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CONSUMPTION

HOTEL HAWKSHAWS.

The Men Who Have Become Indispensable to City Bonifaces.

"Oh, he's a hotel detective, is he? Well, what good on earth is a hotel detective? What do hotels want with detectives, anyhow?"

This remark, made in a petulant tone, was uttered in the corridor of the Hoffman House the other afternoon by a Western man, who was on a visit to the metropolis, and had been looking at the art treasures of the cafe. He eyed in a contemptuous way the well-dressed little man, with a slouch hat, who was leaning against a pile of trunks near the elevator. A friend showing the Western man the city sights had happened incidentally to point out Detective Jacobs as one of the features of a big metropolitan hotel.

Ten minutes later the Westerner saw the little detective step up to a well-dressed man in a group of three who had just sauntered into the art gallery.

"I'll have to ask you to move on, sir," the detective said.

"Who the deuce are you?" growled the man, angrily. "What do you mean, hang you, by talking to me that way?"

"Just what I say, and I mean it," the little man replied, undaunted, "and here's who I am, and I know you perfectly well."

The little detective threw open his coat and showed his glistening detective shield. The well-dressed man cut short his bluster instantly, and walked quickly out into the street.

He was a local bunco man, who had casually dropped into the hotel cafe with two out-of-town crooks. The conversation with the little detective was animated, but not so loud that any body in the art gallery could understand it. The Gothamite who was showing the Westerner around knew what was up, though, and turning to his friend said, playfully:

"That's some good a hotel detective is. That was a confidence man that he talked to. May be he'd have caught on to you if it hadn't been for the detective"

It was an apt illustration of one of the duties of the hotel detective. In the marvelous perfection of the equipment of a metropolitan hotel in the last few years the private detective has come to be an indispensable detail, and to-day there is not a hotel in town that enjoys any select patronage at all that does not employ a guardian, who is empowered to make arrests if necessity arises. Some of the detectives are men especially assigned from the police force, and whose salary is guaranteed by the hotel in consideration of the policeman's exclusive service. Often, however, the special guardians are regular private detectives. They are men well trained in detective methods, and enjoy the adventure of a wide and varied acquaintance with the faces of metropolitan rascals and the confidence operators of the country.

Keeping the hotel clear of this class of crooks, however, is only a small part of the hotel detective's work. Upon them devolves in most cases the supervision of the porters and hall-boys, and all the army of help that a big Gotham inn has to employ. If a guest loses any thing in the hotel, or outside of it, either, he is sent at once to the hotel detective to consult about its recovery; and if chambermaids or porters find articles that have been mislaid or lost, they are expected to bring them direct to the hotel detective, and he, in turn, hands them over to the hotel proprietor, or his representative, to be delivered to the owner.

It is also the detective's duty to protect his employers from the numerous and persistent army of pests known as the hotel beat, and it is due to the presence of detectives, in every well-regulated city hotel, that New Yorkshas ceased to be a spot where this peculiar gentry can thrive. The petty thievery of guests' valuables has also come to be a rarity, and nowadays the man of means, stopping at any well-regulated hotel, can feel as secure as if he were traveling with a private station-house of his own in tow. More than all, however, the old-time harvest of victims that Hungry Joe and his pals used to gather from hotel corridors is all cut off.

All this the detective has to do for the regular salary, but he has legitimate perquisites. These are the more or less liberal fees that good-natured out-of-towners, who want to see what the life of a big city really is after dark, pay for straight tips on the places where the elephant "cuts up his most flamboyant and startling shindigs." It is worth a handsome sum to the hotel detective who pilots a party of strangers through the multitudinous and more or less picturesque maze of after-dark spectacles known to the experienced man about town as "The Sights." And there are few more experienced men about town than your quick-witted hotel detective. —*N. Y. Sun.*

VALUABLE PORCELAINS.

How to Make a Proper Material Classification of Ceramics.

