

Good Short Stories

Bits of Information

Youngster Was Frank.

"Fools and children speak the truth" is an old adage which one good dominie, too much inclined to verbosity, perhaps, is now inclined to admit. At the recent children's day services of the Sunday school of Fayette street Methodist Episcopal church Rev. Dr. J. F. Heisse, the pastor, addressed the primary department on the necessity of looking pleasant. "Did any of you children ever have your pictures taken?" Dr. Heisse asked in commencing his talk. "Yes, sir," was the almost unanimous response of the children. "What did the photographer tell you?" "Some of the children said they were told to smile, while others said they were told to keep quiet. "Didn't the photographer tell you to look pleasant?" "Yes, sir," the children replied. Dr. Heisse asked a number of leading questions, to which the invariable answer was "Yes, sir." "Now, don't you think I have talked long enough?" was the pastor's next question. Prompt and frankly came the reply, "Yes, sir." Dr. Heisse said not another word, but sat down.

Advice to the Lecturer.

A jovial-looking man on a Jersey City-to-Pittsburg train drank frequently and deeply from a quart bottle, which he courteously offered before each swig to his fellow passengers, one of whom, an ascetic-looking man, refused the bottle with scorn, and eventually delivered a lecture on temperance, ending with: "You take awful chances in clouding your brain with alcohol. When you again come into possession of your normal senses, you may be in the gutter, you may be in prison, you may be in eternal punishment!" After the berths had been made up for the night, the jovial one staggered down the aisle, pulled aside the flap of that occupied by the lecturer, and asked: "Where yoush goin', ol' fel'r?" "Pittsburg"—this severely. "Yoush didn't tip p-p-porter." "I never do. It's a bad practice." "Yo' take awful chances, ol' fel'r, in losin' your wits not tippin' porter. When you wake up, yoush may be in Pittsburg, yoush may be in Fort Wayne, yoush may be in Chi-Shicago!"

She Wanted to Know.

On a certain occasion at Monte Carlo the decorous quiet which usually reigns in the Salon d'Ore was amusingly ruffled. Just before the beginning of the play a gentleman walked up to the tables, deliberately counted out a lot of bank-notes, in value about £580, and placed them on black. This somewhat unusual occurrence of staking a maximum before the play for the day had begun naturally attracted attention, and a bystander remarked: "Rather bold play, sir." "Well," said the player, "I dreamt last night that I saw this table exactly as it is now, and on the first coup black won." The cards being duly cut, the tableau proceeded, watched by the onlookers with unusual interest, to deal out the cards for the first coup, and black won. A suppressed "O!" from the bystanders greeted the announcement, and then from across the table came in tones of agonized entreaty a lady's voice: "What did you have for supper last night? Do tell me!"

Knew His Letters.

George Stickney, who lives in Lancaster, N. H., is well known in Lewiston. He has a boy who is coming along like a three-year-old trotter under training. Mr. Stickney asked the Superintendent of Schools when it would be advisable to send the boy to school. The superintendent said that the fall term would be a good time, but advised Mr. Stickney to teach the lad that two and two make four and how the letters of the alphabet run before he let him out. A short time afterward the superintendent met the boy and asked him if he knew his letters. "Sure," said the boy. "Well, sir, what is the first letter?" "A," was the answer. "Correct," said the superintendent. "Now what comes after A?" "All the rest of the push," said the boy.—Lewiston Evening Journal.

Let the Guns Swim.

A story of the Cuban campaign of 1898 concerns the confusion of the disembarkation. The transports had anchored off the Cuban coast and the disembarkation had already begun. Every commanding officer was anxious to have his regiment or battery the first to land, but the facilities for landing were meager and the work was slow. This nettled the general and put him in a bad humor and it annoyed him to have commanders ask when they were to land. Capt. Grimes of the Second Artillery was particularly anxious and made several pointed allusions to the fact that he was ready to land. Finally he came to Shafter and reported: "General, my battery is all ready to go ashore." "All right," said Shafter, "throw your guns overboard and let them swim ashore."

A Pertinent Question.

A well-known golf player met an old friend, whom he asked to come and have a game at golf. "What's gowff?" asked his companion. The sportsman took his friend along to the links and then said: "Now, give me your best attention and I will show you." So saying, he took a ball from his pocket and placed it on a small heap of earth. He made a furious drive at it and missed it. Then he tried a second, but missed that also. "A grand game, gowff!" said his companion. He tried the third stroke, and again missed it. "A grand game, gowff!" exclaimed his friend. "But what's the wee baw for?"

