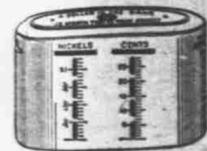


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John Bull.

"John Bull," a popular epithet for an Englishman, as a personification of what is supposed to be the English type, is derived from a prose political satire by Dr. John Arbuthnot, who used the name in his "History of John Bull" (1712), reprinted complete in "Pope's Miscellanies" in 1728. The subject of that history is the "Spanish succession during the reigns of Queen Anne and Louis XIV." Queen Anne is "Mrs. Bull."

"John Bull's mother" is the church of England, and "John Bull's sister Peg" is the Scotch nation, represented as in love with Jack (Calvin). The description of Bull is so close to the familiar figure in the pages of Punch that a sentence or two may be quoted: "Bull in the main was an honest and plain dealing fellow, choleric, bold and of a very inconsistent temper. He dreaded not old Lewis (Louis XIV.), either at back sword, single falchion or cudgel play, but then he was very apt to quarrel with his best friends, especially if they pretended to govern him. If you flattered him you might lead him as a child."

Literary Controversies.

Famous controversies over the authorship of poems include the following:

"Laugh and the World Laughs With You," claimed by four or five different authors, is now credited to Ella Wheeler Wilcox. Her chief opponent was John A. Joyce.

"Rock Me to Sleep" was claimed by two different authors.

John J. Ingalls, the great Kansas statesman and writer, had his authorship of "Opportunity" disputed many times.

Walt Whitman and Mary Mapes Dodge had a stirring dispute about a little poem, "The Two Mysteries."

The authorship of Shakespeare's plays has been ascribed to Francis Bacon (Lord Verulam), Christopher Marlowe, Sir Walter Raleigh and other contemporaries.—St. Louis Republic.

Popular Poverty.

Katie, aged seven, was the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Jones. One day, when the new minister called, Katie, upon her own invitation, went into the parlor to entertain him until her mother came down stairs. As she approached the parlor door, Mrs. Jones heard the minister ask Katie how many children her mother had, and was very much surprised to hear her little daughter reply "six."

Her mother wisely made no comment upon the startling reply of the child, but sent her out to play, and when the minister's visit was over she asked Katie why she had told him that her mother had six children, and was more dumfounded than ever when Katie said, "Because, I did not want the strange gentleman to know that you were so poor that you didn't have but one child."—National Monthly.

An Efficiency Recipe.

Be earnest, but be calm, no matter what happens. A man may learn to treble his day's work by systematically shutting out all feeling during office hours. What fatigues and annoys us is not our work, but the mental friction, nervous strain, muscular tension, emotional wear and tear which we allow to accompany our work. A real man is always a machine while on the job, never a machine at any other time. Recipe for efficiency: Be a plodder by day and a poet by night. Do your planning, your dreaming, your resolving, when silence and solitude open the mind for great thoughts and purposes; then appear to the world just as an ordinary business man, with nothing unique about you to rouse the neighbors' suspicions.—New York Independent.

The Dramatic in Life.

The undying interest which is taken in the theater is explained by the very profound line with which Shakespeare began a very silly speech, "All the world's a stage." People, as a rule, take no interest in anything that is not dramatically or, as in the case of politics, melodramatically formulated. Any creed to be popular must be dramatically stated. Therefore the gospels are preferred to the epistles. Aesop's fables are remembered because they are the truth about things stated dramatically and morally.—George Bernard Shaw.

Sense of Humor.

A sense of humor preserves all who have it from extremes. It warns away from the confines of the petty and ridiculous and produces very often the same tolerant effects as magnanimity, revealing through laughter that reasonable line of thought which was obscured by logic.

The Test.

"Do you really believe college education helps a young man in business life?"

"I know it does. At college my boy was the champion sprinter of his class and now he has a job as a bank runner."—Baltimore American.

A Hero.

Muggins—That little shrimp doesn't look like a hero, does he? Buggins—Great Scott, no! What has he ever done? Muggins—He's been married six times.—Philadelphia Record.

Crust of the Earth.

The volume of the rocky crust of the earth, estimated as ten miles thick, including the mean elevation of the land above the sea, is 1,632,000,000 cubic miles.

The Turks have a proverb which says that the devil tempts all other men, but that idle men tempt the devil.—Charles Colton.

"Lonely" and "Lonesome."

Here's the distinction between the words lonely and lonesome, although what is said is used in the same sense. "Lonely" means to be deprived of human society and companionship, while "lonesome" is the dejection and sadness due from lack of society. The one is a state of being, the other a state of mind.

To be lonely is entirely physical, while lonesome is exclusively mental and may be the result of actual loneliness or may merely be an imaginary lonesomeness caused by mental depression.

The difference between the words is better illustrated in the following: A man is sitting in the library of his home, both lonely and lonesome. The telephone rings. Friends invite him to join a merry party then in progress a few miles away. In order to reach this party he must mount his horse and traverse a lonely and dangerous road. In this journey he is lonely, for the road is lonely, but he is not the least bit lonesome, for his thoughts are pleasant in anticipation of the enjoyable evening he is about to spend with gay comrades.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Lincoln and the Preachers.

