

DAY OF THE PLATFORM.

When Distinguished Lecturers Spoke Their Pieces for a Moderate Sum.

In the early days of the platform the most distinguished lecturers seldom received more than \$50 a lecture, exclusive of expenses, and they usually visited large towns within a given territory. They traveled with comfort, put up at good inns, when they did not accept private hospitality, and were generally treated in every respect. But, as time went on, and the business increased, their field expanded, and great fatigue and hardship had to be incurred. Prices were much higher; but they were hardly in proportion to the augmented labor and trials. Lecturers were expected to journey far beyond the Mississippi into wild regions, where accommodations of every sort were the scantiest and poorest. As they had to make close connections, and as the most active season was in winter, early rising and dressing in cold rooms, waiting at comfortable railway stations, and staying at miserable taverns, combined with uninterrupted hard work, irregular meals and severe nervous strain, was such a draft on strength and health that few constitutions could endure it. Many lecturers were obliged to relinquish their calling altogether, more to confine their engagements to a limited area, while not a few were so broken down that they never recovered. Those who had been long in the field say that there is no toil equal to it, that it is the most arduous way of earning money with which they have any acquaintance.

Dr. Holmes still spontaneous and brilliant in his 70th year, was a favorite lecturer before the war, but found the strain and drain on his nervous system altogether too great for his healthful though delicate organization. He knew that if he did not give up lecturing it would give him up; consequently, for a quarter of a century he has refused to be again beguiled into the field by the most flattering offers. He owns his longevity to his extreme care of himself in every way. He enjoys life so keenly that he is unwilling to surrender any particle of it which he can retain by the exercise of constant vigilance.

Dr. J. G. Holland had a superb constitution and exceptional health, which failed suddenly, and during the last years he suffered much. He always ascribed his break down to the exhaustive toil of itinerant lecturing. Bayard Taylor, who had a due physique, so spent his early force by a long period of lecturing that he passed away in comparative youth, when his prospects were brightest and his reputation was steadily rising.

John B. Gough, though he lived to a good age, would doubtless have lived much longer had he retired from the rostrum. He had had repeated warnings, but he did not heed them. He paid the penalty of wronging nature and disregarding prudent considerations.

Henry Ward Beecher would probably have been alive to-day but for his persistence in lecturing. No man has had a more vigorous body, with more a bounding health; but he would make long and tiresome journeys, lecturing all over the country and in Great Britain, and this, with the numberless other tasks he set himself, killed him at 73, though his father, whose ruggedness he inherited, lived beyond 87. Wendell Phillips, George Goodwin, James Parton, Earle Goodwin, Donald G. Mitchell and many other of the early lecturers were obliged to surrender lecturing, to any extent, on account of the injury it did their health. They declare that the most rugged constitution will yield to the extraordinary tension after a number of years, and their experience has clearly demonstrated their opinion to be correct. —Junius Henri Brown in Globe-Democrat.

The Food of the Aristocracy.

Some startling revelations have recently been published in Paris as to the materials of French cookery, and especially of Parisian butter. A correspondent sends the following story, of which he guarantees the accuracy, as to a not dissimilar state of things in London:

I happen to know a man who makes a living by collecting the rancid butter and dirty butter scrapings from the butter-shops, and then retelling them to West-end confectioners. This other day I met him wheeling a truck-load of the loathsome-looking stuff along the Bayswater road.

"Hullo!" exclaimed I, "what in the name of goodness have you got there?" "For really I could not tell from the look of it, it was so dirty and discolored, while the stench it gave out when I went up to it, was something fearful.

"Oh, he replied, with quite a business air, it's official."

"But what kind of official? It smells almost bad enough to knock you down."

"Why, butter official."

"Indeed! Do you mind telling me what you do with it?"

BUSTLES OF SMUGGLERS.

They are Now the Popular Hiding-Place for Small Dutiable Articles.

Since Surveyor Beattie began to appoint women as inspectors of customs, more attempts at smuggling have been detected than ever before, says the New York World. The women have shown great zeal and aptitude for the work, and the male inspectors, in order to make as good a record, have been exhibiting more activity than usual. The newest expedient for smuggling is the bustle. The bustle now required by fashion is a capacious structure of wire and ocean travelers of the gentler sex who desire to escape customs duties have adopted the expedient of filling their bustles with merchandise. Deputy Collector McClelland said recently that bustles were becoming the burden of his life. It seemed as if every third woman arriving from Europe had her bustle filled with dutiable goods, and he was nearly distracted.

There was a large number of seizure cases reported the other day. It seen that nearly every woman who goes to Europe brings back a meerschaum pipe for some male friend. In the bustle of Fraulein Charlotte Weinmann, a passenger on the steamer Trave, Inspector Weston discovered two meerschaum pipe-bowls. Inspector Lily R. Brier-bach found in the bustle of Mrs. S. H. Harbridge, a passenger on the steamer City of Chester, two meerschaum pipes and one cherrywood pipe. On Fraulein Weinmann's person and in her baggage were also found thirty yards of silk, thirteen yards of velvet, thirteen yards of satin, fifty yards of linen, three silk shawls and many other articles of value. Some of the stuff was concealed in her bustle. Around Mrs. Harbridge's waist were found two pieces of cashmere and another piece was found in the lining of her skirt. In the bustles and on the persons of the Misses Evans, who arrived on the Rhineland from Antwerp, were found silks and velvets.

