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**A BACHELOR MAID.**

Once there lived a bachelor maiden,  
Years and years ago (?),  
And her mind with truth was laden,  
But her heart was cold as snow.  
For she thought, with good old Plato,  
She could live alone,  
So she smiled on many a suitor,  
But her heart was hard as stone.

Came a bachelor man a-suing  
For her friendship true,  
This, alas, was her undoing,  
As it might have been with you.  
For her friendship still he sued her—  
Such a simple thing—  
Till before she knew he wooed her,  
Wooded her with a friendship ring.

Now, although she's fond of Plato,  
Her cold heart's grown warm,  
And her theories of living  
Have imbued a wondrous charm,  
For she says: "Tis human nature,  
Spite of Plato's pen,  
Men were made for loving women,  
Women made for loving men."  
—Mary W. Slatter in Kate Field's Washington.

**BUYING SOCIAL POLISH.**

An English Couple Who Instruct in the Art of Being Fine.

A new profession for "gentlefolk" has been discovered in London by two impeccuous members of the class. They have discovered that there is a livelihood to be obtained by "polishing off" the non-vaux riches and others whose manners "have not that repose which stamps the caste of Vere de Vere." They are a well born, well bred married couple who are still sufficiently young to be adaptable. They have been used to the ways of the leisure class, and they are clever enough to teach them. Anything from the cure of the cockney accent to the proper way to entertain a duke is taught for a "consideration."

The wife describes her share of the work thus: "I generally," she says, "undertake to engage the services of all specialists, such as superior maids, who know what is what and can give judicious and useful hints to their mistress; also manicurists, teachers of deportment and sometimes teachers of elocution. I have cured one very bad case of mere outward vulgarity in three weeks for 10 guineas, and I have corrected a cockney accent in three mornings for 3 guineas, while, on the other hand, a certain city man, who never aspired to anything better than heavy British dinners, Fridays to Mondays at Brighton, and Mansion House balls until he married the daughter of a west end restaurant manager—she knew nothing of life beyond her own narrow sphere—gave us carte blanche to make 'fine folks' of them."

"Not much could be done for him beyond keeping him quiet, but she lent herself to our process. Now they have a very pretty place in Hampshire and entertain some rather nice people in the summer. We ourselves received 100 guineas for our advice, but the husband must have spent over 25,000 in adopting our hints as to mode of living, and he tells us that what he has got for it is worth double as much."—Philadelphia Press.

**May and Matrimony.**

The pagans had a myth that "only bad women marry in May." They had another, that if the marriage did not take place the couple would live most unhappily, and children born of the marriage—if it was not hopelessly rendered barren by thus slapping the fates in the face—would be deformed or imbecile. With prizes like that in prospect, it is not much wonder that the ignorant and superstitious taboo May marriages, but there is no excuse yet for this idiosyncrasy of thinking people—at least, no sensible one.

Ovid was a firm believer in the superstition and said that no widow or young girl would marry in May unless she wished to invite the displeasure of the gods, and that the imprudent woman who braved their wrath would fill an early grave. Ovid pinned his faith to rosy June, the birth month of June, and when he got ready to launch his daughter on the matrimonial sea he studied the stars and all the superstitions to make sure that he would not run upon Scylla in steering off Charybdis.

Resolved to match the girl, he tried to find what days unprosperous were, what moons were kind.

or June's sacred ices his fancy strayed—  
led to the man and happy to the maid.

**Better One Way.**

In North Carolina lately a case was tried in which, the defendant's character having been impeached, it was sought to bolster it up by showing he had reformed and joined the church. The witness, who belonged to the same church, insisted that as the defendant was now a Christian man of course his character was better. Counsel asked him, "Doesn't he drink just as much as he ever did?" The witness, who was colored and evidently embarrassed by the inquiry, slowly raised his eyes and said with much deliberation, "I think he do, but he carries it more better."—San Francisco Argonaut.

**Calomel.**

Calomel was discovered by Crolius in the seventeenth century, and the first directions for its preparation were given by Beguin in 1608. Its name is derived from two Greek words, signifying "a beautiful black," because in its preparation a black powder is the first step in the manufacture, being produced by rubbing mercury together with corrosive sublimate.

The Illinois river was so termed from the Illini, a tribe of Indians on its banks. Another derivation is suggested in Isle aux Noix, island of Nuts. Several derivations more or less fanciful are suggested by the etymologists and geographers.

The frequency of storms in Nebraska is due to the fact that not only do many originate there, but the storms of Dakota move southeast, and those of Kansas and Texas northeast, generally passing through Nebraska on their easterly course.

"Facts are stubborn things" is an aphorism first enumerated by La Sage in "Gil Blas." It has since become proverbial.

**A GREAT BOY BICYCLIST.**

Michael Is Only Eighteen, but His Performances Are Truly Marvelous.