Violates Commandment.

Attorney General Simon W. Rosendale of New York State and Rufus W. Peckham, Justice of the United States Supreme Court, were former law partners. Recently Judge Peckham was visiting his old home in Albany, and naturally dropped into the familiar old law office. He and his former law partner joked, as usual. Then Mr. Rosendale assumed a serious air and said: "Do you know, Rufe, I am in favor of the passage of a law doing away with the Saturday half holiday?" "What has gotten such an absurd idea into your head?" "Because the Saturday half holiday is in violation of the ten commandments—six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work—and the commandments antedate even the Constitution, to say nothing of the half-holiday law."

Good Story on Grant.

Gen. Fred Grant a few months ago received a letter which he showed his army friends in Luzon as a joke at his own expense, and which therefore may properly be promulgated. The General's son, U. S. Grant, third, is a cadet at West Point, now a first class man and cadet Adjutant. But earlier in his course his father became anxious about him and imparted his anxiety by mail from the Philippines to a professor in the academy, a contemporary of his own, begging him to send exact and confidential information as to the cadet's standing. The answer which relieved his anxiety was as follows: "Dear Fred: You needn't worry. The boy stands higher in everything than you ever did in anything."

Patience of Fishermen.

The patience of fishermen who really love the sport is the theme of many stories, says the Youth's Companion. One is told by a man, who, traveling on foot through a part of England, came upon a solitary fisherman, who looked as if time and the world might pass away without disturbing his content. "Have you fished long in this stream?" asked the traveler. "Eighteen year," was the calm response. "Get many bites?" was the next question. "The fisherman scarcely turned his gaze from the rod in his hands. "Five year ago in this very spot I had a fine bite," he answered hopefully.



ABOUT 4,475,000 persons are employed in mines. It is 101 years since the first census was taken in England. One-third of the United States proper is vacant land. Consumption causes over 12,000 deaths annually in Ireland. The majority of the natives of India eat only one meal a day. Fielding is said to have written "Tom Jones" in three months. Five balls, says a baseball fan, will usually last out a game. The number of sheep in Australia to-day is given as about 87,000,000. Methodism has gained in New York City nearly 47 per cent since 1875. American brewers have already invested \$4,000,000 in and about Havana.

Thirty thousand Filipinos have been vaccinated by the Americans. San Francisco has one saloon for every twenty-two male inhabitants. Thirty-eight per cent of the habitual drunkards in London are women. Six uncles married nieces in Berlin last year, and one aunt a nephew. The weekly mail to the English army in South Africa was 204,000 letters. A company has been organized in Michigan to produce sugar from corn. "Central" telephone station in New York city averages 426,000 calls a day. Seven Victoria Crosses have been won by Gordon Highlanders during the war.

A host named Bacon keeps the Shakespeare restaurant at Stratford-on-Avon. An eel has two separate hearts. One beats 60 and the other 160 times a minute. Quarantine was first established against infectious diseases in the tenth century. The sun's flames spring at times to a distance of 350,000 miles from its surface. It is forty-three years ago since the first drinking fountain was opened in London. Since 1879 France has spent \$120,000,000 on canals. This does not include Panama.

Polo is probably the oldest of athletic sports. It has been traced to 600 B. C. Des Moines, Iowa, has purchased three bloodhounds for the tracking of criminals. Great Britain now produces scarcely enough anthracite coal for home consumption. There are now nine hundred newspapers in Japan. Thirty years ago there was only one. Mrs. Joseph Cook has just presented a large bust of Scipio Africanus to Oberlin college.

The State of New Jersey has been the leader in the good-roads movement in this country. Kamchatka has many volcanoes, the only ones in Russian territory that are still active. Many Boers in the British concentration camps studied medicine, law and civil engineering. It is estimated that Canadian forests will furnish wood for the pulp industry for 840 years. It has been decided that no Hebrews be further admitted to the Railway School in Odessa. "Yes, their friendship was cemented in town." "I see. Liquid cement."—Harvard Lampoon.

