NEW YEAR CALLS

A Sensible Custom That Degenerated Into Extravagance.

EXPERIENCE IN VARIOUS CITIES

Origin of the Observance May Be Traced to Antiquity.

OFFICIAL ETIQUETTE

Written for The Evening Star.

WITH THE DISAPpearance of the custom of making New Year calls from the circles whose members consider themselves "in society" in the big cities of the land went one of the most cherished resources of the professional joke founderyman, for it furnished many a situation that was truly humorous when regarded from his point of view. But no matter how much, or by whom, the memory of the custom may be regretted, it seems to have vanished permanently as a general observance. Certain it is that today it is as dead as a door nail in the swell circles whose members once held it in the highest regard, and its individual observance, here and there, always excites surprise and the use of the words "old-fashioned" by those who hear about it.

Although New Year calling has often been termed "a good old Knickerbocker custom," it did not really originate on Manhattan Island. It has been in vogue for centuries among the Chinese, but in a somewhat different form from that which was popular in the United States so many years. The men of the flowery kingdom not only call upon one another on their New Year day, but they pay their debts then, too. In fact, to square himself with his creditors is the Chinaman's chief, if not his only object in making New Year calls, and Joaquin Miller once wrote a most pathetic yarn about a "Cank" of his acquaintance who stuck himself to death with a jackknife because he could not meet his obligations at the beginning of the year.

No such overwhelming desire to pay debts at this period is known to coexist with any of the western civilizations, nor is it characteristic of any orientals save those who dwell in far Cathay—not even the Japanese, many of whose customs are so similar to those of the Chinese, and whose race undoubtedly sprang from the same original stem. In fact, the Japs, as the occidental world is beginning to find out, do not like to pay at all unless they have to, and if the chrysanthemum conquest of China shall introduce into the celestial empire the principle of paying only on compulsion, it will have at least one deplorable result.

An Ancient Origin.

As a matter of fact, the paying of New Year calls probably originated independently in almost every clime. Feasting and drinking on the first day of the year have been customary ever since there have been records. Old-time European chieftains used to set "New Year" apart as a day on which they would condescend to receive substantial tributes from their underlings. Queen Elizabeth received New Year calls every year, and there was always much rivalry between her ambitious courtiers as to the quantity and value of the gifts they should bestow upon the virgin sovereign. It was on New Year day that a somewhat famous Mr. Raleigh—Sir Walter Raleigh he was called—gladdened the queen's heart with a memorable pair of silk stockings—the first ever made and worn in England.

In Holland the custom of making New Year calls had been general long before the settlement of New Amsterdam, and the natives of the Netherlands who came to live in the new world brought the practice with them. And, of course, they had plenty to eat and drink at every house where New Year calls were received—for whoever heard of Dutchmen who did not take good care of their stomachs?

Then the town was only a huddle of houses in the point of the island, and every one knew every one else; and, while visiting was general, it was between friends and neighbors only, and not at all like the New Year calls of a later date. It was proper in the delightful and primitive days of the Dutch in New Amsterdam for every one to call on the governor first; after that the general rounds were made, and it was a hilarious lot of Dutchmen who finally went to rest at about 10 o'clock in the evening.

In those days the nearby colonies of New England were too Puritanical and the Pennsylvanians were too Quakerish for New Year calling. As to New Jersey, the present writer has found no record whatever, but it appears in a general way that the custom did not become widespread over the country until after the civil war.

One of Fashion

The English who settled in and about New Amsterdam, however, were as much devoted to the custom as the Dutch, for it had grown to almost as great proportions in England as in Holland. But it was not until about the beginning of the present century that the change from a neighborly observance of pure fashion had been well begun. The younger women of such households as had daughters were the hostesses, and great was their rivalry, one with another, in respect of richly loaded refreshment tables and elegance of toilet. The dudes of those days—they called them "beaus" and "dandies" and "gallants" then—attired themselves in their best and started out early in the morning, calling first at the houses where matrons received, and afterward upon the younger ladies. The drinks that were offered at every house of any prominence were ardent and diverse, and whosoever declined to partake thereof was not thereafter "in it," to introduce a bit of latter-day slang, though it is not recorded that there were many instances of that sort.

It was not until about the middle of the century or thereabouts that the abuse which finally led to the custom's decline began. For years the dandies of New York rivaled one another in the length of their calling lists, and the calls soon came to be nothing more than hasty stops—mere rapid gorgings of cake and gulpings of wine—instead of the old-time friendly calls of men upon the families of their friends and acquaintances. Then the ladies—the matrons as well as the young women—began to vie with one another in the number of their callers. This led to the most extraordinary practices. Callers were recruited, indeed, much as customers are drummed up by dealers in soap. Cards announcing that Miss This-or-That would be "at home" on January 1 were sent out almost indiscriminately, and the burdens of the postmen were increased just before New Year day almost as much as they were a few years ago in advance of St. Valentine's day.