The appellation of "little wonder" that has been given to J. Michael, the Welshman, is by no means an empty compliment, as his recent performances in Paris have been nothing short of marvelous and have secured for him the reputation of being a sort of infant phenomenon. He has only just entered his eighteenth year and looks about six years younger. Short and



**J. MICHAEL.**

slim, there is scarcely anything of him when he has donned his racing togs, and it is really difficult to believe that such a youngster can have so much stamina as he has proved himself to possess. While cheating a toothpick, with an impassible countenance, he will follow the fastest pace that can be set. Recently in a long race he never dropped an inch behind the quadruplet that was getting as much as four men can get out of an exceedingly high geared machine. The race was a six hours' contest in which all the competitors wore crack men. They were Michael, Constant Huret, the winner of last year's 24 hour race; Tom Linton, Charles Lucas, Rivierre, the winner of the Bordeaux-Paris race last year. A few minutes after the start Michael lapped the field, with the exception of Lesna, who, however, succumbed at the fifteenth kilometer.

Michael covered the 50 miles in 1 hour 50 minutes 55-15 seconds and was the first rider to complete the 100 miles in less than four hours, the time for this distance being 3 hours 53 minutes 4 2-5 seconds, thus beating his own record by nearly ten minutes. At the end of the six hours Michael had covered 330 kilometers, beating A. V. Linton's record by more than 20 kilometers. Lucas was two kilometers behind the Welshman, and the others a long way in the rear. This distance represents a mean speed of 44 kilometers—less ten meters—or very nearly 23 miles an hour, and this, too, for six hours.

**The First Baseball Mask.**

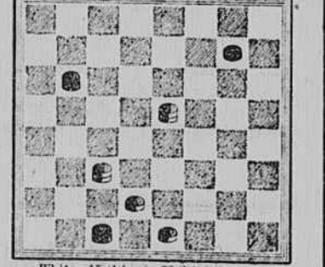
James A. Tyng in a letter to the New York Sun describes the origin of the baseball mask as follows:

"The first public appearance of the mask was in the spring of 1877. I was at that time a member of the Harvard nine, and Thayer, who was then captain of the team, wanted me to fill the position of catcher. To this my family were opposed on account of the danger, and I suggested to him the idea of having a mask made that would protect my face. He followed my suggestion, and a wiremaker in Boston made me a mask which, although heavy and clumsy compared to the one now in use, answered the purpose for which it was intended, and this mask was worn by me in the three remaining years that I played and caught on the nine. Thayer took out a patent on the 'invention,' and I believe has made quite a large sum of money out of it. This latter statement, however, is entirely on hearsay, as neither the poor wiremaker nor the original suggester of the idea of such a protection for the catcher has ever seen any of the fruits of his ingenuity."

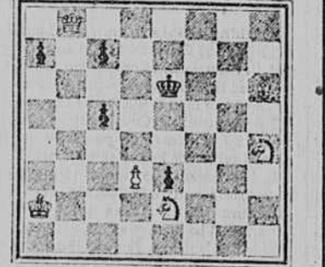
**Minnie Maddern to Star Again.**

Mrs. Minnie Maddern Fiske is to star next season. This will be good news to Mrs. Fiske's thousands of admirers. Those who remember her as Minnie Maddern will flock to her standard once again, and in addition the theatergoers who knew her only since she was Mrs. Fiske will go to see her act again in the hope of witnessing another impersonation equal to her Nora in Ibsen's "Doll's House." It is a good thing that Mrs. Fiske is going to star. The stage today stands sadly in need of just such a sterling artist.

**CHECKERS AND CHESS.**



White—15 (king), 22 (king), 26, 31.  
White to play and win.  
Chess Problem No. 331.—By J. B. Manox.  
Black.



White to play and mate in three moves.  
**SOLUTIONS.**

White.	Black.
1. 7 to 8 (*)	1. 10 to 17
2. 3 to 7	2. 11 to 16
3. 26 to 22 (*)	3. 17 to 23
4. 12 to 8	4. 4 to 11
5. 19 to 12	5. 19 to 12
6. 7 to 23, and wins	6. 23 to 19

Chess problem No. 330:  
White.  
Key move, B to K 4

**ABOUT INDIAN MONKEYS.**

The Method They Employ When Robbing a Cornfield.

It is still an article of faith, not only in India, but in all lands where monkeys go in packs, that they have a king, laws and language of course. Saving the first item and duly limiting the others, the belief is sound no doubt. But Ibn Batuta tells us, on the authority of "pious persons" he met in India, that the king lives in state. Four noblemen always attend him with rods in their hands and cooks serve him on their knees.

The king has a train of "armed followers." When a subject is caught, he contrives to send a message to the sovereign, who forthwith dispatches an army, and when they come to the town they pull down the houses and beat the people, and their armies, it is said, are many. This is not quite so ridiculous as it looks, for the sacred apes that frequent an Indian village will readily gather to avenge an injury, and it is a common practice with them to destroy the huts when angered.

