

Humorous Department.

Sources of the Money. Representative Branch of Morgan county, the "military man" of the house, has had some unusual experiences, says the Indianapolis Star.

"It was while attending a military school a good many years ago that I formed the habit of taking long walks before breakfast," said Branch to a group of friends.

"But my good fellow," I said, "I have not seen you since that morning. I spent my last penny last night, and my check from home won't reach me until tomorrow."

"The old man wasn't satisfied. 'Look through your pockets,' he begged, 'maybe you'll find something.' 'Well, if I've got any money' in these clothes you can have every cent of it," I said to him, and I began turning my pockets inside out just to show him that I was "strapped."

"Well, would you believe me, a silver dollar dropped out of one of my pockets and rolled on the sidewalk. 'Delighted,' the old man quickly grabbed it up and said 'Thank you.' 'He was bigger than I and I said, 'Certainly I am glad I can help you, but really, I didn't know it was there.'"

"All the way back to school I wondered how that dollar came to be in my trousers. 'And did you ever find out?' asked another legislator.

"Oh, yes, when I got back to my room my roommate told me that I was wearing his pants."

Protecting a Bride and Groom. A bride and groom had been much troubled by the stares of people at hotels wherever they went. So when they arrived at the next hotel the groom called the colored head-waiter.

"Now, George," he said, "we have been bothered to death by people staring at us because we are just married. We want to be free from that sort of thing here. Now, here's two dollars, and remember I trust you not to tell people that we are just married, if they ask you. Understand?"

"Yes, sah!" said George; "I understand." "All went well that day. But the following morning when the couple came down to breakfast the starting was worse than ever. Chambermaids in the hall entered, the clerks behind the desk nudged each other; everybody in the dining-room stared. When the couple returned to their room it was only to see a head sticking out of nearly every room down the long hall.

"This was too much. This was the limit! Angered beyond control, the groom went to the desk and called for the head-waiter.

"Look here, you old fool," said the groom, "did I give you two dollars to protect my wife and myself from this staring business?"

"Yes, sah, you did," said George. "Pon, sah, you didn't tell sah. 'Then how about this staring' asked the irate groom. 'It's worse here than anywhere. Did anybody ask if we were just married?' 'Yes, sah; several folks did," replied George.

"Well, what did you tell them?" "I told 'em, sah," replied the honest negro, "you wasn't married at all."

WHY HE MOVED.—"I don't say that Indiana is not a pretty good state to live in," said the man who has lately moved over the line into Michigan, "but several things happened one after another to discourage me. The last one was a cyclone."

"Did you have your buildings swept away?" was asked. "No, the wind was pretty well petered out when it reached my place and dropped a span of horses at my door. Those horses had come along over thirty miles."

"And do you mean that they were alive?" "Certainly, I was in great need of a span of horses just at that time and I looked upon it as a godsend, but alas, I was doomed to disappointment."

"But how?" "Why the damned cyclone that had picked 'em up had forgotten to pick up a set of harness at the same time and the animals were simply a burden on my hands."

MIXED METEY WITH HIS STAPLE.—Representative Broussard of Louisiana, tells of a man who lived in New Orleans who was a cotton broker during the week and a full-fledged preacher on Sunday. He mixed business with his religion in a manner surprising to the natives. Several years ago there had been great upheavals in the market and the bulls and bears had been having a high jink time. The entire week was one of intense excitement and strain on the men who dealt in the staple. Fortunes were made and lost in a jiffy. When Sunday came the busy preacher went to his church, ascended the pulpit, and began services as follows:

"We will sing to the praise of the Lord in opening these services the 427th hymn—long staple."

"The good man," says the representative, "meant to say 'long meter,' but his mind was evidently on the fleecy staple in which his cash was tied up."

THE WITTY BUTCHER.—Miss Marian Winchester, the American girl who is known in Paris as the "Sugar Queen" on account of her successful sugar speculations, has a reputation for cynical humor, says the Salt Lake Tribune.

"Miss Winchester," said a New York woman, "was recently called on for a toast at the annual dinner of a woman's club.

"She spoke very brightly. She made many keen, swift thrusts at the faults of women. I remember how she attacked women's vanity."

