

VICTIMIZE WRITERS.

Publishers Who Profit by the Abolition of Literary Aspirants.

Encourage Them to Bring Out Their Works, but Insist Upon the Advancement of Expense Money.

"Everybody is writing nowadays," sighed a magazine editor, disgustedly, as he ran through a pile of manuscripts heaped up on his desk...

In this era of well-nigh universal authorship there has arisen a band of unscrupulous knaves who, with the skill of a confidence man...

"It is the greatest graft that ever happened, my boy," said one of the most cold-blooded of these rogues, as he boasted of his achievements...

"Of course we adopt a stand-offish policy as soon as he begins to nibble," said him that we can never consider his book until it has run the gauntlet of our readers and critics...

"Then we inform him that the expense of publication will be about \$100, which we expect him to stand. He demurs, whereupon we ask him how many copies he thinks he can dispose of himself..."

"That \$100 is merely a first contribution, though. He expects that his manuscript must be thoroughly revised, corrected and punctuated..."

"Do they ever come back with a second book?"

"Never. That is the sole drawback to the business. One never has the chance to make steady connections..."

HILLS OF TINY GEMS.

The Sands of the Colorado Desert Are of a Marvelous Composition.

The Colorado desert is a level plain of clay, relieved here and there by hills of sand. It was formerly the bottom of a great shallow lake...

The hills described are not stationary, but travel constantly, though slowly, journeying over the plain as the winds direct. The sand of which they are composed is not of the ordinary kind...

The northern portion of the desert is paved with the most wonderful pebbles in the world, in many parts so exquisitely laid out to defy successful imitation...

Fell Gravel.

"I am very sorry, doctor, you were not able to attend the church supper last night. It would have done you good to be there."

"It has already done me good, madam. I have just prescribed for three of the participants."—Richmond Dispatch.

A Literal Interpretation.

"Why do we say, 'Give us this day our daily bread?'" asked a Sunday school teacher after the lesson.

"Because we want it, fresh," answered a little girl.—Little Chronicle.

PUNGENT PARAGRAPHS.

"Sister says she will be down in just a minute." "Thanks. Just tell her, please, that I'd going out for a stroll and will be back in half an hour."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Slightly Mixed Now.—"You are an authority on history, I believe?" "No," replied the scholar, sadly. "I used to be before I began reading historical novels."—Chicago Post.

"So you've been in Rome four weeks? I suppose you have shown your daughter all the art museums?" "Oh, we don't need to see them! My daughter is an artist herself!"—Lustige Blaetter.

A Cruel Stab.—Miss Fortysummers—"I had a proposal last night and refused it." Miss Cruscher—"You are always thinking of the welfare of others, aren't you, dear?"—Ohio State Journal.

Farmer (in cart)—"Hi, stop! Stop, you fool! Don't you see my horse is running away?" Driver of motor-car (hired by the hour)—"Yes, it's all very well for you to say 'stop,' but I've forgotten how the blooming thing works!"—Punch.

"I have here," said the editor of the new magazine, looking over a stack of manuscripts, "an embarrassment of riches." "And in my department," responded the business manager, "the embarrassment is also of a financial nature."—Indianapolis News.

No Wonder He Was in Pain.—Soubrette—"The heavy tragedian says he got a rousing reception everywhere. He says it pained him to leave the last town." Comedian—"You bet it pained him! I understand they rode him out on a kee-n-edged rail."—Philadelphia Record.

"Do you believe in the eternal fitness of things?" asked the gentleman with the philosophic turn of mind. "I did until that last shower," mournfully replied the practical one, as he glanced ruefully at his shrunken spring suit.—Baltimore News.

TUNNEL IN THE SIERRAS.

Survey Lately Completed for Railway Bore in the Mountains Over Five Miles Long.

The surveyors and engineers of the Southern Pacific railroad lately completed the survey for the new tunnel through the Sierras. The tunnel is to be five miles and 800 feet in length. Not counting our subway, it will be the longest tunnel yet excavated in this country...

Conspicuous as the tunnel will be among the mountains it will be inferior in length to all the great Alpine tunnels, says the New York Sun. The Simpson tunnel now building will be 12 1/2 miles long...

