

FICTIONS IN HISTORY.

Popular Phrases that were Never Spoken by Great Men.

From the Chicago Globe. American history is full of incidents that are striking and of good interest. Many of these had their origin in the events of the day, but there are a goodly number of sayings that are misquoting in the name of history that show their existence to the imagination or excellent memoirs of our annals, and are but the repetition of incidents and expressions that had a previous and foreign birth, generally under dissimilar circumstances.

An excellent instance of this kind of expression is to be found in Webster's eulogy upon Adams and Jefferson. "Sink or swim, live or die," etc. In his eulogy Webster makes Adams say: "Sink or swim, live or die, survive or perish, I give my hand and heart to this vote."

The probable origin of this saying in Webster's mind was the knowledge of a conversation in 1774 between Adams and Jonathan Sewall, in which Adams said: "Sink or swim, live or die, survive or perish with my country is my unalterable determination."

This idea in turn probably had its origin from a New England poem by Rev. Nicholas Noyes, printed at Boston July 30, 1707, in which occurs this line: "Then, sink or swim."

The phrase again occurs in Sir Walter Scott's "Fortunes of Nigel," where Nigel Olifaunt is represented as saying: "Live or die, sink or swim, Nigel Olifaunt, from this moment, shall owe his safety," etc. It is not probable that Sir Walter Scott knew of the use of the phrase by Adams, or that he ever had read the poem by Noyes, but he probably got it from Peete, who about 1828 uses the phrase, "Live or die, sink or swim." It is quite possible that Noyes also got it from Peete, in which case it would be one of the many instances where an old idea occurs in new circumstances and with changed applications.

"Swapping horses while crossing a stream." One of the famous stories attributed to Abraham Lincoln during the war was the one about "swapping horses while crossing a stream." He probably said it, and the application was very telling against a popular clamor at that time, but it was not original with Mr. Lincoln. It was a new application of an old story which can be found in Harper's Magazine for October, 1828, in the words of Peete, Mr. Lincoln was more concerned with the quality and its effectiveness for the occasion than with its originality.

A little more grape, Capt. Bragg. In political campaigns the popular war cry is often of more value than a sound political platform, and the qualities that make the war cry popular are of more value to either truth or wisdom. This was peculiarly shown in the campaign of 1848, in which two particular sayings were of great help when the words actually spoken would have been a hindrance.

The phrase, "A little more grape, Capt. Bragg," was once a political war cry and helped to elect a president. This is Bragg's own story. He related the incidents of the battle up to a critical period and then goes on: "At this moment I observed that the words were preparing to charge the battery in such numbers that I feared I would be captured, and so ordered it withdrawn. While retreating I saw Lieut. Thomas (afterward Gen. Thomas, and generally called Pap Thomas), who commanded a section, suddenly unlimber his two guns and prepare for action. On my asking him the purpose, he replied: "For God's sake, captain, get the battery into play and save the day." The advantage of the position struck me at once, and I was rapidly unlimbered. By this time the Mexicans were advancing and we opened fire at very short range. The effects of the discharge were numerous, and the enemy fell back shattered and broken. At that moment, when the report had hardly died away, and the smoke still lingered about the muzzles of the guns, Gen. Taylor came galloping down, followed by his staff. He wore an old straw hat very much the worse for wear. This, as he rushed past, he pulled off and swung around his head, while he yelled out to me: "That's right; give 'em hell, Capt. Bragg!" The newspapers have polished the expression, but at the expense of its force. It only remains to say that the polishing was done by Thomas B. Thorpe, at that time on Gen. Taylor's staff, but acting also as a correspondent for one of the New Orleans papers.