"There was a butcher," she said, "who in a season of depression went to a great expense. He put up behind his counter a tremendous mirror. Concerning this innovation, some one said: 'Why has the butcher put up that large and costly mirror behind his counter?'"

The answer was: "To prevent the servant girls from watching the scales."

Miscellaneous Reading.

IN COUNTIES ADJOINING.

News and Comment Clipped From Neighboring Exchanges.

LANCASTER. Lantern, March 24: A Mr. Ervin, with his wife and two daughters, of Cedarville, Ohio, arrived here from Florida yesterday and went down to the Banks neighborhood this morning to visit to locate the home of Mr. Ervin's ancestors.

Ledger, March 25: The deepest sympathy of the many friends of Rev. T. Denny of Keokuk, who died in his recent sad bereavement, the death of his mother, which occurred in Richland county last Friday afternoon. Mr. Denny left Kershaw at once on receiving notice of her critical condition Friday, but the spirit of the saintly woman had passed to the great beyond when he reached her bedside.

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Timely Fashion Tips.

FOR THE LADIES.

Helpful Hints on What to Wear and How to Wear It. —This is a silk year! Not the stiff, uncompromising silk of years gone by, but beautiful, soft, pliable stuff that can be maintained as gracefully soft looking as the finest wool.

—Sleeves strike a note of novelty. They are slightly fluted in on the shoulder, giving a square effect, and from the elbow to the wrist they are as tight as is consistent with comfort. Often they have a little turned back cuff of velvet, and occasionally a linen cuff.

Fashion books protest against a low hair dressing, but are most amply disposed just now to consider the loose, large wave and semi-high disposal, which has come to replace the formal arrangement of twist, and twirl, and symmetrical wave. Hair au naturel is the coiffure edict, and this order we must assume, though we have it not.

—The comb of the hour among girls who prefer simplicity in dress is of light amber, severely plain, but highly polished. To match these come very long hairpins with knob ends like balls. The back comb of celluloid and the cheap jeweled comb are not considered good form, and only for dressy occasions does the girl who possesses such an extravagance bring forth her comb of real tortoise shell or amber, studded with gems. Never would she wear such a comb with a severe tailored gown or shirt waist suit.

—In studying the spring fashion book two fashionable details stand forth in prominent relief. The first is the long shouldered flake, drawn down back and front beneath a high draped belt, and the second is the Romney hat, with its deep park paling robes and strings set far away from the face. The drooping shoulder has given place irrevocably to the high, pointed collar, and that particular type of picture hat is now completely out of vogue, but by cheapness of small, bizarre articles. And from these two apparently trifling items may be deduced a whole wealth of prognostications.

—The woman who is a great deal too tall must learn how to do up her hair. She must never on any account pile it on top of her head. The correct woman look at least three inches taller. And if she adds a tall comb to it she looks at least a foot taller than she really is. It makes a giantess of her. Let her part her hair in the middle and roll it at the sides over a pompadour. This is to make her face look round. Now, if she will curl it in a big flat knot at the back of her neck she will look a good deal taller. The knot hanging down the back is ideal for the very tall woman. But alas, she cannot wear it this way. The next best thing is to make the knot on the nape of the neck.

—Shaded and shot or chameleon effects are of extraordinary importance in the fashion world this spring, and millinery, buttons, hose, parasols, ribbons, as well as frock materials, show the popularity of these details.

—New buttons follow the colorings prominent in the materials; and though they cannot well surpass last season's buttons in elaborateness, the peculiar charm of the new color schemes and combinations gives them unusual beauty. One of the novelties that have found great popularity is a button of shaded chenille and metal. The centre of the button is of chenille thread running round and round in circles, and shading from dark at the centre to light at the outer edge. In greens and in browns these buttons are particularly good.

—Coats of taffeta and other silks are to have a decided vogue and are made in many picturesque ways, running from the fussy little wraps, shirred, plaited and corded into piquet, shawl-like, to the long, simple redingotes and the severely tailored silk motes. The blouse bordered with belt and long skirts, is very successful in soft taffeta, and not too extreme to be generally useful. Flat collar and tab or stole ends of Irish crochet or of heavy embroidery or batiste or linen trim many of these coats, and the only trimming is in manipulation of the silk by means of shirring, plaiting, cordings, etc. Light weight broadcloth, though easily soiled, is so ideal a fabric for the graceful wrap in light tones that each season adds to its prestige, and there are a host of new cloth cloaks in Arabian, Chinese, Russian and purely Parisian lines, loose, enveloping, falling in soft graceful folds.