An unexploded shell, marked "Krupp, August 30, 1869," was found recently in a dust-bin at Paris. Watchdogs are to be placed on night duty with the watchmen in the Louvre Museum, Paris. The British lost 30,616 men in the Boer war, exclusive of the wounded who died after returning. Mormons claim to have 3,000 missionaries in the field, and to have made 20,000 converts last year. Germany drills this year 53,400 reserve troops, nearly double as many as she drilled two years ago. It is a misdemeanor to permit artesian well water to run to waste in Riverside county, California. A child is born every three minutes and a death is recorded every five minutes in London, England.

J. P. Morgan is said to have received \$172,000,000 for his "promotions" of various giant corporations. Prof. Frederick Hirth, of Berlin, has accepted the offer of the Chinese chair at Columbia University. The Queen of England at her own request has been appointed patron of the London Hospital, Whitechapel. Dusseldorf, Germany, owns its own electric plants. The city also controls the harbor and runs a theater. An official report gives the estimated additional cost necessary to complete Siberian railroads as \$26,050,000. The volume of the world's commerce is two and a half or three times as great as it was thirty years ago. One hundred years ago there were five carriages to each 100 people in England. Now there are seventeen.

The world's steel output for a year would build a steel wall five feet thick, twenty feet high and 100 miles long. The highest mountains in Cuba reach greater heights than any peaks in the Eastern ranges of the United States. Fish to the value of £10,000,000 is landed in the United Kingdom annually. It is gathered by some 74,000 fishermen. Registered physicians in Massachusetts are said to number about 4,500, an average of one to every 625 inhabitants. It is estimated that J. Pierpont Morgan controls enough money to give every man, woman and child on earth \$4. Until about two years ago, American coal was scarcely known in Italy. Now there is American coal to burn there. Admiral von Diederichs has resigned his position as chief of the staff of the German navy for reasons of ill health. Johns Hopkins University has raised a million-dollar fund, and the institution is now on a sound financial footing. Thin, inodorous preparations of petroleum, tar and tar oil are to be used for laying the dust in the environs of Paris.

Gen. W. R. Shafter has been visiting his old home at Galesburg, Ill., where still stands the log house where he was born. France has already thirty-four submarines built or building, and will lay down thirty-one others during this and next year. The late Lord Kimberley once said: "Almost the greatest crime which anyone can commit on my estate is to kill an owl." Mary had a little lamb; 'Twas very lean and lank; She turned it into mutton chop. Then started up a bank.—Exchange. All the Latin poems written by the Pope have been collected and published at Milan in a two-penny volume of 112 pages. Butte, Mont., is famed through the Northwest from the fact that it has but a single tree. More are to be set out and cultivated. It is a trifle early for the weary Willies to spring the earthquake sufferer dodge, but it will be along in time.—Washington Post.

The engagement is announced of Count Paul Aramon and Rita Bell, the daughter of a former American minister to The Hague. There is grave danger that former Governor George Hoadley of Ohio, now a partner in a New York law firm, will lose his sight. Since he began yachting about fifty years ago Lord Brosssey has sailed nearly 322,000 miles in a dozen yachts of varying tonnage. To prevent indiscriminate manufacture the design of the new regulation British army felt hat has been registered at the War Office. M. Rostand, the celebrated dramatic author, has an immense collection of little lead soldiers, of which French children are so fond.

A publisher in St. Petersburg has issued a directory giving, in 228 pages, the addresses of all the pharmacies and drug stores in Russia. Lorin Eggleston, postmaster and one of the wealthiest citizens of Millerton, N. Y., has made a special study of the tramp question for years. The Dad—I trust you haven't contracted debts at college, my son. The Son—They are scarcely contracted, father.—Harvard Lampoon. The Bulletin des Haies (Paris) estimates that the number of horses in the world at 74,600,000, the number of mules and asses at 12,100,000. The amplitude of vibration of the diaphragm of the telephone receiver in reproducing speech is about the one-twenty-millionth of an inch. The dairy schools of Russia have brought that country to the front as one of the foremost producers of butter, cheese and milk in the world.

Paris, according to the latest census returns, has a population of 2,650,000 persons, of whom over 1,200,000 are either foreigners or provincials. So many lovers have committed suicide together of late in Italy that the authorities now indict the survivor of any such tragedy for murder. As a result of the mild weather in southern Russia, shrew mice have appeared in great numbers in the fields, doing great damage to the crops.

Horses' Hats in Denver.