"Gen. Taylor never surrenders." Another phrase, used as a war cry in the same campaign, was never spoken by the general to whom it was attributed. This phrase was "Gen. Taylor never surrenders." The facts were these: On the night preceding the battle of Buena Vista a council of war was held in Gen. Taylor's tent. It was known that the Mexicans would make an attack the next day in overwhelming force. While the council was in session it was announced that a messenger from the Mexican camp was without. "Show him in," said the General, and accordingly the Mexican was introduced and asked at the outpost, was led in and the bandages removed. He at once delivered his message, which was that the American general must be aware of the overwhelming odds arrayed against him, that resistance was hopeless and that he was invited by Gen. Santa Anna, by a timely surrender to avoid the expenditure of blood, which must be the result of refusal. This was delivered in Spanish, which Gen. Taylor did not understand. He stood, chafing with impatience, watching the suave manner of the messenger, and the resonant Spanish words rolled from his lips. "What does he say, Maj. Bliss—what does he say?" Maj. Bliss at once translated as best he could. The general's look passed from pure astonishment to appalling rage, in which he turned to the astonished Mexican and hurled out the words: "W-w-will you just tell Gen. Santa Anna, f-f-from me t-to go to hell!" There was a momentary pause, and Bliss gravely asked: "Do you desire, Gen. Taylor, to send that answer?" "N-no, sir, you may put it in proper language, sir." "Tell Gen. Santa Anna," said Bliss in Spanish, turning to the Mexican officer. "That Gen. Taylor never surrenders."

In that case, as in the other, the polishing was done by the French government as a part of its force. When Major Bliss hit upon the phrase, "Gen. Taylor never surrenders," he probably had in his mind the phrase attributed to Camborne: "The old guard never surrenders," and, by the way, Camborne never said it, any more than Gen. Taylor used the phrase attributed to him.

"Millions for defence, not a cent for tribute." This was said to have been uttered by Charles Cotesworth Pinckney under the following circumstances: In 1796 he had been sent to France as United States minister, but was received with such studied discourtesy by the Directory that he returned home, but was sent back with Elbridge Gerry and John Marshall as special commissioners. During the ensuing conference Pinckney undertook to extort a sum of money from the young republic, as the price of friendship, and assured the commissioners that he played no objection to a gift of money that was a necessary preliminary to the negotiations and that a refusal would bring on war. Pinckney indignantly refused the payment, and his reply, as given in the papers, was: "War be it then, millions for defence, six but not a cent for tribute." The reported reply had an extensive circulation through the press and was especially noted by being stamped upon an immense number of copper tokens at the same time, were decidedly more popular than the national coinage. After Pinckney's return he was asked about his use of the phrase. He said that his answer was: "Not a cent," and he explicitly stated the fact that he was not given to the use of such grandiloquent language.

"Independence now and forever." Webster's eulogy upon Adams closes the description of Adams's supposed address with these words. The foundation for them was a toast which Adams furnished June 30 for a Fourth of July celebration which was held on the day of Adams's death, July 4, 1826. On the morning of that day, being aroused by the discharge of a cannon, he asked the cause, and, being told that it was Independence day, he murmured "Independence forever," being the exact words he had given for the toast. Being asked if he would add nothing to it, he replied "not a word." Yet Webster, in order to gratify the ear with a better oratorical rhythm, changed the phrase to "Independence now and forever."

ABOUT ELECTRICITY. Twenty Questions Answered on a Subject of General Interest.

1. How strong a current is used to send a message over an Atlantic cable. Thirty volts of battery only. Equal to thirty cells.

2. What is the longest distance over which conversation by telephone is daily maintained? About 750 miles, from Portland Me., to Buffalo, N. Y.

3. What is the fastest time made by an electric railway? A mile a minute by a small experimental car; twenty miles an hour on street railway system.

4. How many miles of submarine cable are there in operation? Over 100,000 miles, or enough to girdle the earth four times.

5. What is the maximum power generated by an electric motor? Seventy-five horse power. Experiments indicate that one hundred-horse power will soon be reached.

6. How is a break in a submarine cable located? By measuring the electric resistance needed to charge the remaining unbroken part.

7. How many miles of telegraph wire in operation in the United States? Over a million, or enough to encircle the globe forty times.

8. How many messages can be transmitted over a telegraph wire? Four by the quadruplex system in daily use.

9. How is telegraphing from a moving train accomplished? Through a circuit from the car roof including a current in the wire on poles along the track.

10. What are the most widely separated points between which it is possible to send a telegram? British Columbia and New Zealand via America and Europe.

11. How many miles of telephone wire in operation in the United States? More than 170,000, over which 1,655,000 messages are sent daily.

