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SATURDAY JUNE 5, 1897.

THE FAILURE OF JOHN SMITH.

The recent failure of young John Smith, the Afro-American candidate for admission to the Naval Academy at Annapolis, is to be regretted and deplored, of course, but there are extenuating features in his case that are worth commenting upon. Young Smith entered into competitive examination, in a sense greatly unprepared, and to his credit be made more than a fair showing. It has been the custom for many years with parents having boys desirous of passing successfully the rigid examination of the board to have them specially prepared for the contest, weeks, and even months, beforehand by professional tutors—men who have themselves graduated from the Academy; who are familiar with the nature of the examinations, and make a business of imparting instruction. John Smith did not have this advantage, if he had, the result with him, no doubt, would have been quite different, and he would have been successful in his efforts. Notwithstanding the chagrin his defeat naturally caused him, he accepted it with becoming grace and deported himself in a very creditable and manly manner, acknowledging that he had been accorded a fair show and was fairly beaten. He thereby won the respect and admiration of the members of the board, who praised and commented upon his conduct. This is, as a race, all we shall contend for and expect We are willing to rise or fall, as the case may be, if the test is to be upon the question of merit. The Afro-American no longer begs or pleads on the question of sentiment. Thirty years of freedom and its advantages have placed us beyond the pale of beggary, and today we are willing the mettle of brawn, intellectual ability should be tested against that of any race on the face of the earth. If we fail in the contest we will abide by the consequences and profit by our defeat by strengthening our forces in preparing for another attack. In short we purpose to keep up the onslaught until we are successful. We have not yet, as a race, attained that proficiency to which we aspire and which is the Caucasian's, but we are making great strides in that direction and the outlook is more than hopeful. John Smith, although of Wisconsin birth, is a product of the Chicago public schools, where he has earned a splendid record as a student and is regarded as a young man of considerable promise. His failure is therefore to be regretted by the race generally. Congressman White of Chicago, who selected the young man from his district and recommended him, showed a determination to stand by him at all hazards should occasion demand it, fortunately had no need of showing his zeal. To him, Afro-Americans from all over the country, extend a races gratefulness and heartfelt congratulations for this manifestation of friendship.

Meanwhile young Mr. Smith's future movements will be watched with interest. It is safe to predict that he will make his mark in the world and prove an honor to his race, and, it is to be hoped, a proud blessing to his kind relatives who are educating him, for he is an orphan

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The authoress, Mrs. Amelia E. Barr, does not seem to be in love with some of the customs of the new woman. Recently she wrote this eye opening penetrating paragraph. "There is going to be a re-action from the aggressive, athletic, sporty woman, to the old fashioned woman, and when the old fashioned woman comes in again she will stay in." "What is the matter with Mrs. Barr"? Who is she hitting at? Does she seek to inflict blows upon the heads of Susan Anthony, Mary Lease, Helen M. Gouger and Miss Willard? Does she dare to allude to these women out on the skirmish lines of womanly progress, as sporty? If she does she had better give an extra twist to the strings of her bonnet and glue on her wig.

Prof. E. Williams of Medford, Wis the only Afro-American circus owner in America, after wintering in California, has again taken to the road with a much larger and greatly increased aggregation then he has ever exhibited before, and is now touring the northwest. This is Prof. Williams' tenth season. He employes 75 people and owns 200 head of Arabian ponies and horses. This is a very unique departure for an Afro-American to find favor and success in. Who says the race problem is not solving itself?

They have some women in Michigan who possess rare business capacity. The other day one of them asked her husband to tend to the baby a few minutes. She threw a little checked shawl over her head, ran out and secured a divorce, leaving the care of the child to its father and was married to another man in time for supper. Promptness in business matters is what tells.

The tanners had a strike in Chicago the other day. The strike is over and thousand of the strikers are out of employment, while a thousand new men who took their places are at work. So it goes, and probably a year from now we shall hear of many of these strikers of this year taking the places of tanner strikers in other cities next May. So it goes.

Tears in a pathetic chapter in a book or paper do not seem so much out of place, but when a public speaker turns his attention to tears he uts the audience in an awkward position. It wants to laugh, but out of regard for him it wrenches itself into rheumatism in abstaining from laughter. Public speakers should shed tears in private apartments.

If the scorcher torments you to the point of giving him a blow, be very careful not to hit his head. Hit him in some place that will hurt him. A man to be a scorcher must be as thick-skulled as he is brutal; and if he is that what is the use of cracking him on the head.

