

BREVITIES OF FUN.

"Johnny," quailed the teacher, "what letter comes after A?" "All the rest of them," was the triumphant reply.—Little Chronicle.

Kind Lady—"Poor fellow, have you no friends?" Hap Hazard—"No, mum; I hain't got nobody but relatives."—N. O. Times-Democrat.

It has been said that speech was given man to enable him to reveal his thoughts, but it was a needless precaution in many cases.—Chicago Daily News.

The Stern Father—"Have you any means, young man—any expectations?" The Son—"I certainly had when I came in to see you."—Boston Transcript.

"My, that was a narrow escape for me!" "What was?" "A trolley car ran over Jones, who lives at No. 691 Main street, and I live at No. 696."—Philadelphia Record.

"Ah!" she moaned, "I was a goose to believe him when he said I was a duck!" "Yet she could blame no one but herself, for she was no spring chicken."—Baltimore American.

Housekeeper—"See here, I ordered a dozen eggs this morning, and you only sent me ten." Dealer—"Well, ma'am, two of 'em were bad, and I didn't think you'd want 'em."—Philadelphia Record.

Reckless Boy—"When young fellows begin a courtin'," said Farmer Hancock, "they just give away an' that thar boy Jim o' mine ain't no exception." "What's Jim bin a-doin'?" asked Farmer Squire. "Dish-inged if he didn't go inter town yesterday an' spend a hull quarter for a tooth brush."—Philadelphia Press.

A well-known business man whose head is bare, yet who wears a luxuriant growth of whiskers, was being railed recently for being bald by some of his intimate friends in the presence of his small daughter, Little Mabel. "I didn't understand that it was all in jest, and, crawling upon her parent's lap, put her arms about his neck and turned defiantly toward her tormentors: "My papa said river have his hair on his chin, wouldn't you papa?"—Cincinnati Enquirer.

IN THE ARIZONA DESERT.

Traveler Describes the First Mirage He Ever Saw.

Mr. James H. French, of San Francisco, tells a good story of the mirage he saw on the Arizona desert, says the Washington Star. He said:

"I was returning from old Mexico via the Mexican Central & Southern Pacific railroads, and in conversation with a gentleman in the Pullman I learned that during the month of August mirages were often seen about the little town of Desert Station, on the Southern Pacific. Next morning, having seen that phenomenon I determined to stop over between times at the little town for the express purpose of viewing, if I should get a chance, that singular illusion of nature."

I secured a horse and guide at Desert Station and we lost no time in riding directly into the sandy wash which lay southwest of the little village. After a ride of about two hours we halted, ate the lunch we had brought with us and watered the animals from skin bags which were in the saddle bags. We waited perhaps an hour and I was on the point of returning, when in the idea that the oft-looked mirage was only an illusion of a mind disoriented by hunger and thirst, when the Mexican, who was my guide, called my attention to the water horizon. I looked and saw there a sight which I shall never forget. There in the distance lay a landscape more beautiful than any I have ever seen either in nature or depicted upon the artist's canvas. I saw a green valley watered in by snow-capped mountain peaks, and running through the center of this valley a river of water sparkling in the sunlight. It was so absolutely perfect that I was tempted to contradict my guide when he assured me that it was the mirage of the desert. I can easily understand its effect upon the mind of one who has wandered for days without food or drink, and do not wonder at their vain chase of this rainbow of the desert."

A Scheme.

An original device for evading the prohibitory law was recently unearthed by plumbers in a house in Rutland, Vt. The liquor, stored in a secret nook, was conveyed by hidden pipes to a radiator in one of the principal rooms of the house. A small faucet attached to the radiator was the means by which the liquid was drawn off for use.

Loafers.

Loafers are always full of schemes.—Washington (La.) Democrat.

EMPLOYERS INSURED.

Are Now Protected Against Strikes and Damages for Accidents.

Since the employers' liability laws have been passed in the different states it has become the practice for large manufacturers to insure their liability in the accident companies. Several companies have departments devoted to that business exclusively, and their agents are now canvassing the country for business. Nearly all the great trusts have adopted the practice of paying a premium based upon their pay roll to the accident insurance company, which assumes all liabilities that may accrue on account of injuries suffered by the men. When a workman is hurt the accident company provides a surgeon and nurses and sees that he receives proper care. It also settles with him for his loss of time or limbs, and in case of his permanent disability or death it pays the loss like any insurance company, or on the same basis that a surety company makes up a defalcation. In nearly all the states the courts have held that human life is worth \$5,000, which is the highest allowance made. In some states it is as low as \$2,000, but the accident companies have adopted a system of settling on the basis of the wages earned by the man who was killed or injured.

