

THE BURLISQUE.

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Mr. Laurence Hutton in his "Curiosities of the Stage" tells us that Hippocampus of Epheusus is credited with having been the father of burlesque poetry. He paraded "The Blind," making Achilles an Ionian gigolo; "he did not spare his own parents, he poked a fun at the gods themselves, he impaled Mrs. Hippocampus with a couplet, which she is still exhibited to the scoffers, and he is only to be distinguished from his long line of successors by the curious fact that he does not seem to have spoken with derision of his mother-in-law. I hope that Hippocampus will have many followers in the days to come. The mother-in-law has become fatiguing. Mr. Hutton considers Aristophanes the father of the burlesque play, and cites his many disciples. This burlesque writer, however, had his object, and his works furnished pictures of nations and customs. That burlesque must have sadly degenerated in its aims and purposes is only too evident. As Mr. Hutton satirically remarks, "What curious ideas of American life and manners will posterity gain from Adams and 'Evangeline'?"

The history of early American burlesque, between the years 1833, when William Mitchell opened the Olympic, and 1859, when William Burton made his last bow to the American public, is highly entertaining. Here are a few titles that will give one an idea of the punfulness of those days: "The Bohemian Man's Girl" ("Bohemian Girl"), "Fried Shots" ("Freischutz"), "Her Nanny" ("Ernani"), "Lucy Did Sham Her Mother" ("Lucia di Lammermoor") and "The Cats in the Land" ("La Gazza Ladra"). It seems a little surprising that burlesque writers should still hammer away at the genre, and less convincingly than they did in those days.

Our First Iron Article from Native Ore. The accompanying cut, reproduced from Iron in All Ages, is from a photograph obtained by Mr. C. M. Tracy in 1880, and it depicts the first iron article made from native ore in America.



THE FIRST AMERICAN IRON POT. The Bulletin tells that this unique kettle was cast in Lynn, Mass., in 1645, and is still preserved by Lovell and Arthur Lewis, residing at Etta place. The pot weighs two pounds and thirteen ounces; capacity, nearly a quart; inside measurement, 4 1/2 inches wide by 4 1/2 inches deep.

A Lock Four Thousand Years Old. An Egyptian lock has been found which we are assured was in use more than 4,000 years ago. This old Egyptian lock, tells the European Trade Mail, was not made of metal like those we use now-a-days, but of wood and the key that opened it was of wood, too. On one side of the door to which it was fastened there was a staple, and into this staple fitted a wooden bolt that was fixed to the door itself. When this bolt was pushed into the staple as far as it would go, three pins in the bolt and held it in its place, so that it could not be moved back until the pins were lifted. The key was a straight piece of wood, at the end of which were three pegs the same distance apart as the pin which held the bolt firm. When the key was pushed into the bolt through a hole made to receive it the pegs came into such a position that they were able to lift the pins that fixed the bolt, and when these were lifted the bolt could be lifted out of the staple.

The expression "The dark horse" originated in Daniel Defoe's novel, "The Young Duke" where it occurs in the description of an important race, in which the favorite and well known horses failed to run. In the words of the author, "A dark horse, which had never been thought of and which the careless St. James had never even observed in the list, rushed past the grand stand in sweeping triumph. The spectators were almost too surprised to cheer." In politics this expression has been much used ever since the election of James A. Garfield, and has come to designate a candidate never before thought about, who wins over better known men.

Insuring Horses. A New York horse life insurance company, insuring only sound and generally young animals, worth between \$100 and \$300 each, reports that of 704 horses dying within the past five years, 183 died of colic, 77 of inflammation of the bowels, 74 of kidney trouble, 51 of pneumonia, 52 of sunstroke, 30 of pinkie, 37 of lockjaw, 23 of broken legs, 12 of epizootic, 10 of heart disease, 4 of blind staggers, 9 were killed by runaway, 4 were drowned, 2 were killed by lightning, 128 died of unknown diseases and only 8 were buried.

April's Flower. When April appears with her smiles and her tears she brings with her the lily cups, "those flowers made of light." Purely, sweetness and majesty, these are the tokens of the lily. So beautiful was the lily held that the ancients dedicated it to Juno. On the arms of France the lily typifies piety, justice and charity. No flowers amid the garden fairer grows Than the sweet lily of the lowly vale, The queen of flowers.

How W. D. Howells Works. William D. Howells, having been asked as to his method of work, and if his plots were outlined before he began writing, is reported thus: "As the saying goes, I usually know how the story is coming out, but of course the detail of the plot is developed as we write, and often, too, the incidents of our daily life are woven into the story."

An Authoritative Decision. Tommy came running to his father one day with a weight of trouble on his mind. "Sadie says that the moon is made of green cheese, pa, and I don't believe it." "Don't you believe it. Why not?" "I know it isn't." "But how do you know?" "Is it, papa?" "Don't ask me that question; you must find out for yourself." "How can I find it out?" "You must study into it." He went to the parlor, took the family Bible from the table and was missed for some time, when he came running into the study. "I have found it out; the moon is not made of green cheese, for the moon was made before the cows were."—Life.

Particular to a Shade. Mr. Younghusband (who has been out in a hurry to get theater tickets)—Here we are! I couldn't get seats at the Frivolity, but have secured capital places at the Jollity! Mrs. Younghusband—The Jollity? Oh, how thoughtless of you, Edward! Don't you know that the seats are crimson there? Why, they would simply kill our dresses! You must really go back and change the tickets for some other theater, where the seats are of a more becoming color.—Funny Folks.

A Knowing One. "No, sir! They don't catch me a-blowin' out the gas."—Life.

Baby is sick.—The woeful expression of a Des Moines teamster's countenance showed his deep anxiety was not entirely without cause, when he inquired of a druggist of the same city what was best to give a baby for a cold? It was not necessary for him to say more, his countenance showed that the pet of the family, if not the idol of his life was in distress. "We give our baby Chamberlain's Cough Remedy," was the druggist's answer. "I don't like to give the baby such strong medicine," said the teamster. "You know John Oleson, of the Waters-Talbot Printing Co., don't you?" inquired the druggist. "His baby, when eighteen months old, got hold of a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and drank the whole of it. Of course it made the baby vomit very freely but did not injure it in the least, and what is more, it cured the baby's cold." The teamster already knew the value of the remedy, having used it himself, and was now satisfied that there was no danger in giving it even to a baby. For sale by Hartz & Bahnsen, druggists.

A WOMAN'S DISCOVERY. "Another wonderful discovery has been made, and that, too by a lady in this country. Disease fastened its clutches upon her and for seven years she withstood its severest tests, but her vital organs were undermined and death seemed imminent. For three months she coughed incessantly and could not sleep. She bought of us a bottle of Dr. King's New Discovery for consumption and was so much relieved on taking the first dose that she slept all night, and with one bottle has been miraculously cured. Her name is Mrs. Luther Lutz." Thus wrote W. C. Hamrick & Co., of Shelby, N. C. Get a free bottle at Hartz & Bahnsen's drug store.

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