County Correspondence.

DELHI.

Mrs. J. P. Atwood of Minneapolis a former resident of this place was in town Thursday.

W. S. Carrington of Cedar Falls, is in town.

Mrs. F. E. Stimpson and Mrs. Hunnel were shopping in Manchester Wednesday.

Mr. Ralph Hefner and wife and baby of Waterloo were guests at C. C. Stone's last Tuesday.

John Stack of Peosta had business in town Wednesday.

School closes next Friday with appropriate Christmas exercises.

Mrs. F. A. Doolittle and Mrs. G. H. Fuller entertained the W. R. C. ladies at the home of the former last Friday afternoon. A pleasant time is reported.

R. M. Wilson and David Darling returned from Nebraska Friday. Mr. Wilson purchased 120 acres of land in Red Wilson county.

J. C. McGee attended the teacher's asociation at Earlville Saturday.

George Ede is working at Wacoma.

Mrs. Sarah Anghey is spending the winter with her son, Ed and family.

G. W. Belknay of Ryan had business in town Friday.

Mrs. George White and Mrs. E. R. Stone visited friends in Greeley last week.

Willis Cunningham was in town over Sunday.

Thursday evening, December 14th the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs tendered a farewell reception and banquet at the hall to Mr. W. Z. Phillips, wife and daughters, Mr. E. E. Holdridge, wife and children and Mr. David Darling and wife who leave for Nebraska Tuesday evening Dec. 19, the best wishes of many friends go with them to their new homes.

Mr. John Beebe and wite and Mrs. Linus Jamison of Ryan visited at O. J. Jamison's recently.

Mrs. E. A. Segar of Manchester is a guest at E. R. Stone's.

Mrs. Peter Jakelin and Mrs. Sherd Shan drove to Manchester Friday.

LAMONT.

Rev. H. Strauss has moved into the Tyrrill house on south side.

Sherman Jones visited his brother Beldon and family in Dubuque the past week.

Mrs. Phoebe Hicks is here visiting relatives and friends.

Mrs. Gartz of Strawberry Point visited her daughter, Mrs. Alni Windenburg and family last week.

Mrs. Mable Young visited her parents, Joseph Franks and wife also her brother, J. M. and wife last week.

F. W. Stephenson purchased the Frank Sharp residence on Pine street, consideration $975. Mr. Stephenson will soon move into it.

It is with sincere regret we pen this item that Rev. H. P. Langridge and his amiable wife leave us. They will soon be residents of Waukon. They will win friends wherever located but oh! its hard to let him go as all love him who know him.

Mrs. Kate Vanderhoof and little Grace have returned to Wasco, Ill.

The F. B. Ladies Aid served dinner Dec. 19.

Ross Porter of Manchester renewed acquaintances here Wed. Dec. 13.

Grandpa Rolfe accompanied by his grandson, Orin Rolfe, departed for Florida Dec. 11 to spend the winter.

Born to Frank Drake and wife Dec. 8, a son and a dandy too.

Willis Wolfe purchased a house and lot in York, Nebraska; and is here now preparing to move there in Feb. 1906. Now Wilkes why don't you let some of our ?able leave. We do hate to have good people move away, we hope his health will be improved by the change.

Mrs. William Weston and son, Henry, were Waterloo visitors last week.

Rev. C. W. Rogers of Strawberry Point and W. E. Ross of Lamont will hold special meetings at the county corners church the rest of December.

Mrs. E. May entertained the bible class Monday evening.

Henry Becker held a public auction on his farm Dec. 18.

Mr. Henry Fowler and wife were Manchester visitors Dec. 12.

The proper thing—a quiet, thoughtfull Xmas eve—it has become a habit to get and to give presents so that the real blessings that should be ours by thinking seriously of the real meaning of Christmas eve has been forgotten—but this year Christmas eve comes on Sunday a good program will be given in the M. E. church Sunday evening, the Sunday school treats will be given but no general exchange of presents. We hope the church will be well filled and that it will be a Thanksgiving Christmas time prepartory for the New Year that is fast in pursuit.