For indemnifying the manufacturers against all claims for damages for accidents and injuries among their employes the insurance companies usually charge a rate of 35 cents per \$100 of the pay roll. Thus the premium on an annual pay roll of \$500,000 will be \$1,750.

In Austria, says W. E. Curtis, in the Chicago Record, there is a system of insurance against strikes. A company has been formed which indemnifies its stockholders or patrons for all losses sustained by them from strikes in their establishments, whether voluntary, sympathetic or forced. The premium is equal to three or four percent of the pay roll, and the indemnity is 50 per cent. of the wages paid for the week next preceding the suspension of work. Just as ordinary insurance companies will not pay for fires that were due to the carelessness or design of the insured, it is provided, however, that no indemnity can be demanded if an investigation by the agents of the insurance company show that the strike was justified, or was due to bad faith, bad treatment or the violation of contracts or agreements, between the employer and his men.

THE CHAFING DISH.

A Custom, Now Prevalent, Which Tends to Promote Friendship.

In all the nations the art of eating together is regarded as an ornament of friendship. May it not be that when treachery was the rule one man showed the greatest considerance in another when he partook of food that his neighbor had prepared? However that may be, a common meal wonderfully cemented the ties of good fellowship. The trouble with our enterprising is that most of us try to do too much. As Jesus said to Mary:

"One dish is all that is needful." The sumptuous banquet does not testify to real friendliness any more than the simple, wholesome meal. At supper a little bit of toast, with a slice of cold meat and a preserve, meet all the demands of hospitality. The object is not so much to fill your stomach as to observe the sacrament of friendship. The chafing dish is a real boon. You do not need a servant at your elbow to enjoy it. Indeed, if you have them, you had better send them out of the room while you commence over the dainty preparation and share your thoughts about the table. By the way, did you ever notice what a pleasure it is to watch the hands of a fair young woman preparing such a refreshment? We have sometimes wondered if the fashion was not cunningly devised to captivate hearts. There are more things than salt or mustard sometimes stirred into the rabbit.—Boston Watchman.

Earthquakes in Greece.

It is with much surprise that one reads in a recent report of the director of the national observatory at Athens that, taking area into account, earthquakes are about twice as frequent in Greece as they are in Japan. The latter country has usually been looked upon as par excellence the land of earthquakes. It would appear that its earthquakes are, upon the whole, more severe than those in Greece, although the great architectural monuments of Greece have suffered much from seismic disturbances.

If You Want Friends.

Don't regard your friends as personal property.—Athenian Globe.

THE IMPOSSIBLE CHINAMAN.

His Ideas Wholly Unlike Those to Which We Are Accustomed.

The Chinese regard the arts of war and of mechanics as degrading, and literature only as a pursuit worthy the supreme attention of the superior man. Their etiquette and politeness bearing are generally diffused through all ranks of society, and are far more exacting, decided and practically effective than those of any western nation. The universal knowledge of these, and the particular attention paid to them, smooth down in a remarkable manner, scarcely realizable in the west, the asperities and conflicts of life. Lack of knowledge of these, and want of attention to them on the part of western peoples, have led the Chinese to style the latter "barbarians." The relations of the sexes are strictly defined, and a stern etiquette, sanctioned by the legality of murder in certain circumstances, guards the sanctity of the home. A licentious soldier is the surest means of stirring up the common people against the country represented by them. The greater freedom in the public intermingling of men and women belonging to western nations—a freedom which cannot be understood and is misapprehended by the Chinese—taken together with other features common among foreigners living in China, has aroused the indignation of the Chinese, who declare that the life of western barbarians is the life of "beasts and brutes."