Mrs. Jennie Pearson enjoys the destinction of being the first woman juror. She served in a case the other day in Arapahoe county Denver, Colorado and was honored by being made foreman. Mrs. Pearson is an Afro-American.

It is not always the witty man who does the most talking, yet society is over run with people who imagine they are witty, though their conversation resembles the delivery of a phonograph.

AN HONEST MAN.

District Attorney Backus Tells a Humorous Story at His Own Expense.

This is one on District Attorney Backus of Kings county. He himself tells it and it was brought out curiously a day or two ago, says the New York Herald.

"Mr. Backus in?" a visitor to the district attorney's office asked.

"Yes," an attendant said. "You've just time to catch him before he goes away for the day."

The visitor entered, passed Mr. Backus' desk—and Mr. Backus at it—and followed the attendant into an inner room. He was informed that he had passed Mr. Backus and returned, to find that gentleman smiling to discover that all the world did not know him at sight.

"This is a case of arguing myself unknown," the visitor said, apologetically.

"It reminds me of a story," said Mr. Backus. "I went to Poughkeepsie once with another lawyer and a detective in plain clothes, who was escorting a prisoner who was to be resentenced there. The prisoner was shackled to the detective. They sat in the seat ahead of that occupied by the other lawyer and mysel. The train stopped fifteen minutes at Poughkeepsie for lunch, and in order not to expose the manacled prisoner to a curious crowd I suggested that we sit in the car for a few minutes after the train was stopped, allow the passengers to alight and go to the lunch room and then go quietly to a carriage which awaited us. The others agreed and we still. A nervous passenger who had ridden in the same car with us from New York and who did not know that one of us was a condemned criminal, wished to get out for lunch and thought it advisable to ask some one to keep an eye on his hand baggage in his absence. He hesitated until he saw only four of us left. Then he approached and looked keenly at each of us in turn. After a close scrutiny of our countenances he leaned over, tapped the prisoner on the shoulder and said: 'Will you be good enough, sir, to keep an eye on my baggage while I get a bite to eat?'"

MOSQUITO SKETCHES.

Suggestion.

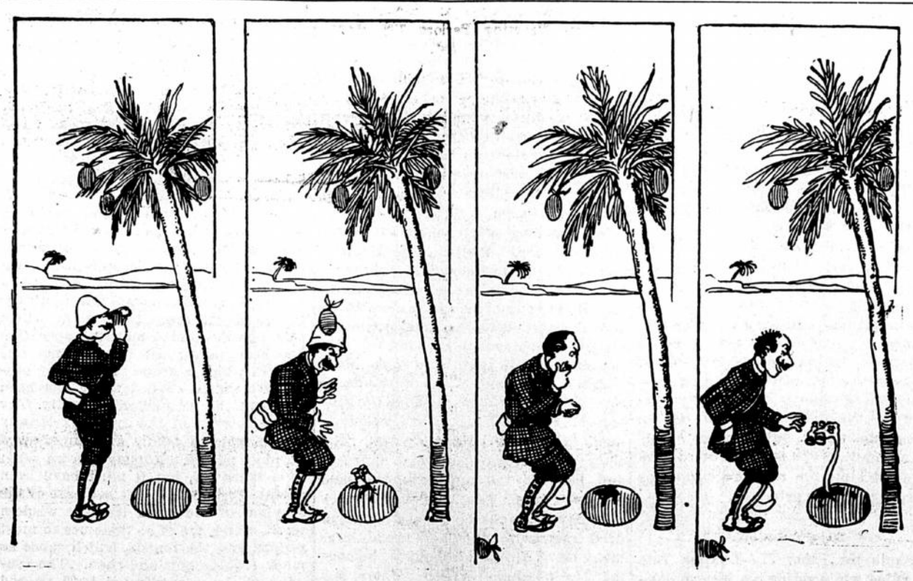
"We are glad to commend," wrote the critic, "the playwright's device for suggesting the lapse of a very long time between the first and second acts. At the end of the first act the heroine says: 'I'll be ready in a minute,' and when the curtain rises on the second act she is ready. Nothing could be simpler or more effective."—Detroit Journal.

Practical.

"How glorious it is to drink in this delightful sunshine; to watch it gild the landscape and cast its mellow blessing on the waiting earth!"

"Yes, George, but think of the freckles!"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Kindly Individual (going through prison)—My good man, tell me what brought you here? Embezzler—I tried to keep a bicycle in repair on a small salary.—Up-to-Date.



IN THE LAND OF SURPRISES.

The May issue of Godey's Magazine is notable for many special articles of timely interest. The leading contribution is "Washington Favorites" by Carolyn Halstead, and gives a brief sketch of the prominent society ladies of the capital. The photographs which accompany the article are very attractive.