—With the new styles of hats the tulle veil comes in triumphant. It can be made in many different styles, floating down at the back when so much of the trimming of the hat is arranged cache-peigne fashion, nor of long scarfs twisted about the neck and falling to the foot, such as were worn by some fashionables last year. Short veils being therefore once more reinstated in favor, much ingenuity has been shown in the production of fresh lines of tulle, novelty being obtained for these both by varying the design of the gossamer itself as well as of the decoration put upon it. This is more often than not takes the form of some sort of spot, and it is really surprising to find what an infinite number of forms anything so simple, which is unlike any other in its appearance, look to a veil to enhance their attractions will find delight in the new fresh colored tulle, which are all but invisible, as they match the skin of the face, and the dots or spots of which they are decorated put upon it. It is well known are not only becoming to the complexion but tend to brighten the eyes. Much the same advantage may be claimed for the double tulle veiling. Here we have a broad ruffled white tulle backed by the very finest illusion, the two being held together by the black velvet spots with which it is punctured.

—The plain crush belts of soft leather in black, white and colors, the crush and embroidered linen belts, "made" in the same material, and about a quarter of an inch thick with a hard coating top and bottom, and a substance resembling Devonshire cream in between. It was unable to find out by what process it is made. Col. Youngblood mentions it and refers to the value its portability gives it for the traveler. "Though there is much cattle in the country, beef is never seen. Once a year is driven to the Chinese markets in the winter."

—Half an evil eye can see more into than the whole of an innocent one.

—A man must be short on character when he has to assert himself by clothes.

many of the models have buckles or slides at back as well as front. The art nouveau designs in shaded gold and imitation precious stones are often beautiful, and a remarkable color scheme is achieved in this metal work combined with leather and silk. The embroidered linen belts were with us last year, but they were experiments then, and it was left for this season to develop the possibilities in the idea. The craze for broderie anglaise, or eyelet embroidery, is evident here as elsewhere, and there are open work linen belts of all kinds, from those merely sprinkled with embroidered eyelets to others with elaborate embroidery designs. Soft ribbons come in a bewildering range of colors and shades, and even in the same new changeable effects that are so stunning in silk, and they are inexpressibly enough to be used as a material for the very high skirts—anything more than five inches deep at its widest part.

"WORLD'S BEST SOLDIER."

Ex-Governor McMillan's Opinion of the Wiry Japanese.

Ex-Governor Benton McMillan of Tennessee, who has been in Washington since the inauguration, is an enthusiastic admirer of the military and naval prowess of the wiry little Japs. He has followed every step of the land and sea campaigns and come to the conclusion that the Japs is the best soldier to be found in the world today.

"I do not say this with any disparagement to the Americans," declared Governor McMillan to a correspondent of the Sun. "The advantage the Japs have over the Americans is to be found in the fact that the former actually court death. Americans are a peace-loving, liberty loving, home-loving, constitution loving people and fight to live. They are not afraid to die in battle, but do not fight, like many of the Japs, for the sake of dying."

"The genius of the Japanese military leaders is nowhere more evident than in the fact that they have gone back beyond the greatest war of modern times—the civil war—in the use of poison, with respect to artillery. Napoleon believed God was on the side of the heaviest artillery. The Japanese have adopted that maxim and revived the use of artillery. They have also adopted the great forte of the Confederate commanders, the method they derived in turn from the Indians, that of deploying infantry in order of drawing armies up in full front formation."

More than 50 years ago the Japanese were an island people about whom the world knew little. Within the last ten years they have defeated in battle one-third of the world's population in their wars with China and Russia. Before Russia entered this war she boasted that she had 10,000,000 seasoned soldiers and that her fighting might be increased to 20,000,000.

In this year she has scarcely won a skirmish. The strategy of the Japs has been remarkable. The capture of Port Arthur was greater than the taking of Gibraltar and Sevastopol combined.

