

THE DAY OF THE HORSE.

Written Contends the Bicycle Is the Best Friend He Has Ever Had. Since the popularization of the bicycle has been frequently set forth that the day of the horse has passed. A writer in Harper's Weekly disputes this statement, and says: "The truth is the day of the horse has just come. The doctrine of the survival of the fittest has a chance to work now in horseflesh such as it never had before. The best horses are worth as much as ever; fair horses bring fair prices; poor horses are not worth their keep. There is consequently a stronger motive than ever for raising good horses and for not raising any other sort. The bicycle has been a craze this year. Its use will continue, for it is a most convenient machine and a great boon to those who can afford nothing better. But as an appliance of luxury it is not to be compared with the horse. It is not beautiful nor interesting. It cannot travel on a bad road; it is unhandy for use at night, except on smooth, well-lighted streets; it is liable to puncture, and a great number of other ailments, most of which overtake it at a considerable distance from home; it can carry no considerable load except its rider; it requires constant attention to keep it right side up, and constant exertion to keep it moving. Finally, it is bad for trousers and destructive to skirts, and cannot be ridden with satisfaction by man or woman except in a costume devised for the purpose. The idea that it will supersede the horse as an appliance of luxury is perverse and absurd. It will do the horse nothing but good. It will improve the roads for him, and, in conjunction with the trolley car, will release him from some loathsome forms of drudgery and from much misuse. It is the best friend the horse ever had; for, beyond any machine yet invented, it tends to keep him out of unfit hands, and reserves him for the delight and service of persons able to appreciate him and qualified to make him useful and happy."

He Kept His Cane.

It was under some of the earlier bankrupt laws that this exhibition of rare shrewdness occurred, when it was required that in case of a man's insolvency he must turn over to the proper officer of the law every bit of his property for the benefit of his creditors. The subject of this story was yet a young man, and wealthy, when misfortune overtook him and failure was inevitable. Some of his property was real estate, some of it was not, the latter consisting of securities easily converted into currency. A nice little bundle of bank bills could be more safely handled than certificates of stock, etc. When the time came, being an honorable man, he conscientiously surrendered his entire effects, even a tubular cane, from which the handle could be disjoined, the gift of an admiring friend. After handing the walking stick to the official, thus satisfying the law, he suggested its return. It was a present from a friend, and could be of little value to anyone but himself as a memento.

"Certainly," said the officer, "take it. It's of no use to us."
"Thanks, I'll prize it highly."
Some time afterward, in his quiet home, the shrewd financier disjoined the handle and removed from his tubular depository several thousand dollars of well-crumpled bank bills.—Syracuse Post.

He Stood Alone.

In a small settlement out West some years ago, an old man entered the town bank one afternoon, and, walking by the loungers, presented a check to the paying teller. He received in return a number of greenbacks, which he counted. A look of perplexity overspread his face and he counted the bills a second time; then, turning to the teller, he handed back a note.
"See here, you gave me \$50 too much," he said, and left the bank.
In a few moments he was overtaken by a shaggy native who accosted him.
"Say, stranger, you jest left the bank, didn't ye?"
"Yes, I did."
"Cash'd a check thar, didn't ye?"
"That's the fact of the case."
"The teller gave ye fifty dollars too much, I b'lieve?"
"Yes, he did."
"An' ye gave it back ter him?"
"Why, certainly."
The native surveyed him slowly from head to foot.
"Stranger," he at last broke out, "ain't you awful lonesome?"—Boston Transcript.

Frogs in a Bed Chamber.

The Empress Eugenie ordered a bag of frogs to be brought in from the forest for the late Dr. Pasteur's microscope researches when he was visiting at Compiègne. When he left Pasteur put the bag in one of the bureau drawers and forgot it. The next inhabitant of the room was a charming beauty of the court, who was awakened in the night by a mysterious sensation, and at the same time her foot encountered something cold and clammy in her bed. Lighting her candle, she found herself surrounded by a small legion of frogs en promenade. After the illustrious savant's departure a femme de chambre, finding a damp traveling bag in the bureau, threw it under the bed without examining the contents and forgot it.

Rather Hazy on Americanism.

Dr. Stoffel, one of our most recent foreign critics, is struck with the phrase, "How is that for high?" which he says is the American's first question on tasting a pie. "The American plays with the sense of the word 'high' in this vulgar phrase; he intends it to mean 'slightly putrid,' 'strong smelling,' referring to the game inside the pie." Dr. Stoffel found "dog-gone" in Punch; "Chicago makes ready for more dined, dog-gone fetes (in honor of Columbus) to last till, at least, next October!" upon which he makes the learned comment: "Dog-gone, wonderful, astounding; an Americanism about which I can give no further information."

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WASN'T MUCH OF A SOLDIER.

It is rather amusing to read in the English newspapers of the splendid services rendered by the Duke of Cambridge in the Crimea. As a matter of fact, the ex-generalissimo of the British army cut a very sorry figure during that conflict. He was only present at two fights, at Alma and at Inkerman, and in the latter combat he fairly lost his head. He landed his brigade of guards into a terrible mess, and not only declined reinforcements, but even cursed the general who attempted to bring them up at a moment when they would have been of use. Finally, when the duke saw, too late, that he could not manage unassisted, he coolly left his troops in the lurch and scuttled to the rear in search of the reinforcements which he had shortly before declined. He failed to return, and his troops had to be brought out through a heavy Russian column by a surgeon general bearing, curiously enough, the name of his successor—a Dr. Walseley. So demoralized was the duke by his failure and by the comment that it created, that two days later he went on board the cruiser Retribution and sailed for home.

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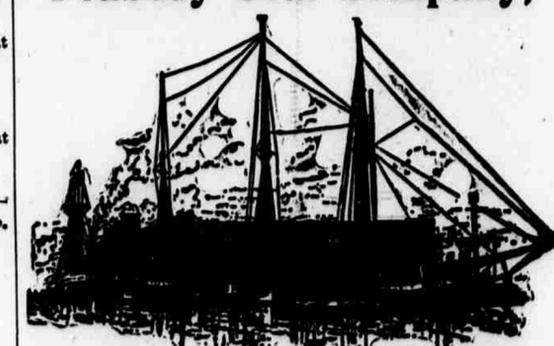
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