
**BANK IMPOSTOR.**


Mr. Heehaw—Umph! This feller ain't worth seein'. Anybody kin git ossified in this cold weather!"—Chicago Daily News.

**No Kick Coming.**

The warbler faced the audience
And thus sang trite and true:
"I cannot sing the old songs,
As once I used to do."
'Twas then a gallery godlet
Called out from his high pew:
"Amen, old gal; get busy now,
And give us something new."
—Cincinnati Enquirer.

**A DISAPPOINTED HUNTER.**

"You're not—going back already all rigged out in your new hunting togs?"

"Why, of course I am. Here I've been out all morning and I haven't seen a bird I know."—Chicago Chronicle.

**Smart Little Bobbie.**

"Mama, I know the gentleman's name who called to see Aunt Ellie last night, and nobody told me, either."

"Well, then, what is it, Bobbie?"

"Why, George Dont! I heard her call him 'Dont' in the parlor four or five times. That's what his name must be."

**WHAT DID HE MEAN?**

"Since my poor husband was a bankrupt."

"Bankrupt—er—I mean—I am not totally Sloper."

**The Polite World.**

"Dear," said Mrs. Goldrich to her husband, "if you would run up to my boudoir and novel on my writing-desk, I'll take it back to Miss Bookworm with my compliments and tell her the story aroused no end interest."—Tit-Bits.

**Bobby's Hard Job.**

"I will be just to me," said the boy.

"I know how it's going to manage his wife, "when it won't let him get at you."—Chicago Daily News.

**Getting Acquainted.**

Relative—I notice that you have at last got acquainted with your next-door neighbor, who has lived alongside of you for the past ten years.

Mrs. D'Avnoo—Yes, we were introduced to each other at the Pyramids of Egypt, and I found her a delightful companion. We became very intimate.—N. Y. Weekly.

**Another War Rumor.**

Priscilla—Lieut. Huggins seems to be rather attentive to Miss Elderleigh of late.

Melicent—Yes; and she is evidently skirmishing around trying to precipitate an engagement.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

**SEASONABLE DIPLOMACY.**

Little Willie—Say, pa, it must be awful to be a poor orphan boy and know that Santa Claus won't bring you a bicycle, a sled, a cannon, a knife, a box of tools, a watch and a lot of oranges, candy and nuts for Christmas,—Chicago Daily News.

**For Good.**

Maud—I understand you are about to lose the young pastor that has been preaching for you the last year or two.

Mabel—Yes; he's going to be married next week.—Atlanta Constitution.

**Man of Ability.**

"I hear he is a man of ability in many lines."

"Yes—culpability, incorrigibility and undesirability." — Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

**The Provoking Wretch.**

"Why does Amelia hate Cholly so?"

"Why, when she told him she could never learn to love him, he insisted that one was never too old to learn."—Puck.

**QUITE CONSIDERATE.**

"Must you go so early?"

"Yes, I think I must. I know the other girls are just dying to discuss my engagement, and I don't want to spoil their pleasure."—Chicago American.

**A Useless Search.**

Don't you hunt foh trouble;
Jes' sen' to what you's got.
It ain' no special credit
Even if you finds a lot.
—Washington Star.

**Far-Fetched Objection.**

Gladys Beautigirl—Oh, but mamma objects to kissing!

Jack Swift—Well, I am not kissing your mamma, am I?—Town Topics.

**His Evidence.**

"Why do you say the dog is worth $200? Have you got his pedigree?"

"No; but I've got a receipt for the $200 I gave for him."—Chicago Post.

**Two Doses Daily Enough.**

Hewitt—Gruet used to be a big eater, but now he has only two meals a day.

Jewett—You know the reason, don't you?

Hewitt—No; what is it?

Jewett—The doctor gave him some medicine to take after each meal.—Brooklyn Life.

**Precious Science.**

Harry—They told me Blanche was deaf, but when I changed the conversation to diamonds she heard every word.

Harold—Oh, I don't suppose she heard anything.—Chicago Daily News.