An our work on the subway has demonstrated to all New Yorkers, tunneling has been reduced to a science, for the experience gained in the earlier works has resulted in better methods and greater improved machinery...

Cat Case in Supreme Court. The famous controversy growing out of the ownership of a Siouxs Falls cat has now reached the state supreme court, and bids fair to attract more attention than the celebrated Iowa calf case...

The construction of the trans-isthmian waterway through the productive country of Nicaragua means to that country an opening up of its latent resources, immigration, and improved transportation facilities...

Trials of Travel.

"I suppose," remarked the man who is always in the front row with a question, "that there are a great many disagreeable features connected with your profession?"

"There are," admitted the actor with the dust-embellished shoes. "What, may I ask," queried the other, "do you find the most disagreeable?"

"Railway travel," replied the barn-stormer, with a sigh from away down. "The ties are either too far apart or too close together for comfortable pedestrianism."—Chicago Daily News.

THE PERILS OF FAME

Pictures of Stage and Other Celebrities in Poor Places.

Secondly Beauties Pasted Up Alongside of Quack Advertisements—Revivalists Resort to Posters and Billboards.

Fame, no less than obscurity, has its drawbacks. For instance, what a twinge it would give a well-known matinee idol if he were to take a ride on a Chicago elevated train to the westward and see where an enterprising advertiser has placed his picture...

The aforesaid counterpart of the famous actor is one of those modern atrocities made of wood and paint. The face is painted on a board, and then the contour is cut out, much after the fashion a child cuts pictures from a colored supplement...

One of these picturestands against a reeking chimney in one of the most squalid quarters of the city, covered with soot, and certainly a most dejected and utterly forlorn-looking thing. Other pictures of the same sort are slapped up against the sides of old buildings...

Many women who strut about the stage in queenly grace might be jarred never so slightly were they to see the company some of their pictures keep on the billboards of a great city, or even the plebeian juxtaposition they encounter along the country road-side...

The prima donna who nightly thrills the great public, and daily bleeds the manager for a big salary, is often sandwiched in between big advertisements for soap, pickles or beer, and the great tragedian who is supposed never to have a thought that is not lugubrious will hobnob on the billboards at least, with people who once had a cancer, but now have not, or others who used Bumbo's axle grease once, and now cannot keep house without it.

Time was when the billboards were given exclusively to the coming of the circus, the advent of some great star, or the coming out of a new play. But of late years the advertisers have pushed their way into the poster and paste business, and the array of pictures and articles and announcements is nearly as wide as are human wants.

In recent years politics has also entered this field, and posters announcing in glaring type the platforms of certain candidates, the intentions of others, have been frequently used by all political parties. Pictures of candidates, huge cartoons and excerpts from speeches have been plastered on billboards from one end of the country to the other...

Not to be outdone in advertising of this sort, the church now enters the field and occupies space on the big boards about town. In many localities there are at the present time big four-sheets bearing the announcement in tall, red letters: "Hear Mr. So-and-So on 'The Way of Salvation' Sunday Next."

Revivalists who are engaged in the labor of snatching sinners as brands from the burning frequently have big posters struck off announcing their arrival, where they are to preach, and often insist on having sensational sheets struck off, announcing sensational subjects. Some of the big churches have billboards of their own in the down-town districts, where topics are announced, ice cream socials are advertised, or fairs, grab bags, rummage sales, and other such adjuncts to big city churches are announced to the hurrying public.

The construction of the trans-isthmian waterway through the productive country of Nicaragua means to that country an opening up of its latent resources, immigration, and improved transportation facilities. The construction of the canal will draw thousands of foreigners to the country, both capitalists and labor, and it requires no stretch of the imagination to see this increasing population spreading over the adjacent country both to the north and to the south, and settling on the lands which can be had for the asking...

HINTS TO HOUSEKEEPERS.

Odd Items of Domestic Lore That May Be Useful in the Union.

A small piece of borax held in the mouth until it dissolves will stop the tickling sensation in the throat, says the Boston Budget.