The Musee Adrien Dubouche at Limoges is the most complete, perhaps, in the world from the point of view of a historical museum of pottery. The seven thousand pieces which it contains will enable us to form an idea of the history of pottery from the earliest times down to the present day. We will take European pottery first of all, and consider it from two points of view, material and decorative. All these objects that we see are clays baked at a more or less intense heat, and for the most part covered with a surface glaze, enamel or *couverte*. In some the paste has remained porous after the baking; in others the paste has become compact and impervious to liquids, and even to the scratch of a steel point. Terra-cotta, faience, majolica, gres, hard porcelain, soft porcelain, artificial porcelain—the name and classes are manifold and the component matters various; but the phenomenon of which we see the results in these ceramic products is throughout the same, namely, vitrification. The ceramic art is an art of vitrification. All clays and marls acquire by firing a degree of vitrification proportionate to the heat which is applied to them, and this application of heat depends upon the materials which are used and upon the product which it is wished to obtain. The more complete the vitrification, the more precious is the aspect of the object. Take, for instance, a piece of glass, a piece of rock-crystal and a diamond; place them side by side, and compare the three objects and the sensations which they produce on the eye. The diamond will evidently give the greatest pleasure. Why? Because it reflects more luminous rays than rock-crystal or glass, and the eye being organized to enjoy light, receives from the diamond a greater sensation of pleasure. But why does the diamond reflect more luminous rays than the other two objects? Because the diamond is more compact, more dense, more homogeneous, and it is more homogeneous because it has been transmuted at a higher temperature. Now if we substitute for these trans-lucid objects ceramic objects, we shall find that the sensation of pleasure conveyed by them to the eye varies according as the vitrification of the piece is more or less complete; or, in other words, the higher the temperature at which the piece has been transmuted, the more analogous will its aspect be to that of a precious stone. We may base our material classification of ceramics on this scientific fact, and assign them a grade accordingly, and this classification we shall find justified by the instinctive and traditional preference of connoisseurs, who can imagine nothing finer than that old Chinese translucid porcelain which may be compared to jade; than that blue porcelain which a Chinese poet has described as "blue like the sky, thin as paper, brilliant as a mirror;" or than that white porcelain of which another Chinese poet celebrates the "plaintive sonority," and the "whiteness surpassing the whiteness of snow."—*Theodore Child, in Harper's Magazine.*

SNAKE AND STAG.

One of the Most Singular of Mr. Barras' Adventures in India.

Mr. Barras, in one of his tiger-shooting expeditions in India, had a singular adventure with a serpent which some of his men found in the act of swallowing a stag. The front part of the reptile was tremendously distended, so that it looked exactly like a small beer-barrel with a long tail. On a nearer inspection its head could be seen projecting from the thick end, with the hind feet of the deer sticking out of one corner of its mouth.

We could not shoot the monster for fear of disturbing the tiger of which we were in pursuit. We, therefore, commanded one of the natives to go and cut off its head. But none of them seemed inclined to obey. The more we reiterated our orders, the more seriously they wagged their turbaned heads, and the more they seemed glued to their respective elephants.

At last the veteran Seesoo raised his voice, and thus expressed the sense of the company:

"O my lords, I am indeed the slave of your highnesses, and were the creature before us only a tiger, bear, or indeed any four-footed beast, I would at once advance to the combat; but this is an awful brute, and the most baleful of all the inhabitants of the jungle. If any one goes within reach of his tail, he will be killed to a certainty."

In short, our native assistants meant to keep clear of the huge reptile, which they probably mistook for a god or a devil, on no account to be interfered with. So, as my friend assured me that these snakes were not dangerous, I descended from my elephant, and proceeded against it with a heavy hunting-knife.

I confess to some misgivings whether his or the native's estimate of the beast's character might prove correct. What more likely than that it should be able to throw a fold of its body round any one approaching within range? for behind the inflated portion containing the deer there must have been about thirteen feet of the serpent in its normal state.

However, I advanced, knife in hand, on a line leading straight to the head of the reptile, and watched narrowly for any sign of its moving; but it remained motionless as I stood over it and looked upon its weird countenance, capable of but one fixed expression.

All its life seemed concentrated in the bright yellow eyes that returned my gaze with a glittering stare. I raised the knife, and brought it down with all my might on its neck, thinking to cut its head off. But the bones were solid, and nothing but a horrible gash was the result. Even at this not a muscle stirred, and the eyes glittered and looked piercing as before. I was now advised to dispatch him by severing the spine just behind the great enlargement caused by the body of the stag. But the snake instantly hished out so vigorously that I thought it prudent to return to the head, and with a few more blows I killed it. Its length was just seventeen feet.

The stag, on being taken out looked as if it had been neatly trussed for the table. It was about the size of an ordinary sheep, and its head, neck and limbs were packed into a sort of square, but none of the bones were broken, nor were there any signs of external damage. The poor thing was quite dead, and we abandoned the two bodies to the vultures and jackals.—*Youth's Companion.*

How Old She Was.

Old Friend (to Old Maid)—Didn't I understand you to say you were twenty-eight years old?

Old Maid (indignantly)—No, sir; you did not. I never said it.

Old Friend—Never?

Old Maid—No, sir; never.

Old Friend (persistently disagreeable)—Think a moment. Don't you remember one morning, just fifteen years ago, you said it to me in a moment of confidence?—*Washington Critic.*

—A Western boy ran for Congress when he was only fourteen years old. He was page in the House.

FACTS FOR FARMERS.

