

CONDENSED STORIES.

Why a New York Schoolboy's Eye Was Unserviceable.

Mr. Maxwell, superintendent of schools in New York city, recently told this story on himself:

While visiting a school in Brooklyn he noticed that one of the boys had something the matter with one eye. He asked the boy to read first



THE BOY WAS ASKED TO READ.

with one eye closed, then the other. This test brought out the fact that the boy was blind in one eye.

Mr. Maxwell told the boy to go right home and not to come to school until he had been to see an oculist.

Early next morning the boy was back in his place.

"Have you been to an oculist?" asked his teacher.

"No, ma'am," was the response.

"But didn't the gentleman who was here yesterday tell you not to come back until you had found out about your eye?"

"Me mudder says there's nothin' the matter with me eye."

"But you can't see with your left eye."

"Please, teacher, me mudder says it's a glass eye."—New York Times.

Success Out of Failure.

Colonel John T. Mosley, a famous Confederate scout in the civil war, now an efficient special agent of the department of justice, said one day in Washington apropos of success:

"The other morning I met Blank

in way, the hopeful light still shining from his eyes and the confident smile still playing about his firm mouth.

"My heart went out in pity to Blank. He was a hard worker—a very hard worker—yet in everything he undertook he failed. Three times in the last ten years Blank had failed in business.

"So I stopped the poor fellow and shook him by the hand.

"Blank," I said, "it is too bad. With all your push you don't seem to succeed."

"I don't, eh?" Blank replied. "Haven't I made a success of my several failures?"

"And he hurried off to make, as he informed me, another fat deposit in his wife's name."—Kansas City Journal.

Disappointed.

Louis XIV. of France had in his court a nobleman known to be inordinately anxious for distinction. One day the king asked him if he understood the Spanish language.

"No, sire," was the answer.

"That is unfortunate," said the king.

The nobleman at once conjectured that the king wished to make him ambassador to Madrid, and, employing a teacher, he forthwith applied himself day and night to acquiring the language. At last, pale and exhausted, but with a satisfied, expectant look upon his face, he came to the king with the announcement:

"Sire, I can now speak Spanish."

"Do you understand it well enough to converse intelligently with a Spaniard?"

"Yes, sire," the man answered, his heart beating high in anticipation.

"I wish you joy," said the king.

"Now you can read 'Don Quixote' in the original."—Pictorial Magazine.

Thaddeus Stevens' Wit.

When Thaddeus Stevens had taken to his bed for the last time a visitor told him he was looking well.

"Oh, John," was the quick reply, "it is not my appearance, but my disappearance that troubles me!"

One day a member of the house of representatives, who was noted for his uncertain course on all questions and who confessed that he never investigated a point under discussion without finding himself a neutral, asked for leave of absence.

"Mr. Speaker," said Stevens, "I do not rise to object, but to suggest that the honorable member need not ask this favor, for he can easily pair off with himself!"

PROMINENT BUSINESS MEN

CONTINUED



H. A. KAZMAIER.

With good business judgment, ambition and a worthy desire to be at the front in business matters, Henry Kazmaier has rapidly developed a large and lucrative business and is indeed worthy of mention in our list of Prominent Business Men.

Mr. Kazmaier was born in Perryburg, March 11, 1874, and after a brief course in the common schools of the town and township, he commenced learning the cigar makers trade with Nicholas Wedertz, with whom he remained three years, and then went to Toledo where he worked at the business one year. Returning to Perryburg, he commenced clerking in the grocery store of C. A. Hoffmann, where he made many acquaintances, and where he conceived the idea of starting in business for himself, and on March 28, 1898, he opened a grocery store in the Williams block on Louis-

iana avenue, where he built up a fine trade which necessitated larger quarters, and two years ago he bought the store rooms in the Excelsior block corner of Louisiana avenue and Second streets, which were fitted up in fine style for the reception of the grocery stock. In October of this year he purchased of Godfred Hoffmann, the meat market which had occupied the room adjoining the grocery, and he now keeps both stores supplied with the best the market affords.

Mr. Kazmaier was united in marriage with Miss Katherine Betz in May, 1899, and they are nicely located in a well appointed flat in the same building occupied by the store.

Close attention to the wants of the trade, careful and painstaking efforts to please, has made Mr. Kazmaier successful, and he is worthy the success he has achieved.

The Animals At Christmas

SAID Santa Claus, "Tis Christmas eve (The animals looked pleasant), And each of you will now receive His yearly Christmas present. But I'd be glad if every guest Would mention what he'd like the best."

The Tapir said: "That pleases me. I'll state succinctly, therefore, If I may be so bold and free— The only thing I care for Would be those matches on the shelf, With which I'd like to light myself."