Ammonia, among its other claims to recognition, has the point in its favor that it will remove mud stains from dresses. After brushing the dry mud away, sponge the remaining stain with a weak mixture of ammonia and water. On black materials this may be done without fear of the consequences...

Substitutes for sash rings are oblong envelopes made of good, but not too fine, linen. The shape is an oblong piece of linen, pointed at one end. This can be folded in three, the pointed end forming the flap. The whole is covered with a floral pattern in embroidery. A plain, thin white silk or linen lining is then fitted to the piece of work...

It is not generally known that wringing out a cloth in hot water and well wiping the furniture before putting on a furniture cream will result in a high polish and will not finger mark. For the women who leave off handkerchiefs gradually and who like to wear always a light red wool, the albatross underpetticoats are just the thing. They come simply made.

There is an open shoe for children to suit mothers who do not care for the regular sandal. These shoes are made in the style of the ankle tie, but have a strap running from the toe-piece straight up over the instep, and fastening to the strap which buttons around the angle from the heel-piece. To give the small toes in the slipper a great amount of fresh air, there are oval slits cut in the toe-piece, and there is a semi-sandal.

FRILLS OF FASHION.

Tasty Trifles That Are Much in Evidence in the Summer Costume.

A clever milliner has introduced a new form of buckle, having all the appearance of straw, but actually made in enamel, says the Brooklyn Eagle.

For wear with the low-cut blouse the black velvet necklet has been revived and likewise wristbands to match to be worn with elbow sleeves. The necklet is embroidered in some simple floral design and fastens in the back with a small bow. The wristband fastens with small patent clasps.

Black currants are a very popular fruit on corn-colored strawhats, which have for trimming velvet bows of the hues of the foliage.

Chalk-colored cloth which verges on white and pale gray and does not really belong to either class is a fashionable fabric. Putty and cloud gray are among the favored shades of the season.

Vellie, transparent enough to show the glimmer of a silken lining, is another great favorite. There is a certain dark blue velveteen, of a metallic tint, which is worn over green glace with excellent effect.

The Dresden dimity skirt is the new-est in prettiness. The ground is plain or colored, with floral decorations in delicate or gray hues. A plisse bounce or double frill of the same material finish the skirt.

Beers Giving Up Arms.

In a steady stream they troop into the provost marshal's office, where they hand over their rifles, bandoliers and cartridges. No matter the veidt gives good hiding to duplicates and triplicates, and if Martinis or prehistoric shooting irons are accepted, so much the better. But it is different with the horses. Earnest are the entreaties to be allowed to keep one, only one out of a large batch brought in by one man; just this unbroken two-year-old, or this aged fellow, long past work. But the orders are very clear and very wise. Take every horse, young or old, sound or unsound, which can carry a Boer. No matter whether they are fit for our own mounted troops or not...

Wheat Gems with Nuts and Dates.

Sift together two cups of entire wheat flour, half a teaspoonful of salt, one tablespoonful of sugar, two teaspoonfuls of baking powder. Beat the yolks of two eggs until light, and add to two cups of milk or one cup of milk and one cup of water. Stir this into the dry materials and beat to a smooth batter; then add two tablespoonfuls of melted butter, half a cup of chopped dates, and half a cup of English walnuts, cut in coarse pieces. Last of all fold in the frothed whites of the eggs. Fill the gem pans two-thirds full of the batter and bake in a moderately hot oven for 30 minutes.—Washington Star.

A Healthful Tonic.

The consciousness of a feeling of good will and love toward others is the most powerful and most healthful tonic in the world. It is a wonderful stimulant, for it enlarges, sustains, and ennobles life. It kills selfishness, and scatters envy and jealousy.—Success.

KISSES STUDIED BY SCIENCE.

Definitions of Their Meaning and Sensation Given by a Noted Danish Professor.

Dr. Nyrop, professor of romance philology at the University of Copenhagen, has written a book on "The Kiss and Its History."

The reader who desires to know the best things that have been said and thought by men and women about kissing since the world began, will find plenty of material ready to his hand in this book, says a London report. But only a minority will care to continue the Philistine pursuit of defining and classifying kisses, except for the sake of the gems which he may pick up on the way.

