miss Ellis, he says. You don't look a very strong lady, and I'll fill it with wind for ye."

"If you want concessions," concluded Miss Ellis, "I recommend ye to that boy."—Youth's Companion.

Taking No Risks.

"Yes," said the suburbanite, "I am fond of mushrooms and we often have them on our table."

"But," asked the city man, "don't you incur some risk of eating a toadstool now and then?" "Not if the person who picks them understands his business. Invariably I exercise the utmost care. So does a certain neighbor of mine. We are not on very good terms with him. Imagine my surprise the other evening when his small daughter brought over a mess of mushrooms, saying her papa wanted us to try them for supper. Well, they were all right. We ate them and they were enjoyed. Later I met an acquaintance of my kind neighbor.

"Did you eat those mushrooms?" he asked. "Sure," said I. "No bad effects?" "None whatever. Why do you ask?" "Well, Mr. Blank was in doubt about them, so he decided to take no chances. That's why he tried them on you first."

"A Perfect Saw."

"To say nothing of saw wood" seems to be one of the most sagacious phrases passed down by our hard-working forebears. Like most sayings which have emanated from manual labor, this is blunt, homely, and to the laconically inclined, painfully accurate. Show me a man bent back-knife fashion over a sawhorse, with a short log under his back, and I will point out a man who is minding his own business with admirable zeal. If he speaks, he ceases to saw. While he saws he is necessarily mute. Hence this shrewd phrase, which is, punning aside, a perfect saw.—Atlantic Monthly.

Bees as a Weather Bureau.

Those who have studied the bees in the mountains say their combs always foretell the length of the coming seasons to a nicety. As they always build their combs first, if the spring is to be early and warm the combs at the top of the hive are built long, but if the first season of the year is to be cold and short the combs are made small. It is the same with the summer and fall season. Mountaineers who have cleared lands in the valley say they can predict scant or bountiful crops merely by opening and examining the combs in a beehive.—New York Press.

Her Selection.

"What kind of cigars will you have?" asked the dealer—"Light, medium or strong?" "Strong ones, by all means," said the blushing dame. "Strong enough not to break in the young man's pocket, you know."

SCHUYLER'S HAPPY THOUGHT

How Revolutionary General Converted Dutch Farmers to His Plan for a Canal.

It is not known who first conceived the magnificent idea of connecting by a canal Lake Erie with the Atlantic ocean. Experiments to improve the navigation of the Mohawk by means of small canals and locks had been tried years before De Witt Clinton built the Erie canal. The purpose, which was to connect Lake Ontario through the Mohawk with the Hudson, met with a formidable obstacle at Little Falls, where the river descended for a mile or two over a series of rapids.

General Philip Schuyler of Revolutionary fame had planned a series of locks to overcome this descent of the river. Knowing that the success of the project would depend upon the favor with which the Dutch farmers, settled near the river, received it, he visited them. Calling a meeting at a tavern, he unfolded his plan. The old Dutchmen loved and honored Schuyler, for he was the head of an old Dutch family. They were delighted with the prospect of the commerce of the state sailing past their farms, but they could not comprehend how boats could ascend Little Falls.

The general, by means of drawings, explained the principle of locks. It was in vain. The stolid Dutchmen shook their heads, saying that they didn't believe a word of it. "Water wouldn't run up hill, and it was useless for the general to endeavor to make them believe that it would."

The general went to bed, mortified at his failure. Turning over the thing in his mind, a happy thought suggested itself. He arose, lighted a candle, took a knife and a few shingles and went into the tavern yard. Digging a miniature canal of two different levels, he connected them by a lock of shingles. Then he summoned the Dutchmen, who came grumbling at being aroused from their slumbers. Poursing water from a pail into the little canal, he locked a chip through from the lower to the upper level. "Well, general, dot beats everything!" exclaimed the astonished Dutchmen. "Now ye understands and ye goes mit you untr your canal!"

HOW COOK WASTES COFFEE

Mistake by Which Delicate Aroma is Lost—Difference Between Ordinary Cook and Culinary Artist.

A pleasing odor ascended to the guest room and one of the visitors sniffed it daintily. "The coffee smells good," she said, hastening her preparations for breakfast. The other guest shook her head sadly. "Yes," she replied, "it is good coffee, but it makes me sorrowful to have anybody make coffee so long before a meal is ready. So many persons do that. It shows at once the difference between an ordinary cook and a culinary artist. A careless cook often makes her coffee the first thing and puts it on the back of the range to keep hot, thinking thereby to have it ready for the table without further trouble and well out of her way. It is a fatal mistake. All the rich, delicate aroma of the coffee is lost in that way. We are getting it up here now, as you perceive. It is, as you have said, very appetizing, but coffee is not intended especially for an appetizer, and you don't wish it while you are combing your hair. To be perfect, with all its aroma and strength preserved, coffee should be served piping hot, just as soon as it is made."

Beetle Is Strong.