Abuse of the Custom.

Then the Sunday papers of the time began to print lists of those who would receive, and the houses of those mentioned in the lists were sure to be besieged by numbers of men whom the ladies had never met or heard of and desired never to meet again. Men would go calling in couples and parties, and even in droves of thirty or more, remaining as short a time at each stopping place as possible, and announcing everywhere how many calls they had already made and how many they expected to make before they finished. At every place they drank, and at each place, of course, a different brand of wine. The result was drunkenness and a crowding of the police stations at night. Naturally enough the second day of January was always a field day in the police courts, and the judges, some of whom probably had post-calling headaches themselves, were wont to mark S. S., for "sentence suspended," after the name of every one who could show that he had made a beast of himself in the observance of the "good old knickerbocker custom."

Most of the callers went on foot in those days, and all wore what is now known as evening dress on their New Year rounds. In fact, it was almost a breach of etiquette among young men of society to wear any coat but a swallow tail while making the New Year rounds.

Late in the fifties the abuse came to be so great that the newspapers and the ministers took it up, and many were the editorials written and many the sermons preached against it. It was not long before these attacks began to take some effect, but the custom was still in a flourishing condition at the close of the war. In 1866 so many extravagances had come into existence in connection with New Year calls that one of the illustrated weeklies gave several pages to pictures and letter press designed to administer a death blow to a particular form of the abuse which obliged every public man to receive herds of ward heelers from his own and other districts at his home on that day.

Experience in Other Cities.

It must have been almost as late as this that the custom began rapidly to grow in other cities, and, no doubt, this was augmented by the outcry in the New York newspapers against the custom as an extravagance of metropolitan fashionable society. Almost every city in the United States had just such an experience as New York had previously had, even to the publication of lists of callers in the newspapers—though that did not obtain away from New York, to any great extent, till late in the eighties.

At last the custom began to decline in earnest among the really smart set in every city, though for years after it died with what is now called the "Four Hundred" in New York, it flourished with undiminished virulence among those lower down. It is related as one of the standing jokes of society that some time in the seventies a family, now of the very inner circle, but then clamorously hammering at society's door, brought down upon themselves the amused contempt of those whom they envied by announcing in the papers that the ladies would receive, and then setting up a most elaborate spread. There were plenty of callers, indeed, but not from the ranks this family desired to enter. It was a wild mob of nobodies who swooped down upon the house and gorged itself with the wines and confections so liberally provided, and the mortification of the host and hostess was exceeded only by the wreck the revelers left behind them.

There is still some New Year calling in more than one city that the writer knows of. Nowhere, however, is the custom persistent as an elaborate social function, but simply as a sensible interchange of courtesies between good friends.

In this city the requirements of official etiquette favor the continued observance of the day, and so in that respect there has been practically no change in the custom.

OSBORN SPENCER.

A GOOD OLD CUSTOM AND HOW IT DEGENERATED.

QUEENS WHO SMOKE.

Use of Cigarettes Extending Among Women All Over Europe.

According to Les Annales the Empress of Austria smokes from thirty to forty cigarettes a day. The dowager Empress of Russia is a confirmed smoker, but confines her indulgence to her own private apartments, apparently in deference to the feelings of the young czarina, who is opposed to the use of cigarettes, which has become prevalent among women in the best society in St. Petersburg.

The Queen of Roumania, the Queen Regent of Spain, Queen Amelia of Portugal, who in this respect follows the example of her mother, the wife of the Comte de Paris, and the Queen of Italy are all smokers.

"In France," Les Annales continues, "the association of men and women in all kinds of sports has been the cause of a greater degree of intimacy, and has brought us to accept the cigarette, whose use is extending among young women of the most exclusive circles. Even the most critical no longer protest when two rosy lips send out a few puffs of smoke between a couple of games of tennis. Besides, our grandmothers loved tobacco. The Duchess of Chartres and the Duchess of Bourbon under Louis XIV even went so far as to smoke pipes, yes, pipes, my dears! And in the 'Letters of a Traveler' we read that George Sand always kept tobacco on hand for her own personal use.

"In all times Spanish women have smoked; and not only cigarettes, but cigars. Marbot in his 'Memoirs' tells us this without mincing matters. And they smoke in England and in the United States, although in the latter country it is only recently that women have begun to use tobacco. There was a story in Gil Blas not long ago to the effect that three young girls in Louisville, Ky., were seen smoking by a policeman and were arrested. The judge, although recognizing that the accused were not conforming to the proprieties, felt bound to release them because they were violating no law."

INCANDESCENT LAMPS.

