

Children Cry for Fletcher's

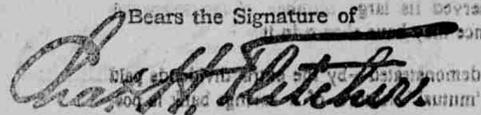
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FRANK E. HOWE, Editor and Pub

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Persons in Vermont and elsewhere who have observed their fiftieth birthday anniversaries may recall the "Samantha Allen" tales, a series of stories which were popular in the late '70's. If so, they may likewise remember the surprise party which the neighbors planned to inflict upon Samantha. When she opened the door and saw the long row of people lined up in front of the house she indignantly ordered them to return to their homes, declaring that she had made a vow never to be surprised. Samantha's neighbors must have been as much chagrined as the parents of a young woman in Newbury who recently learning that their daughter had become engaged planned a secret announcement party only to find out that she had been married for more than a week.

Farmer in Vermont, the northern towns of Bennington county, particularly in the latter generation, are to be given an opportunity next week to attend an agricultural extension school under the direction of the University of Vermont. These extension schools are planned to carry to persons engaged in agriculture some of the practical ideas that have been worked out at the university. A larger portion of the inhabitants of the rural districts are too busily engaged in making a living to become regular attendants at either the agricultural college or the state schools, but most of them can spare the time to attend the extensions that are held in different communities during the winter months. The instruction is made as practical as possible and should be of interest to every person who follows the good old method of digging his living out of mother earth.

A half century ago there were many educational institutions, particularly in New England, which were semi-denominational in character. If the course of study and management did not actually attempt to further the teachings of some particular religious creed, there has been a steady divergence from this principle, undoubtedly due in a large measure to the improvement in the public schools, during the past twenty years, and some of the denominational institutions have either suspended or have abandoned the purpose of attempting to influence the religious thought of their students. In the light of present day conditions the recent action of Leland and Gray seminary of Townsend in accepting a bequest of \$10,000, with the restriction that the principals always be members of a certain denomination, is somewhat remarkable. It is in direct opposition to the modern trend in educational matters which decries all effort or suspicion of effort to influence students in their choice of religious creeds.

Lucky.
"I hear that Jones is up to his ears in debt." "Yes, but luckily he isn't very tall."—Boston Transcript.

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ED WAS UNTRUTHFUL.
Mark Twain First Proved It and Then Bragged About It.
Sam Clemens read more than any one guessed. At night, propped up in bed—a habit continued until his death—he was likely to read until a late hour. He enjoyed smoking at such times and had made himself a pipe with a large bowl which stood on the floor and had a long rubber stem, something like the Turkish bubble bubble. He liked to fill the big bowl and smoke at ease through the entire evening. But sometimes the pipe went out, which meant that he must strike a match and lean far over to apply it, just when he was most comfortable. Sam Clemens never liked unnecessary exertion. One night when the pipe had gone out for the second time he happened to hear the young book clerk, Brownell, passing up to his room on the top floor. Sam called to him.
"Ed, come here!"
Brownell poked his head in the door. The two were great chums.
"What will you have, Sam?" he asked.
"Come in, Ed. Henry's asleep, and I'm in trouble. I want somebody to light my pipe."
"Why don't you light it yourself?" Brownell asked.
"I would, only I knew you'd be along in a few minutes and would do it for me."
Brownell scratched a match, stooped down and applied it.
"What are you reading, Sam?"
"Oh, nothing much—a so-called funny book. One of these days I'll write a funny book myself."
Brownell laughed.
"No, you won't, Sam," he said. "You are too lazy ever to write a book."
Years later, in the course of a lecture which he delivered in Keokuk, Mark Twain said that he supposed the most untruthful man in the world lived right there in Keokuk and that his name was Ed Brownell—Albert Bigelow Paine in St. Nicholas.

A Wise Life.
The great building marks of a wise life are indeed few and simple—to do our duty, to avoid useless sorrow and to acquiesce patiently in the inevitable.—W. Lecky.

Reserved.
Two sailors, retiring from the sea, invested their joint savings in a country inn. On rising on the first morning of their ownership, one suggested they should go into the bar and have a



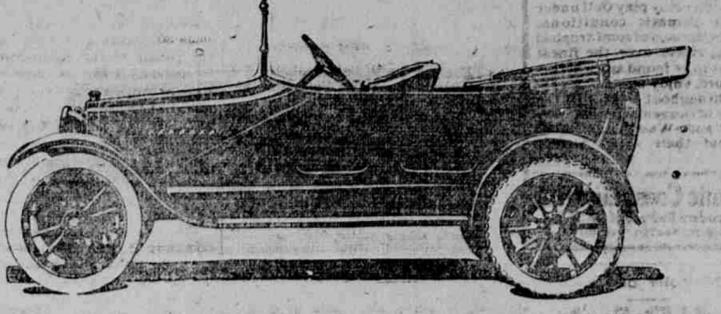
"WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO OPEN?"
"This they did and continued to do for the next hour or so."
Then they became aware that for some time there had been several people knocking impatiently at the door. For a time they ignored the noise, but the knocking became so insistent that at last they went to see what was the matter.
"When are ye going to open this putty house?" demanded a husky voice from outside.
"Open it? What for?" replied the sailors. "We've bought this ere place for ourselves."—London Answers.

Witty.
The following epitaph was written on Dr. Isaac Letson, a once well known English physician:
When folks are sick and send for me I purges, bleed and sweats 'em. If after that they choose to die What's that to me? I Letson.

Had Been Higher and Lower.
The New York Giants were exercising in Texas one night when Mike Donlin, an expert into the Pullman that was sidetracked at Waco a long while after hours, greatly to the rage of John J. McGraw. Now, according to Donlin, there is supposed to be but one complete humiliation for a ball player who goes against the winter training rules. The culprit is assigned to an upper berth in the sleeper.
McGraw was awakened when the belated Donlin climbed into the car, and some he, just for that, Mike, you take an upper.

The manager had forgotten the player's previous servitudes and stultities in the way of personal transportation across the country. But Mike had not forgotten. He said readily: "All right, John. I've ridden 'em higher than up here and lower than lower."—Chicago News.

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Interviewing a Humorist.
"Good morning, Waage. What's on the carpet today?" asked Burlington.
"Dime," said Waage.
"Dime? But I mean what have you on foot?"
"Shes," said Waage solemnly.
"Oh, some dirt, Waage. What are you up to these days?"
"Date," sighed Waage.
"I'll give you just one more chance, you poor fellow, you. What are you doing now?"
"Everybody," said Waage.
"As usual, eh?" said Burlington as he shoved the remains down the nearest available coat hole.—New York Times.

Call the Roll.
What has become of the women who used to settle their quarrels by cutting each other's clothes lines on wash day?
Where is the boy who stretched a line after dark across the path of the man whom he hated because the man told his father he caught him playing hooky?—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

When He Concentrated.
"Did the speaker impress you as being in deadly earnest?"
"Only once or twice, I think."
"And what were those occasions?"
"When he lost his place and began to say his notes wildly in an effort to find it again."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

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