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This year's recruits for the Russian army number 270,000, which is considerably more than the whole British army.

William Dean Howells, the novelist, recently declared in a magazine article that the practice of accepting 'tips' was degrading and un-American.

John Burns proposes to have a law passed by Parliament making it compulsory for employers to give domestic servants 'a character' on dismissal.

Parisians who went to the Russian Czar's coronation were astounded at the unpaved condition of Moscow. They found that it would cost \$30,000,000 to pave the town...

The maritime provinces of Spain are helping out the Government in the acquisition of a navy. Seville and Barcelona have already collected money to buy a warship each...

Once in five years the Mayor of Newcastle, England, is rowed up the river in an Elizabethan barge, and landing at a village green kisses the prettiest girl he sees and gives her a sovereign...

Three great life insurance companies whose home offices are in New York City have policies in force amounting to more than \$2,580,000,000.

The Pittsburgh Chronicle Telegraph notes that of the long list of philanthropists who have given \$1,000,000 or more to the cause of higher education in this country...

Herr Albert Joly, formerly a confidential messenger of Prince Bismarck, who entrusted him with the carrying of documents and telegrams of special importance...

An ideal, but we are assured quite necessary, state of cleanliness for healthful school rooms requires that the floors shall be dampened and swept every day...

'Real Estate Mortgages in the United States' is the title of a volume just issued by the Census Bureau, the work having been delayed until now on account of the rush at the Government Printing Office.

THE WORLD IS ROLLIN' RIGHT.

In spite of tempests blowing - In darkness an' in light, In rapid time an' sovin' The world is rollin' right!

A MAN'S VENGEANCE.

I was a stiff climb from Pengelly, and the basket of fish Isaac Hooken carried was heavy.

Not a breeze stirred the lifeless calm, and the midday sun poured fiercely down. Presently he sought the shade of a spreading tree which overhung the wall a few paces from him.

Not a single letter reached me. Because your mother waylaid the postman. Despite the heat Isaac shivered. Will's insight was making clear much that had puzzled him.

What girl who loved him could resist handsome Will Carter? Gaunt and grizzled, with weather beaten, strongly marked features, he had always known that Jim wasn't one that a girl would fancy.

But contrary to his expectation, the girl was firm in her resolve. 'I won't listen to you,' she said at last, aroused by Will's upbraidings.

'Bless the little maid!' he ejaculated. 'One time I was afeared for Jim. But he's got a good set of things. Yes, plenty more sweaters for Will.'

The old fisherman had been somewhat rash, however, in his conclusions. By her own admissions, Bertha's decision had been prompted solely by fear of her mother, and consideration for James Hooken.

A fine seaman of whom Pengelly was proud, for the past year Will had been on board a yacht cruising in the Mediterranean. But for reasons best known to herself, Mrs. Tregon had discontinued his visit, and although he had every confidence in her, Bertha's silence had inspired misgivings not easy to ally.

Determined to demand a full explanation from Bertha herself, Will made no comment, but his lungs in her heart he had hailed a passing cab, driven to the railway station, and taken the train to Walebridge.

But the house in view, in crossing the field, Will espied Bertha in the garden, and, with a muffled Ahoy! sped to the tree that sheltered old Isaac. She had swiftly joined him. Nevertheless, the shock of his return was visible in her white face, and her trembling lips would frame no word.

But Will had taken Bertha by surprise, and between her dread of him and terror of her mother, who ruled the Tregon household with a rod of iron, he rightly divined that she had caught at the readiest means of escape which in her direct mind presented itself to her.

The part beneath which she and Will had treed had become her favorite resort. Here she could indulge in the luxury of 'a good cry' unrehearsed; and, grown desperate with the nearer approach of the wedding day, sitting on the gnarled roots one afternoon, she burst into a very profuse of grief.

On the day appointed for James Hooken's nuptials the whole village looked betimes to the church. But neither bridegroom nor bride put in an appearance, and by and by it was known that Will Carter and Bertha Tregon were missing, and that there would be no wedding at Pengelly that day.

Weeks and months rolled by, and no tidings could be gleaned of the graceless couple. They had clean vanished, leaving no clew to their whereabouts. Mrs. Tregon's tongue sharpened to a double edged sword, ready to slay friends and foe alike who alluded to her daughter. And the dumb misery of Jim's plain face was pitiful to see.