How the Burned-Out Filament May Be Replaced and Renewed.

From the Providence Journal.

It has been generally supposed to be a fruitless task to attempt the renewal of a burnt-out incandescent electric lamp, although there appears to be some economic fallacy involved in the destruction of what is except in one small if important particular a perfect piece of apparatus. It is not intended, as a rule, to give in this column descriptions of American devices or achievements drawn from foreign publications. This subject has, however, been taken up by the English journal, Industries and Iron, and although it states that an American process for renewing these lamps after the filament has been broken has been developed it does not give the name of inventors nor state that the process has come into anything like general application. Its description of the operation is, therefore, given for what it is worth. It states that a commercial success has been made of a process for renewing burned-out lamps which renders possible the use of the old bulb at a very slight expense. By the new method the collar or bare end of the lamp is not disturbed, the old filament being removed and the new one placed through a small hole in the lamp bulb made by removing the tip. The small hole is subsequently closed exactly in the same manner as in the case of the new lamp, leaving nothing to indicate in the finished repaired lamp that it had ever been opened. It is stated that some 400,000 lamps have been repaired by this method, the filament being inserted through the small hole referred to by a skillful twist of the hand and secured in position by a special carbon paste. The black deposit on the inside of the bulb is removed by fitting the lamp to the holder and removing it in a gas furnace; while immediately following this operation a small glass tube is fused to the opening made in the bulb, through which the lamp is exhausted. When this has been done and the last trace of air and gas absorbed, a blow-pipe flame is directed upon the throat of the tube, which is melted into the point exactly in every respect a counterpart of the original lamp.

CITY OF PEKIN.

The Chinese Capital is One of the Oldest in the World.

The city of Pekin is one of the oldest in the world, says a writer in St. Nicholas, but it was not made a capital until Kublai Khan, somewhere about 1282, fixed his court there. Under the Mongols the name of Pekin was Khanpalik, or City of the Khan; and this title was easily converted into Cambaluc, by which name it is known in the accounts of those times. Pekin is now divided into two parts; the northern portion is the Tartar City, and contains about twelve square miles; in this are the palaces, government buildings, troops and military barracks. The southern part is the Chinese city, and is more populous than the Tartar, less of its space being taken up by gardens and public buildings. The population is estimated at different figures, but 2,000,000 appears to be a fair estimate.

A wall separates the Tartar from the Chinese city, and a wall of varying height surrounds the whole, that of the Tartar section being about fifty feet high. These walls are of brick and stone filled in with earth and paved on the top with slabs of stone, affording a promenade twelve feet wide. There are sixteen gates in all, and each gateway is fortified with towers of stone, and other towers are fixed at intervals of about sixty yards all around the walls. These towers project fifty feet from the outer side of the walls, and those at the gateways have in front of them a fortification of semi-circular shape, so that the gate must be entered from the side and not from the front.

The Tartar city is divided into three inclosures, each being surrounded with its own wall, and each inside of another. The innermost of these is the Prohibited City, and contains the imperial palaces and offices. Its circumference is nearly two miles; the wall is covered with imperial yellow tiles, which look brilliant when seen from a distance. The inclosure next outside of this is occupied by the government offices and by the army appointed to keep guard over the emperor and his family. The next outside of this is the outermost of all, and consists of dwelling houses and shops.

A Rabbit Famine.

From the Cincinnati Commercial Gazette.

The commission merchants in the city are strongly censuring the Cuvier Club these days. The trouble is that in all the printed matter given out by the club rabbits were classed with all the game that could neither be killed nor sold after December 15. The result is that none are being shipped to this market.

A few days ago it was found that the law with reference to rabbits was inoperative, and that they can be sold the year round. So well had the news been circulated to the contrary, however, that there is practically not a rabbit coming to this market, and the city is said to be suffering in consequence to the extent of thousands of dollars. There are more than thirty commission merchants in the city that handle rabbits. Their commissions on sales will probably average $10 each, which would represent the sale of 200 dozen rabbits. Multiplying this sum by thirty and then by the number of days that pass will give the amount of business which the commission merchants are denied. Hence their criticism of the Cuvier Club.

HOOKING A SEA LION.

A Couple of Fishermen Have an Exhilarating Time With It.

From the Kazuma Post.

Last Monday while Comrade Ewing and son William were fishing in a small boat just inside the bar at the mouth of the bay, one of their big hooks, to which was attached a small line, accidentally caught a "fish," which started off at a terrible pace before William could get a twist on the line to stop it. When he did eventually succeed in making the line fast, the "pull" stopped instantly, but a moment later the "fish" popped out of the water, and, with bellows that echoed and re-echoed along old ocean's shores, made for the small boat at a 2.02 gait, bellowing and lashing the water in awful rage at every jump. Consider the case of the two handsome orphans, a long ways from land and home and kindred, and only a couple of oars apiece with which to defend themselves from the rage of a "fish" which they now discovered to be a sea lion of the thousand-pound variety. It was a case where something had to be done in a hurry, and they hustled the oars into the water and splashed the bosom of the mighty deep until the boat rocked as if in a mighty storm, while their yells outrivaled anything they had ever put up.