THORPE.

Dick White and A. Clark were Dubuque visitors last Saturday.

Don't miss seeing the Xmas tree at the M. E. church next Friday evening.

Dan Sherman is staying at the George Martin home.

Fred Wendell is assisting A. Clark in the store.

Jack Reichard was a welcome caller at the Jackson home last Thursday.

There was a dance at Jake Chambers' last Friday night. All report a lively time. They expect to have another on Saturday evening, Dec. 23. Don't miss it.

Ben Sarks visited several days last week with his sister, Mrs. Kane, of Littleport.

Harry Kane and Ed Mace, of Littleport, visited Saturday at D. Sarks'.

Will Russell and family went to Elkakder Saturday, to attend Mr Russell's brother's funeral, which was held at that place last Sunday.

Fred Wonleighton fell from a ladder while assisting A. Clark with some work. As a result, Dr. Nash, of Dundee, was called last Saturday morning to attend him.

C. Thorpe shipped a carload of hogs to Chicago recently.

The Thimble Society will meet with Mrs. Martin Wednesday, Dec. 20.

Mrs. Clark and Bell Robertson were in Manchester last Friday.

Matt Boots and wife, of Stanley, visited Thursday at Dick White's.

Leanord and Luther Wiltse, of Strawberry Point, visited Sunday at D. Sarks'.

Mr. Durr returned Saturday from Colesburg where he has been spending a few days.

EAD'S GROVE.

Mrs. Mary A. Grow died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Winfield Lash, Saturday Dec. 9. The funeral was held Monday at 2 o'clock p. m.

Mrs. Gertie Fowler is doing house work for Mrs. Bissel, who has a carbuncle on her shoulder.

The party at L. A. Woods on Thursday evening was well attended and a good time was had by all.

Will Retherford returned from Chicago Thursday morning.

Mrs. Alice Frentress died at her home at this place last Sunday morning. The funeral was held at the house Tuesday forenoon at 10 o'clock. Interment was made in the Manchester Cemetery.

F. M. Harvey has sold his 14 acres of land to S. E. Way.

A number of the young people of this place attended the dance at the home of Mr. M. Thomas last Friday night.

Mrs. Emily Culbertson visited at the home of Jim Fowler a few days last week.

Grandma Miller is no better at this writing.

A few people of this place attended the dinner and apron sale at Greeley last Tuesday.

EDGEWOOD.

Harry James took a car load of cattle and hogs to Chicago last Tuesday.

Mrs. Ida Peet visited her parents near Masonville last week.

Mr. W. D. Davis and wife from south of town were in Strawberry Point on business last Wednesday.

Miss Grace Mellen gave a party to the many young folks in and around Edgewood last Friday night and all present report a fine time.

L. S. Fisher and wife visited relatives in Manchester recently.

Miss Grace Pilkinton who has been working for some time past in Greeley visited with Miss Leo Glazier last Friday and Saturday. She left Saturday for her home in Littleport.

Mrs. Nettie Martin and Mrs. Nellie Thomas of Greeley were Thursday visitors with Mrs. W. D. Davis.

Hesner and Hesner give a Christmas dance Monday night, Dec. 25. Everybody invited.

Hon R. J. Bixby left last Tuesday night for Des Moines.

A. N. Smith of Manchester, was visiting relatives in town recently.

The Edgewood basket ball team were defeated by the Greeley team again last Thursday night.

Blaine Robbins came home from Grattenger Wednesday for a several months stay with home folks.

BAILEY'S FORD.

Mrs. R. E. Grommon and son, Clair, visited relatives in Masonville, Sunday of last week.

Mrs. Wm. Kaster was in Manchester last Thursday.

