

POETRY

GENTLE QUERY OF A DISCIPLE OF ISAAC WALTON.

Along about this time of year
I think of waters brown and clear,
And mossy banks where one can sit
And watch the restless shadows flit,
And listen to the swishing
Of balmy breezes in the boughs
And lazily relax and dream
While in the ripples trails the line
To coax the speckled trout to dine—
I want to go a-fishing!

I have a book of silken flies
To tempt the wariest finny prize.
I have a nifty rod and reel,
And new, capacious willow creel—
But what's the use of wishing?
The sportive perch and red fin may
All unmolested leap and play,
The sunfish in the shallows bask,
Without the old-time pocket Basko
How can I go a-fishing?
—Minna Irving, in New York Sun and Herald.

PLUPERFECT INDICATIVE.
Was I so brave when I was young,
Or was it recklessness of youth?
There tripped so smoothly from my tongue
Great words sonorous or uncouth,
That echo through my head today—
But what they mean I cannot say.

When I was four or maybe three—
I lipped about the Predicate,
And made Subjunctives bend the knee
In passive tense ere I was eight;
I viewed, unmoved, the bones of speech
And had a horrid name for each.

I never even turned a hair
When angry Bards the echoes woke;
I'd crack a legend to its lair
And parse it at a single stroke;
Nor hesitate at raising ructions
With Participial Constructions.

Each Syntax force I calmly faced;
And scarce a second thought I'd give
To my own safety when I chased
The Absolute Ablative.
Bald Datives at my feet would bow
Who governed Clauses, God knows now.

And now I'm old, I shry at Verbs.
When Adverbs rise I give them room.
A Pronoun all my joyance curbs—
I can't remember which is whom.
Poor I, who once could shake my fists
At First and Second Aorists!
—Burgess Johnson, in Harper's Magazine.

HUMOR OF THE DAY

"What's that?"
"Congress—committee of the whole."
"Figuring how to get out of the hole."
I hope.—Louisville Courier-Journal.
Mrs. A.—Does your husband smoke in the house?
Mrs. B.—Yes, and I'm glad of it. It will be easy for me to say where to begin if he ever remarks that we must economize.—Boston Transcript.
"What business is this fellow Bergdoll in, Joe?"
"Dentist, I guess. He says he dug a hole and put gold in it, which is what dentists do, you know."—Boston Transcript.

Kathryn—Don't you think Kate's clothes are awfully pronounced?
Kitty—Yes, about as well pronounced as her English.—Houston Post.
"Our friend has expressed himself too emphatically on one or two subjects to have a chance at a candidacy."
"Yes," commented Senator Sorghum. "He isn't even a dark horse. He's a hobby horse."—Washington Star.
"Gave a medal to his wife's brother, did he?"
"Now, Jabez, have a heart. Ain't you married yourself?"—Louisville Courier-Journal.
"He married her for her money."
"The high cost of living is certainly making some men desperate."—Detroit Free Press.

"And if you are a good boy you will go to heaven," finished up the presiding sinner.
"Aw, heck!" returned young Bearcat Johnson of Rumpus Ridge, Ark. "I thought you was going to say you'd give me a dime."—Kansas City Star.
"What a nuisance! The cook has quit."
"Why don't you do the cooking yourself?"
"Oh, I quit that myself several years ago."—Detroit Free Press.

THE KALEIDOSCOPE

The finest laces are worth far more than their weight in gold.
Mosquitoes are found everywhere except in the polar regions.
The largest lake in Japan—Lake Biwa—is only 26 miles long.
The carpenter has burrows and builds webs of cells in solid wood.
The English Derby has been won by the favorite on more than 50 occasions.
One-fourth of all the printed matter in the United States emanates from New York city.

In proportion to population, Switzerland has many more deaf mutes than any other country.
A stork has been known to perish in a conflagration rather than desert her little helpless brood.

The government of the city of New York costs us \$10 to maintain than does that of the whole Japanese empire.

Time equivalent to 2,000,000 days is said to have been saved to the women of the United States by the electric washing machines sold last year.

The First Methodist church at Springfield, Mass., is to have a moving picture outfit to be used as an educational, recreational, social and evangelic agency.

Official figures recently compiled show that Birmingham was the highest unemployment rate of any city in England, reaching a total of 724 to each 10,000 of population of Greater Birmingham.

A Chinese business man in Osaka, Japan, has built a large factory for the manufacture of sewing needles. This enterprise was a thriving Chinese business but was practically wiped out by German competition.

It is a strange fact that the eggs of sea fowl are almost conical in form, so that they will only roll in a circle. As many of them are laid on the bare edges of high rocks this provision of nature prevents them from rolling off.

In Burma people of superior rank must not dishonor themselves by passing underneath persons of inferior rank. Thus a nobleman must not pass through a hall when a servant is occupied in a chamber below. This is one of the chief reasons why most of the houses in Burma are only one story.

The smallest circular saw in practical use is a tiny disc less than the size of a five-cent quarter which is employed for cutting the slits in gold pens. These saws are scarcely thicker than ordinary paper and revolve about 4,000 times a minute. The high velocity keeps them rigid notwithstanding their thinness.

There are many things you don't know and it is just as well you don't.

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