

Humorous Department.

LOVE BY MAIL.

Returning tourists from Paris have brought information that explains why Mademoiselle Georgetta Dossman, former teacher of French in the Pennsylvania college for Women, is still Mademoiselle Georgetta Dossman.

When she left Pittsburgh not long since it was with the expectation of becoming madame, the wife of a Frenchman, who could pen the most beautiful phrases of love.

The marriage will not come to pass, and the man who had been let into the preliminaries of the secret wondered greatly until now.

Two or three years ago, while reading a French periodical Mademoiselle Dossman was quite incensed over an article that did not meet her views. She wrote a fiery letter to the editor-in-chief and posted it off to Paris.

The editor wrote in return a few brief words and told his correspondent that he had turned her communication over to the member of the staff who had penned the article in question.

A few days later a communication came from the graceful pen of the opponent. Mademoiselle replied. The journalist speeded an answer. The letters breathed war. These were shown to friends and interest was aroused.

But there came a time when the little instructor grew more reticent over her French mail. The letters came; but the contents were not revealed. It began to be rumored that mademoiselle had a sweetheart in Paris, the unknown newspaper correspondent.

Finally mademoiselle went to Paris, accompanied by her brother. She was to be married, and all went well and the unknown met her expectations. Since then no hint of matrimony has been breathed in the letters of the little teacher.

Instead of wedding cards a few special friends received circulars noting the opening of a pension by Mademoiselle Dossman in the suburbs of Paris for the exposition period. Two members of the Young Women's Christian association looked up the location and enrolled as guests during their recent sojourn in Paris.

"Mademoiselle, what has happened—is the romance off?" inquired one of these in a curious whisper as she parted from her two weeks ago.

Mademoiselle gave a shrug, waved aside her questioner and tragically whispered:

"Off, oui; Je found him as deaf as ze post!"

WHY HE WOULD NOT DO.

The carefully reared young man had left his native village and gone to the city to find a situation and a career. His acquaintance was small, and because of that he simply went about from place to place seeking whatever Fate might throw in his way. He wanted to get into a wholesale grocery house, and of course he only visited houses in that line. He was almost rudely turned away from the first two or three places; but finally found one where the proprietor received him with courtesy. He stated his case briefly and clearly as he had read in a guide-book to young men starting out in life, and the merchant looked him over.

"Um," he said, thoughtfully, "you have had no experience in this business."

"No, sir," responded the applicant, "but I want to learn it."

"Yes, I see. Do you chew tobacco?"

"No, sir."

"Do you smoke?"

"No, sir."

"Do you play poker?"

"No, sir."

"Do you bet on the races?"

"No, sir."

"Do you drink?"

"No, sir."

"Do you run around at night?"

"No, sir."

"Um—er," hesitated the merchant, "and you have no experience in this business."

"No, sir; but, as I said, I want very much to learn it."

"I'm sorry," said the merchant, shaking his head, "but I'm afraid you won't do. You see, your early education has been neglected, and you are handicapped now with so much to learn that the Lord only knows when the business would have a chance. Stay in town a year, and then come in and see me. Good morning."

His FREE LIBRARY.—A Main street second-hand bookstore was the scene of an amusing little comedy the other day. A ragged urchin, who had crept in unnoticed, pulled a dog-eared book with a gilded title of love and adventure from the rack, and, after fingering it for a moment, became immediately absorbed in its thrilling contents.

When the bookseller caught sight of his impetuous visitor, his first impulse was to chase the boy away. On second thought, however, he left the youthful reader to his pleasure. At length the time for closing came around, and the old man set about bolting the shutters.

The noise awoke the urchin from his dream. He lingeringly closed the book and, sliding up to the proprietor, asked with all the assurance of his gutter training, "Say, mister, what time d'yer open up tomorrow?"—Hartford Times.

THE TUNE THE COW DIED OF.—In Scotland and the North of Ireland and in some parts of our own country, the phrase, "the tune the cow died of," is common in the mouths of the people. The saying originated in this old song: "There was an old man, and he had an old cow."

And he had nothing to give her; So he took up his fiddle and played her a tune—

"Consider, good cow, consider; This is no time of the year for the grass to grow—"

Wayside Gatherings.

Young men think old men are fools; but old men know young men are fools.—George Chapman.

A cremated body leaves a residuum of only eight ounces; all besides is restored to the gaseous elements.

A deacon in Indiana has four boys, the youngest of whom is named Dioxology, because he's the last of the hills.

The microscopists say that a mosquito has 22 teeth in the end of its bill, 11 above and the same number below.

A merchant in Germany has been fined heavily for using a quotation from the Bible to head an advertisement.

Economical: "My lunches cost me only 35 cents," said Wilkins, "Ten cents for a sandwich, and a quarter for the waiter."