Tillman Grapes and daughter, Carrie, spent Sunday of last week at the home of D. B. Blanchard.

Mrs. G. B. Davis and Mrs. Helen McKee were in Manchester Monday of last week.

Mrs. R. E. Grommon and son, Chas, were Manchester visitors last Thursday.

Lonnis Grapes was in Manchester on business Tuesday of last week.

Mrs. Clara Conner and son, Harry, were in Manchester last Thursday.

J. and D. Maulson had business in Manchester last Saturday.

DUNDEE.

A Merry Xmas to all.

Rev. Percy Langridge will preach in the school house Sunday next, and it is to be his farewell discourse.

The Rowley residence is for rent cheap. Call on E. A. Nash for information.

Dr. Nash made a professional call near Littleport last Sunday, to see Mrs. Fred Williams. Jean Williams of this place went with the Dr.

J. L. Gilbert had a severe attack of lumbago recently.

Art Lee was in Dubuque Monday.

Barns has a fine line of holiday goods. Call and see them.

If you want a fine time come, Saturday evening, Dec. 23, to our Xmas tree entertainment. Santa Claus will give everybody a present, and the little ones two presents.

FOREIGN ETIQUETTE.

Some Things Harmless Here Would Be Bad Form Abroad.

There are some points of foreign etiquette which are absolutely inexplicable to the British mind, and, indeed, it is very doubtful whether the nations to which they are peculiar can themselves offer any explanation. Why, for instance, is it bad form if you visit a Frenchman in his own room to lay your hat on the bed? The fact remains that it is universally considered the worst of manners.

Again, in Germany, if you are walking in the garden with a lady and it occurs to you to pick a flower for her acceptance, be careful to pluck also a leaf or two to make the nosegay complete. Failure to do so is an insult, for which you may possibly be called to account by her nearest male relative.

If you are unexpectedly asked to stay to a meal in an Englishman's house you would not think twice of using his hairbrushes nor he of lending them. But in Hungary such a thing is impossible. To ask for the loan of a hairbrush in a Hungarian house is an unspeakable barbarism, and if it were not known that you erred from sheer ignorance would bring down upon you a most insulting response or possibly a challenge.—London Mail.

THE DELAWARE COUNTY FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

(Concluded from last week.)

SATURDAY MORNING—LADIES' DAY.

The session, presided over by Mrs. L. J. Gates, was opened by Scripture reading by Agnes Scott.

Mrs. R. W. Tirrill—"Housekeeping in Other Lands." Many of the families of the Orient and Egypt live practically out of doors; that no animal life goes to waste in making up the food of the Orient; the common people occupy very little space in their living rooms; that in very many countries the women are harnessed with their animals to do the field work; a kleidoscope description of eastern life is worth going miles to hear.

Mrs. Mary Gates—"Pioneer Housekeeping." Water to carry from some distant spring and both house room and conveniences very limited, but the pioneer woman's heart was in the work and lack of convenience was not noticed as they would be now; good health and plenty of work made good appetites and the crude cooking of those days was relished better than the most elaborate confection of today: a truthful portrayal of the times forty years ago in Delaware county.

Mrs. Sly—"Modern Conveniences." Related how they made a very simple and convenient arrangement to have hot and cold water for the bath room; how much cheaper and more comfortable a furnace was even in the country; thought coal at present the cheapest furnace fuel; the discussion developed that steam heat made less dust.

Home sewing was discussed by Miss Eva Smith. Mothers must not neglect to teach their daughters dressmaking, and certainly all plain sewing, especially should they be taught how to mend neatly.

Saturday cooking was discussed by Mrs. A. W. Caul. Properly fed is, in a measure, properly prepared for the problems of life. Dont make such elaborate efforts as to produce dyspepsia and have social dinners more simple to do away with the dread of the work, expense, and ill results to health; feed for life—to sustain the body and not to ruin digestion. Grain foods are far more valuable than any of the flesh foods.