Anyhow, the wild circus so astonished the sea lion that he turned tail, and, instead of wrecking the frail boat, he "dug down" into the water and fled out over the bar. But in his rapid flight he soon took up the slack in the line, and, finding the hook still fixed in his anatomy, and proving a great drawback to his peace of mind, he seemed to forget, through pain, his scare of the previous moment, and made another grand rush for the boat, bellowing like mad and beating water into a great foam. But the beleaguered fishermen were "onto their job," and raised such a pandemonium of sounds upon his approach that he again fled; and so the "retreat and fall back" fight raged for about an hour, and then the lion "broke" for the "deep blue sea," much to the gratification of the entire boat's crew, who had been engaged in more prolonged, energetic and exhaustive labor than they had bargained for.

It was a big fight with a big "fish," and while they were not at all alarmed during the scrimmage, two-thirds of the participants are willing to make affidavits that they don't hanker after such fish as sea lion, especially when so far away from land.

He Made a Sale.

From the New York Herald.

Druggist (to new clerk)—"I am going out now, James, and I hope you will be careful while I am gone. You may throw off forty per cent from the regular prices if a customer stands out and won't buy without. But don't drop a cent below that. The business won't stand it."

New Clerk (gleefully, upon return of his employer half an hour later)—"I had only one customer while you were out, Mr. Squills, but I stuck him nicely. He was after postage stamps and he wanted to know if we allowed any discount in selling a quantity, and——"

Druggist (breaking in excitedly)—"Great Moses! You didn't throw off 40 per cent on postage stamps, did you?"

New Clerk (calmly)—"Oh! no. I saved you 15 per cent on them. I told him he could have them for 75 cents on the dollar, and the great gump that he was, he never tried to beat me down another cent—just yanked out his pocket book and took all we had—yes, sir, every stamp in the place, a clean $40 worth, at that figure. And—er—what's the matter, Mr. Squills? Hain't having a fit, are you?"

(And during the next fifteen minutes people passing the establishment got the idea that a cage of wild animals or a ward primary had broken loose inside of the place. But this was a mistake. It was only the proprietor explaining the sliding scale of prices more fully to the new clerk.)

Couldn't Effect a Sale.

From Texas Siftings.

The Fakir—"I have here a most excellent silver polish."

The Lady of the House—"Don't need it. I haven't got any silver."

"Well, then, it will take grease spots out of wall paper."

"Haven't any wall paper."

"Then it will renew the curl in feathers."

"Haven't got any feathers."

"Well, then, it will make oil paintings look like new."

"Haven't got any oil paintings."

"Well, then, a little taken internally will make you feel as if you had some of these things. Good day."

Literary Information.

From the Chicago Record.

"I want to buy a Christmas present of a book for a young man."

"Yes, miss; what kind of a book would you like?"

"Why, a book for a young man."

"Well—but what kind of a young man?"

"Oh, he's tall and has light hair, and he always wears blue neckties."

Too Prosaic.

From the Cleveland Leader.

City Editor—"Go down stairs and get your pay. I have no further use for you."

New Reporter—"Why, what's the matter?"

City Editor—"Now here in the entire twenty-one pages of copy that you have written about the girl that was held up and robbed do you say that she was singularly beautiful or prominent in society."

Not So Wearysome.

From Tit-Bits.

Scientific Mamma—"Do not dance all the evening, dear. Remember that the dances of an average ball cover a total distance of nine miles."

Practical Daughter—"Oh, but a girl is carried most of the way, mamma."

NEWSPAPER LIBELS

How the Perpetrators Are Dealt With in Paris.

CONVICTION AS A DISTINCTION

The Term of Imprisonment a Sort of a Holiday.

ABROAD ON PAROLE

Correspondence of The Evening Star.

PARIS, December 16, 1896.

THE ARREST, trial and punishment of Archambaud Saurens, a very young journalist who is speedily achieving fame, presents the most recent noteworthy example of the comedy vein that always pervades certain processes under the French law of libel. Such sameness marks the general character of these proceedings that one will serve as a fair instance for all.