## MOUNTAINS ARE MOVED.

**Catskill Foothills Along the Hudson River Being Carted Off for Building Purposes.**

Vast patches of yellow beginning high up on the mountain side and running to the shores of the river mark the spots where vandals are fast destroying one of the most beautiful and justly celebrated of all the great foothills of the Catskills that rise abruptly for hundreds of feet from the Hudson river.

Since Hendrik Hudson first saw and sailed up the river that bears his name all the world has seen or heard of its picturesque shores, which to-day are being destroyed and carried away to contribute to the building of New York, the wonder city of the world, says a Gotham paper.

Some few years ago spasmodic outcries arose from the throats of many New Yorkers who loved the picturesque and who saw the destruction of the Palisades going on as they took their Sunday walks on the Riverside drive. They could see what their neighbors of New Jersey could or would not see—that the far-famed Palisades were surely being blasted away and a trip up the river would be robbed of its chief attraction, a walk on the Riverside drive be marred and to future generations the Palisades would be a tradition if this was not stopped.

The esthetic and patriotic New Yorker wanted the stone for his streets, but he wanted his view more; so that after many years final action was taken and legislation secured that stopped the destruction of the Palisades of New Jersey.

But stone must be had, and the west shore of the Hudson lay temptingly near. Therefore the trap rock concerns moved their huge plants around the corner of the Jersey state line, and set up their devouring monsters half way up the side of the Hook mountain, at Upper Nyack.

The largest of the three ravenous monsters that are eating away the Hook mountain is a pavement company of New York, whose crushers devour about 50,000 cubic feet of stone each day. Four barge loads of fine trap rock are taken away every 24 hours from this plant alone. Each barge holds 4,000 cubic yards of stone when loaded and trimmed. One hundred and fifty men do the actual work of getting out the stone, though many more are employed on barges, tugs, etc.

A ledge or platform is blasted away from the face of the mountain about half way up, upon which is situated the engine house, which contains two big high speed engines that furnish the great power that operates the crushers, conveyors, screens, automatic dumps and hoisting machinery A mighty steam pump keeps two enormous tanks filled with water from the river, hundreds of feet below. The stone is first blasted with dynamite away from the cliff, the face of which is carefully gone over after each blast by a man lowered by a rope from the top, who prods and pokes every crack and cranny into which he can get his pointed crowbar, carefully prying away every particle of loose stone, which crashes down to the main ledge, away from where the men are working. This care is very necessary, as a piece of stone does not have to weigh very much, falling from so great a height, to kill a man.

Among the hundreds of whirring wheels and slapping belts in the almost impenetrable fog of blinding, choking dust, where the workmen could not breathe without respirators, the great crushing machines crack and grind from morn till night.

It is beyond the power of a clever mathematician to figure out just how long a time it will take for three big concerns, each using 150,000 cubic feet of stone a day, to entirely wipe the Hook mountain off the map. Perhaps if some obliging scholar were good enough to show approximately how soon that would occur the people of New York state, as well as patriotic people elsewhere, might be sufficiently interested to get legislation against the vandalism that is surely destroying the beauty of the far-famed river.

**London Whistles.**

A boy was charged at a London police court the other day with blowing a whistle in such a way as to cause three policemen to come toward him. The fact that such a thing is possible suggests the questions: How do the police distinguish between a cab whistle and a police whistle? What is there to prevent anyone from blowing a whistle in such a way as to call a policeman? A representative of the Graphic, who put these questions to a high official of the city police yesterday, learned that in the matter of attending to whistles—as with his many other duties—the policeman uses his discretion. Any shrill whistle will attract a policeman, but such a whistle blown at night outside a restaurant or any place where people congregate and cabs are wanted would not bring a policeman to the whistler. The same whistle blown in precisely the same way in the middle of the city at midday would bring a policeman on the scene at once.