Fruit for the table, according to Miss Childs should be more universally provided: that along certain lines it must be provided from the home gardens of Iowa as cheaply and of as good quality as anywhere in the world.

Mrs. Jennie Jones discussed "Home Reading" in a very able manner, ascribing our position as a leader in the affairs of the world our universal habit of reading at home, and of reading for information: that it is the means in the hands of all parents to lead the minds of their children into right channels by furnishing them with reading of the kind desired.

Mrs. Jane Brayton read a very interesting essay about what the *pioneer housekeepers had* to contend with, relating how glad they were when John Stewarts' creameries took some of the hard work out their homes.

Recitation by Miss Glew and a solo by Mrs. Boynton were highly appreciated.

Poultry—One of the most important of all farm subjects representing a value of four-hundred million dollars. Mrs. Sherm Harris uses an incubator because she can hatch chicks at a time of year when hens will not set; it does away with the whims of hens and the perplexity of having to study setting hen nature, and that ordinary care had made good hatches for her: keeps chicks quiet in incubator from one to three days before feeding, and placing in brooders; the proceeds from 300 hens the past year was over $400 besides some 200 stolen and some 500 left on hand; uses a weak solution of crealin sprayed on the chicks and brooders to kill vermin; for feed for young chicks she saves all the stale bread dries it thoroughly, grinds it into flour and saves it to mix with meal cake for young chickens; lets the young chicks have access to a small yard from the brooder when 4 or 5 days old. Mrs. Harris feels certain that farmers could devote some of their ground to raising hen feed—such as wheat, millet, etc., and they would be more apt to get eggs in the winter.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

Pres. Tucker, of Memorial University, of Mason City, made the special point that while the boys were being educated for farm work that care should be taken to also educate our girls along the same lines, that they might be true helpmates and in sympathy with their work and each other. Add all the dignity and permanence possible to the farm life.

Dr. Storms talked to the institute for a half hour in a way that is neither quotable or describable. He is easily a leader among all the fine orators of Iowa—the Lincoln of expression—a master of thought and without a peer on the lecture platform of the present time. Should he again visit this town he is certain to be greeted by a crowded house.

The Committee on election of officers report the nomination of the old officers, and the appointment of E. V. Childs, Susie Brayton, Mrs. L. J. Gates and Miss Eva Smith as executive committee. The report was approved. Prizes were awarded in the corn contest as follows:

FOR WHITE CORN.

J E Cocking, set dining chairs from B B Baxter
Thos Andrews, Rocking chair " A D Brown
Wm. Jones, shade lamp from Al Thorpe.
L. G. Clute, woolen blankets from A. H. Blake & Son.
" buck-skin gloves from H. J. Stewart
" Stetson hat from J. H. Allen.
Arthur Brown, Jardineer " A. E. Peterson.
Luther Sly, Surry whip " B. J. Lawman.
Geo.Ister, pkg Stock feed from H C. Smith
W L Dudley, 2 lbs tea from Stearns & McCornic
L G Clute, meritorious mention
D. L. Stone " "

FOR MIXED CORN.

L J Gates, tank heater from Carhart & Nye
Herman Theel, bed blankets " B. Clark
Chas Edmonds, pk Prussian Stock food from Anders & Philips
C M Hannah, 2 pkgs Hog Remedy from B W Grems
C A Swindell, 1 lb tea from Cal Atkinson
" Steadman bit from Sam Steadman
" meritorious mention

YELLOW CORN

L G Clute, corn sheller from Young & Doty
" speepstakes $5 cash Del Co State Bank
R G Brooks, tank heater Hoyt & Dunham
" sweepstakes 2d $2 cash from State Savings Bank
L G Clute, wire fence from Simon & Atwater
W H Clute, wool Sweater from Gildner Bros
L G Clute, pk Stock food from Henry Smith
" pair Shoes from P F Madden
W H Clute, pair Arctics from H H Lawrence
Carrothers bros' sack flour from W H Drew
L G Clute, silver Goblet from W N Boynton
H C White, pair Gloves from Mr Wilson
L G Clute, 5 lb Coffee from L G Wells
Jas J Carrothers, $1 worth Coffee from W Lafferty
F J Gestell, meritorious mention
H E Robison " "