When M. Poisson, socialist member of the chamber, takes up Le Matin and reads therein an article calling him a baboon he may be relied upon to make the restaurant quake with a tempest of denunciation against the writer, whose name is signed. With all speed he goes to the nearest commissaire de police and makes complaint under the law known as delit de presse. This law does not hold responsible the writer of a libelous article, but permits him, in criminal actions, to assume the responsibility if he so elects. It is the invariable practice of French newspaper writers—in fact, an unwritten law among them—never to shirk such responsibility, but to assume it entire whatever may be the consequences. The scribes glory in this heroic practice of their crafts. This might not be the case were the punishment inflicted severe, but it is not, and the whole business of proceedings under the law of delit de presse possesses for the American a marked flavor of opera bouffe.

M. Poisson having laid his complaint before the commissaire de police, that functionary acquaints the newspaper at once that proceedings will be taken concerning the article in question. Perhaps the communication is by telephone. If so, the following dialogue is likely to ensue:

A Polite Summons.

"Is this the bureau de redaction of the Matin?"

"Oui, monsieur; and you?"

"I am the commissaire de police of the ninth arrondissement."

"Ah, Monsieur le Commissaire, je vous salue."

"My salutations to you, monsieur. S'agit d'un proc'es. It is the article of this morning about M. Poisson of the chamber. Will you have the goodness to inform me if I direct the process against the gerant or the writer? If the latter, please to give me his name."

(The gerant is the person whose name appears in every French newspaper as the responsible editor—the person whom the law holds answerable, with the exception noted, for any offenses committed by the publication.)

"Parfaitment, monsieur. If you will do me the honor to wait I will ascertain."

The person at the newspaper end of the wire then informs the writer of the commissaire's request, and asks him—merely as a formality—whether he wishes to defend the action or have the gerant answer the charge of libel.

"It is purely my affair," answers the writer, with affected nonchalance, "and you may inform the commissaire that I shall have the honor of defending the case myself."

The dialogue at the telephone is then resumed as follows:

"Monsieur le Commissaire, I am again at your service. The writer of the article is M. Francois Gautier, and he wishes me to inform you that he will have the honor of defending the action in person."

"Cest bien, monsieur, I thank you. My compliments, as well, if you please, to M. Gautier."

"With great pleasure, monsieur. Au revoir."

"Au revoir."

Making the Arrest.

Next morning, perhaps that night, Mr. Gautier will receive a note like this:

Commissariat de Police, Neuvieme Arrondissement, Paris, le 15 Octobre, 1894.

Monsieur: You are respectfully requested to call at my office on the 17th instant, at 11 o'clock, in reference to an affair that concerns you. Accept, dear sir, my warm salutations.

A. MOUQUIN,
Commissaire de Police.

The meeting at the commissariat is a model of courtesy and hospitality. M. Gautier and the police official are acquainted, of course, and the "arrest" is made in the snug private office of the commissaire over a glass or two of cognac. In arranging for the appearance of the prisoner in court the official defers entirely to his captive's convenience, setting the day a week, a month or two months off. He is permitted to go without furnishing bail, merely giving his parole d'honneur to appear when even he is wanted.

A day or so before that set for the hearing M. Gautier receives another note from the commissaire de police couched in the usual polite language, reminding him of his engagement at the court of assizes, in the Palace of Justice. Gautier's many journalist friends have been looking forward to the trial as a genuine treat, and the court room is sure to be filled with them when the case is called. There is something about these delit de presse cases that puts the court room in good humor. Even the tribunal of judges relax their habitual austerity, and there is a wink in the solemn voice of the public prosecutor as he rises in his flowing black robes and announces the charges against the prisoner. With a respectful though decidedly unterrified demeanor, the prisoner takes his place in the dock between two stalwart gardes municipaux. Looking first at the judges and then at the prosecutor he smiles to say: "Gentlemen, I am at your services. Do me the honor to convict me of delit de presse."

Regarded as a Joke.

The one person in the room who evinces any genuine sign of regarding the case as one of serious import is M. Poisson, who is still chafing under the epithet of baboon and some other equally candid assertions concerning his record as a statesman.

He glares at the prisoner while the prosecutor is reading the naughty article, and shakes with rage as the word baboon is again and again repeated, each time qualified by a new and more exasperating adjective. It is plain that if Poisson had his way Gautier would be transported to Cayenne for life.

The spectacle of the deputy being broiled again on the journalistic grill is the hugest kind of a joke for the journalists, and many a silent chuckle and inward round of applause greets the caustic periods of their confrere.

The prisoner seldom employs counsel. He prefers to conduct his own defense, for that gives him a chance to address the court and speak his mind freely concerning M. Poisson. This is the sweet that compensates for all the bitter attending his punishment. To be permitted to thrust verbal poignards into "the man of straw" and watch him writhe, ah c'est charmant!