If asked to name the strongest animals, most persons begin with the largest; the elephants, and continue with oxen, horses, etc. This is, of course, correct in so far as their total horsepower is concerned, but for real strength, proportioned to the size and weight of the animal, one must go to the insect world. Compared with insects the strength of almost any large animal and especially of man, is absurd.

A man is considered strong if he can drag a mass weighing three or four times as much as himself, but the beetle will walk with 500 times his own weight. If a man were placed under a wooden box with five times his weight on top to hold it down, he would remain there indefinitely, but to retain a stag beetle prisoner in the same way one must pile on top of the box at least 1,800 times its weight.

Dalry World's Finest Port.

It is said of Dalry, the chief city and port of Kwangtung province, that it has the finest harbor and wharves in the Far East, vessels drawing up to 28 feet being moored alongside the quay. Goods can be discharged from a ship and placed aboard the freight cars, which run out onto the wharves, in one operation. While ice forms in the protected parts of the bay at Dalry, it never becomes sufficiently thick to interfere with navigation, so that the port is open the year round, and Dalry being the southern terminus of the main line of the South Manchuria railway, the advantages conferred are at once evident.

Double the Depth.

The unctuous undertaker was sympathetic. "How deep do you dig graves, as a rule?" asked the old millionaire's young widow. "Six feet."

"Make it twelve," she replied. "I will pay the difference."—Puck.

ROSEMARY BUT A MEMORY

Plant Long Praised in Song by Famous Poets Has Almost Completely Disappeared.

When Samuel Pepys went one day in 1660 to his favorite St. Olave's to pray he had his pew all covered with rosemary and baize. Scott celebrates the good old time when the boar's head "frowned on high, crested with bays and rosemary." Herrick, too, has a song in which the bay and the rosemary are coupled. What (asks a writer in The Scotsman) has become of the rosemary as an article of commerce? It cannot be bought "in the shops," nor so far as personal experience goes, even in the herb markets.

One can get oil of rosemary and other rosemary preparations at the chemist's, but only here and there in an old village or country garden is the plant itself found. This seems a pity, if only in view of Shakespeare's well known reference to rosemary "for remembrance." For remembrance! There is, in truth, nothing more haunting than the scent of rosemary. It is not exactly sweet, it is not quite spicy, but it suggests all sorts of old memories, and fingers longer with one than many scents that are actually sweeter. In Butler's "Hudibras" we read that "some reverend men approve of rosemary in making love." The plant was certainly once more used at weddings; indeed, in ancient times, to wear a rosemary was as significant of a wedding as to wear a white favor. When the nurse in "Romeo and Juliet" says: "Doth not rosemary and Romeo begin with one letter?" she presumably hints at this emblematic character of the herb. But rosemary has its practical uses even today, especially among country people. A stew in vinegar is used for headaches, and a preparation from the leaves is a simple remedy for falling hair. Sometimes the flowers are pressed into service in the kitchen, and at pig killing times the bushes are often pruned severely to provide leaves for throwing into the lard. Rosemary honey, too, is highly prized.

JUST A LITTLE FISH STORY

Henrik Dahl Makes Successful Test of Darwinian Theory, but Pat Meets Sad Fate.

Henrik Dahl of Aalesund was a reader and follower of Darwin. Wishing to apply his theory to the limit of adaptability of a species to its environment Henrik procured a herring from a neighboring fjord and carried it home in a tub of sea water. He renewed the water daily for some time and gradually reduced the quantity, with so little inconvenience to the herring that he concluded that the fish might, in time, learn to breathe air undiluted with water, like the cat and man. It turned out as he expected, and the water was finally emptied out of the tub, never to be replaced.

Henrik next removed the fish from its tub and placed it on the ground, where it flopped about very awkwardly at first, but soon learned to move freely and rapidly. In a little while the herring was able to follow its master without difficulty, and then it became his constant companion about the streets of the city.

On a certain unfortunate day, Henrik had occasion to cross a dilapidated bridge which spanned an arm of the harbor. The herring coming gracefully along heedless of danger, now and again springing at him, for which it had acquired a great fondness, missed its footing—slipped through a crack into the water and was drowned.—Boston Transcript.

Bear Plays Possum.

Frank Hamlin, a rancher living between this city and Carlton, was one of the principals in an exciting hunt incident this week. Hamlin ran onto a large black bear suddenly; the hunter was cool enough to get a good standing shot at the bear and to all appearances killed the animal. Upon going up to examine his prize victim, which had fallen as if quite dead, Hamlin was taken off his guard by Bruin effecting a quick and unexpected revival.

The bear reared in an attempt to embrace the hunter, who was leaning over him to examine the effects of his shot. At this unexpected maneuver Hamlin beat a hasty retreat with the bear in close pursuit. At times the bear was so close as to snatch at the retreating Nimrod's coat tails. Coming to a thicket the hunter was able to elude the bear and with another shot Hamlin put Bruin out of commission.—Sheridan Correspondence Portland Oregonian.