More than thirty prizes were awarded in the corn contest and the corn exhibit, while not so large as had been hoped for, was very creditable and some magnificent specimens of this king of the grains were on exibition. Prof. Holden, of Ames, gave one of his notable corn talks which was listened to with the closest attention for two hours and the time seemed all too short. He mentioned the work of the corn root worm which eats off the root of the corn, and said he found indications of its work in about two-thirds of the fields. The corn root worm lives on corn roots alone and to eradicate him you must change the crop until he is starved out. The worm is as large as No. 40 thread and only one-third inch long, and works just under the surface of the root and the little green beetle found in the ear of infected corn is the breeder of this worm; lays his eggs near the roots in the ground and his ravages will increase year after year until you change to some other crop. The plant root louse is also responsible for much the same loss as the corn root worm and may be prevented in much the same way. Corn is worth 122 million more than all other crops. The Professor says there is no use to plant it unless done very promptly because it will come on to late to get pollenized and wont have an ear on it and two good ears per hill means 110 bushels per acre. He demonstrated that there was a difierence of twenty or more bushels in the yield of different seed from the same county under precisely similar condition and similar stand. Get seed from good yielding fields and test before planting. He advocated using the County poor farm to make tests of the yields of different varieties of corn from all parts of the county making of it a kind of testing ground for the farm seeds of the county so that the best yielders may be selected for the common improvements of your farm yields. The interest in Prof. Holden's remarks was intense and increasing every minute till the darkness gathered round closing a splendid day and a profitable institute.

Your committee on resolutions reports the following:

RESOLVED That this organization demands that no concessions be made from the stand taken by the President in regard to rate legislation; that we heartily approve of the position outlined in President Roosevelt's message in regard to the maximum and minimum tariff rates. In this we see the most practical method under present conditions to protect and increase our commerce with foreign nations.

RESOLVED That we recommend the continuance of the present road law and advise the more extensive use of the King road drag.

RESOLVED That our thanks are due to those who have helped us so acceptably with music and otherwise, and especially to the business men of Manchester for their magnificent donations of prizes for the corn show and the universal courtesy extended to the management of this institute.

CAVE OF THE WINDS.

The Vision Carved In Stone Under Its Hills of Dakota.

The great wind cave has the form of an eight story house, each story, or stratum, containing a distinct formation of its own and each containing chambers of a size and magnificence of decoration such as have never been found in any subterranean cavern of the world.

It is a dream, a nightmare, a vision, carved in solid stone under the green hills of Dakota, stone as white as the milk the hired man used to give us to drink in the dawn of a happy June morning, stone as red as the heart of the first bloodroot that you dug in the spring when the world was all spring to you and stone that is blue with a blue that all the painters who have ever painted Venice have tried to get for generations and have failed.

Frozen fountains are there, white with the leaping foam of untold ages, sculptured cats and horses and great monsters to be dreamed about o' nights and feared in dark corners in the daytime, organs built by the hands of giant gnomes for a Titan to play wild hymns of praise upon, a kitchen for the cooking of weird dishes never thought of up here in the sunshine, all manner and all kinds of rooms, ninety miles of them, down there under the hoofs of the gallant little range horses who pound the grass into hay the year round, up there in South Dakota.

The Word Derrick.

The word derrick for a machine used to lift heavy weights is curiously derived from a London hangman in the beginning of the seventeenth century whose name was Theodoric and who is often mentioned in old plays. "He rides circuit with the devil, and Derrick must be his host, and Tyborne the inn at which he will light" occurs in "The Bellman of London," published in 1616. The name thus corrupted came afterward to be applied, by an easy transition, to the gallows and later still to any frame or contrivance resembling it in shape.