In addition to these outstanding differences, says the Contemporary Review, there are many other facts connected with the Chinese and many other things which they entertain wholly unlike if not in variance with those of the west. These things will account for the contempt which the Chinese feel for the "outer kingdoms." It is still more easy for us to understand this contempt when we reflect that while they regard the thorough knowledge of literature as the sole reason for the greatest respect, they believe that foreigners are ignorant of the existence of the great literature of the west, excepting so much thereof as has been translated by missionaries, whose aim is to publish the literature selected by them in such a way that their work will be generally understood by the ordinary folk, and who are not always solutions to satisfy the extraordinary classical taste of the Chinese scholar. The superiority, therefore, of the west in arts or in mechanics may subside their heads and improve their locomotion, but it will not in the very least modify their mental attitude.

LONDON JACK.

Dog That Has Collected \$500 for An Orphanage.

In a quiet part of southeastern London there is what is known as the "L. & S. W. Railway Orphanage." In this home there are 150 children whose fathers have died in the service of the London & Southern railway. Eight thousand dollars must be found each year to meet the expense of feeding, clothing and educating these boys and girls. Among the friends of the charity there is one man who gives his time so willingly to the work of securing the means to carry on the enterprise that he has become famous. His name is London Jack.

LONDON STREETS.

Frequent Repetition of Names Confuses the Chances Vagrant.

There is some agitation in London over the naming of a new street, recently opened and just completed, and the question has brought about a somewhat broadminded realization that in the matter of naming her streets London has allowed some inappreciable repetitions to creep in. To say nothing of the manifold instances of inappropriateness and seeming poverty of ideas. There has been a recent move in the right direction by the suggestion on the part of several London papers that the city remember the country's famous literary men in the naming or renaming of streets, but with more accuracy than has heretofore been observed.

London's loyalty to the empire is demonstrated by the fact that its streets are named in 49 instances in localities entitled Queen and in 25 bearing the name of Victoria. No wonder that the intimated traveler gets turned about and twisted. This literary suggestion virtually opens up a new field of nomenclature for London highways, for it is really astonishing how few of England's literary men are represented and commemorated in this manner.

There is but one commemoration each of Homer, Horace, Pepps, Pope, Scott, Landon, Carlyle, Macaulay, Lytton, Disraeli and Owen; there are two each of Shakespeare, Johnson, Lamb and Beaconsfield; there are three of Tennyson, four each of Cowley and Cooper, six of Milton and seven of Goldsmith. Neither Thackeray nor Dickens receives any memorial in street titles, unless it be in Pendenis read for the first and Manette street for the second. One of the most feverably received suggestions for the name of the new street is that it shall be called Charles Dickens avenue.—Kansas City Times.

The Fool.

Only the fool depends on what may possibly happen.—Chicago Daily News.

THIS AND THAT.

Experiments with fly-proof wheat are being made in some of the western agricultural states.

Seventy-one degrees below zero was the record low temperature registered by Schwatka on the Great Fish river in Canada.

A good cow in Canada produces seven pounds worth of cheese in a year. At Camembert, France, the cheese product of one cow is valued at \$36.

The national park of 1,291 square miles proposed at the headwaters of the Mississippi will, if it is established, be the first in the central region of the country.

The Swede and Norwegian immigrants take more kindly to agricultural labor than any other class of foreigners. Next to them come the Germans, and last of all come the Irish, only a small per cent. of whom make their living on farms.

Mexico in the past nine years has doubled its revenues, doubled its exports, doubled the number of its factories and multiplied by three its banking capital, and the continuance of this great prosperity is now quite as pronounced as ever during the decade.

In ancient Egypt there was no marriage ceremony, so far as archeologists have been able to discover, but there was a contract which secured to the wife certain rights, one of which was that of complete control over her husband, who promised to yield her implicit obedience.

The new trade route from India to Persia, through Kistan, is now in regular use. The road goes from Quetta through Nubki and Kistan to Berkan and Kerman, in Persia, running to the south of Afghanistan, and merchants thus avoid the heavy duties levied by the Amer.

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London Jack is only a dog, says Our Annual Friends, but he has many times collected the money which has bought food and clothing for these fatherless little ones. He is provided with a brass collecting box, which is strapped on his back, and he looks not unlike a small pack horse as he makes his way through the crowded streets of London.

Since he began the work of collecting, Jack has returned over \$500. In one month he secured \$30 for his little friends, and on the one afternoon which is called "reward day," he returned with \$19 in his little knapsack.