A. McDowell & Co., 4 West 14th Street, New York, publish the only cheap imported Fashion Journal sold in this country. "La Mode de Paris" is $3.50 a year, 35 cents a copy, and "French Dressmaker" is $3.00 a year, 30 cents a copy. These journals make a special feature of lessons on practical dressmaking each month.

Mr. Cable continues the Editor's Symposium in his usual happy vein in the June number of Current literature. One of the conspicious changes in the magazine under the new editorial management is the illustrations of special personal articles and regular departments devoted to personal mention with portraits of the writers of celebrities mentioned in the text

Our Little Book for Little Folks. Arranged by W. E. Crosby. Illuminated covers, square 8 vo, 106 pages. Price, 80 cents. American Book Company, New York, Cincinnati, and Chicago. This delightful little book is designed to guide and help the youngest children in their first steps in learning, whether in the home, the kindergarten or the lowest primary school

The Story of the Chosen People. By H. A. Guerber, author of Myths of Greece and Rome etc. Cloth, 12mo, 240 pages, illustrated. Price, 60 cents. Amer can Book Company, New York Cincinnatti, and Chicago. In this little volume the story of the Chosen People or Hebrews is told in the same objective manner as the story of the Greeks and of the Romans by the same author.

Special features Current Literature for May are illustrated articles in addition to the presence of pictures in some of the regular departments. In the Editor's Symposium in the May number of Current Literature Mr. Cable gives his readers more of patriotism than of mere literature, Crete and Cuba, The Patriotism of Ideas, and Cosmopolitan Patriotism being some of the subjects he discusses.

Racine's Iphigenie. Edited by Benjamin Duryea Woodward, B. es L., Ph.D. of the department of Romance Languages and Literatures in Columbia University. Cloth 12mo, 198 pages. Price 60 cents. American Book Company, New York, Cincinnati and Chicago. In this new edition of the famous French classic the editor has provided valuable aids to the better appreciation of the author and his work

In its May number the Atlantic Monthly will contain two instructive articles on life in rural New England and the problems presented by the rush of the population to great cities. One of these articles is the study of a remote village which has not been reached by modern methods of life. The native characteristics which were not very long ago shared by a large part of the rural population of New England, now seem so remote as almost to be regarded as curiosities.

The Story of the Romans. By H. A. Guerber. Linen, 2mo, 288 pages. Illustrated. Price 60 cents. American Book Company, New York Cincinnati, and Chicago. Recognizing that children are more easily interested in the sayings and doings of people than in the bare facts of dynastic and military history, the author has skillfully grouped around the famous characters of classical history the great events with which their names will forever stand connected.

Short Stories of our Sby Neighbors. By Mrs. M. A. B. Kelly. Cloth, 12mo, 214 pages, illustrated Price 50 cents. American Boook Company, New York, Cincinnati, and Chicago. This book is the latest of the "Eclectic School Readings." It tells about the birds, beasts, and insects that we might see almost every day—had we but our eyes open The child who studies this book, however, will learn to watch for all that Nature has to show him.

Godey s for June completes the 134th volume of the oldest magazine in America. Godey's was established in July, 1830; yet although old it is ever new. The June issue is peculiar in several respects. It is a Special Fiction Number and contains over fifty pages of new tales. Among these is a story, "Two Maids and a Man," illustrated throughout by photographs from living models. Among the other stories of special note are "A Proceeding in Ejectment," an up-to-date Western tale, full of fire and fervor.

L'Art de la Mode is the leading fashion journal of America—because it is the only one whose designs are made for it especially and alone by the leading artist designers in Paris—because it is the only one that publishes articles on all subjects connected with dress that are absolutely reliable and up-to-date. L'Art de la Mode may be obtained at any newsdealers or publishers at $3.50 per year, six months $2.00 single numbers 35 cents. The Morse-Broughton Co., 3 East 19 St., bet. Broadway and 5th Ave, New York City.

Stories of Missouri, by John R. Musick, author of the Columbian Historical novels. Cloth 12mo, 288 pages. Profusedly illustrated. Price, 80 cents. American Book Company, New York Cincinnati, and Chicago.

Such a book is admirably suited for the purposes of a supplementary school reader. The pupil will read for instance, about the early explorers and settlers of this territory—Marquette, Lasalle, Laclede about the Missouri Rangers, the Mormons, the career of Thomas H. Benton, the anti-slavery agitation, the Civil War, and the reconstruction period. The early history of Missouri, reaching back into the seventeenth century, is full of romance and adventure, and is in a sense typical of all the Western States.

