

Selling "Carlyle."

Here is Whistler's story of how he sold his famous picture of Carlyle to the Glasgow corporation:
I received them, well, you know, charmingly, of course, and one who spoke for the rest asked me if I did not think I was putting a large price on the picture—1,500 guineas—and I said, "Yes, perhaps, if you will have it so!"
And he said that it seemed to the council excessive. "Why, the figure was not even life size."
And I agreed.
"But, you know," I said, "few men are life size."
And that was all. It was an official occasion, and I respected it. Then they asked me to think over the matter until the next day, and they would come again. And they came. And they said, "Have you thought of the thousand guineas and what we said about it, Mr. Whistler?"
And I said, "Why, gentlemen, why—well, you know, how could I think of anything but the pleasure of seeing you again?"
And naturally, being gentlemen, they understood, and they gave me a check for the thousand guineas.

The Southern Art of Conversation.

The north may think it knows something of conversation, but the north, as compared with the south, may be said never to have enjoyed a conversation. About the village courthouse, within the hospitable doors of some central store, in the office of the local daily or weekly paper or, above all, in the leisurely and genial intercourse around the fireside or on the inviting porch in summer of friend with friends there will be heard a conversation which in wit, in the charm and force of its illustrations and in the directness and freedom of its criticism is not surpassed in American life today.
It is the product of leisure, of a world without haste, without ruthless preoccupations, without those resources of expression and interest which belong to the crowded and overweighted existence of the commercial city. It is, moreover, part of the tradition of the cavalier. It is part of the genius of climate and soil and social habit—E. G. Murphy in "The Present South."

Sour Milk Cow.

The woman was new to the country, and her host took great pains to explain to her whatever she didn't understand about the farm. He had little regard for the truth, this farmer; he delighted to test her gullibility to the utmost.

The cows seemed to interest her more than any other domestic animal. One of the cows had lost her tail somehow, and this fact led the woman to ask why it was.

"That's the sour milk cow," the farmer explained, with a straight face. "We always cut the tail off one cow in the herd so as to get sour milk fresh every day."

The woman looked her doubt.
"It's perfectly true," the farmer insisted. "You see, when the cow's tail is gone the sun shines continually on the cow's udder, and the constant heat sours the milk."

But the woman still doubted.—New York Sun.

Few Buried Alive.

"It might be incidentally mentioned for the relief of anxious souls," says Dr. Woods Hutchinson in the American Magazine, "that the risk of any individual passing into a trance and remaining in it long enough to be buried alive is exceedingly slight. There is no authentic instance of this having ever occurred. I took occasion to investigate this question some years ago and communicated with a number of leading undertakers, and they all unanimously denounced it as one of the myths of the times. One of them, at the time president of the National Funeral Directors' association, informed me that he had carefully investigated every instance of 'burial alive' reported in the newspapers for fifteen years past and found every one of them to be, in his own language, 'a pure fake.'"

Legs and the Alps.

In the "Illustrated" book of one of the Swiss hotels an observing traveler has described the following lines:
When climbing young tourists, I see,
Wear trousers which end at the knee,
Feet buried in felt,
Just to cover the calf.

At least when the calf meant to be
Only those who have seen the
swallow legs, dressed in mountain
climbing costume of some of those
tourists who "do" the Alps can fully
appreciate the humor of the "Illustrated."

Nuts as Food.

One very great advantage which nuts possess over most foods is their absolute freedom from adulteration. When you buy nuts you already know what you are getting. Of course those bought in the shell are also absolutely clean—Good Health.

Light and Hope.

Even in evil, that dark cloud which hangs over the creation, we discern rays of light and hope and gradually come to see in suffering and temptation proofs and instruments of the sublimer purposes of wisdom and love.—Channing.

At His Expense.

She—Jack told me that that hospital was built entirely at his expense. Is it possible? He—Well, Jack's uncle cut him off with a hundred dollars and left the rest of his money to build the hospital.

How many think to atone for the evil they have done by the good they intend to do and are only vicious in prospect.—Bible.

BOWSER GETS AN IDEA

Plans to Enlarge Wings of Ostriches So They Can Fly.

FOR USE IN TIME OF WAR.

He Thinks They Could Be Trained to Drop Bombs on Enemy's Ships and Armies—Old Philosopher Interviews the Druggist.

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THAT Mr. Bowser had something on his mind to bother him Mrs. Bowser saw the moment he entered the house the other evening, but, like a polite woman, she didn't begin asking a lot of questions and adding to the situation. She went ahead during the dinner hour and chatted on a dozen different subjects, and after the meal was finished she respected her reward. No wife can ever tell whether a husband is mentally cussing over the arrival of another soft corn or is perturbed over a ten thousand business deal, and it is best to give things a chance to work themselves out. When he had smoked half a cigar and walked the length of the sitting room a score of times he halted before her and said:

"Mrs. Bowser, has there been anything in my actions during the last twenty years to lead you to believe that I was a visionary man?"

"None, but visionary," she slowly replied. "Some folks might call you erratic—just a bit erratic."

"But genius is always erratic, isn't it?"

"I have heard so. If we knew the private life of Shakespeare we would probably find that he bought new milk cows and hogs and chickens, just as you have. There must also have been



"I suppose the ostrich could fly?"
"When he acted to start a chicken farm or go into the business of putting catnip for the drug stores?"

Mr. Bowser felt the hit and colored up, but hung on to himself and presently said:

"My ambition may have resulted in a few trifling mistakes that can pass over. I am willing to be called erratic, but I don't wish to be known as visionary. You may possibly have read of the Wrights' aeroplane or flying machines."

"Yes, possibly."

"And in your opinion what does it amount to?"

"Well, it flies. It flies and then gets out of order. Then it flies and gets out of order some more."

"But it solves the problem of flying."

"Oh, that was to be expected. Yes, the aeroplane has shown that man can rise in the air and will around when conditions are just right. It is predicted that such machines will play a part in the next war, and if the wind will they may do so. A sailing ship has a good grip on the water, and yet when the wind is blowing sideways she drifts off more or less. An aeroplane hangs up whatever on the air. A

tail wind must blow her far out of her course. To carry three or four passengers or bundles of war she must be built so large that no machinery could drive her against a breeze. In traversing a distance of fifty miles she may meet with a dozen different air currents, all blowing in a different velocity and all whirling her in a different direction. As a bird it will have a piece in history."

"Praise for His Wife."

"Praise for His Wife," Mrs. Bowser—did you recollect Mr. Bowser as he advanced and shook hands with her. "You have solved the matter out just as I have, and put me to my complement. You are the wisest woman in the United States. My John, but you have hit it square in the head."

"Then you have come to the same conclusion?"

"Yes, the same, and you don't know how encouraged I feel to find you agreeing with me. If you only agree with what I have planned out fame and fortune are within our grasp."

"Well, what have you planned?"

"Mrs. Bowser, birds fly in all sorts of weather, don't they?"

"Yes, unless it be that a hurricane is blowing."

"Of course. The bigger the bird the stronger he can fly, eh?"

"Naturally."

"But this ostrich—why can't he fly?"

"Because nature didn't give him wings strong enough. He stumps uses them to assist him in running."

"But suppose the ostrich could fly? Suppose he could fly from New York to Chicago without a rest? Suppose he could be taught to obey like a dog—like a human being?"

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