Having pleaded guilty to writing the article, and making no further defense than that the statements contained therein were true and written with no other purpose than that of serving the public good, the prisoner rests his case, and sums up. This is his much-coveted opportunity. Bowing separately and impressively to all the persons addressed, he begins:

"Messieurs les Judges, le Procureur General, Mes Confreres, Mesdames et Messieurs." His speech has been carefully prepared, and is usually a brilliant effort, sparkling with wit and full of biting sarcasm, directed by skillful inuendo at the defenseless head of the complainant.

Enjoying Imprisonment.

In ordinary cases the sentence imposed is from one week to three months' confinement in the prison of Ste. Pelagie or La Sante, both situated within the limits of Paris. In executing the sentence of the court the authorities usually consult the wishes of the convicted one. Upon giving his word of honor to the warden to report at the prison on a certain day and begin the serving of his sentence he is allowed to depart, perhaps for a holiday in the country or to finish some urgent work in hand. As the day agreed upon draws near the journalist receives a reminder like this:

Monsieur: You are requested to present yourself at the Prison de Ste. Pelagie on the 1st of February at 8 a.m. Accept the salutation of yours truly.

JEAN FROCHARD, Director.

This is a draft upon his honor, which the French journalist will break his neck to meet. Most of the newspaper delinquents are consigned to the Prison of Ste. Pelagie, which has a section dubbed the Pavilion des Princes, reserved for prisoners of this class. Here the "cells" are light and clean, and the incarcerated scribes are permitted to furnish them with such things as they need for the pursuit of their newspaper work. They are treated with great indulgence by their jailors, almost as honored guests. They have the liberty of the corridors and the jail yard, and are permitted to pass their time as they see fit, being only nominally bound by a few prison rules. If a man has money he can command for his table all the delicacies of the Halles Centrales, and if impecunious, his more fortunate fellow prisoners will contest for the honor of having him a guest at dinner.

An Orderly Jail Delivery.

At nightfall there is an orderly, but none the less speedy, jail delivery from that section of the Ste. Pelagie. One at a time well-dressed men with slouch hats drawn down over their eyes may be seen to slip out of the prison door, mix with the crowd in the street and then drop down a byway. They are not escaping, but merely paying a visit to a near-by marchand de vin for a game of piquet and a bottle or two. In justification of themselves for extending this privilege to the journalists the prison authorities naively explain that men who have been writing all day in a cell need change of scene in the evening. The cabaret in which they gather is one patronized almost exclusively by the "royalty," as the people of the neighborhood have nicknamed the denizens of the "Pavilion des Princes." Here

Many a wassail bout
Wears the long winter out;
Often their midnight shout
Sets the cocks crowing.

To get leave for these night excursions the talismanic parole d'honneur again does service. No especial limit is set as to the duration of their stay outside, but there is a tacit understanding that they shall be "home" by 2 a.m., an eminently seasonable hour, from the journalistic point of view. There is no record that any scribe ever violated his parole by failing to return to the prison at some time before the expiration of his sentence. There have been some exceedingly close shaves, though.

THE BRIER PIPE.

Where the Material Comes From and How the Bowl Is Cut.

From the New York Sun.

The brier used in the making of brier pipes comes chiefly from France, and largely from the region of the Pyrenees; it is said that the very best brier comes from Sicily. Only the root, or that part of the wood that grows underground, is used. It is sawed into oblong blocks which have no semblance to the form of a pipe, but each of sufficient dimensions to permit the fashioning of a pipe from it. The sawed blocks are soaked in salt water, dried and seasoned. They are imported into this country in large bags.

In the pipe factory here the brier blocks are sorted out in sizes, for larger and smaller pipes, and then, if necessary, they are trimmed down before going to the machines that are actually to shape the pipe; little slabs or bits may be sawed off the block to bring it down close to the size of the pipe that is to be cut from it; but not much needs to be cut off, for the blocks are sawed originally so that there will be as little waste as possible. Then the brier block goes to the borer, the first of the machines employed in the actual fashioning of the pipe.

The boring machine has three knives, set in the same plane; the middle knife bores out the bowl of the pipe, the two outer knives cut away the wood on the outside and form the shape of the pipe. These knives, set in a lathe, make more than 4,000 revolutions a minute. The middle knife, which bores out the bowl, is longer than the two outside knives, which shape the bowl. The borer cuts the pipe out to its full depth, the cutters, in the case of an egg-shaped pipe, dig down to the point of the pipe's greatest circumference. In making a wood pipe of the bulldog shape, an additional side tool is used to shape the bowl for a little space below its greatest circumference. In making an egg-shaped pipe the knives are made to turn; in making a pipe of bulldog shape the block is revolved.

