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Where the King Cannot Go.
The king of England labors under one curious disability. He may not listen to a debate in the house of commons. Admission to the legislative chamber, which is open to his lowliest subject, is denied to the sovereign. The king is the head of parliament. According to the theory of the constitution, his majesty summons parliament to meet in order that it might advise him in the government of the realm. Indeed, he is supposed theoretically to preside over its deliberations, yet it has come to pass that the actual presence of the sovereign in parliament, except on ceremonial occasions, would now be regarded as unconstitutional. He only attends in the house of lords to open parliament, to give the royal assent to bills which have passed both houses or to prorogue parliament at the end of the session. Does it not seem an extraordinary thing, asks the Grand Magazine, to say that Queen Victoria, during the course of her long reign of sixty-three years, was never in the house of commons? Not once was it given to that conscientious monarch to see "her faithful commons" at work.

Watches Made For the Blind.
"I want a watch," said a blind man as he entered a jewelry store on the west side.
"Sorry, but I haven't a blind man's watch," replied the jeweler. "Have one next week."
As the blind man left several men who were listening began to laugh.
"What are you laughing at?" asked the jeweler.
"Who ever heard of a 'blind man's watch'?" replied one of them. "How could he see what time it was?"
"Don't see—feels."
"Feels?"
"Yes; feels and hears. A blind man's watch is just like any other watch, except that instead of hands on the dial the figures rise up at the hour, and the minutes are told by little 'pegs.' Some have a spring which you press and it strikes like a clock. A system of long and short strokes indicates the quarter and hours, and a number of taps indicate the minutes. Thus he presses the spring at 2:15 o'clock. The watch strikes twice, pauses a second, strikes once quickly, pauses again and strikes five quick strokes."—Kansas City Star.

What to Read.
Read on some one subject that interests you apart from your daily task. Let your reading carry you into this new field, from which you may return refreshed to your appointed labor or with thoughts which may occupy your mind while your hands are engaged with your work, for many of the routine tasks which demand no new knowledge or skill may be saved from dullness and dearthness by the accompaniment of pleasant thoughts. Lucy Larcom pinned cuttings from newspapers on the walls of a long room in which she was employed in the mill, and as she passed from end to end in her routine snatched a thought to accompany her. Bird lovers have made birds their companions, learning to hear their songs, to recognize their workings and to detect their tricks and manners as they met them by the roadside or in the familiar fields. A language may be learned, a field of history covered, a favorite author studied, in the spare hours, and this resource will not only cheer the day, but will enlarge the horizon and make ready for the next learning.—New England Magazine.

The Kingfisher Legend.
Many and curious are the legends of the kingfisher. One of these is to the effect that the bird was originally a plain gray in color, but upon being let loose from the ark flew toward the setting sun and had its back stained blue by the sky and its lower plumage scorched by the sun to gorgeous hues. The dried body of the kingfisher was once used as a charm against thunderbolts and moths, and it was hung up so that it might point with its bill to the wind's quarter.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Truth.
Speaking truth is like writing fair and comes only by practice. It is less a matter of will than of habit, and I doubt if any occasion can be trivial which permits the practice and formation of such a habit. To speak and act truth with constancy and precision is nearly as difficult and perhaps as meritorious as to speak it under intimidation or penalty. And it is a strange thought how many men there are, as I trust, who would hold it at the cost of fortune or life for one who could hold it at the cost of a little daily trouble.—Ruskin.

To Dr. Johnson belongs "A good hat" and to Macintosh, in 1701, the phrase, often attributed to John Randolph, "Wise and masterly inactivity."

The Dead Woman.
Near the French town of Maisons-sur-Marne there is a pine forest a lonely spot known as "Morte Femme." Of this grim name nobody seems to have any idea as to the origin, but for the future nobody need be at a loss for an explanation. Some men out shooting in the forest the other day suddenly came upon the dead body of a young woman at this place. There was no sign of violence, and the post mortem examination established that the poor creature had died from starvation. She had been a servant at Troyes and had set out to walk to Reims on foot in the midst of the hard weather. Overcome by hunger and fatigue, she had sunk down in the forest to die, unpitied and alone.

Man and Money.
John Selden in his table talks said: "Money makes a man laugh. A blind fiddler playing to a company, and playing poorly, caused the people for whom he was making music to laugh at him. His boy, who led him, perceiving this, cried out, 'Father, let us be gone, for they do nothing but laugh at you.' 'Hold thy peace, boy,' said the father. 'We shall have their money soon, and then we will laugh at them.'"
"Euclid was beaten for teaching his pupils a mathematical figure in his school, whereby he showed that all the lives of both princes and common men tended to one center—viz, that of handsomely getting money out of other men's pockets and putting it in their own."

Imitating a Great Painter.
An interesting story, which shows with what fidelity the work of even such a difficult artist as Turner can be imitated, is told in connection with Ruskin. In 1875 he sent a number of facsimiles of Turner's pictures to a London exhibition with this note: "I have given my best attention during upward of ten years to train a copyist to perfect fidelity in rendering the works of Turner and have now succeeded in enabling him to produce facsimiles which I must sign with my name to prevent their being sold for real vignettes."

Why He Sought the Mourners' Bench.
"Once we had a revival, and I attended it with my girl. She got quite excited, and before I knew what was happenin' she started for the mourners' bench. She didn't ask me if I'd go. She just got up and went all by herself. Well, she kneeled down there, and I see that right next to her was kneelin' a feller she'd been goin' with some and who was a rival o' mine. I said: 'By gosh, I can't stand that! Maybe he'll be ketchin' her.' There was just a little room between her and him, and I stepped up and kneeled so as to separate 'em. I cut him out that time, and he didn't marry that girl. As far as that goes, neither did I. Oh, well, you can't be young but once!"—Clifton Johnson in Outing Magazine.

Adding to His Torture.
A man under sentence of death for the crime of murder was practical to the last. Some women interested in prison work visited him in Auburn, and among them was a well known settlement worker and general reformer from Brooklyn, who went into the prison with a great quantity of magazines and monthly publications of one sort and another. She deposited them at the cell of the doomed man, who, she understood, was a great reader. She promised to bring more. On her second visit the man said:
"Of course I am grateful for your kindness, but why do you add to my torture by bringing me continued stories? Don't you know I am to be put to death Friday?"—Brooklyn Eagle.

The Way They Hunted.
A captain in the Russian imperial guards rented from a vice president of the Austrian Jockey club a hunting estate, for which, after taking possession, he refused to pay on the ground that there was very little game. The vendor brought an action in the courts of Eger, Bohemia, for recovery and produced evidence to show that the captain and three friends had spent five weeks on the estate, but passed all their time in drinking. They had consumed 1,280 bottles of champagne. On these facts a compromise was effected.

Persian Humor.
The Persians possess a sense of humor with which they are not always credited. Almost modern is the anecdote of the man whose disagreeable voice in reciting his prayers in the mosque was annoying to every one. One day some one asked him how much he was paid for reciting. "Fakid" he replied. "I am not paid. I recite for the sake of Allah!" "Then," said the other, "for Allah's sake don't!"

The plant producing the mass of commerce is a tree seldom grown to a height greater than seventeen or eighteen feet, but is sometimes known to reach a height of thirty feet. It is known to botanists as *Theobroma cacao*. It bears an oblong fruit measuring from six to ten inches.

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