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TALK WITHOUT A STING.

Some Things Seen and Heard in Northern Michigan.

An Unprejudiced Estimate of Our Jewish Fellow-Citizens - Economical Potato Planting - Landscapes That Hurt the Eye.

[Special Letter.] Usually the first man I meet when away from home is a Jew. But as I have a great admiration for the Hebrew race these meetings are by no means disagreeable. I admire the Jews because they possess the knack of adapting themselves to conditions and circumstances, and because they know how to live. Several years ago I became a convert to their theory that a man's food influences his mental and moral condition. And observation has strengthened my faith in this doctrine. The Jews eat the choicest food, as soon as they have the means to buy it. Note the result. Instead of having remain in bondage and mere workers for wages they have become the prime movers in magnificent enterprises and give employment to tens of thousands of gentiles. While I admit that native shrewdness has had much to do with Jewish success here and abroad, yet I am firm in the belief that good cooking and the wise selection of food products has been quite as important a factor. Still another cause of the phenomenal progress made by the Hebrew race since its emancipation from bondage is its love of travel. A Jew never stagnates, either commercially or socially. When business is dull in one town he moves to another. When the society of his abiding place tires him he takes his family to a summer or winter resort.

Too Many Christians by Four. The oft-repeated statement that half of our pleasure resorts would have to be closed should the Jewish population withhold its patronage received convincing emphasis in my mind during a summer trip through northern Michigan, a section of the country which has developed into a veritable Mecca for recreation seekers. The large hotels at Petoskey, Harbor Springs, Mackinaw and Mackinac island entertained hun-



"TOO MANY CHRISTIANS."

dreds of representative Hebrew families, hailing from Chicago, Cincinnati, Louisville, New Orleans and other southern points. In some hostleries they formed the majority of guests, notably in one inn at Petoskey where a genuinely American face was hard to discover. Coming down in the train from Charlevoix I overheard a conversation between two clothing manufacturers from Cincinnati, one of whom had been to Petoskey, which, although a trifle ancient, hit the nail exactly on the head. "Vell, Israel," said one, "how's things at the Blank hotel at Petoskey?" "All right, Ikey," responded the other, "only dere's too many Christians there. I met four of dem in de corridor yesterday morning." "The first time I heard this story it was applied to Long Branch, but as it fits the Blank hotel at Petoskey equally well, we will let it go without further comment.

Economical Potato Planting. Once upon a time I read that Scots and Swedes were exactly alike in one respect—a total lack of the sense of humor. The man who originated this statement must have been a dull observer indeed, for some of the brightest witticisms I have heard were of Scotch origin, and Gus Heege, in his clever Swedish-American plays, has succeeded in proving that Swedish humor is worth at least a smile. Ole Olson has done more than his share to convert Michigan's great wilderness of stumps into a huge potato patch, and one of the family at least has used his wit to great pecuniary advantage this summer. Sven struck Mecosta county some time in April and made arrangements with a land owner to plant a large field of potatoes "on shares." He was to furnish half the seed and all the work. The seed cost him eight cents a bushel, and drew heavily on his savings; but when he looked at the large extent of soil to be worked his heart almost failed him. However, instead of giving up in despair, he studied Mecosta county nature, and then proceeded to invite all of his neighbors to meet him on his "patch" on a certain Monday morning for the purpose of partaking of some liquid refreshments. His guests arrived on time, and so did three kegs of beer and a lot of agricultural implements. Sven asked his neighbors to hitch their horses to the machine and give him a "lift" with his potatoes before indulging in the amber fluid. By

WHITE HOUSE GOSSIP.

Perquisites and Pleasures of Our Chief Magistrate.

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THE GIANTS OF THE PAST.

One of the funny things during the taking of the census of 1890 was the official return made by President Harrison. He filled out the regular blank, declaring that he was a citizen of the United States, a lawyer by profession, that he was temporarily residing in Washington, that his income was \$50,000 per annum, and that it was sufficient to support his family. He also certified that the house in which he resided was "not mortgaged." Although the expenses of state dinners are paid out of the president's salary, all of the table equipments, including the silver, glassware, china, mirrors and floral decorations are furnished by the government. Congress provides appropriations to replace worn-out or broken furniture, linen and other household necessities. During the Hayes administration a china dinner set was paid for by the government, and it cost \$5,000. The white house butler and housekeeper are paid for by the government, but the president is obliged to hire his own cook and other household servants.