As the brier block comes from the bores it is still a brier block, with the pine bowl bored down into one end of it and the outside of the pipe bowl-shaped down for half its depth. The block with the pipe thus partly cut in it goes to a lathe similar to the lathes used in cutting gun stocks and other irregular forms. The cutting tool used with this lathe is circular, like a circular saw. It has peculiar, knife-like teeth. It is revolved, like a circular saw, at high velocity. The brier block, with the bowl partly shaped out, is secured upon the lathe, to which has already been attached a metal patterns of the shape that it is desired to cut the block. This metal pattern is made to turn against a smooth-edged wheel attached to the lathe. The brier block turns with the pattern, and is brought into contact with the smooth wheel. As the pattern is turned the center line of the block is brought near to it or recedes from the teeth cut into the wood deeply or lightly accordingly. Whether the stem of the pipe is round, oval or square makes no difference; the cutting wheel cuts away the wood so that the wood that is left is shaped in accordance with the pattern.

The work of the irregular lathe is done very quickly, and the pipe comes from it with the bowl and stem completely shaped out, but there is as yet no hole in the stem. The stem here spoken of is the brier stem continuous from the bowl, and not a bit, or mouthpiece.

The pipe is then rough finished and fine finished on wheels covered, one with coarse and the other with fine sandpaper, and subsequently is further fine finished by polishing it on a wheel with ground pumice stone.

After the first finishing the pipes are assorted into firsts and seconds. Firsts are pipes without a blemish; seconds are pipes that have any outside defect.

The hole through the stem is bored with a steel wire having a cutting tip, and turning rapidly in a lathe. Fine pipes are centered, so that the hole through the stem may be bored exactly in the center; ordinary pipes are held against the wire borer by hand, but pipes thus bored are almost without exception bored squarely in the center.

Then the pipe goes into another machine which cuts the thread in the end of the stem to hold the bit, or mouthpiece. Then the band, if it is to have one, around the wood stem where it is joined by the bit, or mouthpiece, is put on, and the bit is attached to the pipe.

The Hymn Had to Be Changed.

From the Chicago Herald.

Rev. Simon J. McPherson yesterday morning preached on "Hell" in the Second Presbyterian Church. His sermon made a deep impression on the congregation. At the conclusion of the discourse the pastor usually announces the hymn to be sung as a response. The organist had not known the subject of the sermon when he selected the response, and thought no more about it after he had compiled his list of hymns. The pastor fumbled with the list, coughed and looked a trifle embarrassed. The organist began to play the air pianissimo, and a broad grin spread over every face. Dr. McPherson looked appealingly upward to the organist and then turned over the leaves of the hymn book with desperate eagerness. Mr. McCarrell left his pipes and hurried down to the pastor.

"We must change that response," whispered the pastor.

"Why?" asked the organist, innocently.

"I have been preaching on 'Hell,'" said Dr. McPherson, "and the response you have chosen is 'What Must It Be to Be There?' We cannot have that."

Even the solemn organist grinned as he climbed to the organ and started up "Art Thou Weary?"

A mere man can never tell whether two women are friends because they like each other or because they hate each other.—Life.

THE GREAT HUXLEY.

WHAT HUXLEY, THE GREAT ENGLISH SCIENTIST, CONSIDERED THE BEST START IN LIFE.

The great English scientist, Huxley, said the best start in life is a sound stomach. Weak stomachs fail to digest food properly, because they lack the proper quantity of digestive acids (lactic and hydrochloric) and peptogenic products; the most sensible remedy in all cases of indigestion is to take after each meal one or two of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets, because they supply in a pleasant, harmless form all the elements that weak stomachs lack.

The regular use of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets will cure every form of stomach trouble except cancer of the stomach.

They increase flesh, insure pure blood, strong nerves, a bright eye and clear complexion, because all these result only from wholesome food well digested.

Nearly all druggists sell Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets at 50 cents full-sized package.

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UNIVERSITY NOTES

Columbian University.

At the meeting of the Society for Philosophical Inquiry to be held Janury 5 Mr. Harris will read a paper on "Philosophy of Education in Its Subjective Aspects."

Major J. W. Powell will deliver a lecture January 4 to the class in political science on "Savagery, Defined and Characterized."

The philosophical and economic section of the Columbian Corcoran Society at its last meeting debated the question, "Resolved, That women be granted the right of suffrage." Affirmative, Miss West, Miss Cameron; negative, Mr. Pierce, Mr. Dalby. The engineering section of the same society met recently and transacted routine business, adjourning until after the holodays.

The program at the meeting of the Enosinian Society on Wednesday evening was as follows: Address, by the president; violin solo, Mr. Finckel; recitation, Mr. Sterrett; piano solo, Mr. Clark; recitation, Miss Jacobs; selection, Prentiss Brothers Mandolin Club; address, Dr. Tinsher.