I talked once with an old man who heard the Lincoln and Douglas debate at Bloomington, Ill., who said, "I remember Lincoln quoted Scripture like a preacher." Brown, one of his biographers, wrote: "He made frequent use of Bible language and of illustrations drawn from Holy Writ. It is said that when he was preparing his Springfield speech of 1858 he spent hours trying to find language to express the central idea. Finally a Bible passage flashed through his mind, and he exclaimed, 'A house divided against itself cannot stand.'" (Mark III, 25). In his second inaugural he quoted twice from Matthew and once from the Psalms. It would seem that in every crisis of his life he sought Bible inspiration and divine guidance. While he was running for congress he declared his religious attitude when, pulling a small Bible from his pocket, he said to a ministerial friend, "If I read this book aright every preacher ought to be with me in this contest."—Christian Herald.

Squeaky Shoes.

The "squeak" in shoes is caused by the inside and outside soles rubbing together in walking. To overcome this disagreeable trouble make an opening at the edge of the inside of the shank of the shoe and work a screwdriver between the soles to the tips, thereby loosening the inner and outer soles. Then work in a little French chalk, soapstone or talcum powder through the opening. By bending the soles back and forth or slightly tapping the edges the powder will work itself between them. The opening can then be closed with one or two tacks, and the squeaking will be permanently stopped. Such an emergency repair is very much better than the soaking and oiling frequently resorted to and yet does no harm to the shoes provided the job is done by a competent shoe repairer.—Technical World.

Where Leaders Stand.

There is one Asiatic idea as to the right place of the commander in warfare which is altogether different from the frigid scientific Japanese principle. Sir Francis Younghusband has told us that when the British expedition to Lhasa first met the armed host of the Tibetans and a fight was provoked, with consequences disastrous to the primitive warriors, the lamas protested against the wickedness of the British attack. The Tibetans, they insisted, had never meant resistance, and for proof they pointed to the presence of the leaders with the troops. If, they said, any fighting had been intended all those in authority would of course have moved a day's march to the rear!—Manchester Guardian.

Why He Was Cut Off.

"I thought you were a friend of his?"

"I used to be."

"And now?"

"I had to give him up in self defense."

"Why?"

"To every life insurance and book agent that asked him if he had any friends who might be interested in their propositions he insisted on giving my name."—Detroit Free Press.

Easily Arranged.

"How did you come to get married?" asked a man of a very homely friend.

"Well, you see," he replied, "after I'd vainly tried to win several girls that I wanted I finally turned my attention to one that wanted me, and then it didn't take long to arrange matters."—London Strand Magazine.

Thought He Was Smart.

"Oh, dear," groaned the young wife, "I don't know what to use to raise my bread; I've tried everything."

"A derrick and a couple of jack-screws ought to do it," thought her husband, but he didn't say it aloud.—Boston Transcript.

No Fool.

"He's hot headed, but he's no fool."

"What do you mean?"

"He knows enough not to lose his temper in the presence of a man he can't lick."—Detroit Free Press.

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The Christian Era.

The Christian era which we now use was fixed by Dionysius (surnamed The Little), a Roman abbot and one of the most learned men of the sixth century. Its epoch, or commencement, is the first day of January, on the fourth year of the one hundred and ninety-fourth olympiad, the seven hundred and fifty-third from the foundation of Rome and four thousand seven hundred and fourteenth of the Julian period. It is usually supposed to begin with the birth of Christ, but there are various opinions with regard to the year in which that event took place. The system accepted by the Christian world is that of Usber, which makes the date of the birth of Christ four years before the Christian era. The time for the Christian era was introduced in Italy in the sixth century and began to be used in Gaul in the eighth century, though it was not generally followed in that country until a century later. From extant charters it is known to have been in use in England before the close of the eighth century. Before its adoption the usual course in Latin countries was to distinguish the years by their number in the cycle of Indiction, or tax levying era.—Philadelphia Press.

Sleep and Poetry.

An exchange recommends the reading of a fine, soul felt poem before retiring for the night's rest. It tends to compose the soul and put it in harmony with the truth and goodness of things. A novel will not do that, nor a newspaper, nor anything that sets the mind in a flutter. Reading a poem—one of the good old kind that gets into the heart and has a nice time there—is like floating down a quiet stream, past the fragrance of flowers and the songs of the birds. Never had that experience, eh? How very shiftless, indeed.

Did you ever try reading "Snow-bound" on an evening when the snow was piling up the "silence deep and white"? Well, try it. Whittier will give you something for any evening. Tennyson's "Idylls" are a little more urgent, but they are as tranquillizing as a gentle arm around you. Wordsworth is great, but takes too much thought; Browning, too, and Lowell, but Longfellow not so much. But as easy as smiling is the humorous kind, like Riley. But there are hundreds of poems floating about as sweet as a bush of roses. Take them in and read them before going to bed. A good one will last a week. Like a song, they improve with age.—Columbus Journal.

A Pleasant Time.