A Riot of Ink.

Canon Nicholl used to tell how on one occasion he had visited the famous house of the Thrales in that suburb of London where Dr. Johnson was at home. "Johnson," said the canon in recalling the visit, "had occupied two rooms, and these were left as he last used them. The sight was an extraordinary one, for ink was splashed all over the floor and even on the walls. It was one of the doctor's habits to dip his pen in ink and then shake it."

The Natural Effect.

Father—From my observation of him last night I came to the conclusion that young man of yours was rather wild. Daughter—Of course. It was your constant observation that made him wild. He wanted you to go upstairs and leave us alone.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Doubled.

Mabel—Is she as happy as when she lived with her husband. Molly—Twice as happy. He used to allow her only $9 a week, and now he has to pay her $18 a week alimony.—Kansas City Independent.

THE HAWKEYE STATE

Telegraphic Reports of Important Events Occurring During Past Few Days.

MAIN HAPPENINGS OF A WEEK

Items of Special Interest Caught from the Wires and Prepared for Our Readers.

Mount Ayr, Ia., Dec. 15.—Almost at the steps of the altar it was charged that Don Amando De Cespedes, who represented himself as a wealthy Costa Rican, and was to have been married to Miss Bertha Shrimplin, a senior in the high school here, had a wife and child in Chicago.

De Cespedes had declared he was vice chairman of the national Republican committee of Costa Rica. He went to the house of his fiancee at night, where the minister and bridal attendants had gathered for the rehearsal of the wedding ceremony, and was there when Alexander Shrimplin, the father of the young woman, was shown a telegram saying De Cespedes already was married. There was a scene, and it was announced that the wedding was postponed indefinitely. The young woman was prostrated and had to be placed under the care of a physician.

PARTED FOR FORTY-TWO YEARS

Mother and Daughter Separated Since the Latter Was but Two Years Old.

Mason City, Ia., Dec. 16.—An interesting chapter in human life has just come to light in the meeting of a mother and daughter after a separation of forty-two years. The central figures are Mrs. Putney, of Nashua, and Mrs. Jennie Meloy, of this city. The former is 65 years of age and the latter is 44 years. The story of the separation and the reunion is told by Mrs. Meloy.

She says that when an infant her father died, leaving her mother, then living in central Illinois, in destitute circumstances. She said she was taken by her aunt, who abandoned her, and later she was adopted by Mr. Liche, of Nora Springs. A Floyd county man, Mr. Dean, heard the story from the mother, and knowing her daughter he arranged a meeting at Nashau.

Duels Forbidden in Iowa.

Des Moines, Ia., Dec. 16.—Duels are forbidden in Iowa, declared the supreme court in affiarming the conviction of Fenton Whitnah, of Page county, for killing Charles Middaugh. The two men quarreled while drunk and agreed to fight it out with their fists. With a party of friends they repaired to the edge of the town and engaged in a duel, first with fists and then with knives. Middaugh was killed by a blow on the jugular vein. Whitnah must serve ten years in prison.

Iowa's Mulct Law Interpreted.

Des Moines, Ia., Dec. 15.—It is alegal to ship liquor into Iowa C. O. D., and the purcharers can afterward recover the money they paid for the liquor, according to a decision of the Iowa supreme court. The decision was in the case of John Hamilton vs. Schlitz Brewing company, of Milwaukee, and the court holds that the brewery must return $5,000 paid for beer shipped to Hamilton, in Linn county, C. O. D., the court holding this a violation of the mulct law.

Withhold Gift from Negroes.

Des Moines, Ia., Dec. 18.—Executors of the estate of the late Millionaire James Callanan have refused to pay a bequest of $10,000 to the Ambidexter institute, a negro institution of Springfield, Ill., under a discretion given them by the will to withhold bequests from unworthy beneficiaries. Dev. R. D. Smith, of Clinton, Ia., financial agent, is here preparing to commerce mandamus proceedings against the executors.