The butler is usually called the steward, and he receives a regular salary for looking after the domestic affairs of the executive mansion. He buys the ice, coal and groceries, and also attends to the marketing. He sees to it that the gas and electric lights are always in order, so that the president is thereby relieved of many little household details which were originally looked after by Presidents Washington, Jefferson, Jackson and their successors down to the time of President Polk, who first induced the congress to make an appropriation for a white house butler. This official is also an important functionary in that he relieves the wife of the president of many details of housekeeping which ordinarily would fall upon the mistress of the mansion.

The housekeeper is paid a regular salary by the government, and it is her duty to superintend the chambermaids and supervise the minor details of housekeeping. She sees to it that the kitchen and dining-room are kept in order; that the meals are served on time; that the president's lunch is served in the dining-room, the cabinet room, in his private office, or in the library, wherever he may choose to have it brought. President Arthur and President Cleveland have often had their lunches served where it was most handy for them to partake, while attending to pressing business. In order that you may under-



THE WHITE HOUSE COOK.

stand this little household irregularity, you must understand that it takes five minutes or more to go from the business part of the mansion to the dining-room, and sometimes the president has not five minutes to spare in the middle of the day. It does not often happen, but when it does occur, the lunch must be served wherever the president wants it served. The housekeeper also sees to it that the linen is aired, the beds made and rugs shaken, and the carpets kept perfectly clean. Inasmuch as she is obliged to look after the red parlor, blue parlor, east room and other portions of the official and public part of the white house, as well as the residence portion, the housekeeper is a pretty busy woman, and earns her salary.

The congress makes an annual appropriation of \$8,000 for the stationery, telegrams and other contingent expenses; and that is seldom a sufficient sum for the payment of all contingent expenses, so that sometimes the president is obliged to use his private funds.

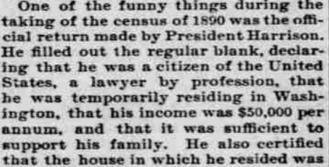
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HE PACIFIED THE KID.

Benny McKee? He was no brighter and no better than other little boys, but the newspapers were filled with laudations of Benny McKee, and his peculiarities. One morning President Harrison went aboard the Dispatch for a trip down the Potomac, and took his family with him. Of course Benny McKee was there, too. In compliance with the request of the employees at the navy yard, President Harrison came on deck and began to make a little speech to the men, when Benny McKee inside the yacht began to cry and howl over some baby trouble. He yelled and yowled and howled, until he broke up the speech of his grandfather, who went inside, pacified the kid, and then came back to conclude his speech to the workmen. When he went on his speech-making tour in 1891, President Harrison did not take Benny McKee with him. He consequently did not have his oratory disturbed by competition with the erratic lungs of his precocious grandchild. During the present administration the secretary of the navy has made use of the Dispatch for his own pleasure trips because President Cleveland preferred the Violet and the Oneda.

If he were disposed to accept them, the president might have many perquisites in the form of presents from the people. There is a man in Connecticut who sends a splendid turkey to the president every Christmas day, and another for the New Year dinner at the white house. He has been doing this for a score of years. It is generally understood, however, that presidents will not accept presents, and the practice formerly prevalent is practically discontinued. Once upon a time there was a Virginian who sent to President Andrew Jackson a cheese so large that it would not go through any of the white house doors or windows; and Gen. Jackson had it cut out on the big front lawn, and invited the citizens of the little village of Washington to come and help themselves. At that time there were no more than 15,000 or 20,000 people in all the District of Columbia.

The president who has a family and who loves his children must have a high appreciation of the spacious grounds about the white house, in which the children may play with abandon and in safety. The wide-spreading trees, the velvet lawn, the fountains, the flowers, are all surrounded by a high iron fence and every gate is guarded by a watchman. There children may play without fear of assault or accident, while the children of tens of thousands of other dwellers in cities must be cooped up in their houses or play in the shapeless, cramped little yards. The mansion itself and the surrounding grounds may be regarded as among the president's best official perquisites.

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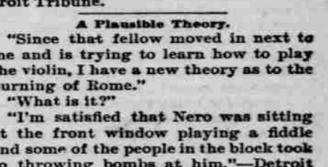
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SLIGHTLY PERSONAL.



