

Some Authors and Their Names.

There are authors who make the most of their names, and there are others who don't. When W. W. Jacobs was commencing his literary career and hoping to "make a name" why did he not make the best of the one he got at the font? What a splash he could have made with William Wy-mark Jacobs!

It is almost as bad as Gilbert's neglected name, which was Schwenck. But perhaps that was too near "swank" for a modest man. Rutherford Crockett would have served the author of "The Stickit Minister" well, but he was content with S. R. Sir Arthur Pinero's second name is Wing, Elias Hocking's is Kitto, Jerome K. Jerome's is Klapka, and Gilbert Chesterton's "K" stands for Keith. Charles Dickens was christened Charles John Huffham.

It is a remarkable fact that nearly all the greater novelists are simply styled—Henry Fielding, Jane Austen, Walter Scott, Charles Reade, George Meredith, Thomas Hardy. William Makepeace Thackeray ignored his second name.—St. James' Gazette.

What Becomes of That Cent?

A farmer comes to town with thirty apples, which he sells three for a cent, getting, of course, 10 cents for them.

Another farmer, also with thirty apples, sells them two for a cent, getting 15 cents for his. They get 25 cents in all.

The next time they come in, with thirty apples apiece, they meet at the edge of town and put their apples together, making sixty apples. One man having sold two for a cent, the other three for a cent, they decide to sell them five for 2 cents.

They do so and when they're through find out they have received but 24 cents.

The problem is, why did they not get as much for their apples selling them five for 2 cents as they did when they sold them separately, or, what becomes of the cent?—Columbus Dispatch.

Fire and the Lodgepole Pine.

Fire, the arch enemy of the forest, is the very life of the lodgepole pine, for cessation of fires would in time practically eliminate the species from the forest. Following a sweeping fire it is found that the lodgepole pine is the first tree to work to make good its loss. On the blackened limbs of the fire killed tree are scores of cones stuck closely to the branches. Within these cones lie fertile seeds waiting for nature to set them free. The fiery whirlwind sweeps by, and in a few hours the brown bits of tissue-like seeds silently climb out of their sheltering homes and make a flight to the earth. Being exceedingly light, thousands are sometimes blown for miles. An earth cleaned for their reception is found by the germs of new woods life.

"Ough."

An exchange prints the following list of words ending in "ough" and adds the pronunciation of the more obscure words, so far as ascertainable from the dictionaries: Messrs. Gough (goff), Hough (huff) and Clough (cluff), though tough enough, thought through the day that they would visit Mr. Brough (broo), who, having a hiccough (hiccup) and a cough, lived in a clough (cluff or clou), with plenty of dough and a tame chough (chuff) kept near a plough in a rough trough, hung to a lough over a lough (loch). A slouch (sluff) of the bank into the slough (sloo) injured his thoroughbred's hough (hock).

No wonder the foreigner shudders at those four terrible letters!

Strong Even in Death.

A few trees almost destitute of branches or bark grows abundantly in the Caucasus to a height of from fifty to sixty feet and a diameter of a little over two feet. It grows slowly, but its timber is almost indestructible except by fire. It is considered superior in durability, appearance and toughness to mahogany, which it otherwise somewhat resembles. In some large forests of this tree it is very difficult to distinguish the live trees from the dead ones, the latter being very numerous and said to stand for 100 years after death without exhibiting decay.

Base Deception.

Family Physician—I am afraid, Mrs. Gaybird, your husband cannot last much longer. The trouble with your husband, madam, is that he has overdrawn his account at the bank of vitality. Mrs. Gaybird—I felt sure he was deceiving me about something. Doctor, I give you my word, I never knew he had any account there.—Toka Journal.

John Hay on Stanton. In "The Life and Letters of John Hay" is this plaintive note to Nicolay: "My dear Nico—Don't, in a sudden spasm of good nature, send any more people with letters to me requesting favors from Stanton. I would rather make the tour of a smallpox hospital."

The Obliging Proprietor. "Won't you please give me an order?" pleaded the persistent drummer. "Certainly," replied the crusty proprietor. "Get out!"

Was Willing. Smith—You and Jones don't seem to be as friendly as you were. Does he owe you money? Brown—No, not exactly, but he wanted to.

