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the Court Painters.
"A movement was on foot for the alliance of King Charles of Wurtemberg and the Grand Duchess Olga of Russia," said an artist. "An emissary of the Russian court came to the young king, laid certain proposals before him and submitted a portrait in oils of the royal lady. King Charles, after a close scrutiny, said:

"This portrait flatters over-much. The eyes are too large and brilliant, the hair too abundant, the complexion too flowerlike and the neck and arms too beautiful altogether."

"But, your majesty," said the astonished Russian, "you do not know the grand duchess."

"No," said the king, "but I know court painters."

Spoke Well of Her.

A preacher in the reign of Charles II. was to receive £10 if in his sermon at the funeral of Mme. Creswell he said nothing but well of her. She was rather a bad character and herself had dictated the clause in her will. So, after a general address on mortality, he thus concluded: "By the will of a deceased sister it is expected that I should mention her and say nothing but what was well of her. All that I shall say of her, therefore, is this: She was born well, she lived well, and she died well, for she was born with the name Creswell, she lived in Clerkenwell, and she died in Bridewell."—Minneapolis Journal.

Fooble Again.



Caddie to Fooble (who has slowly backed his way to the first hole)—"Will ye be gon' the whole round?"
Fooble—Yes, of course. Why?
Caddie—Only they'll be wantin' the 's tomorrow. It's medal day.—Tat.

Cause For Suspicion.



"Oh, no; I can never trust my husband again. I feel convinced he is carrying on with the cook."
"What makes you think that?"
"Last night he kissed me in the lark."—Filegunde Blatter.

Exasperating.

From the dark kitchen there emanated a series of thumps and angry exclamations. Jones was looking for the cat.

"Pa!" called the son from the stairway.

"Go to bed and let me alone!" blurted Jones. "I've just barked my shins."

"Pa!" insisted Tommy after a moment's silence.

"Well, what is it? Didn't I tell you to keep quiet?"

"I—I didn't hear your shins bark."

And the next moment Tommy was being pursued by an angry sire with a hard hairbrush.—Chicago News.

A Tabloid Fable.

A man once collided with an opportunity.

"Why don't you look where you are going?" growled the man.

"Don't you recognize me?" asked the opportunity pleasantly.

"No, and I don't care to. You have trodden on my corns," replied the man as he limped away.

Moral.—Don't believe the people who say they have never had a chance.—New York Times.

Buckwheat Cakes.

There is nothing on the dining room table and nothing that could be placed there that is so great and formidable an enemy to the human face as buckwheat cakes. They are sure to make the complexion yellow and covered with eruptions. Don't insult your face by putting buckwheat cakes into it. They head the entire list of complexion destroyers.—Exchange.

DISTANCE OF THE STARS.

How Astronomers Get About the Task of Measuring It.

With the exception of a hundred stars at most, we know nothing of the distances of the individual stars.

What is the cause of this state of things? It is owing to the fact that we have two eyes that we are enabled not only to perceive the direction in which external objects are situated, but to get an idea of their distance, to localize them in space. But this power is rather limited. For distances exceeding some hundreds of yards it utterly fails. The reason is that the distance between the eyes as compared with the distance to be evaluated becomes too small. Instruments have been devised by which the distance between the eyes is, as it were, artificially increased. With a good instrument of this sort distances of several miles may be evaluated. For still greater distances we may imagine each eye replaced by a photographic plate. Even this would be quite sufficient for one of the heavenly bodies—viz, for the moon.

At one and the same moment let a photograph of the moon and the surrounding stars be taken both at the Cape observatory and at the Royal observatory at Greenwich. Placing the two photographs side by side in the stereoscope, we shall clearly see the moon "hanging in space" and may evaluate its distance.

But for the sun and the nearest planets, our next neighbors in the universe after the moon, the difficulty recommences.

The reason is that any available distance on the earth, taken as eye distance, is rather small for the purpose. However, owing to incredible perseverance and skill of several observers and by substituting the most refined measurement for stereoscopic examination, astronomers have succeeded in overcoming the difficulty for the sun. I think we may say that at present we know its distance to within a thousandth part of its amount. Knowing the sun's distance, we get that of all the planets by a well known relation existing between the planetary distances.

But now for the fixed stars, which must be hundreds of thousands of times farther removed than the sun. There evidently can be no question of any sufficient eye distance on our earth. Meanwhile our success with the sun has provided us with a new one distance, 24,000 times greater than any possible eye distance on the earth, for now that we know the distance at which the earth travels in its orbit around the sun we can take the diameter of its orbit as our eye distance. Photographs taken at periods six months apart will represent the stellar world as seen from points the distance between which is already best expressed in the time it would take light to traverse it. The time would be about sixteen minutes.

However, even this distance, immense as it is, is, on the whole, inadequate for obtaining a stereoscopic view of the stars. It is only in quite exceptional cases that photographs on a large scale—that is, obtained by the aid of big telescopes—show any stereoscopic effect for fixed stars. By accurate measurement of the photos we may perhaps get somewhat beyond what we can attain by simple stereoscopic inspection; but, as we said a moment ago, astronomers have not succeeded in this way in determining the distance of more than a hundred stars in all.—Scientific American.

When Ohio Failed.

In the midst of C. B. Galbreath's lecture on "Lafayette" the other night at the Young Men's Christian association he spent quite a little time on the incident of the princely sum of \$140,000 which he brought with him to this country and gave to congress.

"When Lafayette returned to the United States about forty-two years later congress voted him \$200,000 in return for the \$140,000 which he gave to us in that time of great need. When the vote was taken every state in the Union voted for it with—let us mention it softly—the exception of Ohio."—Columbus Dispatch.

Getting What's Coming to Him.



Innkeeper—That chronic klicker Boker is sitting over there.
Walter—Yes, sir.
Innkeeper—See that he gets a bad dinner. He shan't always grumble for nothing.—Meggendorfer Blatter.

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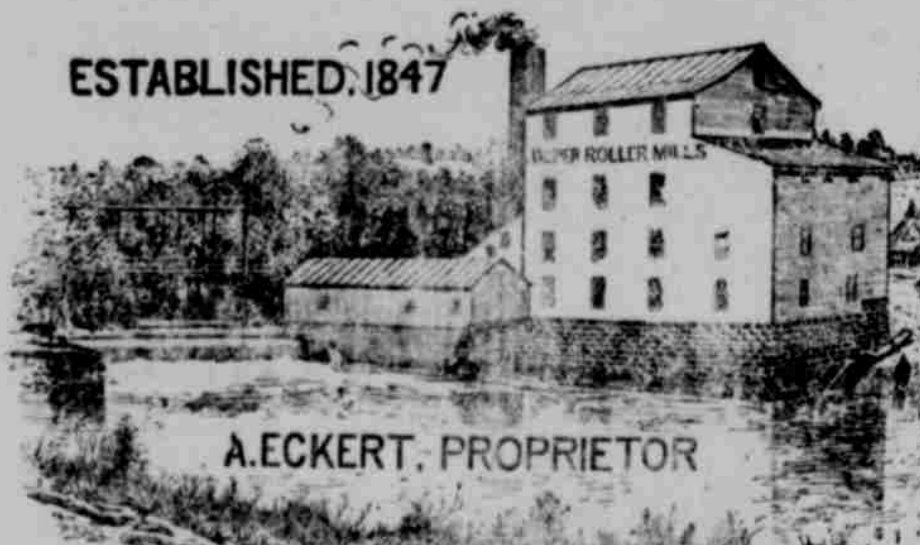
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