

Daily Eagle

SOME QUEER TRADES.

HOW MANY NEW YORKERS EARN AN HONEST LIVING.

Interesting Vocations Carried On In Various Parts of the Metropolis—The Ragpicker—Exhibitors of "the Elephant," Hired Guests—Peddlers and Hawkers.

Speaking of the queer trades of New York, of course the ragpicker is one of the first images to spring before the mental vision. The business is now almost wholly in the hands of Italians, who "district" this and neighboring cities in a fashion to suit themselves. It is no uncommon thing to see a woman of that nationality swinging onward with free, elastic step, while on her coil of glistening black hair is piled a sack of old paper and other rubbish as large as two feather beds. Lately many of them have come to own or hire hand carts, and the voice of the erstwhile riant junkman is less loud in the land. Obviously there cannot be a very large profit for most of those who sweep up fragments of paper or textile fabrics from the gutters and ash barrels, still, some of them have grown wealthy at it, and strange tales are told among them of lucky ones who have stumbled on bonanzas by finding rings or bank notes or purses in the course of their perambulations. The ragpicker who knows his business invariably carries a sharp eye on the verge of the curbstone during his early morning rounds.

If you are wealthy and go to Europe you may engage there the services of an accomplished courier or guide who can converse to you in almost as many languages as Mezzofanti knew, and who has reserve resources of profanity in several other tongues. If amiable or indisposed to afford such a luxury you can make one of a "personally conducted" party. Here in New York we have a somewhat similar system. At almost any of the hotels you can hire the services of a gentleman who knows the town like a book, and who will undertake for a specified consideration to show you the sights, a phrase which is generally interpreted to mean the nether side of Gotham. The student of sociology is expected to foot all the bills; low moderate or extravagant they will be depends on his own wish and taste, and he will be assured of a safe return to his hotel under the pilotage of his cool and vigilant cicerone. In days gone by, tradition avers, not a few of the big New York homes kept clerks whose chief function was that of initiating rural patrons into the shady aspects of metropolitan existence, but that custom is no longer in vogue.

Hired Male Guests. Have you struck it rich in pork or mines or some other speculation and wish to solidly establish yourself on this crowded isle of Manhattan? If so, you can find here experts who will instruct you how to furnish your house, who will go with you to select the articles, or will order them for a commission; who will teach your wife and daughters how to dress, will supervise the purchase of your table ware and give you lessons in etiquette. More than this, you can engage the services of a specialist to make everything go smoothly at your first formal dinners, served by a fashionable caterer; and if your acquaintance is limited, you can secure well dressed and vivacious gentlemen to sit at your hospitable board, drive away ennui by their bright conversation and dance gracefully at your receptions. This system of providing irrepensible guests to fill vacant spaces was the felicitous thought of a clever sexton recently deceased. The system survives and fills a long felt want. Moreover, if you wish it, you can for a suitable douceur mortgage a professional humorist to entertain your guests during the evening, or can tempt an alert man about town to corral some lion of the hour and exhibit him at your dining room. Aladdin's chumly lamp has given way in our time to the more convenient and potent checkbook.

It takes a metropolis to support a painter of black eyes. In a less populous or less bellicose community his vocation would not keep the pot boiling. Whether a man gets his eye blackened in a friendly bout with gloves or by slipping on a banana peel in the street or in an alcoholic brawl, the resultant discoloration is always unwelcome. It is also slow to cure, but not to be disguised. Next morning he disappears and have the marks so skillfully hidden under a coat of paint that even his wife or landlady cannot perceive any evidence of the ordeal through which he has passed.

WHEN IN YOUR COFFIN. If we are not afflicted with the aristocratic mania, we are all mortal and the survivors are enterprising. Hence, if you die in New York, the notice of the fact is scarcely appeared in cold type when your funeral will be visited by alert canvassers who are prepared to give a life size portrait or other memento of you. Close on their heels follow the energetic scouts of some florist, who are dually anxious to provide a wreath, harp or pillow of appropriate blossoms at the lowest market rates. Usually these purveyors are escorted to the door with impressive speed, nevertheless they contrive to drum up trade and make a living.

Peddlers and hawkers constitute a numerous and variegated class of the community. They handle almost everything that can be rattled—coal, fish, vegetables, wood, fruit, ice, cooking utensils, candy, meat, &c. Going home at night you hear the melodious chant of the darkey who dispenses hot corn or sausage sandwiches. Should your tastes be more epicurean, you will find merchants on the Bowery and elsewhere who open their counters to order at one cent apiece, with crackers and condiments thrown in. There are peddlers who make a specialty of providing spices and herbs for the barrooms. They bring mint and anise, and cloves to disguise the breath tainted with the lingering aroma of that stinging like an spider. Others there are who carry around a stock of brooms, feather dusters, shoelaces, matches, or collar buttons, whom no man has eyes seen make a sale, yet who must occasionally transfer their stock for their owners wax fat and wear thick solid shoes.

Another big branch of business, which has grown to formidable dimensions of late, is that of supplying the free lunches served in New York's liquor saloons. The wayfarer nowadays may absorb a hearty meal with his five cent glass of beer. The rations are rarely cooked by the proprietor or in his establishment. He finds it cheaper to buy from a contractor who conducts the thing on a large scale and fills all orders, from a round of beef to a dish of pickles, potato salad or imitation sardines. They have their regular routes and patrons, and their pliehoric wagons rapidly distribute the food on which a big part of New York makes its frugal daily lunch.—New York World.

How Natural Gas Travels. A rubber ball, two inches smaller than the pipe, was placed in one end of a new natural gas main in McKeesport, and five pounds pressure suddenly turned on. The ball turned several sharp corners, passed through two T joints up six feet to the top of the regulator and landed at the other end of the main, a mile distant, in forty five seconds, actual time.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Art of Glass Blowing. Glass blowing is an art nearly 4,000 years old, and perhaps much older. Yet there has never been any man discovered of dispensing with the human lungs as the instrument of the blowing. An English company is experimenting with a mold and mechanical bellows, which does satisfactory work at bottle blowing, but this pretends to attempt only course work.—New York Sun.

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PHILADELPHIA, July 28, 1888. Wichita Eagle, Wichita, Kan. Gentlemen:—We have seen one of your Mortgage Loan Registers at the office of the Philadelphia Mortgage and Trust Co., this city, and shall be obliged if you will send this company one similar in all respects at your earliest convenience, and remain Respectfully yours, THEODORE PROTHINGHAM, Secretary.

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