Curiosity was at length appeased. An acquaintance of the runaway, visited London, and returned with a woful story. She had seen Bertha, who had confided to her that after being married at a registry office, Will had decided to go to America, but while looking in at a shop window he had been robbed of his savings, and that subsequently they were reduced to great straits.

Jim had been in London three months; his quest had been unavailing, but he continued to hunt the principal thoroughfares, tramping north, south, east and west, in turn.

A Quick Change Artist - A Threat for Hijackers - Not In-Adapted by Nature, Etc., Etc. In the spring the gentle lambert gambols round the mother ewe; but the next day it's a cutter, and the next day it's a steer.

A THREAT FOR BICYCLISTS. 'If that puffin put thing undertakes to ride over me, I'll take the wind out of it,' remarked the fust, as the pneumatic tire hove in sight.

ADAPTED BY NATURE. Mrs. Bunting - 'I am afraid that Jimmy never will learn to spell.' Mr. Bunting - 'Nature evidently intended him to be a sign-painter.'

HE WAS INSPIRED. 'Sprintley broke his long-distance running record, did he not?' 'He did; we told him just as he started that his wife had sent for him to beat the carpet.'

AN ADAGE PROVED TRUE. 'I have been a pardon for you from the Governor,' said the sheriff to the cold-blooded murderer. 'Ah,' replied the latter. 'No noise in good news, as the proverb says.'

TIME TOO LIMITED. 'What was the cause of the trouble in the woman's club?' 'The majority adopted a resolution limiting the time of each woman for speaking on any one question to three hours.'

IN DANGER. Jasper - 'I wonder why Jones whistles so much?' Jumper - 'Probably to keep up his courage. A man who whistles as badly as he does is in constant danger of death.'

SHIVING TO PLEASE. 'What would you do, dear, if I were to die?' asked Mrs. Darley fondly. 'I don't know,' replied Darley thoughtfully. 'Which is your choice - burial or cremation?'

NOT A BEAUTY. 'They say she's worth half a million.' 'Well, she needs it in her business.' 'What's that?' 'Looking for a husband.'

THESE SEASIDE INTRIGUES. Mrs. Mamma - 'If Lord Forgivus asks you to marry him you tell him to speak to me.' Ethel - 'Yes, mamma - but if he doesn't?' Mrs. Mamma - 'Then tell him that I want to see him.'

HOW HE KNEW. Jones - 'This chicken is fourteen years old.' Smith - 'How can you tell the age of a chicken?' Jones - 'By the teeth.' Smith - 'By the teeth? Chickens don't have any teeth.'

EFFECT OF THE CIRCLES. 'I hear you had the circus in your town the other day?' 'Yes.' 'I suppose the children were wild.'

THE AMENITIES OF LIFE. 'I hear Bill has put up some new houses in your neighborhood.' 'Yes; and he's rained the neighborhood with them.'

WHY SHE DID IT. 'Mamma,' said the little girl, pointing at the woman on the other side of the car, 'what makes the lady wear her rings outside her glove?' 'I wish,' said the mother in an aggravated state of whiff, 'don't be rude. The lady wears her rings outside her glove to keep them from blackening her fingers.'

GOAL PEOPLE TO KNOW. Miss Kingsley, the African traveler, gives an amusing account of the beginning of her love of adventure. She was at the Canary Islands, and hearing 'very dreadful accounts of the dangers and horrors of traveling in West Africa,' she felt she must go out of mere feminine curiosity.

Fossil Footprint of a Giant Bird. By the falling of an overhanging cliff near Hastings, England, an interesting slab of stone was exposed. It bears on its surface the clear impression of the foot of some gigantic extinct bird having three toes.

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THE MERRY SIDE OF LIFE.

STORIES THAT ARE TOLD BY THE FUNNY MEN OF THE PRESS.

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SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

Gas made from sawdust is used to illuminate the streets and houses of Deseronto, Canada. The sawdust comes from the lumber mills in the neighborhood.

Threads of shredded steel are used in Germany as a substitute for sand paper. It is said to work more quickly and uniformly than sand paper, and does not clog.

Only about two minutes are required for the blood to course through the heart, thence to the lungs back to the heart, and then through the entire body, and return to the heart.