"Another remarkable thing about these Japanese is that their present dynasty goes back 2,500 years beyond the time when Confucius was a baby, and the present emperor is even more virtuous than any of his predecessors, as a general loved by his people as George Washington was in this country. Every Jap is willing and ready to die for the emperor he loves, and that emperor is the only one of the world's rulers who may sleep anywhere in his empire without fear of molestation from the people."

His people love him above everything else, and he dispatches from that front the great commands do not boast of their own exploits. They simply report facts and give the credit to the emperor.

"As diplomats the Japs are not to be excelled. Although the grass of Manchuria is still scarcely dry, the blood of the war between China and Japan, it is a fact that millions of Chinese all over the world are hankering over the success of their conquerors in that war. This is due to the diplomacy of the Japs. When the war with Russia is over I trust Japan will obtain control over Manchuria, suzerainty over Korea and reorganize the Chinese army."

Speaking of the Japanese graduates of West Point and Annapolis who have distinguished themselves in the war, Governor McMillan said: "When I was in the house I entertained grave doubts of the propriety of educating foreigners in our great military and naval schools. I am now convinced that this is the height of folly. The congress just closed authorized foreigners to be educated in those schools. If I were now in congress I would vigorously oppose continuing the ridiculous policy of giving bright young foreigners the chance of acquiring knowledge respecting American military methods, which may some day be used against us to our disadvantage."

Governor McMillan concluded with the remark that he believed the Boer and the Japanese wars had taught the great lesson that the so-called world powers cannot bully smaller nations.

"Suppose," he said, "we had brushed up against Japan instead of Spain in 1898? Think what it might have cost in suffering and money. The Boer war taught the colonies of England their real strength. The Boer and Japanese wars have largely dispelled the illusion of the boasted military power of Russia and Great Britain. These wars have taught the nations of the world that war is too horrible and costly to trifle with with impunity, and that so far as courage is concerned men fight more bravely now than they ever did. In the Japanese war bayonet charges—something thought to have been relegated to the annals of antiquity—were of almost daily occurrence in all of the great battles of the campaign, even in the face of galling fire from the most powerful artillery the world has ever manufactured. The Japs are sure to win, because their general strategists who have taken advantage of the best military methods and machinery, not only of today, but of all time. Gen. Oyama has a greater army under him in one battle than any other general since Alexander the Great, and has shown himself one of the very greatest military leaders the world has seen."—Baltimore Sun.

—A veneer of religiosity has none of the virtues of religion.

—Men are not drawn to the church by using the creed as a club.

—You cannot blame a bag of wind for steering clear of pointed fathoms.

—Habit may be one of our best allies as well as one of our worst enemies.

CHARLES DICKENS.

One of the Greatest Story Writers of Modern Times.

It has been well said that it is not how much we do but how we do it that should measure our life-success; in other words it is not quantity but quality that should enter into our estimate of a man's life viewed in either way, Charles Dickens' record is a remarkable one.

Dickens wrote fourteen novels, and such novels! Seven or eight other books, at least thirty-two detached stories, some half-dozen others with Wilkie Collins as collaborator, one or two original plays and at least one opera. The last years of his life he was senior editor of a weekly journal with a very large circulation which was first the Household and then the Leader, and was subsequently merged into what was known as "All the Year Round."

Charles Dickens always took to hand in hand with indefatigable industry and tireless energy.

He was one of a large family and was born February 7, 1812, at Porten. He was a precocious child. His powers of maturity were merely the blossomed out hopes of childhood. As a child he was fond of reading and took a keen delight in miniature theatricals, and wrote an infantine tragedy. His father was affectionate and while he took pride in his son's manifold talents, he did not seem to have the necessity of giving him proper education. He was given undisciplined duties to perform and was turned into a drudge. One may kill the body, but one cannot kill the spirit. Young Dickens' early associations with the humbler things of life were in his later years turned to an exalted advantage.

When he was about twelve years old he was sent to school, and while he is not remembered as showing signs of a distinguished scholar, his many-sidedness of his large nature was such in evidence.

After two years spent in this school he went to another, then he was an apprentice, and finally by securing a position in the Morning Chronicle, his literary career was started.