The Gooseberry. Gooseberry bushes were originally called gorseberry bushes, from the plants having prickles similar to those of the gorse shrub.

The Degradation of Matter.

If we examine the life history of any substance with sufficient knowledge and sufficient care, says the Engineer, we shall find that nature provides means and forces that little by little are turning that substance into dust. The manipulations of man greatly assist in the process. But nature itself is always active in it and even without man's aid is quite competent to achieve the task. At times we strive to hinder the process, as, for example, when we apply paint to iron-work in order to prevent it from rusting. But we can hinder it only for a time, and even then we merely check the degradation of one substance by degrading another. Thus we have constantly to renew the paint on our iron-work. The former coats disappear wholly or in part, and the material of which they were composed has turned to dust. We may accordingly look forward to a time when all matter will be uniformly distributed as dust throughout space, a condition that, according to the nebular hypothesis, actually did prevail at one time, before the universe, as we know it, was formed.

Uncle Sam's Big Checks.

When the government pays a claim or debt it is done by a treasury warrant, signed by the secretary of the treasury. In May, 1904, the secretary signed a warrant for \$40,000,000, which was delivered to J. P. Morgan & Co. of New York as disbursing agents of this government on account of the Panama canal purchase. This was the largest warrant ever issued. The largest sum previously covered by a single government warrant was for \$7,200,000, paid to Russia in 1868 on account of the Alaskan purchase. The next largest sum was \$5,500,000, paid in 1876 to the British government on account of the Halifax award under the treaty of Washington for infringement of fishing rights in Nova Scotian waters. In 1899 this government paid Spain, through the French ambassador, \$20,000,000 for the Philippine Islands, but this sum was represented by four warrants of \$5,000,000 each.—Philadelphia Press.

Broadway Noon Idyl.

Every weekday at noon the chimes of Grace church, in New York, send down into the clatter of Broadway the strains of old familiar hymns. The other day the chimes had just finished Pleyel's hymn. They began a new melody, which in the midst of the city's roar was not at first distinguishable. Then the tangle of notes un-wound itself and through the noises of the street sounded the sweet notes of "Just as I Am, Without One Plea." Car wheels clanked, car brakes shrieked, iron shod horse hoofs smote the stones of the street, motor horns blew raucously; there was the sound of a myriad human feet and of many human voices, and through it all—"Just as I Am, Without One Plea." Pedestrians took up the theme and hummed it absently. Old scenes were brought back, old faiths strengthened, old blessings remembered.—Christian Herald.

First English Book on Sport.

The first book on sport ever printed in the English language was a rime treatise called the "Boke of St. Albans," its author being a woman, Dame Juliana Berners. Its second edition was printed by Wynkyn de Worde in 1496. A descendant of her family, Lord Berners, was the translator of Froissart's "Chronicles." It is true that old manuscripts existed, such as the "Venerie de Trewey" of the time of Edward II., but it was Dame Juliana who was the real ancestress of sporting literature in England, for she also composed an essay on hawking and another on "Fishing With an Angle," the last being of such excellence that Izaak Walton himself did take a hint from its pages.

Parasol Monoplanes.

The "parasol plane" is really a bi-plane with the lower pair of wings removed, the engine, pilot and observer all sitting under the upper plane and thus giving rise to the nickname of "parasol." This type of monoplane is chiefly used for directing the fire of the guns. In an ordinary monoplane it is difficult for the observer to see below him.—Pearson's Weekly.

Fighting Fishes of Siam.

The Siamese devote great care to the cultivation of their famous fighting fishes, known as plakot. The interest in the fights, on which the spectators stake large sums of money, is so great that the license to hold them brings a large annual revenue to the king of Siam.—Westminster Gazette.

Excusable.

"Miss Short says she's only thirty, and I'd swear she's five and thirty if she's a day." "Well, you see, I've heard she was a rather backward child, dear, and didn't learn to count till she was five."—Exchange.

Expanding.

The Old Friend—I understand that your practice is getting bigger. The Young Doctor—That's true. My patient has gained nearly two pounds in the last month.

Contempt of Court.

Defendant (in a loud voice)—Justice! Justice! I demand justice! Judge—Silence! The defendant will please remember that he is in a courtroom.—Penn State Froth.