12. What is the greatest candle power of an electric light in a lighthouse? Two millions, in lighthouse at Housholm, Denmark.

13. How many persons in the United States are engaged in business depending solely on electricity? Estimated, 250,000.

14. How long does it take to transmit a message from San Francisco to Hong Kong? About 15 minutes. Via New York, Cebu, Penang, Aden, Bombay, Madras, Penang and Singapore.

15. What is the fastest time made by an operator sending messages by Morse system? About 42 words per minute.

16. How many telephones are in use in the United States? About 300,000.

17. What war vessel has the most complete electrical plant? United States mace-of-war, Chicago.

18. What is the average cost per mile of a transatlantic submarine cable? About \$1,000.

19. How many miles of electric railway are there in operation in the United States? About 400 miles and much more under construction.

20. What strength of current is dangerous to human life? Five hundred volts, but depending largely on physical condition.

FREE-FOR-ALL KISSING. A Pennsylvanian Who Was Rather Promiscuous with His Favors.

From the Philadelphia Record. "Is kissing a crime?" The Montgomery county courts will give a decision upon this question at the September term. The point has been raised by a criminal proceeding brought before Squire Biting of Ambler, who decided that it was too knotty a question for him, so he has referred it to the court.

The case was brought before the magistrate several days ago, when Mrs. Elizabeth Kellar and her daughter Lizzie, living near Ambler, appeared before him, and each made an affidavit "that William Devine, of Pennsylvania, did unlawfully assault and kiss her against her will." The Kellar family formerly lived in a house at Pennlyn owned by Devine, who, with his wife, boarded with them. The Kellar women Mr. Devine devoted all his spare time to chasing them around the house and answering their kisses upon their unwilling cheeks, and he refused to let either one else was around, for he frequently kissed them in the presence of his wife and others. He oftentimes took Miss Kellar in the other arm and kissed her both, and on one occasion he kissed Mrs. Kellar in the presence of both daughters.

Like Aspidochelone, he indulged in "hot and constant kisses," until the ladies grew weary of his attentions. They were forced to leave his house and move to Ambler, and then they decided to have him arrested.

The case was heard on Monday morning and Squire Biting's office was jammed. The mother and her daughter both testified to Devine's conduct, and both agreed that he did not attempt to go any further than to kiss them. According to the ladies the favorite was the Walo Messaros kiss, although sometimes he selected the Emma Abbott style, but he never had any for the Mary Anderson mode of osculation. It was too cold.

Mrs. Kellar told how, on one occasion, Devine kissed the whole Kellar family with the exception of Mrs. Kellar. "Mr. Devine," she said, had hitched up his horse and carriage and drove us all over to call on a friend at Chalfont. When we got there we saw our friends out, but I knew how to get into the house and I suggested that we should go in and wait. I opened the cellar window and my husband crawled through the window and opened the door. While moving around the yard Mr. Devine had kissed both my daughters, and when we were admitted to the house he caught me as I was groping through a dark hallway and putting his arms around me, kissed me, too.

Mr. Devine's free-for-all ideas on kissing were not confined to his wife and daughters, for he is a stalwart prohibitionist. He says but little on the subject, but he avers that the Kellars discovered his objection to a kiss occasionally. He further stated that the prosecution is the result of a quarrel between the families and of jealousy.

WHERE ARE THEY?

Human Beings of Whom There Will Never be a Trace.

From the Chicago Inter-Ocean. Where are the people who lived in Johnston? Only 2,500 bodies have been recovered since the flood, but there are 5,000 people missing in addition to those who are known to be dead. The first reports after the flood placed the dead at 10,000. These reports were based upon seven weeks had failed to answer, and it is still an open question how many people lost their lives in the Conemaugh Valley May 31. When for three days bodies were picked up from the sand and fished out of the river faster than the living could give them burial, all who were missing were counted as among the dead. But since then the findings have been fewer, only one and two, and sometimes half a dozen a day, until even a good many survivors are beginning to hope that their friends may have escaped. But the list of the missing is 7,000 all told, and where are these people? Every effort has been made to find them. A bureau of investigation has been at work for six weeks trying to find and register the survivors, those who are still here and those who have gone elsewhere. This work is under the direction of Mr. Clark, who had only a short time before the flood completed a directory of Johnston and the other boroughs suburban to it. In that first directory, however, Mr. Clark has a copy, he had a record of 23,000 people. His registry since the flood, now completed, shows less than 22,000.