After the acceptance and publication of his first sketch in 1834, Dickens was during the next year and a half a dozen or more short sketches. These sketches won him sufficient recognition to warrant the Times of London in engaging him in a series of papers on the Morning Chronicle, the famous "Pickwick Papers," and from the time when in the fourth or fifth number of them the immortal Samivel, who spelled his name with a "We, my Lord," was introduced the success of the venture was assured.

Poster said of it: "Judges on the bench and boys in the street, those who were entering life and those who were leaving it, all found it readable and waited with impatience the issue of the Times in order to get the next thing in 'Pickwick.' Carlyle relates at this time a clergyman visited a sick man who had not many more days to live. He had administered all spiritual consolation, and hoping he was leaving the patient in a reconciled, peaceful state, he was shocked after leaving the room to hear the sick man exclaim, 'Well, thank God, Pickwick will be out in five days!'"

Dickens was instrumental in bringing about in the city of London some much needed reforms through his first novel, "Oliver Twist." In many respects it is not a pleasant story, but it is powerful, and in many parts dramatic. The social evils of the work, which will live longest in this work, "Nicholas Nickleby" was so strikingly different from its predecessor and yet so fully up to it, if not surpassing it in merit, that Dickens' worst enemies surrendered to his wonderful versatility of genius.

Sydney Smith, from jealousy or similar motives, from the first criticized Dickens, but after reading "Nickleby," wrote to a friend: "I held the book against Dickens as long as I could, but he has conquered even me. This book, like nearly all of Dickens', had an own special mark or hit. That object was the crushing out and rendering impossible of existence all such schools as that represented in 'Dotheboys Hall.'"

The character of Little Nell in "Old Curiosity Shop" is said to have done more than any other to make the bond between Dickens and his readers one of personal attraction. She had become to him a living reality and the word picture death of Little Nell has been read by many a mourner through blinding tears, but with halcyon comfort flowing into the grief-stricken soul.

Doubtless the reason for "David Copperfield" being the most read and admired of all his novels is due to the autobiographical touch in its character, giving much of the real life and actual experiences of Dickens' earlier years. Dickens' favorite characters in the book are Peggotty and her humble friends—and no wonder for in their lives there is something of the most endearing and pathetic truth and loyalty.

"A Tale of Two Cities" is in many ways one of the most, if not the most, remarkable achievements of Dickens' genius. It is a marvelous portrayal of how love, pure unselfish adoring love, so transforms, ennobles, beautifies, and elevates in character until it is capable of sacrificing all, even life itself, that the object of its devotion may be happy.

A protest in pamphlet form, made with all the hot impetuosity of his early youth, against a proposed attempt to close up on Sunday the public houses for the poor produced the desired effect of stopping such actions.

The publication of American Notes aroused a wild and not soon allayed storm of indignation in America, and when he afterward went out of his way in Martin Chuzzlewit, to introduce a character whose reason for being seemed to be still further to hold up the ridiculous American peculiarities, just as our countrymen felt it an injustice, as he had accepted American hospitality. Doubtless what made his criticism hurt so deeply was the fact that the arrow from this keen sighted archer's bow sped all to swiftly and truly straight home to its mark and there.

One fact which ought never to be forgotten in estimating and criticizing Dickens is that his books were more or more of them written for weekly and monthly publications and as serials, yet he ever rose equal to the demand and some of his best work was done under the spur, as it were, of the cry of "copy."

The power his dramatic interpretations had over the people may be illus-

trated by the fact that in Brooklyn in order to secure tickets to hear him an army of spectators, each furnished with a small straw mattress, a little bag of bread and meat, two blankets and a bottle of whisky, laid themselves down in line on the pavement the whole of the night before the seat sale began.

He was constantly giving out something to some one, said one of his servants. "The more you want of the master, the more you will find in him." He was a success because of his endowment of genius, his capacity for hard work and because he himself felt to the core what he tried to make others feel.

He was more than an editor, a novelist, a genius, a dramatic reader, for "he lived by the side of the road and became a friend to man."

He died on June 9, 1870, and standing in imagination in that vast cathedral beside the grave where sleeps the dust in his own words one might say, "Oh, thank God, all who see the old, old fashion of death for that older fashion yet—of immortality."

HUGE GAME PRESERVE.