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Orson Deane. He had just returned from an European trip and was telling of his adventures. "And above all," he said, "I actually had the distinguished honor of playing poker with a king." The man in the linen coat had listened in silence up to this point, but now his lip curled scornfully as he replied: "That's nothing. I once played with four kings." "Really?" "Sure. Four kings and an ace."—Chicago Post.

A Flausible Theory.

"Since that fellow moved in next to me and is trying to learn how to play the violin, I have a new theory as to the burning of Rome." "What is it?" "I'm satisfied that Nero was sitting at the front window playing a fiddle and some of the people in the block took to throwing bombs at him."—Detroit Free Press.

A Great Scheme.

Jones—You say you want to make money quick? Smith—I do. That's what I'm after. "Well, here is your chance. The shad lays 50,000 eggs in 24 hours." "Well, what of it?" "Hear me out. Put your wits to work and get up a cross between the shad and the barnyard hens, and you can make \$100,000 a day."—Texas Siftings.

Much Cry and No Wool.

Let dogs delight to bark and bite— You've heard that same remark; But when it comes to fistic fight, The human pug is just bark. —Town Topics.

The Other Way.

Julian—I notice that you do not allow the waiters to dress in the regulation swallow-tail. Hotel Prop.—No, indeed. They and the swells looked too much alike. Julian—Whose kick compelled you to make the change? The swells? Prop.—No, indeed. The waiters.—N. Y. World.

Soldiers Too Common.

Mother—Ella, you have been playing all the afternoon with these toy soldiers. That's not a proper amusement for a big girl like you. Daughter—But, mamma, I am not playing with the soldiers. I picked out the officers and played with them.—Texas Sifter.

Circumstances Alter Cases.

Gilbooly—The chaplain of the house of representatives gets six dollars for praying only five minutes. Gus De Smith—That's big pay. I've got a friend right here in Dallas who prayed a whole week for a dollar, and didn't get it.—Texas Sifter.

Still Waiting.

"I am waiting, only waiting Where the shadows do not fall, After long anticipating. For an early morning call; I am waiting, only waiting. Where the icy waters roll. Keep me not anticipating." Sang the lonely old North Pole. —Cleveland Plain Dealer.

With the Accent On.

"The kind of poetry that Swindurne writes is very erotic, isn't it?" "Yes, it is, with the accent on the rot."—N. Y. World.

Wit of the Joyous Lunatic.

The teeth of the old gentleman who was frequently late to breakfast came together upon some hard substance with a thrilling shock. The old gentleman who was frequently late to breakfast turned an injured glance upon the landlady. The joyous lunatic smiled cheerfully.

"Madam," said the old gentleman, "as a general thing I do not criticise the victuals you see fit to place before us, but in this case I am obliged to. I have, I am certain, found some foreign substance in the hash." The face of the joyous lunatic lighted up: "No substance," he remarked, "is foreign in hash."—Chicago Tribune.

An X-Ray Portrait.

The artist knit his brow. "I wish to picture the heroine with a No. 12 waist," he remarked. "But where, in that event, is her liver to be?" "Oh, I can make room for that," rejoined the author. "I will just say that she has no heart."

Thus it is to be seen how the muses advance hand in hand and are generously disposed to mutual concession.—Detroit Tribune.



"SAY AU REVOIR, BUT NOT GOOD-BY."

A Bad Break.

Doctor (after spraying the lady's throat)—Madame, it's a pleasure to treat you—you've got such fine control of your tongue. The Patient's Husband—Here, let's have your bill. It's evident you doctor know what you're talking about.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Very Well Fat.

"This, ladies and gentlemen, is the celebrated trick mule, Dot," said the clown, as the beast was being led into the ring. "After many years of effort, I am able to say I can make him do anything he wants to."—Tit-Bits.

Sharp Eyed Users.

He (indignantly)—Those insulting church ushers put us into a back pew. She (calmly as a quiescent volcano)—They probably noticed that I wore a bonnet which I wouldn't care to have seen.—N. Y. Weekly.

A Condensed Tragedy.

A little drop within a rill That by the sun was kissed Was scooped in by an ice machine And frozen hard, I wist; "Alas!" exclaimed that little drop, "I never will be mist!" —N. Y. Press.

Attractive.

"Your wife wears extremely fetching gowns, Pilkerton." "Yes, they fetch a bill collector to my office about three times a week."—Chicago Record.

Practice Makes Perfect.

"Does your wife speak good English?" "Certainly; doesn't practice make perfect?"—Town Topics.