**Japanese Oysters.**

Japan has some of the best oysters in the world. One, growing in the bays, is rarely larger than a finger nail, and its flavor is delicious. It suggests the California oyster. The second form averages the size of a "Blue Point." It is cream colored. It occurs abundantly throughout the Inland sea. The third form is immense, specimens weighing four to five pounds being frequent. It rarely occurs in water less than two fathoms deep, and is most abundant in about ten fathoms. The oyster producing region of Japan is the Inland sea, and the culturists here worked out a fine scientific method of propagation. This body of water is one of the most important natural preserves of fish and shellfish in the world.

## HAS A GOOD RECORD.

### John Sharp Williams Well Liked by His Colleagues.

**New Minority Leader in House of Representatives Abundantly Able to Take Care of the Interests of His Party.**

If he lives until July 30 next John Sharp Williams, of Mississippi, the democratic leader in the house of representatives, will be 50. He is of slender figure, and a trifle above the medium in height. He has a whole lot of woozy hair and a striking disregard of fashionable clothing.

From boyhood Mr. Williams has been a hard student, and all his mature life an industrious reader of high class literature. Although never of a decidedly robust constitution, he has not at any time been regarded as an invalid. At present he appears to be in good condition physically for the arduous duties recently imposed upon him with unanimity by his party associates.

Mr. Williams received a thorough educational training. He studied at the Kentucky military institute, and later at the University of the South, at Sewanee, Tenn., and at the University of Virginia. Then he went abroad and attended Heidelberg university.

While at Heidelberg he mastered German sufficiently to converse fluently in it. He also studied French in his youth, and since leaving the universities he has kept up his researches both in German and in French. Since his selection for the minority leadership, though, Mr. Williams has been somewhat amused to read that he is able to read and speak half a dozen languages.

He was born at Memphis, Tenn. His mother died when he was quite young, and his father, who was a colonel of Tennessee volunteers in the confederate army was killed at Shiloh. His home is at Yazoo, Miss., where he has practiced law and engaged in planting cotton. He and his brother are joint owners of about 8,000 acres of land in the Yazoo country. This property has not been divided in many generations.

Mr. Williams never held any public office prior to his election to congress in 1892.

Mr. Williams does not pretend to be a

JOHN SHARP WILLIAMS.
(Leader of the Democrats in the House of Representatives.)

good parliamentarian. On the contrary, he has before and since his election as the minority leader candidly admitted that he is lacking in this capacity.

But Judge De Armond, of Missouri, is acknowledged to be a shrewd, careful and able parliamentarian. That is why at the request of Mr. Williams he was appointed by Speaker Cannon a member of the rules committee. Throughout the congress, and especially during the session preceding the presidential election, Judge De Armond will virtually be at the elbow of the minority leader.

The New York Sun says that it is conceded on all sides that Mr. Williams is amply fortified by experience and ability to take care of himself and his party in any partisan debates that may arise. His mind works quickly, he purposes to be ever watchful, and those who have measured lances with him know that he is no slouch in discussing the welfare of the nation.

A talk with Mr. Williams impresses the interviewer with the fact that if he has the support of his party he does not propose to engage in filibustering to the extent of wasting the time of the house. His policy will be signally different from that of some of his predecessors.

He purposes, however, to put the republican party on record at every stage, so that the country may know what is actually being done in the popular part of congress. This he believes can be done speedily and in order without a resort to tactics that prevailed in former congresses, when the rules were more lax and permitted filibustering to a degree nothing short of ridiculous.

**Haunted by Flock of Geese.**

Twenty years ago an unsuspected man in Lexington, Ind., stole three geese from a neighbor. The despoiled farmer has just received five dollars from a resident in Washington, D. C., confessing the theft, and thus making financial reparation. He states that for years he has been unable to sleep well, as a flock of geese always haunted his dreams, no matter where he slept.

**Not a Common Criminal.**

A Pittsburg minister was in the county jail doing missionary work among the prisoners. He found a darky scrubbing the floor on one of the upper corridors, and asked him if he was in for disorderly conduct. "No, sah," indignantly replied the negro. "I's no common criminal; I's a highway robber."