Remedy your deficiencies and your merits will take care of themselves.—Bulwer.

Amazing Transformation.

One may be a speckled trout in a country and a codfish in the city, according to an observer, who believes that many country boys would do well to stay at home.

"A farmer," he said, "once caught a fine speckled trout, which he decided to present to his aunt in the city. Accordingly, he wrapped it in green leaves and placed it in a basket in the body of the wagon. As he stopped for refreshment at a roadside tavern some mischievous boys took a codfish from a nearby grocery stall and substituted it for the finny beauty.

"Arriving in the city, he presented the fish to his aunt. 'What do you mean?' she cried. 'This isn't a trout; it's a codfish.'

"Rather crestfallen, he took it back, but on the road the boys again made a substitution, and when he showed the fish to his wife it was a speckled trout. She listened to his tale with an amused smile. 'Yes,' she said finally, 'it's like you—a speckled trout in the country and a codfish in town.'—Exchange.

The Split Infinitive.

The split infinitive is the term used to designate the infinitive form of the verb that generally begins with the preposition "to," when separated by a qualifying adverb or phrase, as in the following: "To briefly designate," "to readily understand," "to suddenly and completely change front," "he knew not which to most admire," "to sweetly sing," "to humbly walk." This use is held by literary critics and grammatical purists to be highly improper, but it occurs abundantly in English literature, from the time of Shakespeare to the present day. Nearly every standard author is guilty of it, and it is very general in popular speech. The splitting of the infinitive is often dictated by a sense of rhythm, the placing of the qualifying adverb after the verb and before the weak adjunct or object which follows the verb resulting often in disharmony of rhythm or stress.

Fixing the Fairies.

Remnants of the cave men living in hidden places in the forests, avoiding the more civilized human beings about them, but seen occasionally by these, were probably the first of the fairies, according to A. E. Peake in a paper that appears in the report of the Pre-historic Society of East Anglia.

Long before the Danes came to the British isles Ireland was infested by a people called the Danaans, probably the earliest of the Celts or possibly antedating them. The word Danaan, according to the London Lancet, may be rendered "fairy." They were of puny stature, but their heads were as large as ours, as is proved by the skulls found in the bogs. With their little pointed caps and their retiring ways they were only vaguely known to their neighbors, and when they died out they were dimly remembered and soon became a legend.

Cairo Street Warnings.

In oriental countries the recklessness of drivers of vehicles and their disregard for foot passengers are very marked, but in Cairo they have a series of curious cries with which they warn a footman. They specify the particular part of his anatomy which is in danger, as thus: "Look out for thy left shin. O uncle!" "Boy, have a care for the little toe on thy right foot!" "O blind beggar, look out for thy staff!" And the blind beggar, feeling his way with the staff in his right hand, at once obediently turns to the left. "O Frankish woman, look out for thy left foot!" "O burden bearer, thy load is in danger!" "O water carrier, look out for the tail end of thy pigskin water bottle!"

The Wolf's Den.

One of the most grewsome among animal homes is the wolf's den. This is simply a hole dug in the side of a bank or a small natural cave, generally situated on the sunny side of a ridge and almost hidden by bushes and loose boulders. Here the wolf lies snug. In and about his doorway lie the remains of past feasts, which, coupled with his own odor, make the wolf's den a not very inviting place. Nevertheless there is something so dread and mysterious about this soft footed marauder that it even lends a fascination to his home.—St. Nicholas.

E Pluribus Unum.

The Latin phrase "E pluribus unum" means "From many, one." It is the motto of the United States, as being one nation, though composed of many states. The expression is found originally in a Latin poem entitled "Moretum," supposed to have been written by the poet Virgil.

Saved!

A husband was waiting outside a jeweler's, growling with impatience. His wife emerged from the shop. "They want a thousand guineas for it," she said. "Thank heavens!" cried the husband. "Now come along."—Punch.

A Duke's Maxim.

It was a maxim of the first Duke of Portland, who was a great lover of race horses, that there were only two places where all men are equal—on the turf and under the turf.

Suspicion.

Once give your mind to suspicion and there is sure to be food enough for it. In the stillest night the air is filled with sounds for the wakeful ear that is resolved to listen.