Why should a kiss be defined? We are not advanced by learning that it is "an inspiratory bilabial sound," expressing a certain feeling. Some writers, we are told, classify kisses by sound, and incidentally reference is made to Mark Twain's definition of a certain variety of kiss as resembling the sound made by a cow in dragging her hind foot out of a swamp.

The rabbi divided kissing into three kinds, those of greeting, farewell and respect. Dr. Nyrop himself classifies them according to passion, love, peace, respect and friendship. On page 30 no fewer than 30 kinds are mentioned. This is a German classification, and the Germans may be left to enjoy it. No classification is so simple or adequate as that of the Romans—ocula, basia, suavia—kisses of love, respect and passion, respectively.

Having got your kinds, the author then proceeds to discuss the various aspects of kisses—the gustative, the quantitative, qualitative, topographical and ethical—kisses of peace, respect, friendship and so on. The analysis is carefully made, and a great deal of time-honored lore is the way of quotations has been smashed on the subject.

Literature, ancient and modern, has been ransacked. New writers, like Aarstrup and Dorat, are referred to, and the only omission is that of the lugubrious speculations of the Lancet about the physical harm of the practice.

The reader will find many passages of interest, and not least those in which the author develops a theory of his own, viz: that kissing is derived from a conjoint exercise of the senses of smell and taste, and that it probably arose from imitating the habits of doves in preening their beaks together. At first it meant love, then other emotions, and lastly become conventional.

TRICK OF CLEVER BRIDE.

She Wears Old Clothes While Traveling in Order to Deceive the Prying Public.

No one would ever recognize the bride of to-day by her traveling attire. The good old days when brides made Pullman cars look like a pink tea with their gray frocks and gloves and their white hats have passed and a more prosaic period has come, says the Baltimore News.

An acquaintance of the writer who was wedded in white satin the other night folded her going-away gown of sheer cloth neatly and put it in her trunk. Then she donned a walking skirt of sober Oxford gray, a white linen shirt waist, a demure straw hat trimmed with black, a jacket that matched the skirt, and away she went. Not even her gloves and shoes were new. Each had been worn often enough to take the bandbox look from them.

And she is not the only one who, to deceive the traveling public, thus sacrifices vanity, for at least half a dozen of the spring brides have for the same reason traveled in well-worn garb.

The newly-married one first alluded to sends a wail back from the resort where she is spending a few weeks. "They knew me, anyway," she writes to the chronicler. "Despite the fact that I made the darned place in my glove as conspicuous as possible, and that James went at once into the smoking room and I read the paper, they spotted us immediately as bride and groom. Why, one impudent man asked James at what hour the ceremony was performed while he was giving him a light from his cigar. I think it was my better half's aggressively new shoes that gave us away. They were so painfully shiny, and certainly nothing about my attire was."

Truth to tell, it's not the bride but the groom in these days who acts as a telltale. The latter's baggage, as well as his boots, is always fresh from the shop, and his tickets are always so ready to hand and have so obviously been bought days beforehand that only the blind or the totally foolish could fail to suspect him of being unused to traveling in pairs.

The Vacation Habit.

Every man, woman and child, and particularly every mother of young children, in all our great cities, looks forward through from 45 to 50 weeks of the year to the visits to the fields, the woods, the shady lane, the hills, and the old place where mother lived as a girl, where father did chores and went fishing "in the old swimmin' hole." More than any other people in all the world the citizens of our towns have the vacation habit.—From "The Prophet's Chamber" by Charles Barnard in Four-Track News.

The Wise Instructor.

Wise is the instructor who learns more than he teaches.—Chicago Daily News.

PITH AND POINT.

Did you ever notice that your enemies have as many friends as you?—Atchison Globe.

Tell a child that it is good, a man that he is great and a woman that she is beautiful and they will applaud your judgment.—Chicago Daily News.

Borroughs—"Say, Jack, let me have 50, will you?" Mackley—"What for?" Borroughs—"Oh! I owe a fellow that amount and I want to be out of debt just for once."—Philadelphia Press.