A Parisian inventor is endeavoring to perfect a photographic watch. If he is successful, the world will soon see a watch which, by touching a spring, will whisper the time in your ear.

The report of the Railroad Commissioners of New York State shows that in 1890 twenty-six per cent. of our street railways were electrically equipped, and in 1895 about ninety-four per cent.

A ton of Atlantic water, when evaporated, yields eighty-one pounds of salt; a ton of Pacific water, seventy-nine pounds; the water of the Dead Sea, more than twice as much - 187 pounds to the ton.

How much water shall we drink? From one-third to two-fifths as many ounces as there are pounds in our weight. Thus a person weighing 168 pounds would drink thirty-six to sixty-four ounces, or 3 1/2 to four pints daily.

An aerial cable railway will soon be built to the summit of the volcano Popocatepetl, near the City of Mexico, 18,000 feet above the sea. It is designed both for the shipping of sulphur from the crater, and for the accommodation of tourists.

Essential oil of garlic has been used to cure consumption by Dr. Seignuret, of Revin, in the Ardennes. Mixed with two hundred times its weight of sterilized olive oil it was injected under the skin, producing a marked improvement in the sixteen patients on whom it was tried.

In Siam there is a species of small black ant officered by mounted 'generals.' Among the working troops monster ants - elephants as compared with the others - move at regular intervals, and on each of these ants sit or rides one of the small ants, evidently in command.

It is said that a new soporific, to which the name pellothin has been given, has been discovered in a Mexican cactus called anathonium. The native Mexicans eat slices of the plant, which they call 'pellote.' Its hypnotic alkaloid has been separated by Dr. Hektor, of Leipzig. One grain of pellothin is equal in its effects to 10 1/2 grains of trional and thirty-one grains of hydrate of chloral. It is effective in quieting delirium tremens only in large doses.

Difficult Rhymes. In the Sunday Journal of June 21 was given a list of words for which it is either impossible or nearly so to find rhymes in the English language.

'Thin buck too' was given as the only rhyme for 'Timbuctoo.' There is a better one, however, which was originated by a clergyman some years ago in a verse written during the progress of a social game: 'I'll wear a cassowary, On the plains of Timbuctoo, I would eat a missionary, Hat and boots and hymn-book too.'

The only rhyme for 'scalp' is 'alp.' It would require much thought to connect these words with good effect, but Byron has certainly done so in the following passage from 'Child Harold': 'Above me are the Alps. The palaces of Nature whose vast walls have pitched in clouds their snowy scalps, And throned eternity in icy halls Of cold sublimity, were forms and falls The avalanche - the thunderbolt of snow.'

There is also the case of Dean Swift, who was at one time most anxious to find a rhyme to Bettsworth - the name of a friend. One day, while reclining with a workman, whose claim for wages he disputed, the man exclaimed: 'It's what my two-days' sweat's worth!' Dean Swift had found his rhyme and gladly paid the claim without further parley.

Styles in Men's Shirts. A shirt that opens in the front is less likely to break across the bosom than one that opens in the back only; and one that opens in the front only (many shirts are now made to open front and back) too fits best; the buttonholes in the collar-band and the eyelets, or other openings in the bosom for studs, afford sufficient play, while the yoke of the shirt remains firm and smooth. The shirt that opens front and back has the advantage that the studs can be put in place before the shirt is put on; in putting on and taking off the shirt it is opened at the back; the stud need not be removed until the shirt is sent to the wash. With this freedom from handling the shirt is likely to remain longer in suitable condition for wear.

The proportion of shirts made to open in front, either front and back both or front only, is all the time increasing. More and more shirts are now being worn with cuffs attached.

Illiterate Russian Conscripts. About seventy-five per cent. of the Russian conscripts are illiterate. In other words, out of 250,000 men drafted into the army every year, 200,500 are unable to read or write. On entering the army they are taught to read and write, whereas the Russian War Minister claims for the conscriptive system the credit of being one of the chief adjuncts to rudimentary public instruction.

THE LIGHT. There is no shadow where my love is laid; For (ever thus I fancy in my dream, That wakes with me and wakes my sleep) some gleam Of sunlight, thrusting through the poplar shade, Falls there; and even when the wind has played His requiem for the Day, one stray sun-beam, Pale as the palest moonlight glimmer gleam, Keeps sentinel for Her till starlight fade.