Josh Billings was right when he said, "I don't care how much a man talks if he only says it in a few words."

Voices of the Sea.

In "The Log of the Snark," by Charman Kittredge London, is this bit of sea description:

"The sea is not a lovable monster. And monster it is. It is beautiful, the sea, always beautiful in one way or another, but it is cruel and unmindful of the life that is in it and upon it. It was cruel last evening in the lurid low sunset that made it glow, dully, to the cold, mocking, ragged moonrise that made it look like death. The waves positively beckoned when they rose and pitched toward our boat laboring in the trough. And all the long night it seemed to me that I heard voices through the planking, talking, talking, endlessly, monotonously, querulously, and I couldn't make out whether it was the ocean calling from the outside or the ship herself muttering groggily, finding herself. If the voices are of the ship they will soon cease, for she must find herself. But if they are the voices of the sea they must be sad sirens that cry, restless, questioning, unsatisfied—quaint homeless little sirens."

Beautiful Fish.

Japanese gardens are almost like a part of the house. The people live in gardens far more than most Americans do. In almost every garden is found a pond with goldfish in it. The golden carp is a kind of goldfish which was brought from China to Japan, and the species named ranchu is greatly admired. It has a tail made of three or four fanlike fins that open and close. When floating about in the water and looked at from above it appears like one of the old Japanese gold coins called the koban. It is supposed to look like a lion, when one gazes straight into its face. The Japan Magazine tells us of these fish and says that the Japanese are fond of giving fancy names to their favorites, such as "dancing butterfly" and "double cherry blossom." Sometimes the fish take their names from appearance and sometimes from habits.

Austria's Historic Crown.

The crown donned by the monarch of Austria, which was made originally for Stephen of Hungary some eight centuries ago, has been stolen, lost or pawned.

One one occasion it was pilfered by a queen who fled across the frozen Danube with it, and there, being in need of ready cash, she pawned it for 2,800 ducats. When it was finally traced and recovered it was placed in a fortress in Hungary and guarded night and day.

At the time of the revolution it was buried in a forest to prevent its being annexed by the Austrians, and it remained under the soil for nearly a hundred years. The crown is adorned with fifty-three fine sapphires, fifty good sized rubies, one emerald and 338 pearls. The gems are sunken in a mass of pure gold, and the crown weighs altogether about fourteen pounds.—Exchange.

The Common People.

Coronets, miters, military display, the pomp of war, wide colonies and a huge empire are, in my view, all trifles, light as air and not worth considering, unless with them you can have a fair share of comfort, contentment and happiness among the great body of the people. Palaces, baronial castles, great halls, stately mansions, do not make a nation. The nation in every country dwells in the cottage, and unless the light of your constitution can shine there, unless the beauty of your legislation and the excellence of your statesmanship are impressed there on the feelings and condition of the people, rely upon it, you have yet to learn the duties of government.—John Bright.

Beating Off a Dog.

If a dog springs for a man the latter should guard his face with his arm and try to meet the animal with his forearm. With his right hand he should attempt to catch one of the animal's front paws. The paw of a bulldog is ultra sensitive. If it can be caught a vigorous squeeze will make the animal howl for mercy and retire discomfited.

Oak Wood.

The oak is a historic wood. As early as the eleventh century it became the favorite wood of civilized Europe, and specimens of carving and interior finish have come down to us from that early day, their pristine beauty enhanced by the subduing finger of time.

Giving Due Credit.

"Willie, I hope your teacher appreciates how much I teach you at home." "That's what I keep tellin' her, ma. She said yesterday, 'I wonder where you learn your bad manners, Willie,' and I said right away, 'Ma teaches 'em to me.'"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

A Wise Child.

"Johnny, do you know that your mother has been looking for you?" asked the neighbor next door. "Sure I do," replied Johnny. "That's the reason she can't find me!"—Judge.

She Was So Precise.

"Do you go in for aviation?" he asked the Boston beauty. "No, not for aviation. One goes in for sea bathing, but for aviation one goes up."—Judge.

Cause and Effect.

There is nothing so calculated to give a young man that tired feeling as annexing a rich father-in-law.—New York Times.

The innocent seldom find an uneasy pillow.—Cowper.

Growth of Baseball.