His Consent Gained.—"I want your daughter," said the young man, aggressively. The old man was shrewd. "Have you got her?" he asked. "I have." "Then take her."—Chicago Post.

"Here's a problem for you. If it takes nine tailors to make a man—" "The average fellow's only a ninth of a man, eh?" "No; I was going to add: 'How many tailor-made gowns will it take to break him?'"—Catholic Standard.

A Cleansing Process.—"How clean and fresh the landscape looks today," said Mrs. Hiland to her husband. "I read something in the paper about detectives scouring the country," explained Mr. Hiland.—Pittsburg Chronicle.

Leading Up to It.—Bobbie—"You know them preserves out in the pantry you told me not to eat?" Mother—"Yes." Bobbie—"You know you said they'd make me sick if I ate 'em, didn't you?" Mother—"Yes." Bobbie—"Well, they didn't."—Ohio State Journal.

Trouble Ahead.—Doctor—"I am slightly in doubt as to whether yours is a constitutional disease or not." Patient—"For heaven's sake, doctor, have I got to go to the expense of appealing to the United States supreme court to find out whether it is or not?"—Richmond Dispatch.

COLD STORAGE OF WEALTH.

Wonderful Vault That New York Billionaires Use for Deposit of Their Securities.

Many persons who have been amazed during the past few days at the holdings of stock certificates that represent millions of dollars by some of the magnates of Wall street have more than once wondered where on earth the stacks of certificates are stowed away over night. Some of the certificates are passed day after day in their business deals from owners to owners who have not strong underground vaults, or do all firms on the street have vaults above the average kind, says a New York correspondent of the Pittsburgh Dispatch.

Be that as it may, from this time out the millions in bonds and certificates and other "street" valuables, as well as valuables owned elsewhere, in this city and other cities, are to be stowed away in a safe in a deposit company on Broad street which has just been put in commission. It is the biggest safe in the world. In this safe are already deposited more securities than in any other one place in the world. Wealth untold is represented there by stocks and bonds, jewelry and silver plate. Here also repose the wills of many of the big millionaires in America. So vast are the financial interests concerned in this safe that the board of directors in charge of it is made to represent every fraction of the financial world. John D. Rockefeller, J. P. Morgan, the Vanderbilts, the Rothschilds, the Harrimans, the Goulds and other large interests have personal representatives on the board. The door leading into the safe is a tremendous piece of mechanism. It is circular, eight feet in diameter and 24 inches thick. It weighs 21 tons.

The hinges of this big door weigh 7,000 pounds. The door and vestibule weigh 50 tons, and yet so nicely is the door balanced on ball bearings that a baby might close it with the gentle pressure of its tiny finger. The safe is 53 feet long, 38 feet wide nine feet in height. The walls are four feet thick. The interior is fitted up with 2,000 boxes but 3,000 more will be added as they are needed. Formidable as the mechanical appliances for safety are they are not depended on altogether. Day and night men guard the big door. They pace back and forth like soldiers on guard. Three times in the night a third watchman walks through the corridor to see that the sentinels are attending to their duty. If ever a burglar gets anything out of the safe Wall street will go out of business.

Forgotten Delicacies.

The disappearance of certain birds from the tables of gourmets and the well-to-do is not easily explainable. Wheatears, for example, were, and still are, undoubtedly a great delicacy, well comparable, as they used to be, to the ortolan of the continent. The number of these birds to be seen about the South Downs is still very considerable. In old days it was the custom for any one desirous of obtaining a dozen or so of these birds to visit the shepherds' traps, take out the imprisoned wheatear, and leave a penny in its place.—Country Life.

How She Was Insulted.

Miss Nooney—Yes, I visited her house last night, but I never will again. She's too insulting.

Miss Ascum—You don't say? "Indeed, I do say. Right before all the company she said: 'Let's have a rubber at whist. Then she asked me to play.'"—Philadelphia Press.

Committee of War and Peace.

An English writer calls attention to the fact that more lives are sacrificed each year on the railway than the total casualty list of the eight biggest battles in the Boer war.