But all work and no play would make Jack a dull dog, so he has his time for sport. He is what is known as a retriever, a breed of dogs which have been trained in swimming and recovering things from the water. After his day's work Jack is taken down to the wharf by the River Thames and is allowed to splash in the water to his heart's content. It is a pleasant sight to see him swim far out in the river among the barges, grasp a stick which has been tossed there, and return and lay it at the feet of his master. This he does as faithfully as he brings back his daily contribution for the children of the orphanage.

Popular Novels.

The extraordinary vogue of certain historical novels of the past few years is not so unprecedented a thing as reviewers would have us believe. Sixty years ago, when one of Capt. Maury's novels was running serially, vessels in raidous use to run up the signal, "Has your father his father yet?" and wait for the reply. Fancy the Deutschland slowing up the hairbreadth of a knot to ask bookish questions of the Oceanic—Springfield Republican.

Pay Cash.

"Every month, your collector comes and makes me mad," said one citizen to another to-day, "and my collector goes around and makes you mad. Why don't we avoid this foolishness by paying cash?"—Athenian Globe.



MISS FRANCES M. ANDERSON, daughter of HON. JUDGE ANDERSON, of Virginia, is at present in Washington, D. C., as Corresponding Secretary of the Higher Educational League, of that city. Cured of la grippe by Peruna.

MISS FRANCES M. ANDERSON, Corresponding Secretary of the Higher Educational League, writes from the "Athenian," Washington, D. C., the following:

"About two months ago I was taken very ill with la grippe and was obliged to go to bed. I took three bottles of Peruna with very beneficial results, and was able to leave my bed in a week and regained my usual strength very soon."

"I have nothing but praise for Peruna and recommend it to those similarly afflicted whenever I can."—Frances M. Anderson.

La grippe is, strictly speaking, epidemic catarrh—that is to say, a variety of acute catarrh which is so contagious and runs a course more or less like that, the same as winter fever, whooping cough, etc.

During the acute stages of la grippe it is not a very fatal disease, but the condition in which it leaves the system has caused the death of a countless number.

Indeed, nearly every person who has had la grippe within the last three years finds himself more or less damaged by the persistent effects of this disease. The majority of those who have escaped death find life scarcely worth living.

If this vast multitude of people could only know what certain Peruna would relieve them of all the bad effects which la grippe has brought upon them, what an amount of suffering could be averted! Thousands have already heard how quickly this remedy will cure in these cases and have been saved; but tens of thousands have

not yet heard, and continue to suffer on, dropping into the grave one by one.

Peruna cures catarrh in all stages and varieties, whether acute or chronic, and is therefore the most effective remedy ever devised for removing all the obstructions which follow la grippe.

Samuel M. York, writes from Union Grove, Wis., the following letters:

"Dear Sirs, I shall always have Peruna in my house for advice and, I would say, directions. After taking two bottles of Peruna I found myself well of la grippe, and my hearing was fully restored. My health is better than it has been in five years."

"My wife improved in health very much after taking Peruna."—Samuel M. York.

Miss Caroline J. Kahl, Oledo, Ind., writes as follows:

"Three years I had la grippe and pulmonary trouble. I was very sick. I had hemorrhages of the lungs nearly every day for a year, and three bottles of your Peruna cured me. The doctor said I had consumption. I am now in better health than I have been for many years."

"I highly recommend Peruna to all my neighbors and friends. Peruna is my favorite medicine. I shall always have Peruna in the house."—Miss Caroline J. Kahl.

If you do not derive prompt and satisfactory results from the use of Peruna, write at once to Dr. Hartman, giving a full statement of your case and he will be pleased to give you a valuable advice gratis.

Address Dr. Hartman, President of The Hartman Sanitarium, Columbus, O.

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A FITTING REBUKE.
Adapted by a Heroic Messenger
Boy to a Cevardly and
Mingy Man.
There was a trifling fire in a west side street the other day which caused a good deal of excitement and incidentally gave a fat man a lesson in courtesy. The fire started in the apartments where the man and his mother lived. The man started about the time the fire did and got down four flights of stairs to the street before his mother knew what was up. When she discovered the fire she promptly fainted, says the New York Mail and Express.

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It is the easiest thing in the world to see that wealth is a curse—so long as the other 19,999 monopolize it.—Chicago Daily News.