They have a great many children, and when a child is unlike its father and mother it is thrown out on the high road. Then they are taken by the Hindus, who teach them every sort of handicraft, or sell them at night, that they may not find their way home.

At Shabar, which appears to have been somewhere near Madras, people dare not travel by night in the woods, for fear of monkeys, which is certainly not exact, since these creatures never move after sundown, but if there be a foundation of truth in the legend it is curious. We are not aware that any Indian apes at this day will attack a passerby unless gravely provoked. But there are plenty elsewhere that will.

It is a well known fact that in proceeding to raid the cornfields in certain parts of Africa apes have a combined plan of action. The old males go first—some of them scout on either flank, and climb every eminence near the line of march, to assure themselves that the route is safe. After reconnoitering, they give orders in such different tones of voice that each must have a special meaning. The elders are silent when advancing, but the main body, females and young, keep up an incessant chatter, playing and feeding as they go, unless brought to an instantaneous halt by signal. Behind follows the rear guard of males, who drive loiterers sharply on.

On reaching the cornfields the scouts take post all round, while all the rest fall to plundering with the utmost expedition, filling their cheek pouches as full as they will hold, and then tucking the heads of corn under their armpits. —Boston Traveller.

**THE ORGAN.**

Its Peculiar Fitness For the Form of Composition Known as the Fugue.

The organ as it existed in Bach's day, and as in most essentials it exists now, is an instrument peculiarly suggestive in regard to the realization of the finest and most complete effects of harmony, of modulation and of that simultaneous progression of melodies in polyphonic combination which is most completely illustrated in the form of composition known as the fugue. It is so for two or three reasons. In the first place it is the only instrument in which the sounds are sustained with the same intensity for any required length of time after they are first emitted. However long a note may have to be sustained, its full value is there till the moment the finger quits the key, a quality which is invaluable when we are dealing with long suspensions and chains of sound. Secondly, the opportunity of playing the bass with the feet on the pedals, leaving the left hand free for the inner parts, puts within the grasp of a single player a full and extended harmony and a freedom in manipulation such as no other instrument affords. Thirdly, and in the case especially of fugue compositions, the immense volume and power of the pedal notes impart a grandeur to the entry of the bass part in the composition such as no other medium for producing music can give us. In the time of Bach this splendid source of musical effect was confined to the great organs of Germany.

The English organs of the day had in general no pedal board, and it is probably owing to this fact more than to anything else that Handel's published organ music is so light, and even ephemeral in style as compared with Bach's; that he treated the organ, as Spitta truly observes, merely like a larger and more powerful harpsichord. Without the aid of the pedal it would be rather difficult to do otherwise, and the English organ of the day was in every respect a much lighter and thinner affair than the "huge house of the sounds," the thunder of which was stored in the organ gallery of many a Lutheran church. —Fortnightly Review.

**A Substitute For Gold.**

A French technical paper, the Journal de l'Horlogerie, declares that a new amalgam has been discovered which is a wonderful substitute for gold. It consists of 94 parts of copper to six parts of antimony. The copper is melted and the antimony is then added. Once the two metals are sufficiently fused together a little magnesium and carbonate of lime are added to increase the density of the material. The product can be drawn, wrought and soldered just like gold, which it almost exactly resembles on being polished. Even when exposed to the action of ammoniacal salts of nitrous vapors it preserves its color. The cost of making it is about a shilling a pound avoirdupois.

**English Oils.**

The oleomargarine factory of the Earl of Jersey, near London, turns out 5,000 pounds of oleomargarine every week. It was the London Saturday Review which once called oleomargarine "that American crime against humanity and the cow," but it would probably regard "Jersey" oleomargarine as the proper thing. —New York Tribune.

**What is CASTORIA**

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**Castoria.**

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DR. J. F. KINCHELOE,  
Conway, Ark.

"Castoria is so well adapted to children that I recommend it as superior to any prescription known to me."  
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"Our physicians in the children's department have spoken highly of their experience in their outside practice with Castoria, and although we only have among our medical supplies what is known as regular products, yet we are free to confess that the merits of Castoria has won us to look with favor upon it."  
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The Brightness.  
The Attractiveness.  
The Accommodations.

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**Good for nothing**

did you say?  
Yes, that describes how I feel.  
I have no energy left, nothing interests me.  
My strength has left me and I have no inclination to work.  
No one would take me for the same person that I used to be.  
I look and feel forlorn and miserable.  
My spirits are low, I feel despondent and I can't sleep at night.  
I am constipated and my digestion is out of order.  
I feel almost hopeless, it seems to me that I shall never be strong again.  
Cheer up, your case is far from being hopeless. You are suffering from general debility, your nerves need toning up, you lack vitality. The cure lies in enriching and purifying your blood and strengthening the system. You should take **Brown's Iron Bitters.** It will restore you to robust, perfect health. You will improve from the first bottle. This remedy is pleasant to take and is a very powerful strengthener. It does not stain the teeth. But get the genuine—see the crossed red lines on wrapper.

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