J. Bierman, who arrived on the steamer Trave, declared he had no dutiable goods. He was met on the dock by a friend, who approached Inspector G. Seherman and told him that if he would pass Bierman's trunks that gentleman would make it all right with him if he would call at his office, corner of Broadway and Huston streets. The inspector examined Bierman's trunks, which were found to contain the following dutiable articles: 7 books, 2 boxes of medicine, 12 linen sheets, 3 cases draughtman's instruments, 6 tablecloths, 1 needle-case, 36 linen napkins, 12 towels, 1 pocket-book, 72 linen handkerchiefs, 6 fancy handkerchiefs, 7 boxes of toys, 1 card-case, 1 looking glass, 70 pieces ribbon, 15 dolls, and 12 umbrellas.

Inspector M. S. Wilson also made a seizure from a passenger on the Trave. On examining the trunk of Miss Wagner she discovered a false bottom, which she removed, and below were found the following articles: Three yards cotton velvet, 3 pieces of silk, containing 12 1/2 and 21 yards respectively, 1 gold watch and 1 gold bracelet. Miss Wilson then took the lady to a private room and searched her, and found 8 yards of woollen dress-goods concealed on her person.

Influencing a Judge.

The poet Milnes had a mind of penetrating sagacity and brilliant intuitions. He was one day told, by a friend, of the grief of a poor landowner, whose little boy had wandered off to a common near London, and there with another lad, mounted an old horse grazing there, and taken a ride, only to be arrested for horse-stealing. The landowner had engaged counsel for her son, but was in great doubt as to the issue of the case. When the matter was suggested to Milnes, his face lit up as if he had just remembered an expedient.

"How old are the boys?" he asked, and was told that they were about eleven.

"Then," said he, "tell the landowner to take care that they both appear at the trial in nice clean pinafores."

The effect was almost magical. The two little boys, in their nice pinafores, appeared in the dock, and smilingly gazed around the court.

"What is the meaning of this?" asked the judge, who had read the deposition, and now came under the spell of the pinafores.

"A case of horse-stealing, my lord."

"Stuff and nonsense!" said his honor, with indignation. "Horse-stealing, indeed! The boys stole a ride!"

The pinafores had almost an avation in court, and all who had anything to do with the prosecution were obliged to suffer from the Judge's indignant comment.

The Kid at the Theatre.

A child that can only squall in a theatre is preferable to another larger child of a kind one sometimes sees. It is generally a female child. A female child, from its earliest days recognizes the privileges of the sex and takes all sorts of advantages. The mothers all ways teach them that they are "little girls," and the little boys must not hurt them, and some of them in consequence become terrors early in youth. We have seen the child that wanders all around a theatre and looks up at you and everybody with a bland, child-like curiosity, and her thumb in her mouth. She has no seat generally. She's under age, and her father and mother bring her to the theatre between them, and she gets off in the middle of the play and wanders about. She has a knack of being partial to sweetmeats. She seems to know instinctively when she strikes a pair of young lovers, and she slides up and swings herself on one foot and then on the other, and the fellow looks confused and the girl pats her on the head, hoping that will drive her away. But it doesn't. She accepts the familiarity and gets on the girl's knee, and the young pair look furtively at one another as if to say: "Great heavens! If there should be somebody here who knows us and think this is ours."

HE PAID THE MONEY.

A Good Joke Which Enriched the Empty Treasury of a Church.

It is not always an advantage to bear a striking resemblance to another man, even if he is a good-looking one and rich in the bargain, and as a matter of fact such a resemblance may often result in serious complications. A gentleman of this city, says the Providence (R. I.) Journal, has just gone through such an experience, and now he vows that he will let his hair grow long and look like Arizona Joe, if necessary, but he will not be taken for some other fellow again or have any one taken for him. A short time ago a clergyman who had been only a short time in the city was soliciting subscriptions for the purpose of making certain repairs upon the church he was connected with. He met with much success, and finally remembered that he had not yet interviewed one of his most earnest disciples. A few days later he met, or thought he met, this gentleman on the street, and determined to ask him for a subscription. After the usual salutations the clergyman said: "My good sir, several of your friends have advised me to apply to you for aid in our noble work, and Mr. ——— (calling him by the name of the other member of the church who resembled him), they think you will give us one hundred dollars." The gentleman, who is somewhat of a humorist, saw a chance to play a joke on his friend, and he replied: "Certainly! With pleasure, you can put my name down for one hundred dollars."