The Law School Debating Society have selected the question, "Resolved, That immigration to the United States should be greatly restricted," for debate at the first meeting in January. The speakers are J. Felix, E. F. Beckman and C. H. Gray on the affirmative; F. Keiper, W. H. Rill and J. E. Flannery on the negative.

Catholic University.

Dr. Pace, who has been ill since October with typhoid fever, has recovered, and expects to resume his duties at the university after the holidays. Dr. Bouquillon, who has also been ill at Providence Hospital for some weeks, has recovered sufficiently to return to the university.

The new dormitory will be ready for occupancy after the holidays, and some of the professosrs are already furnishing their apartments. The students' apartments, consisting of a study and bed room for each, will be completely furnished, supplied with steam heat and electric light.

January 19 at 4 o'clock in the afternoon Dr. Conaty will be formally installed as rector of the university, and will hold a reception in the evening.

Recitations and lectures will be resumed at 8:30 a.m. January 5.

Prof. W. C. Robinson and family will spend a portion of the holiday recess in New England.

Wm. L. Clark, author of Clark on Contracts and other legal text books, will commence a course of lectures in criminal procedure January 12.

Georgetown University.

The Alumni Association will give a reception next Tuesday evening in the university building to the faculties and alumnus of the institution.

The Morris Literary and Debating Society met Sunday and adjourned until January 10, at which time the debate will be on the question, "Resolved, That suffrage should be extended to citizens of the District of Columbia." Ed. Tobin wil speak on the affirmative and Frank Smith on the negative.

The philosophers gave a public disputation in major logic before the faculty and students Monday morning. Those taking a prominent part in the exercises were G. T. S. Doyle, C. A. Shea, S. T. Tremoulet and D. W. O'Donoghue.

Willie Was On.

From the New York Herald.

Just about Christmas time Mr. and Mrs. Harlemflatte find it necessary to do a great deal of spelling when they converse regarding shopping tours in the presence of their son, in whose mind they wish to preserve the Santa Claus traditions.

The other night Mr. Harlemflatte had come in laden with bundles, and when he had been relieved of them and was seated at the dinner table the conversation began in the usual way, for little Willie was present.

"Did you get the s-k-a-t-e-s and the d-r-u-m that h-e has b-e-e-n asking for?" asked Mrs. H., as she began serving the vegetables.

"Yes, and there was a n-i-c-e-s-l-e-d for one eighty-five, and I took it," answered Mr. H., smiling at his young son and heir.

"You didn't forget the t-i-n s-o-l-d-i-e-r-s and the t-r-u-m-p-e-t I hope?" said his wife, "and the w-i-g and the w-h-i-s-k-e-r-s that you are to wear with the S-a-n-t-a C-l-a-u-s costume?"

"No. Got 'em all," answered Mr. Harlemflatte.

"I'll bet you forgot the v-e-l-o-s-s-i-p-e-d-e, now didn't you?" she asked anxiously.

"That ain't right!" broke in little Willie. "It's v-e-l-o-c-i-p-e-d-e, ain't it, pop, and say, pop, is it one of the kind that goes all round the block without stopping?"

And No Way to Protect Them.

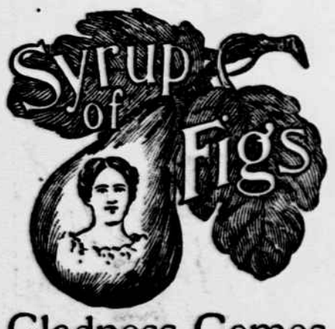
From the Chicago Post.

"I see they have a submarine bicycle now."

"Too bad, isn't it?"

"Why?"

"Why, I was thinking of the poor whales and sharks and things! I suppose they're not entitled to much consideration, but it does seem horrible to think of permitting them to be scared to death by bloomer girls."



Gladness Comes

With a better understanding of the transient nature of the many physical ills, which vanish before proper efforts—gentle efforts—pleasant efforts—rightly directed. There is comfort in the knowledge, that so many forms of sickness are not due to any actual disease, but simply to a constipated condition of the system, which the pleasant family laxative, Syrup of Figs, promptly removes. That is why it is the only remedy with millions of families, and is everywhere esteemed so highly by all who value good health. Its beneficial effects are due to the fact, that it is the one remedy which promotes internal cleanliness without debilitating the organs on which it acts. It is therefore all important, in order to get its beneficial effects, to note when you purchase, that you have the genuine article, which is manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co. only and sold by all reputable druggists.

If in the enjoyment of good health, and the system is regular, laxatives or other remedies are then not needed. If afflicted with any actual disease, one may be commended to the most skillful physicians, but if in need of a laxative, one should have the best, and with the well-informed everywhere, Syrup of Figs stands highest and is most largely used and gives most general satisfaction.