It was Thursday afternoon, and the housemaids were in great evidence on one of the trolley cars. Presently one of them came in and took her seat and at once discovered an acquaintance sitting opposite her. Leaning across the aisle, she said:

"Hello, Annie! Where you livin' now?"

"Oh, I'm workin' away out in the suburbs now."

"Ain't it terrible lonesome out there?"

"No, not a bit. You see, the house is on a corner, and there is a church on the next corner and a fire engine house on the opposite corner and a police station on the other corner. Yesterday there was a funeral in the church, and the fire engine was called out three times, and two men was run into the station, all in one day. Then the couple I lives with don't git along very well. So, take it altogether, there's plenty doin' all the time, an' I never git a bit lonesome."—New York Tribune.

Just Pleasantness.

Perhaps just pleasantness has not a very heroic sound, but the human heart that, knowing its own bitterness, can yet carry itself cheerfully is not without heroism. Indeed, if that human heart does no more than hold its tongue about its own aches and pains it has a certain moral value that the world cannot afford to lose. "Pleasantness" does not sound as well as self sacrifice or wisdom or spirituality, but it may include all these great words. And certainly just to start one's husband out to his work cheerily, to make the hobbled boy of a son feel a gentler and sweeter sentiment toward women because of his own mother's sound, sweet gaiety and strength, to help one's servants to put good humor and friendliness into their services—these things make for righteousness in the world.—Margaret DeLand.

Force of Habit.

"Funny things happen, even on street cars," stated old Dad Bing. "Tuther day I got on one that was entirely empty, and at the next corner it stopped and let another gent on. He was a middle aged person with a faraway look in his eye, and instead of taking his choice of seats he grabbed a strap and hung there, swaying and flapping like a fresh caught fish.

"I don't aim to be inquisitive, podner," says I, "but if it's a fair question why don't you set down?"

"Why—why," says he, "I could do that, couldn't I? But, no, alas! It is too late to change the habits of a lifetime. I never saw an empty seat before!"

"So saying, he clung and swung clear downtown, and I went along just to look at him."—Kansas City Star.

The Panama Canal.

The Panama canal was suggested for the isthmus of Panama as early as 1620 by Angel Saavedra, but for a long time all such suggestions met with determined opposition from Spain, which made it a capital offense to seek or make known any improvement on the existing route from Porto Bello to Panama. More recently Louis Napoleon, when a prisoner at Ham, spent much time considering the practicability of such a scheme. It was not, however, until the California gold rush of 1849 that any accurate knowledge of the topographical conditions was obtained, and even then thirty more years elapsed before the actual site was chosen by an international body and the work begun.

Hazel Twigs.

Hazel twigs long have been used as instruments with which to discover water under ground. The twig has at various times been credited with many marvelous powers. Not only could it discover water, but concealed lodes of metal, especially silver, were betrayed by the hazel, which according to tradition, was guided by the pixies who guarded the treasures of the earth. In France the divining rod of hazel was used in the pursuit of criminals, while in many of the methods of investigating the future the burning of hazel-nuts played a part.

Origin of the Organ.

The date of the invention of the organ is unknown. It is said to have been during the third century previous to the Christian era, and from that period to A. D. 670 the invention has been ascribed to various parties. At the latter date organs were said to have been introduced into some of the churches of western Europe. This statement, however, is not considered trustworthy, and it is not certain they were used in church service until 755, when one was sent as a present by Copronymus, the Greek emperor, to King Pepin of France, who placed it in the Church of St. Cornelle at Compiègne. Keys were invented about the close of the eleventh century and pedals in the fourteenth.

A Magnetic Island.

The island of Bornholm, in the Baltic sea, may be regarded as a huge magnet. Although the power of attraction is not so great as to draw nails and bolts out of approaching ships, the magnetism works a good deal of damage in that it deflects the needle of the compass so that it cannot be depended upon. The effect is perceptible at a distance of nine and a half miles.

An Apt Student.

A young woman who went to Columbia to take her degree of doctor of philosophy married her professor in the middle of her second year. When she announced her engagement one of her friends said:

"But, Edith, I thought you came up here to get your Ph. D."

"So I did," replied Edith, "but I had no idea I would get him so soon."—New York Post.

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Silent Tragedies.

It is only the life of violence, the life of bygone days that is perceived by nearly all our tragic writers, and truly one may say that anachronism dominates the stage, and that dramatic art dates back as many years as the art of sculpture. To the tragic author it is only the violence of the anecdote that appeals. And he imagines, forsooth, that we shall delight in witnessing the very same acts that brought joy to the hearts of barbarians, with whom murder, outrage and treachery were matters of daily occurrence, whereas it is far away from bloodshed, battery and sword thrust that the lives of most of us flow on, and men's tears are silent today, and invisible and almost spiritual.—Maeterlinck.

The beginning of many family jars comes with the wife trying to jar a little money loose from the husband.

Sermons by phonograph are the latest. They ought to be a boom to the lazy Christian who doesn't like to go to church.

Health inspectors have found that the New York subway is full of germs. They must be very tough germs to live in that atmosphere.

Statisticians some time ago presented figures which went to show that travel on the seas was safer than travel by land. But that was before the war.

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