And I, remaining here and waiting long, And all enclosed in my sorrow's night, Who not on earth again her face may see - For even memory does her likeness wrong - Am blind and hopeless, only for the light - This light, this light, through all the years to be. - H. C. Banner.

HUMOR OF THE DAY.

'I second the motion,' said the man on the rear of the tandem. - Yale Record. He - 'Darling, we'll have a lot to contend with when we are married.' She - 'Yes, dear, we'll have each other.' - Judy.

'Dear me!' exclaimed the fond father, anxiously; 'whatever can be the matter with the baby? It isn't crying.' - Puck. 'Queer how everybody resents hot weather.' 'Yes, and when a fine day comes along they all strut as if they had made it.' - Chicago Record.

'I refuse him regularly each month. He proposed last night for the twentieth time.' 'Oh, he is convinced now that it is late.' - Truth. There are two kinds of people: Those who talk without thinking, and those who think without talking; and they make each other very tired. - Puck.

Mr. Youngman - 'Is there any way to find out what a woman thinks of you, without proposing?' Mr. Benedict - 'Yes; make her mad.' - New York Weekly. Not a Bit Ashamed: 'I should think those strawberries would be ashamed of the discrepancy between their size and their price.' 'Oh, they have plenty of sand in them.' - Truth.

She - 'I hear Miss Flirts is learning to ride a bicycle.' He - 'But she rode one last year; why does she have to learn again?' She - 'Another gentleman is teaching her.' - Fanny Cutler. Mr. Youngman - 'I hope your Honor will be lenient with me, for I am a poet.' Judge - 'Hem; ever publish any poems?' Prisoner - 'Oh, yes, sir; lots of 'em. Judge - 'Six months.' - Judge.

Bobbie - 'Mother, were all the bad men destroyed by the flood?' Mother - 'Yes, my son.' Bobbie - 'Who has just received a whipping from his father - is he going to be another flood?' - Brooklyn Life. A man who stammered badly went to consult a specialist about his affliction. 'The expert asked: "Do you stammer all the time?" "N-n-n-no." Replied the sufferer. "I a-a-a-stut-t-t-ter only when I t-t-t-talk." - Harper's Bazar.

Mrs. Thirdwood - 'That young Mary Allen makes a perfect idiot of herself over her husband.' Mrs. Fourthwood - 'Well, my dear, you must remember that he is the first one she ever had.' - Cincinnati Enquirer. 'I wish we were rich, John, and could do something for the world.' Mrs. Clericus remarked, half devoutly, half impatiently. 'But, my dear, we can do good in a quiet way now.' 'Yes; but no one will ever hear of it.' - Tit-Bits.

He (as the pithier bends himself out of shape just as he is about to deliver the ball) - 'Now get on to his career.' She (her first game) - 'Yes, isn't it awful? One would think impossible for him ever to get back into his original shape.' - Puck. Tommy - 'Say, Mollie, I wish I had ten cents to get some candy with.' Mollie - 'Go and ask father who Socrates was and what he meant by the differential calculus. He's got company, and I shouldn't wonder if he gave you a quarter.' - Boston Transcript.

'We try,' explained the preceptors, 'to give the girls a practical education, and to especially fit them to be wives. Yes, first class in tying a man's cravat, attention! Co'king? Oh, no, not since years ago. Already the new century was dawning, cold and gray.' - Detroit Tribune.

The Edelweiss. In certain parts of the Alpine chain there are certain portions delivered over to the chaamois as their own, in which no gun may be fired, where the beautiful creatures may be sure of rest and security, in which they may nurture their young, and to which, when hard pressed they may flee, as to cities of refuge. In Tyrol such an asylum is called Gamsenfretth.

Of late years it has become necessary for law in Switzerland to extend its protection to the edelweiss. This peculiar and beautiful flower is much in request, both by lovers, who present it to their sweethearts, and also for the formation of little mementos for travelers.

The edelweiss does not require an altitude so great that it is near the snow, nor a precipitous rock to grow; the poor plant has been driven higher and even higher and to inaccessible points as the only places where it can live unmolested. At Rosenheim, on the Bavarian plateau, are fields of edelweiss, where the plant is cultivated to satisfy the insatiable visitor, who insists on going home from his holiday with a tuft in his hat, and on sending dried specimens to all his friends. - Chambers's Journal.