It is said that of the total working expenses of the railroads, over 60 per cent. goes in various ways to the wage-earners.

Most of the men in the islands of southwestern Japan lead lives of idleness, and are cheerfully supported by the women.

God never goes back upon his forgiveness. He does not remind us of our pardon; he casts our sins behind his back.

If one's hands perspire easily when doing delicate work, they should be bathed in a few drops of cologne occasionally.

It would take 40 years for all the water in the great lakes to pour over Niagara at the rate of 1,000,000 cubic feet a second.

The railroad laws of Switzerland compel all railroads to allow at least one holiday in every three weeks to railroad employees.

The expressions "Hallelujah" and "Amen," are said to have been introduced into Christian worship by St. Jerome, about A. D. 390.

In the Sahara desert the day may be boiling hot, but not infrequently the night temperature falls below the freezing point.

It is said that the greatest pleasure wealth can afford is that of doing good. Alas! some wealthy people have little pleasure, after all.

Instantaneous photography has revealed the fact that the former method of representing electricity as a fiery zigzag was entirely false.

Some men are so religious that they will strike out for prayer-meeting and leave their wives to carry in stove wood to cook for company.

A Japanese Christian minister, writing of the divorces in Japan during a recent year, says there were 353,389 marriages and 116,775 divorces.

The tensile strength of a wet rope is only one-third the strength of the rope when dry, while a rope saturated with grease or soap is weaker still.

"Papa, will you buy me a drum?" "Ah! but, my boy, you will disturb me very much if I do." "Oh, no, papa; I won't drum except when you're asleep."

It is pretty generally believed that the man who stays at home from church when it is raining, will yet go to a place where there is a continual drought.

When America is as densely populated as Europe, this half of the world will have nearly 1,400,000,000, practically the same as that of the whole world at the present time.

The Koran, or Mohammedan Bible, was written by Mohammed, assisted by Battacas, a Jacobin; Sergius, a Nestorian monk; and by a learned Jew, and was published in the year 610, A. D.

A little girl, aged three, asked her father for more candy; but was told to wait until tomorrow. Looking out of the window for a few moments she suddenly called out: "Papa it looks like tomorrow now!"

When a Chinese lady approaches a muddy place, she beckons a boy. The boy drops on his hands and knees in the mud, and the lady uses him as a stepping stone, for which service she gives him a small coin.

When you make a mistake, don't look back at it long. Take the reason of the thing into your mind, and then look forward. Mistakes are lessons of wisdom. The past cannot be changed. The future is yet in your power.

Rats must have access to water or they die. A trapped rat may easily be tamed by allowing no water but that offered in a spoon, for the creature soon learns to recognize the hand which supplies this all-important necessity.

Be very slow to believe that you are wiser than others; it is a fatal but common error. Where one has been saved by a true estimation of another's weakness, thousands have been destroyed by a false appreciation of their own strength.

A raft of remarkable size was started down the Mississippi river from Stillwater, Minn., to St. Louis, Mo., recently. The raft is 256 feet wide, 768 feet long, contained 9,000,000 feet of lumber and has loaded on its deck 60 car loads of shingles.

Doctor—If your husband's hiccoughs don't stop very soon, madam, he'll be a dead man. There is only one thing to be done. He must be startled out of them. Can you suggest any way? Anxiously Wife (thoughtfully)—I might tell him that I had decided not to order that silk dress.

In Hungary and Brittany, the young girls assemble on certain fete days, wearing red petticoats with yellow or white borders round them. The number of borders denotes the portion the father is willing to give his daughter. Each white band, representing silver, denotes 100 francs per annum, and each yellow band denotes gold betokening 1,000 francs a year.

The joke about pigeon's milk has a foundation in fact. After the incubation of the young has been completed, the crops of the parent birds become thicker, and secrete a sort of curd with which the young are fed. This description of nourishment is necessary for them, for if the young pigeons are deprived of it during the first week or two after hatching, they are sure to die.

Japan has 700 earthquake observing stations scattered over the empire, and the Tokio correspondent of the London Times is of the opinion that not only are the Japanese shaken up by fully five earthquakes every year, but at intervals there comes a great disaster, amounting, as the earthquake of October 28, 1891, to a national calamity. Japanese annals record 29 such during the last 1,200 years.

Farm and Fireside.

THE TEXAS FEVER.

The Carolina Spartan.

Several cases of rather sudden and unaccounted death of cattle have been reported during the year. These deaths have taken place amongst pastured cattle and where there was an introduction of cattle into the pasture from the neighborhood. Believing that it was the "Texas Fever" that caused the deaths, we asked Professor Nesor, veterinary surgeon of Clemson College, to tell the cattle raisers of the state something about this disease. This is what he says:

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Miscellaneous Reading.