**Women as Store Buyers.**

About one-tenth of the buyers in New York wholesale stores are women.

## THE GIANT OF GIANTS.

**He Is Twenty-Two Years Old and Almost Eight Feet High, in His Stocking Feet.**

According to scientists who have carefully examined him, the man whose picture accompanies this story enjoys the distinction of being the tallest person in the world. His name is Feodore Machow, and he comes of an old Russian family. He is now about 22 years old and is 238 centimenters in height. He especially surpasses all other giants now living in the length of his head, and in every other respect he is of the greatest scientific interest. The New York Herald says that all the other giants who have been seen in Europe were from ten to 15 centimeters smaller than he is, their

FEODOR MACHOW.
(Said to Be the Tallest Person in the Civilized World.)

average height, according to the late Prof. Virchow, who made a thorough study of the subject, being from 210 to 227 centimeters. Those who have not seen Machow can obtain an adequate idea of his height from the fact that the top boots which he wears, and which hardly reach to his knees, would cover two ordinary persons up to the waist and could be used by two 12-year-old boys as places in which they could completely conceal themselves. Moreover, the mattress on which he sleeps is nine feet long, and at every meal he eats three pounds of meat, together with a large quantity of bread, potatoes and other vegetables.

## IMPROVING HIS STYLE.

**Experience of a Young Reporter Who Took the Kentucky Editor's Advice Too Literally.**

Col. Henry Watterson, the editor, believes in good English, and not only writes it himself, but tries to get his young men to write it also.

The Philadelphia Post says that a bright young fellow who went to report a national convention with Col. Watterson turned in an article one night that was loosely written and somewhat slangy.

The colonel read it with portentous frowns. "Here, here, young man," he said, "this will never do. You must improve your style."

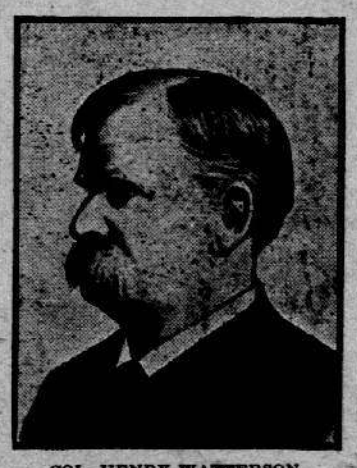
"What can I do to improve it, colonel?" the young man asked.

"Read, sir, read; read books."

"Yes, colonel, but what books?"

"Read Thackeray; start with 'Pendennis.'"

That night there was much excitement. Important news developed. Col.



COL. HENRY WATTERSON.
(Famous Kentucky Editor, Lecturer and Story Teller.)

Watterson waited for his young man's report. It came to be 11 o'clock at night, and he had not submitted a line. The colonel started on a search and found the young man in his room with his feet on a table, smoking a cigar and reading a book.

"Here, sir," shouted the colonel, "what are you doing? Where is your article? You have written nothing that I can find. What are you doing here loafing in this manner while the paper is waiting for the news?"

"Why, colonel," the young man replied with pained surprise, "I am carrying out your orders. I am reading 'Pendennis.'"

**Discouragers of Suicide.**

A favorite method of suicide in Japan lately has been to leap over certain waterfalls. So frequent have such occurrences become that police are now constantly stationed in their neighborhood, and large notice boards are erected bearing inscriptions in large letters, of which the following translation is an example: "Do not drown yourself here! Intended suicides are warned that heaven disapproves of the utilization of Kegon waterfall for the purpose. This is certified to on the best priestly authority, and serious consequences in the hereafter are guaranteed. To drown here is also forbidden by the prefectural authorities."