His wish was granted. Then up spake A timid little Adder: "Sir, but a trifle it will take To make my Christmas gladder; A slate and pencil, if you please, Would let me do my sums with ease."

The Reindeer said: "You may believe I'd be a happy fellow If I were sure I would receive A good sized umberfellow; And also I'd like four golosh— Es and a rubber mackintosh."

The Pig a fountain pen desired; The Cow in horns requested; The Horse, for a new hat acquired, His gratitude attested. The Caterpillar said: "I am Proud of my caterpillarsham."

So all of them were gay and glad, And they were happy, very; They liked the presents that they had And waxed exceedingly merry. Dear humans, at your Christmas feasts, Pray take a lesson from the beasts.

—Carolyn Wells in Reader.

HIS CHRISTMAS SERMON.

An Aged Wayfarer Who Taught a Curate Contentment.

An English clergyman declares that the best Christmas sermon he ever heard was preached by a woman—and in three words!

"In my little parish, under the sweep of the Sussex downs," he says, "I was walking swiftly home one night buffeted about by the gray clouds of driving rain that the fierce sou'wester swept landward from the sea when a poor, helpless, aged woman asked me for a trifle for a night's lodging.

"Curates are supposed always to be poor. It was Christmas time, and I had just parted with my last sixpence at a lonely hamlet where work was scarce. Still I could not leave my stranger in the street, so I asked her to come with me to my lodgings.

"She shambled along through the mud with her streaming clothes and clouted boots, and we entered my little room. My thoughtful landlady had made my table ready. A plate of hot toast was standing in the fender; the kettle sang vociferously, as if impatient to be used; in front of the fire stood my slippers and an easy chair.

"To my surprise, my poor, worn, haggard companion raised her dripping hands and burst into tears with the

words, 'Oh, what luxury! That was the best Christmas sermon I ever heard, and the only one I have never forgotten.'—Youth's Companion.

Christmas Day In Russia.

In certain parts of Russia the children at Christmas eve begin playing pranks that are as odd as they are amusing. Chief among their drolleries is that of disguising themselves as animals and in the assumed costume of wild beasts disporting themselves through the neighborhood. As many skins as possible are secured, and in these the leading boys are clad. Wolves, bears, ostriches even, are represented. All of the boys gather in one party, those who are not posing as brutes forming a train for the escort and display of the pseudo menagerie. Some act as keepers, holding their disguised companions in check, while others startle the quiet of the night by rude strains drawn from harsh and primitive musical instruments. Torches are borne, and in the fitful light, opposed by black shadows, the scene is at once grotesque and vivid.

A Thoughtful Husband.

What is more touching at the holiday season than to see an old man planning a pleasant surprise for his aged wife?

"Is tryin' ter raise money enough ter git my wife a new dress for Christmas, sah," said Uncle Ebony to Mr. Featherstone.

"Ah, I see. You want me to give you some chores to do, uncle, eh?" "Well, no, sah. I t'ought perhaps you could git de old lady a job at washin', sah!"

Christmas Presents.

The giving of presents on Christmas day undoubtedly owes its origin to a general idea to carry into practice the biblical mandate, "Peace on earth; good will to men." At first the great lords made presents to their retainers, and the season was marked by universal charity. By degrees the practice of Christmas-giving spread until now everybody gives to or her friends presents.

Why Tommy Is Doing Penance.

Grandma—Are you looking forward to your Christmas dinner, Tommy?

Tommy—Yep, grandma, but not so much as Johnny Jones.

Grandma—Why so, Thomas?

Tommy—His grandma died last week, and he'll get all her Christmas turkey.

Changing Countenance.

He changed countenance rapidly. Slipping on his face the Santa Claus mask, he made a triumphant entry into the parlor with the bundle of toys.

The Past Versus the Present.

Oh, Christmas time is coming fast. So cheer up, girls; be pleasant And shake the fellow with the past For that one with the present.

HOLIDAY GREETING.

The approach of the Holiday season brings about the usual hustle in preparation for the celebration of the happy days, when young and old assemble at the family home and participate in the festivities of the occasion.

At such times the family makes more than the usual preparation in the way of palatable viands which seem so much a part of the joyous season, and to furnish the best goods, the largest assortment and the choicest in selection, and most superior in quality has been the special effort of the Kazmaier Grocery and Meat Market.

EXCELLENCE IN QUALITY

As well as great variety is the chief endeavor of these stores and we extend a most cordial invitation to the general public to come and purchase their supplies here.

It is a pleasure to make prompt delivery to all parts of the village of anything desired in Groceries of all descriptions and the choicest and best meats and poultry.

Thanking our friends for past favors and striving to merit a continuance of the same, we extend to all a Holiday Greeting. May yours be a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

H. A. KAZMAIER.