A few days passed and the clergyman thought he would call upon his generous member and collect the money. He accordingly went to the office of the man whose name he had on his list and found him in. "Good day, Mr. ———," said the clergyman; "I was going by, so I thought I would stop in and get the money you so kindly subscribed for." "Money! What money?" asked the astonished merchant. "Why, the one hundred dollars you put your name down for last Thursday." For a few seconds the merchant hesitated, but he remembered, to his shame, that for several days he had been on something of a "spree" from which he had just recovered. He-at once concluded that while under the influence of Bacchus he must have put down his name for the amount and forgotten all about it. Rather than confess his weakness before his pastor he pulled out his check-book and filled out a blank for one hundred dollars and paid it over to the unsuspecting divine. The perpetrator of the joke heard of the affair a few days later, and thought it was too good to keep, so he told a few friends, and it was not long before it reached the ears of the real subscriber. Whenever the two friends met now the man who paid says to the man who put up the job: "Say, it's a pretty good joke, but I think you ought to give me fifty dollars and divide the expense." The expense has not yet been divided, the church is a hundred dollars richer, and the clergyman does not know the true inwardness of how he got his money.

Boxing the Ears.

Dr. Samuel Sexton says on the subject of boxing the ears, he has upon his records fifty-one cases in which the ears have been injured by blows of the hand or fist. Of these thirty-one were males and twenty females. Of the males thirteen had been boxed upon the right ear, thirteen upon the left and three upon both ears. One was kicked by a companion upon the left ear while bathing and the right ear of another was injured by having the head violently squeezed between the hands of another person. Of the females four were struck upon the left ear and six upon the right. Five of the women were assaulted by their husbands. Of the entire number eight were boxed in pairs, four by school teachers, two by parents, and one, a fervent lover, by his sweetheart. Several cases occurred among pugilists, and others were due to assaults and brawls. The nature of the injuries varied to a considerable degree. One had inflammation in the ear, suspicion of intracranial trouble. He had had a running of the ear for twelve years, following a blow upon that organ. He subsequently died of brain disease. In another case the ear became inflamed, and the hearing was very much impaired. In still another instance the patient was slapped by his father upon the left ear. Immediate pain and deafness followed, with a bloody discharge from the ear. It was three months before this case recovered. The dangers to which Dr. Sexton calls attention are so grave that parents, teachers and others should never punish those committed to their charge by boxing the ears.

American Courtship and Age.

If I were a young man, especially if I were handsome and had a generous "old man" at my back with a liberal pocketbook, I should prefer to live in America to any other place on earth. But I should take good care not to get old, for this is a country where old men and women invariably take a bad seat. Sometimes they are not even allowed the comfort of any seat at all. It is only here that I find old men and women are servants of the beautiful youth of either sex. It seems to be a common law among the people here to raise and support children as sumptuously as their means permit, and continue to support them even long after they are able to earn their own living. But when it comes to the old people's turn, the sentiment seems to dwindle down almost to zero. In society the young are the centre of attraction. They are the blooming flowers. The old people are shut up in the kitchen behind the doors.

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THE LATEST IN COFFINS.

Some of the Ingenious Methods by Which Paper is Being Utilized.

"Here is a very neat style of coffin," remarked a manufacturer of such articles. "It is the latest thing out and is really quite popular." The coffin did not seem to be different from the ordinary kind of casket. It was plain in style and finished in rose-wood, beautifully marked. The handles were of solid silver, and the inside was handsomely covered with cushioned trimming of white silk, neatly quilted. It was evidently a coffin that any modest man of simple tastes could offer no objection to being buried in.

"What do you think of it?" "It is a very neat sort of a coffin, but I don't see anything remarkable about it."

"Lift one end of it." The reporter arched his back, grasped the handles firmly and put his strength into a great lift. The casket rose as though it were made of painted air, so light was it, and the experimenter narrowly escaped falling on his back.

"It is made of paper," answered the manufacturer; "compressed paper. It is cheaper than wood, can be pressed into shape, is more durable and can be made much more quickly and easily. The veneering is of another piece of paper, very thin, which is painted to resemble wood, by machinery. When the coffin is put together it is varnished and trimmed and then it is ready for occupancy."

"How did you happen to invent it?" "I didn't invent it, but almost any one ought to have done so. Paper has been used for car wheels for years past. Doors are now made of the same substance. Two thick paper boards, stamped and moulded into panels and glazed together with glue and potash, and then rolled through heavy rollers, and coming into use. They are better than wood in that they will not shrink, swell, crack or warp. They are made water-proof with a mixture."

"Boats are also made of paper," continued the manufacturer; "and for certain kinds of racing they are better even than the ordinary kind of wood, and far cheaper."

"You will soon make your whole coffin out of paper?" suggested the reporter. "We are not far away from that now," replied the maker. "They are making window glass from linen or cotton, modified by chemical action. When the glass is made it is dipped in a preparation of camphol alcohol, which gives it the character of parchment. It can then be moulded and cut into transparent sheets that are remarkably tough and can stand double the strain of the ordinary glass. Yes, sir, it will not be long before not only coffins for the dead, but the houses for the living can be made from the foundation to the roof entirely out of paper. Who says we are not an inventive race?"

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