Nothing shows the growth of baseball more than a comparison of gate receipts taken in during the different series played for the baseball championship of the world. In the year 1884 about 300 persons attended the final game between the Providence team and the Metropolitan club, champions of their respective leagues, and the total attendance at all three games was less than 3,000. Rabbourne and Keefe, the opposing hurlers, were at the height of their respective careers, but they failed to draw the throngs. However, the players did not worry, as there was nothing in it for them except glory.

In the season of 1885 the series was a failure from all standpoints. Only \$3,000 saw the six contests between the men of Anson and the Browns, led by Charles Comiskey. The series was marked by continual scrapping and at times real fighting. It ended or broke up with honors in games won and verbal scraps "fifty-fifty." In 1886 the first real series for the world championship was pulled off in a successful manner. The six games drew 40,000, and the net receipts were \$14,000.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Ecuador's Vegetable Wool.

Kapok, known in Ecuador as "lana de celba," or "vegetable wool," is a product of the largest tree that grows in the forests of the littoral, a species of the genus Eriodendron (allied to the cotton plant). The celba bears most of its branches near the top, and the appearance of its bright yellow flowers marks the approaching end of the rainless season. After the flowers fade the pods that yield the kapok of commerce are formed. These are gathered and the fiber extracted by hand. One hundred pounds of crude material yield, after cleaning, forty-five pounds of first grade kapok. Kapok is gaining in popularity in the United States, where, among the other uses to which it is put, it is employed in stuffing mattresses and sofa cushions and, it is said, has found some favor among makers of upholstery fabrics.

Illustrating the Idea.

A school inspector was examining a class in grammar and trying to elucidate the complex relations of adjectives and nouns by a telling example.

"Now, for instance," said he, "what am I?"

"That was an easy question, and all the children shouted:

"A man!" and then looked around triumphantly.

"Yes, but what else?" said the inspector.

This was not so easy, but after a pause a boy ventured to suggest:

"A little man."

"Yes, but there is something more than that."

This was a poser, but at last an infant phenomenon almost leaped from his seat in his eagerness and cried:

"Please, sir, I know, sir—an ugly little man!"—Pearson's Weekly.

Beautiful Flag Flower.

Among the stately and proudest of the members of America's flower family none excels the larger blue flag, which also wears the names of blue iris and fleur-de-lis. Ruskin calls it the flower of chivalry, which has a sword for its leaf and a lily for its heart. Longfellow pronounces it "a flower born in the purple, to joy and pleasure." It blooms in the wet, rich marsh and meadow from May to July and finds its home from Newfoundland and Manitoba to Florida and Arkansas. The flag flower must look to the insect world entirely for its propagation, particularly to the bees as its pollen carriers. So it puts forth a flower that is blue tinted, for its experience has taught it that a bee can be wooed with blue better than with any other color.—Pittsburgh Press.

A Titled Kleptomaniac.

A titled kleptomaniac almost a century ago was the Countess of Cork. She had a reputation for stealing anything she could lay her hands on, whether it was useful or valuable or not. Once when leaving a country house where she had been staying she saw and quietly picked up a hedgehog that was crossing a hall, a pet of the porter's, and took it away in her carriage. Finding it an uncomfortable foot warmer, she decided to dispose of it at the first town where she changed horses and then offered it to a confectioner in return for a sponge cake.

Kept Him Waiting.

The Scotch clergyman who invented the percussion lock for firearms in 1805 had to wait twenty-seven years before it was tested by the British government, thirty-two years before a regiment was armed with it and thirty-four years before it was used in war.

Well Named.

"A wonderful man is my uncle," said little Binks, "so very original and witty. He says he called his dog Sausage because it was half bread, his goat Nearsly because it was all butt and his prize cockerel Robinson because it Crusoe."

Inspiring Words.

"What," asks a contemporary, "are the most inspiring words in the English language?" Much might be said on behalf of these: "Inclosed find check."—Chicago News.

Quite Easy.

Mother (annoyed)—I don't see, Elsie, how you can be so naughty. Elsie—Why, mamma, it isn't a bit hard.—Boston Transcript.

No man is a good physician who has never been sick.—Arabian.

Free and Easy Servants in Japan.