A Denver milliner has a soft spot in her heart for horses. On a recent trip to New York she made a note of the horses' hats, which had not yet penetrated beyond the Mississippi. As a result she took home 500 hats for horses, and when the first hot day struck Denver she advertised that she would give them away to the first comers. As a consequence the western horse is probably prepared to rise up and call that particular milliner blessed.

Fate of Smuggled Tobacco.

Smuggled tobacco confiscated by the British Customs authorities was formerly burned in the huge furnaces known as the Queen's Pipe, but for some years past this has not been done. Instead, the tobacco is sent to the criminal lunatic asylums for the benefit of the inmates.

Shortens Stage Waits.

A revolving stage is in use in a Munich theater. It is a circular platform and arranged in four parts, like a pie cut in quarters. At each change one quarter of the circle is presented to view. By this plan stage waits are avoided, as a complete change of scene is instantaneously effected by a quarter revolution.

Wine Tasters.

Professional wine tasters never swallow the wine they sample. They merely hold a sip or the beverage in the mouth for a few moments and breathe through the nostrils. The palate announces whether the wine is smooth or rough, and the sense of smell takes note of the aroma.

Illiteracy Among Immigrants.

The immigrants arriving now have a low rate of illiteracy. Last year 62 per cent of the adult Syrians who landed at the port of New York could neither read nor write. The rate of illiteracy among southern Italians was 55 per cent, and among the Greek immigrants 21 per cent. Among the Polish immigrants it was 31.

Fashionable Women Athletic.

Some of the fashionable women of Larchmont, the resort close to New York, have started the fad this year of riding astride. The number of women at this resort who ride horseback, sail yachts and handle fast automobiles is larger than ever before. When they are not enjoying out-of-door sports they are playing ping-pong or bridge whist.

Has Sublime Faith.

One of the "Peculiar People" in Holland recently broke his arm. He declined to call in a doctor, and wrapped a leaf of his Bible round the small toe of his left foot. He declares that this gave him instant relief. He still walks about with a broken arm.

Fad of Society Leader.

Mrs. Clarence H. Mackay, the eastern society leader, only uses violet stationery, and because the red 2-cent stamp is of inharmonious tint she only uses the 3-cent variety.

A Description.

A little girl, upon returning from witnessing her first wedding, was asked to describe the ceremony, to which she gave answer: "Why, the man with the book and apron said, 'My God, they are man and wife.'"

Millionaires of America.

There are 4,800 millionaires in the United States, New York state having more than any other, 1,045; Massachusetts, 475, and Illinois, 380. North Dakota is the only state that cannot boast of more than one.

Skin Grafting by Wholesale.

Michael J. Hennessy of Worcester, Mass., has allowed twenty-one pieces of skin to be cut from his legs to be grafted upon those of Francis Earl, an 8-year-old boy who was recently badly burned and is now undergoing treatment in the West Pennsylvania hospital, Pittsburg. Hennessy was taken to the hospital for wounds received in a railway accident and became interested in the case of Earl.

Why It is Cool Near Trees.

It is not shade alone that makes it cooler under a tree in summer. The coolness of the tree itself helps, for its temperature is about 45 degrees Fahrenheit at all times, as that of the human body is a fraction more than 98 degrees. So a clump of trees cools the air as a piece of ice cools the water in a pitcher.

Tailors to Publish Black List.

Austrian tailors have decided to publish quarterly a black list, to contain the names and addresses of unsatisfactory clients and the exact amounts of their debts.

Mourning by Ten Widows.

Ten widows, all near relatives, mourned over the grave of Leonard G. Neighbour, who was buried at Calton, N. J., a few days ago. The deceased was the youngest of a family of ten children, five boys and five girls. All the boys are dead, but the sisters are now living and all are widows. The widows of his brothers are also living, as is his own widow.

Burning of Guayaquil.

It is too bad that it required a \$5,000,000 fire to call the world's attention to the fact that Guayaquil, Ecuador, is enough of a city to furnish such a costly and magnificent spectacle. It can't repeat the performance on the same big scale right off, for the city is said to be almost obliterated by the fire.

Easily Explained.

George W. Cable in talking to a Sunday school class of little girls one day said that he had three children at home and half of them were girls. To one puzzled small person he explained blandly that the other half were girls also.

For the Elephant Hunt.

Two hundred native beaters are being brought from eastern Bengal to assist at the elephant hunt in Mysore, which is being arranged for Lord Curzon, on the occasion of the installation of the young maharajah in August.

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