## JAPAN'S NAVAL POWER.

**Marvelous Progress Has Placed the Nation Among World's Great Naval Powers.**

In 1858 Queen Victoria presented a small steam yacht to the emperor of Japan, detailing some British bluejackets to the duty of instructing the Japanese in the management of that class of vessel. The Japanese undertook to handle the craft before they had thoroughly learned their lesson, and on the first voyage, when they wanted to stop, they discovered that they had forgotten how this operation was performed. They therefore steamed round and round the gulf of Yeddo until the fires died down, and then the yacht was tugged home, says the North American Review. Since then Japan has risen to the position of one of the great naval powers, and her progress of recent years has been nothing short of marvelous. At the time of her war with China her whole fleet displaced about 30,000 tons; to-day the aggregate displacement is over 250,000 tons. Japan has a fishing population of about 2,000,000 men, and from this section of the community she draws her seamen. Hitherto she has been depending upon other countries for the construction of her vessels, but the time is near at hand when she will be able to throw off the assistance of the western world. Her arsenals are already capable of building protected cruisers and torpedo craft, and a gun factory and armor plate factory are now being established which will soon be ready to begin work.

Her seamen are men of intelligence, resource and sea lore, and capable of quickly acquiring sufficient mechanical skill to enable them to control the complex mechanism of their modern men-of-war with complete success. They desire no pampering and they can live on the simplest food and sleep anywhere; but in their new ships they have more air, and, in some respects, greater comforts than are to be found on many, if not most, British men-of-war. These sailors of the far east take things very much as they find them, with a stoical calm. They face danger with much the same spirit with which they take their pleasure, and in spite of the rapid strides which civilization has made in their country their luxuries are few and they are contented and happy. They are devoted to simple sports, to fencing and to acting; no one can ever forget the dramatic entertainments on board Japanese men-of-war who has been privileged to witness them. Nor does the memory soon become dim of one of these ships when decked out in gala dress with chrysanthemums, cherry blossoms and other blooms typical of Japan enlivening the grim aspects of the decks. The men are adepts in the making of imitation paper flowers, which so closely resemble the handiwork of nature that at a casual glance one hardly notices the deception.

## THE GERMAN PEOPLE.

**This Writer Says They Are Not Lying Awake Nights to Hate Americans.**

The people of the United States are prone to accept every cock and bull story that sensation mongers circulate about Germany. We must acknowledge that the kaiser has sadly misunderstood us in the past, that his people have been inclined to envy our commercial supremacy, but that Emperor William and his advisers are strengthening the German army and enlarging the German navy with the idea of eventually going to war with the United States we must seriously doubt, says a writer in the Albany Press-Knickerbocker.

During the past spring the writer spent several weeks in Germany. From the time he landed at Cuxhafen until he sped toward the south of Europe he never heard a word or viewed an act which might lead him to infer that there was any serious prejudice against Americans. In Hamburg, in Berlin, in Potsdam, in the Black Forest district, in Glesson, in Frankfort, in Wiesbaden, and down the Rhine to Cologne, the writer never heard any remark that aroused a suspicion that the kaiser was preparing to turn his guns on the statue of Liberty in New York harbor. The statesmen of Germany are not all agrarians, and the agrarians are the people who may have an idea that the United States is a dangerous commercial rival. Prince Henry's visit to the United States had an excellent effect upon the masses of Germany. To-day, if an American sits down with an intelligent resident of Hamburg or Berlin, the latter is likely to refer in glowing terms to America's hospitable treatment of Germany's most popular member of the royal house.

The Germans may not be disposed to accept the Monroe doctrine at the present time, they may even endeavor to secure the pick of the trade in South America, but they are not impatiently awaiting the time when them can lock horns with the United States. We predict that in the years to come Germany and the United States will be fast friends, who will mutually engage in noble undertakings, which must make the world a better world for all classes.

Here's to Germany—our friend and future ally.

**New Refining Process.**

A method of treating gold ores after crushing or concentration is called the chlorobromuration process, and claims to be a rival of the cyanide treatment, particularly for ores carrying auriferous arsenical pyrite. The promoters of the process claim a high percentage of extraction, in which, as well as the matter of low working costs, they claim superiority over the cyanide process.