Killed Himself with Opium.

Corning, Ia., Dec. 15.—J. D. Flennek, a wealthy resident of Shineton, W. Va., is dead as a result of taking opium several days ago. He engaged a room at a hotel, asking that nobody call him until 10 o'clock the next morning. He did not answer his call, and was found unconscious. He had written a letter to Mrs. Ella J. Scott, Cedarville, W. Va., saying he expected to die soon and leaving her his property.

Fire at Des Moines, Ia.

Des Moines, Ia., Dec. 18.—The Rothwell block, corner of Sixth and Walnut streets, was entirely destroyed by fire at an early hour in the morning. The loss to the building and contents will be $110,000. Other losses are small but numerous. The origin of the fire was due to combustion in the basement of Hess' drug store. The insurance will be over one-half.

Courted Girl Ten Years.

Iowa City, Ia., Dec. 16.—A courtship of ten years' standing was terminated here when Rufus Choate, cousin of Hon. Rufus Choate, was wedded to Miss Edna Dennis, niece of former Attorney General Milton Remley. Theodore Roosevelt, cousin of President Roosevelt, was best man. The groom is a civil engineer.

Mitchell Expected at Gotham.

New York, Dec. 18. — It is announced here that John Mitchell, president of the United Mine Workers, will arrive at New York in a few days with the expectation of holding a conference with the coal presidents in this city.

Dinner in a Bell.

In the tower of Erfurt cathedral hangs a huge bell ten feet high and thirty feet in circumference, weighing thirteen tons. Within this in July, 1713, dined ten of the town's most opulent burghers on dishes cooked in a kitchen temporarily erected on the beam that supported the ponderous mass of tintinnabulary metal. To celebrate this repast medals were struck, having on the obverse the portraits of the guests and on the reverse the representation of the curious scene.

Use For the Synonym.

Teacher—What is a synonym? Pupil—A word that has the same meaning as another word. Teacher—And why does our language possess synonyms? Pupil—So you can use one when you don't know how to spell the other one.—Exchange.

A Bad Patient.

Friend—I suppose you're always glad to get a patient who's never had any bad habits. Doctor—Indeed I'm not. Friend—How's that? Doctor—Why, man, I can't order him to stop anything.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

JEWISH HUMOR.

Its Flavor of Bitterness and Its Satire of Judaism.

Renan said of the Jews, "The Semitic people are almost entirely without the power to laugh." Surely had he looked for traces of Jewish humor in the light which Heine casts back upon its dark tradition he would never have made so sweeping a statement. For eight years Heine lay upon his "mattress grave" in Paris suffering excruciating agony. He deserved, he said, to have awarded to him "the grand medals of pain and misery." Leopold Zunz said almost the same words of the whole Hebrew people, "If there are ranks in suffering, Israel takes precedence of all the nations." The humor of Israel is flavored with bitterness and plays round the greater subjects of thought and of speculation; plays like the humor of a man in pain.

Listen to the lament of a satirist born at Arles in 1287 who finds the works of the Jewish law an intolerable burden and seems to have come, like Heine, to the bitter conclusion that "Judaism is not a religion, it is a misfortune:"

Oh, hapless sire, distraught with cares,
Whose wife to him male children bears,
For all of them, or rich or poor,
Have only suffering to endure.
This is caused by the Jewish creed,
Whose yoke is hard to bear indeed.
Its many laws and regulations
Which are unknown to other nations
Every Hebrew must observe
With watchful eye and straining nerve;
E'en though he shares in public functions,
He still must follow their injunctions.

* * * * * * * *

The Bible is not half enough;
Glosses there are and other stuff
In which he erudite must be,
Especially in theology,
In all the Talmud may relate,
In authors' quarrels and debate,
In things particularly small,
Of no significance at all.