Second Year in French. By L. O. Symes, Bachelier es Lettres, Licencie-en Droit de l'Université de France. Linen, 12mo, 287 pages. Price $1.00. American Book Company, New York, Cincinnati, and Chicago. This book, with the author's "First Year in French," completes a course designed to train students not only to read but to speak and write the language correctly. The most striking features of the book are the reading lessons and conversation exercises written or arranged by the author to illustrate exactly the grammatical object of each lesson

Handbook of Greek and Roman History. By George Castegnier, B.S., B.L. Flexible cloth, 12mo, 110 pages. Price, 50 cents. American Book Company, New York, Cincinnati and Chicago. We have in this compact little volume a cyclopædia of Greek and Roman history which will at once command favor of two qualities—brevity and convenience. The book is a marvel of skillful condensation and contains just the regard to important persons, places and events of ancient history which every scholar ought to know or have at instant command.

The June number of L'Art de la Mode comes to us full as usual of the latest Paris designs for spring and summer dresses. Eight beautifully colored styles and nearly one hundred other illustrations, from all the latest French ideas, in all sorts of costumes. Nor is the reading matter at inferior to the illustrations. A fashion letter and notes that entertain one of the latest things to be seen in the way of materials in the shops. For sale at all newsdealers or send 35 cents for single number, or 2 cents for a sample copy to the publishers, The Morse Broughton Co., 3 East 16th street New York. City.

Carpenter's Geographical Reading. Asia. By Frank G. Carpenter. Cloth, 12mo, 304 pages With colored maps and numerous half-tone illustrations. Price, 60 cents. American Book Company, New York Cincinnati and Chicago. In the interest of its subject matter, as well as in its literary and mechanical execution, this new Geographical Reader is by far the most attractive book of its kind. The author, who is an experienced traveler and writer, has here given the results of his recent extended journeys through the different countries of Asia, together with personal observations of their native peoples, just as they are found today in their homes and at their work.

A Brief Latin Grammar. By W. D. Mooney, A. M., Battle Ground Academy, Franklin, Tenn. Cloth, 12mo, 272 pages. Price, 75 cents. American Book Company, New York, Cincinnati and Chicago. The best educational thought of the present day strongly favors shorter Latin grammars than have been in use hitherto in American schools. The present work is written by a practical high school teacher with full knowledge of the needs of secondary students: and every detail in its arrangement and manner of statement indicates the hand of one intimately acquainted brough long experience with high school methods and limitations. It is an entirely new treatment of the subject, based upon the results of most modern research.

Elementary Meteorology. For High Schools and Colleges. By Frank Waldo, Ph.D., late Junior Professor in the United Signal Service; Cloth 12mo, 372 pages. Illustrated. Price, $1.50. American Book Company. New York, Cincinnati and Chicago. This is a new text-book of what is essentially a modern science. Within our time the most wonderful advancement has been made in the study and observation of atmospheric phenomena. The result is that meteorology has become an applied science of the greatest importance to man. Its usefulness is seen in its numerous and constantly increasing applications in the arts and sciences, in agriculture manufactures, commerce, navigation, etc.

Bible Readings for Schools. Edited by Nathan C. Schaeffer, Ph. D., D.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction of Pennsylvania. Linen, 12mo, 217 pages. Price 35 cents. American Book Company, New York. Cincinnati, and Chicago Whatever opinions some may entertain in regard to the origin and inspiration of the bible, it is certain that as a means of imparting ethical instruction, nothing equal to it has ever been found. Viewed merely as a human or literary production it is a marvelous book. Without a knowledge of of its leading ideas, its world renowned passages, its heroic characters, the pupil cannot properly understand and appreciate even the literature of of the English tongue. Bible reading, therefore, cannot be omitted from the exercises of the school without a great loss. It is the mission of the present book to select the most appropriate and inspiring passages of the Old and New Testaments and to arrange them conveniently for school use.

Shoes in Japan.

One of the most striking sights that takes the attention of the traveler in worn by the 35,000,000 of people These sandals have a separate compartment for the great toe and make a clanking noise on the street. Straw slippers are also worn, and a traveler starting out on a journey will strap a supply of them on his back, that he may put on a new pair when the old is worn out. They cost but a cent and a half a pair. They are rights and lefts and leave the foot free to the air. We never see those deformities of the foot in Japan which are so frequent in this country. They are never worn in the house but left outside the door. Passing down a street you may see long rows of them at the doors, old and new, large and small.—Boston Journal.

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