—All fallen young fruit should be collected and destroyed in some manner, as many insects will then be killed by doing so.

—Animals with vicious habits or tendencies should never be used for breeding purposes, as they transmit to their offspring their bad qualities.

—The annual value of the dairy product of Illinois equals the gold production of the United States. Who says the cow is not the best friend of the farmer?

—To prevent dry murrain in cattle, keep a trough full of equal parts of salt and air-slaked lime where the cattle may have free access to it and you will not be troubled.

—There should be a pot of liquid pine tar in every stable. It is excellent to apply to the bottom of the horse's hoofs to keep them in a clean and healthy condition. It should be applied about once a week.

—The value of green food for all poultry should not be overlooked. Save some of the corn for winter. The green stalks cut up fine is better feed for summer weather than so much of the dried grain.

—The measuring worm has a vigorous assailant in the black ant. The ant climbs up the tree, seizes the worm by the tail and holds on till it gets exhausted, when the victor drags its prey down to its nest in the ground.

—The good points of an ox: A broad, intelligent face, with head up; small neck and horns; length of body; straight back, heavy shoulders, with full brisket; broad loins, hips and stifle; well thighed and flanked down; medium stomach; straight leg and rather short; heavy arm, wide gamber joint; a good foot and small tail.

—A soil containing free lime, potash or magnesia is in condition to form rapidly in warm weather under tillage valuable compounds of nitrogen, which will hasten plant growth. This process, called nitrification of the soil, does not go on rapidly in the absence of lime, potash, soda, etc., hence the importance of applying lime and potash to soils deficient in them.

—Farmers are warned by Dr. Hanamann against the practice of removing straw from the land, as it tends to impoverish the soil. Not only are potash, lime, phosphoric acid, etc., taken away, but also a considerable amount of organic matter, whereby the moisture is too much reduced. The doctor truly adds that care must be observed in restoring to the soil what it has been deprived of, or sterility will be the ultimate result.

—The horse will leave musty hay untouched in his bin, however hungry. He will not drink of water objectionable to his questioning sniffs or from a bucket which some odor makes offensive, however thirsty. His intelligent nostril will widen, quiver and query over the daintiest bit offered by the fairest of hands, with coaxings that would make a mortal shut his eyes and swallow a nauseous mouthful at a gulp. —*Prairie Farmer.*

—The successful farmer is not the man who, by working from daylight till dark, year in and year out, scrimping and fretting, and depriving his family of the necessaries of life, has, at the age of fifty, succeeded in becoming the owner of two or three farms and has money in the bank. He is not the wealthy old tight-fisted farmer, but the man who, by diligence and hard work, has succeeded in providing himself and family with a comfortable, pleasant home, who has furnished his home with plenty of good reading matter and necessary conveniences, and has taken time to read and gain knowledge.

SERVICEABLE FENCE.

One That Serves Its Purpose Well and Costs But Very Little.

I have found my fence of smooth wire and board effective and cheaper than any other I ever built. In a small pasture adjoining the barn (where we turn out horses and have kept one or more cows night and day) stock have several times broken down or jumped over the board fence on two sides, but have not in three years broken through or over the wire. We use plain No. 9 fence wire, single strand, costing me three cents a pound, and it weighs about one pound to the rod. I used in this fence but three wires and one strip of board, three inches wide, but would use four wires if building another. I have another lot fenced with five wires and the strip of board, which turns calves and sheep. Fence-boards now cost me 1 cent a foot, running measure, for 6-inch wide, or $20 per thousand feet, so you see that five wires cost less than one board. This is not all the saving, however, for one post every thirty-two feet is all that is needed for the wire fence, while a good board fence requires a post every eight feet. Then the cost of building the board fence is four times that of building with wire.

With the end posts well braced there is very little trouble in keeping the wires of the right tension. After the wires are stretched and stapled to the posts, we drive a stake in the center between the posts and staple the wires to it. We then set up strips of board, three inches wide and four and a half feet long, every four feet (three of these strips filling each space between a stake and a post), and staple the wires to these uprights, and then our three-inch board is nailed to these with a single clinch-nail at each. A wire fence is never safe without this board, as stock, particularly horses, when excited and running will not see it and will run into it, but with the uprights only four feet apart and the one narrow board there is no danger of this. It is a good plan to put a small flat stone or piece of board under the end of each upright. The cost of the material for this fence is about thirty-five cents per rod, calling the posts twenty-five cents each, stakes three cents, uprights one cent and wire staples and nails at cost. On level land, where a long stretch could be had, I think ten cents a rod would certainly cover the cost of building. I shall put up this fence quite extensively in future.—*Waldo F. Brown, in N. Y. Tribune.*

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