How many of them are dead? The world will never know the names of all who went down to death in that flood. But many people here believe that the dead will number from 5,000 to 7,000. After the flood, the finest part of the city, brick houses that did not float, but went down like cardboard palaces. The debris so far found were on top of the debris or where the streets have been cleared. Where the houses stood is for the most part still uncovered, with the secret of what is in the recesses where the day after the flood. It will require months to dig out these places and know whether there are dead buried there. But even when this directory is complete, it will be able to tell how many people were buried in the drift at the stone bridge. So the victims of the Conemaugh valley will never be really known. Because, added to the population there were many strangers in the town, visitors on Decoration day, and summer visitors, in addition to the passenger list from the trains who will never be known and named.

SPORTS AND THEIR DIAMONDS. Why the Swell Mob Takes Kindly to Wearing Jewelry.

E. Jerry Wall in the Philadelphia Times. I have never seen published an explanation of why the classes of men who are generally known as "sporting men" or "men about town" should be afflicted with violent eruptions of diamonds. I think, however, that the reason can be found in the fact that, trusting much to the instincts of fate, they look upon an investment in brilliants as an insurance against sudden financial misfortune. They have a delusion that diamonds have a standard value just as arbitrarily fixed as that of a double eagle. I have frequently heard men say: "It is an excellent investment to place your money in diamonds, for they are worth just so much a carat and you can always sell them for just what you paid for them." You buy a hundred dollars' worth of diamonds for cash, paying \$700 for them. After she has worn it for one or two years she endeavors to sell or exchange it to her jeweler. She is allowed \$200. She throws up her hands and protests that her husband has either been swindled or deceived her as to the price. What nonsense! With diamonds, as with other merchandise, a stone is worth exactly what it will bring. Were it otherwise there could be no profit in diamond dealing. How could a man make money selling double eagles when we would have to pay \$20 for them and could not sell them for a penny more?

An acquaintance of mine bought a few days ago at a forced sale a ring containing a fine Indian brilliant. He paid \$800 for it. The very next day he was offered \$1,000 for it, but refused to sell, because he was in love with the stone. Yet it cannot be argued from this that the ring should be valued at \$1,800. It was worth \$1,000 when it was first offered for sale by one who wanted it. But if its sale were forced next week at 24 hours' notice it might not bring \$800.

Least word of mine, who he paid \$1,800 for a new carriage, said to me: "Come and take an \$800 drive with me." I thought for a moment that parades had seized him for his price. "I mean it," he said. "I have a carriage which has cost me \$1,800 and which has never been used. We will take a drive in it. Tomorrow I will make this price obtainable for it. With jewelry it is much the same way."

A Failure. Mr. Slowpoper (timidly): "Talking of Mark and Maria's runaway match, Sallie, when you and I get married, it will not be in that style, will it?" Sallie: "When you and I get married! Mr. Slowpoper, you are entirely too presumptuous. I would never marry you, even if—"

Mean—or—that—is—when you marry some other man and I marry some other girl."

A Transportation Problem. Youth's Companion. An expression was busily loading his wagon, one hot noontide, and as he piled the bundles high an assistant appeared, he was bringing a small dog in his outstretched hands.

"Well," said the first man sharply, as he took him, "where's he to go?" "To know."

"Don't know?" "No, I don't, nor nobody don't. He's out up his tag."

Retaliation. From the Boston Herald. "Do you know," said the Englishman, as he gazed indignantly at the green caricature of the Father of His Country. "I take a certain delight in licking a two cent stamp."

"Why?" asked his American friend. "He gave me such an awful licking a century ago, you know."

A Strong Appeal. From Judge. Van Setneup (fls): Come, father, be generous. Let me have a thousand and I'll make it last for a month, 'pon honor. Van Setneup (pers): My dear boy, consider. If you go on spending at this rate you will be as poor as I am before long.

A Wider Field Necessary. He (rejected): Well, you may go further and fare worse. She: Yes; it can't be done around here. —Munsey's Weekly.

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