In Japan domestic service is very honorable. Domestic servants rank before tradesmen, who are considered at the bottom of the social ladder. In the absence of his master a servant will receive the callers and chat away familiarly, but politely, until the arrival of the head of the house. After rubbing his knees together and hissing and kowtowing he will invite you to take a seat—on the floor, or, more correctly speaking, on your heels, with a flat cushion between your knees and the floor to make the ordeal a little less painful. He will then offer you five cups of tea. Even after his master has arrived he may stay in the room and is likely to cut into the conversation and quite certain to laugh at the smallest apology for a joke. He brings all his sisters and cousins and aunts to be introduced when he takes service, and the house is seldom without a few of them engaged on some business or errand. In the European hotels in Japan the servants are all men, who are dressed in indigo cotton doublets and hose and run about bare-foot.—London Answers.

A Prince's Chilly Dip.

Prince Henry of Prussia is an ardent sailor, says Pearson's Weekly, but he is known among the bluejackets as a great martinet. The following story is typical of his methods, and shows that although he expects those under his command to put up with all kinds of hardships, he is by no means above "roughing it" himself.

One day, when he was on board a warship in the North sea, he suddenly gave the order, "All hands to bathe!"

It was a bitterly cold day and the water was like ice. The order was so evidently distasteful that one of the officers ventured to make a mild protest to the prince. Without answering him a single word, Prince Henry, although fully clothed, sprang over the vessel's side, swam out a good distance in the icy water and returned to the deck dripping from head to foot.

After that the sailors took their bath without demur.

A Pretty Hot Story.

Chabert, the fire king, who was a popular favorite in London over eighty years ago, claimed to be able to swallow arsenic and other poisons with impunity. Visitors to his entertainment were requested to come provided with phosphorus, arsenic and oxalic acid, which he proceeded to consume before their eyes, taking an antidote afterward which was supposed to neutralize their effects. Then, to show that he was as impervious to heat as to poison, he would take a raw leg of lamb into an oven heated to 220 degrees and remain inside until the joint was cooked, when it was carved and handed around to the audience. The performance concluded by Chabert rubbing a red-hot shovel on his head and face and allowing any one who wished to drop molten sealing wax on his tongue and hands.—London Mail.

Eskimo Candy.

Tallow is the Eskimo's candy. It is put up in bright red packages made out of the feet of a waterfowl. The women cut off the red feet of this bird, which is called the dovekie, draw out the bones and blow up the skin so as to make pouches, which they fill with reindeer tallow for their little folk. None of the food that the Eskimos eat seems very inviting to us, but they are extremely fond of it and are very apt to overeat. It is said by explorers who have gone into Greenland that it is no uncommon sight to see an Eskimo man who has eaten an enormous meal of the raw frozen flesh of the reindeer, seal or walrus lying on his back and eating blubber until he cannot move.—Exchange.

More Than One.

The clergyman of a country village, reprehending one of his parishioners for quarrelling with his wife so loudly and frequently as to be a source of perpetual disturbance to the neighborhood, in the course of his exhortation remarked that the Scriptures declared that man and wife were one.

"Aye, that may be, sir," answered Hodge, "but if you were to go by when me and my wife are at it you'd think there were twenty of us."—London Globe.

Consolation.

The mistress, not wishing to offend her cook, who had been with her but two weeks, announced in a low, well modulated voice, "I am sorry, Ellen, but the master found fault with your cooking today."

"Lor, I don't take no notice of 'im, mum. It's his blessed nature to find fault. Ain't he always finding fault with you?"—Argonaut.

Masonry Weights.

Granite or limestone masonry, well dressed, weighs 165 pounds per cubic foot; mortar rubble weighs 154 pounds, dry rubble 128 pounds and well dressed sandstone masonry 144 pounds.

Its Advantage.

Teacher—What is the difference between the sun and the moon? Pupil—Please, sir, the sun's bigger and healthier looking than the moon because he goes to bed earlier.

Discouraging.

Jester—Poor old Skinfint has his troubles! Jimson—What! Why, he's making barrels and barrels of money! Jester—I know, but the price of barrels has gone up.

Knew What His Few Days Meant. Quackly—By the bye, have you got \$10 about you that you don't need for a few days? Smackly—I have, but I might need it some time.—Exchange.