

Dickens and Diet.

Dickens is the novelist of the meal. No other writer, pile he up never such lists of delicacies fit for Lucullus, has the gusto in describing humble feasts which gives the very reader an appetite. Thackeray, for all his "Ballad of Bouillabaise," never touched the hem of his garments in the recording of meals. Who that has read them can ever forget, for instance, Mrs. Gamp's directions to the chambermaid for her nocturnal refection, or the tea which awaited Joe Willett and Dolly on their return to the locksmith's dwelling on the occasion of Miss Miggs' final rout, or the unassuming meals recorded in "David Copperfield," or the more pretentious feasts in "Pickwick," not forgetting the leg o' mutton "swarry" to which Mr. Weller was invited by the elite of Bath footmen? And has not every reader of "Martin Chuzzlewit" allowed a tender smile to curl his lips over the evolution of that incomparable pudding in the preparation and consumption of which such damage was done to John Westlock's affections? So go and read—and acquire your appetite.—London Chronicle.

Above and Below Proof.

Before the means of determining the true quantity of alcohol in spirits were known dealers employed a very rude method to form a notion of the "strength." A given quantity of the spirit was poured upon gunpowder in a dish and set on fire. If the gunpowder continued dry enough it took fire and exploded, but if it had been dampened by the water in the spirits the flame of the alcohol went out without setting the powder on fire. This was called the "proof." Spirits which kindled gunpowder were said to be "above proof," those that did not set fire to it were said to be "below proof," but this did not fix the strength. Clark in his hydrometer, which was invented about the year 1730, fixed the strength of proof spirits on the stem, at the specific gravity of .920, at the temperature of 60 degrees. This is the strength at which proof spirit is fixed by act of parliament, and at this strength it is no more than a mixture of forty-nine pounds of pure alcohol with fifty-one pounds of pure water.—London Standard.

Case of Too Much Ham.

One morning not long ago there tripped up to a butcher stall in a Baltimore market a dainty little thing out for her first marketing. "My husband bought a couple of nice hams from you not long ago," she announced. "Yes'm," said the smiling butcher; "I remember well. Fine hams, weren't they?" "They were delicious," said the young wife. "Have you any more like them?" "Lots," responded the butcher, indicating a row of hams in the rear of the stall. The young thing surveyed the hams thoughtfully. "Are you sure," she finally asked, "that they're from the same pig as that from which my husband bought?" "Yes'm," answered the butcher without so much as a quiver of an eyelid. "Then you may send me three more of them," she said.—Pittsburg Post.

The Caspian Sea.

The Caspian sea is, as Herodotus said 2,000 years ago, "a sea by itself, having no connection with any other." Every schoolboy knows that now, but it is remarkable to find Herodotus saying so, because centuries after his time such authorities as Strabo and Pliny believed that it was connected with the northern ocean by a long and narrow gulf. Geography seems to have had a setback in the interval through false information received at the time of Alexander's conquests. Herodotus says that the Caspian's length was fifteen days' voyage with a rowboat, its breadth eight days'. Since the actual figures are 750 miles and 400, this shows that a rowboat of the time did fifty miles a day.—London Graphic.

Shank's Mare.

"I haven't got a limousine or any aeroplane; I haven't got a coach and six, not even a special train; I haven't got a bicycle nor yet a boss an' team.

I git along all right, by jinks, 'thout gaserline or steam. I travel jest by shank's mare an' never hev no fear but what I'll reach my stoppin' place the same day in the year. No artificial rigs for me, no busted tires or bones, no landin' all up in a heap upon the highway stones. I may be slow a-gettin' round an' cause the world to stare, but I will git there by an' by all right side up with care."—Boston Herald.

Not Guilty!

The unblee seaman referred to by the American Thrasherman probably thought he was being accused of "mussing up the bedclothes."

Enthusiastic Amateur Sailor—Let go that jib sheet!

Unenthusiastic Landlubber (who has been decoyed into acting as crew)—I'm not touching the thing!

Most Tactless of Men.

"Clarence unintentionally offended the aspiring young poetess."

"In what way?"

"He sent her a gayly decorated wastebasket as a birthday present."—Philadelphia Record.

A High One.

Friend—Does the baron, your son-in-law, speak with much of an accent? Richpurse—He did when he discovered how I had fixed his wife's dower.—Puck.

He who wishes to secure the good of others has already secured his own.—Confucius.

Why Druggists Recommend Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy.

Mr. Frank C. Hanrahan, a prominent druggist of Portsmouth, Va., says: "For the past six years I have sold and recommended Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. It is a great remedy and one of the best patent medicines on the market. I handle some others for the same purposes that pay me a larger profit, but this remedy is so sure to effect a cure, and my customer so certain to appreciate in recommending it to him, that I give it the preference." For sale by Leon B. Haskins' Pharmacy.

His Air Tight Compartment.

The passenger who was crossing the Atlantic for the first time timidly approached the pompous purser. "Is it true, sir," he said, "that this whole ship is divided into air tight compartments?" "True as gospel," replied the purser in surprise. "Then," remarked the passenger gloomily, "I guess I'll have to put up with the one I'm occupying if I can't better myself!"

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