One more mediaeval quotation, this time from the pen of a Barcelona Jew. The lines can hardly perhaps be called humorous, but they illustrate with a certain terse comedy the great value set by the race upon three things—money, knowledge and domestic happiness. If a man has none of them the poet has no better advice to give him than to hold his tongue or to hang himself:

What is the most useful thing to any man in life?
Knowledge or wealth or a good and loving wife.
But if none of these commodities man has ever got
Then by keeping golden silence he might improve his lot.
And if he cannot do so, that poor and hapless knave,
Then let him go away at once and dig himself a grave.

On his deathbed Heine made his last joke, and it is typically Jewish. "Reviewing his by no means irreproachable past," he hoped that God might forgive him, "for c'est son metier"—(that is his trade). Another story illustrates yet more perfectly the bitter humor of the Jew. It is the story of a dying rabbi "who had been all his lifetime extremely religious, but had likewise always suffered much want and misery. 'Do you know,' he said to those in the sickroom, 'if after all the sad experiences I have had in the past there is no future life I shall be greatly amused.'"—London Spectator.

Colophon.

Colophon was a city of ancient Ionia, nine miles north of Ephesus, and near the sea. It was said to be the birthplace of Homer, and near it was a famous oracle of Apollo. The Greek proverb, "To put a colophon to it," meaning to end an affair handsomely, is explained by Strabo as arising from a belief that the cavalry of Colophon was so excellent in quality that their charge was always decisive in a battle. Hence arose the custom of calling any device or monogram or printer's name or sign or date of printing in old printed books a colophon in the sense of a definite, satisfactory end.

Tycho Brahe.

It was the great eclipse of Aug. 21, 1560, that turned Tycho Brahe into an astronomer. He was in his fourteenth year at the time, a Danish boy of noble origin, and had been destined first for the army and then for the law. But the accuracy with which the eclipse was predicted impressed him with the belief that astronomy was a divine thing, and thenceforward he devoted his life to it. The debt of astronomy to Tycho Brahe not only for his own work, but as the man who shaped the genius of Kepler, can scarcely be overestimated.

Composite Pronoun Wanted.

The want of a composite pronoun to express both "he" and "she," and, what is sometimes more important, to express neither he nor she, must have embarrassed every one at some time or another. There are ungrammatical ways of shelving the difficulty, such as, for instance, by translating the convenient French "on" as "they," when we really mean one person who may be either masculine or feminine. The lack of a portmanteau word to express both sexes without specifying either did not, however, trouble the new maid who approached her mistress with the ingenious remark, "Please'm, a friend of mine has called—and may I ask it to tea?"—London Chronicle.

A Point In Punctuation.

For a century past, probably longer, the rule of the best printers and publishers has been, "Three words in the same construction are separated by commas." Two examples will illustrate the rule:

"John, James and Thomas have come."

As so punctuated the first name is vocative, the second and third nominative. Two persons have come.

"John, James, and Thomas have come."

And now the three names are all nominatives. Three persons have come. The two meanings can be indicated otherwise only by a footnote.—New York Times.

A Stubborn Opening.

The head of the household was going through her husband's pockets the next morning.

"What kept you out so late last night?" she suddenly demanded.

"It was the opening of the campaign, my dear," the lesser half replied.

"Well, it didn't take three corkscrews to open it, did it?"

And she drew the offending articles from his side pocket and waved them before him.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Swordless.

"Yes," said the condescending youth, "I am taking fencing lessons."

"Good," answered Farmer Corntossel. "I allus said you was goin' to turn in an' do somethin' useful. What's your specialty goin' to be—rail, stone or barbed wire?"—Washington Star.

Same Old Story.

"Does he pay his alimony promptly?"

"No; he has to be urged and threatened every payday, but, then, of course, I got used to that when we were living together."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

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