Artful Tommy.

Tommy was for the time being lost. For an hour his mother had seen nothing of him—had heard nothing of him, and this was unusual—so unusual that Tommy's mamma became anxious. She questioned Tommy's sister Elsie. But Elsie only shook her curls. She knew nothing; she hadn't seen Tommy for an hour, quite. Then Tommy's mamma rang for the cook, and the cook came in looking hot and uncomfortable. "Oh, mum—mum!" she began, wildly. "Gracious, cook! What has happened?" shrieked Tommy's mamma, as she flopped into a chair. "My boy! My sweet cherub! Tell me the worst!" And the cook told her. "Please, mum, Tommy's locked himself in the larder with the mince pies, and—ah—he says he's going on eating till he's too ill to be whipped!"

DOG HAS COSTLY GOLD TEETH

Little "Maxy" Had Bad Toothache and His Owner Gave Him Brand New Set of Incisors.

Chicago.—In the future, when Maxy's playmates laugh at him for having no hair, he will open his mouth in a yawn, ostentatiously displaying a mouth full of gold teeth that would fill the soul of some people with envy. The set of bridgework cost \$112.

At least, those were Maxy's plans when he was interviewed. Not that he was so ill-bred as to say anything about his teeth. In fact, he said nothing intelligible. The average man, for he is a human being, belongs to Dr. Henri Grosser, a student at the Western Dental college, and lives with his father and his wife at 934 La Salle street.

Dr. Grosser took Maxy from the refuge of the Antislavery society several weeks ago and soon afterward discovered that the dog was suffering from toothache.

An examination disclosed the presence of two abscessed incisors and several other teeth that needed attention. The basement of the Grosser home was turned into an operating room, with Maxy as the patient and Dr. Grosser the dentist.

"Maxy seemed to know that I was doing what was best for him," Dr. Grosser said, "and, although he objected a good deal at first, he gave me no trouble after the teeth were out. It was a great relief to him, you see, for as soon as I had removed the teeth the pain stopped."

"He used to lie perfectly still when I was taking the impressions and made no trouble, even when I was fitting the new teeth in place. They are good and sound, too, and not a dog in Chicago is better able to chew bones and meat than he."

By reason of his teeth, Maxy has become one of the celebrities of the neighborhood.

REAL "DAUGHTER" IS FOUND

Woman of 111 Years Has Lived Under 25 Presidents—90-Year-Old Daughter Farmer.

Atlanta, Ga.—Mrs. Mary Trawick Proctor, aged one hundred and eleven years, a real daughter of the American revolution, has been discovered in a humble one-room cabin in Bartow county, Ga. Her only companions are her daughter, Miss Mary Proctor, aged ninety, and two great-great-grandchildren, descendants of another daughter.

Mrs. Proctor was born in Wake county, N. C., in 1800. At the age of nineteen she married Hiram Proctor, a veteran of the Revolution and the war of 1812. She has lived under the administration of twenty-five presidents.

On a bedding of straw, consisting of a mattress so thin that the rough plank slats can be seen, this daughter of the Revolution lies, her form emaciated, skin wrinkled and almost a skeleton.

Her aged daughter administers to the wants of the little household and sometimes tills the soil in a small cotton and garden patch nearby. The meager profits derived from this labor she adds to the \$12 a month pension Mrs. Proctor receives for the services her husband rendered in the war of 1812.

A movement has been started in Atlanta to raise funds sufficient to provide for the two aged women the rest of their lives.

FIVE-CENT TIP IS SPURNED

Disappointed Taxicab Pilot Astonishes European "Fare" by Strange Disposition of Largesse.

New York.—Women were discarding their wraps in the lobby of the St. Regis at the dinner hour when a tall man from Europe entered the hotel through the huge revolving doors. There was a loud rattle-rattle-rattle on the glass. The man from Europe turned hastily and looking about asked the guard in gold braid: "What was that?"

"I don't know, sir. I saw nothing, sir," the braided one replied. "Very strange," said a man in the lobby, stepping up. "Quite a loud report. Must have come from the outside."

"Ah, there, guard! Step out and see!" thundered the assistant manager. The man went out trembling. The result of his inquiry was astonishing to the man from Europe. He had returned to the St. Regis in a "tramp" taxicab, and after paying his fare gave the chauffeur a nickel for himself. The latter threw it with all his force at the glass door.

"I was thoughtful," murmured the man from Europe. "Undoubtedly he is a gentleman chauffeur and too proud to take a tip."

Good Eye Removed, Sees.

Carlisle, Pa.—By removing his active eye, Jacob Shields, who has been blind in the other for 17 years, has been enabled to see perfectly out of the one formerly defective.

Recently Shields suffered a sudden attack of total blindness from the strain imposed on the good eye by the blind. He was removed to a Philadelphia hospital, and there the physicians determined that his good eye, which had been affected, would have to be done away with. They discovered, however, that the blind eye was made so by a cataract. That removed the blind eye regained its sight.

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS