

## The Stayton Mail

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### Too Advanced For Him.

In Chicago there is a principal of one of the public schools who in his college days was considered something of a "shark" at Latin and at many other studies besides. What he did not know about physiology was hardly worth knowing. He was a "grind" and a scholarship man.

His little girl, aged six, is now a pupil at the experimental school at the university, where she learns many things out of the order of public school education. Recently she fell and hurt herself. Her father found her crying. "What's the matter, Noreen?" he asked.

"I fell and bumped my patella," she replied. Remember this was in Chicago, and not in Boston.

Papa was sympathetic. "Poor little girl!" he said, and proceeded with the best intentions to examine her elbow. Noreen broke away in disgust.

"Huh!" she snorted. "Haven't you never learned anything? I said my patella! That isn't my elbow. My elbow is my great sesamoid."

Papa went for a Latin dictionary.

### The Benefit of Fairy Tales.

It is very reasonable to argue that no creation of human fancy could last as fairy tales have lasted through no one knows how many hundreds and thousands of years unless it was very good. For that which is not good and not sound must surely die, and only that which is good and sound shall last through the grinding of the ages.

So I believe that parents should fill their children's imaginations full of fairy tales if they would make those imaginations strong and healthy. As for that man or woman who has not these bright and joyous things of fancy flying like golden bees through the dim recesses of his memory. I can only say that I think his or her parents must have been neglectful of the earlier training of their child and that I am sorry for that poor soul who has lost so much pleasure out of his life.—Howard Pyle in Book News.

### As It Looked on the Map.

Of every hundred tourists who visit the Canary Islands quite seventy-five are British. Naturally, therefore, the natives of the Canary Islands take a great interest in everything which affects England. It is perhaps a pity that their general ignorance is not a little less appalling, but their very disregard for accuracy lends a certain "charm" to their conversation. A man in a barber's shop pointed to a dilapidated map of the world which was nailed to the wall, and, putting his forefinger upon Spain, he exclaimed: "If war breaks out, Spain must retake Gibraltar. Have no fear. The English ships may come down to us because it is all downhill, but after we have crippled them they will not find it so easy to get back to England, because it is all uphill."

### Tea Houses in Japan.

In Japan nourishment is to be obtained by the traveler chiefly at the picturesque and omnipresent tea houses scattered all over Japan. When tourists stop at one of these places the "runners," who carry the jirikishas, bathe their own feet and wash their mouths with cold water, after which they are served with their meals on the benches outside the tea houses. Their meal, which they eat with avidity, consists of salt fish, rice, pickles and a soup made of almost everything odious. After they have eaten they will smoke tiny pipes, with only three whiffs for each filling. Next comes the delicious nectar, world famed, and of this "cup which cheers, but not inebriates," foreigners also are always glad to partake. It is tea (cha) and when brewed by the Japanese is perfection. A pretty tea house girl presents it on a lacquer tray, bringing with it a china or bamboo charcoal holder and ash pot.—What to Eat.

### The Story of a Famous Phrase.

All the world knows the remark of the governor of North Carolina to the governor of South Carolina, "It's a long time between drinks." The true history of this famous anecdote was told by a South Carolinian. It appears that the phrase was first heard at a political dinner when the governors of both North and South Carolina were present. The first governor had delivered a fiery political speech. The situation was intense when the turn came for the governor of South Carolina to speak. It seemed that any word the governor might say would complicate the situation. Even should he keep silent his opinion would seem clear. It was at this critical moment that the governor of the other Carolina rose and, inspired by a stroke of genius, remarked, "It's a long time between drinks." The absolutely noncommittal remark saved the situation.

### Berlin a Fairy City.

Berlin is at its best at night. It has discovered the secret of electric lighting, and when people step out from their offices and shops at 8 and 9 o'clock at night it is into an enchanted city. The solid palaces, the monstrous statues, the enormous houses and wide spaces of the long and stately streets are then soft and gracious with a fairy radiance. It is a city not only of prosperity, but of pure delight. The heaviness of the buildings and the rigidity

of their lines are blurred and softened. In this clear northern air the million lamps blazing from the walls of houses, shining across the interminable streets and glowing in a straight line down the whispering avenues, have something of the magic gentleness and sensuous inspiration of an Arabian story. You begin to think Berlin is the greatest city in the world.

### Mixed Types.

Some years ago the editor of a down east newspaper undertook to compliment an eminent citizen as "a noble old burgher, proudly loving his native state," but the neatly turned compliment came from the compositor's hands "a nobby old burglar, prowling round in a naked state." This was as perverse and shocking as the blunder in the message Ernest Renan had occasion to telegraph across the English channel on the subject of a proposed lecture by him in Westminster abbey. The subject as written by him was "The Influence of Rome on the Formation of Christianity." It was announced in England as "The Influence of Rum on the Digestion of Humanity!"—Saturday Evening Post.

### Dancing Birds.

Sailors visiting the island of Laysan, in the Hawaiian group, are greatly amused by the curious antics of the Laysan albatross, or gony. These birds sometimes perform in pairs a kind of dance, or, as the sailors call it, "cake-walk." Two albatrosses approach each other, nodding and making profound bows, cross their bills, produce snapping and growling sounds, rise on their toes, puff out their breasts and finally part with more nodding and bowing, only to come together again and repeat the performance. Occasionally three engage at once in this singular amusement.

### The Impecunious Turk.

Collecting money from Turkey is a heartbreaking enterprise. A distinguished American once went there to collect a debt of \$500,000 owing to an English syndicate, which included two members of parliament and a cabinet minister. He expected to see the business through in two or three months. But a foreign ambassador undeciphered him. "Say three or four months and then you will be as far off from obtaining your money as you are today," he remarked. Men had gone out there to prosecute claims, he added, whose hair had turned gray with the strain to which they were subjected and who had gone home thoroughly broken in health, unable to obtain a Turkish lira to show for years of fruitless labor. One victim of Turkish duplicity and procrastination died in a lunatic asylum. One of the embassies had been twenty-five years prosecuting claims without realizing a cent.

### Was on Forbidden Ground.

"A debating society was formed in one of the counties of my district," said a Kentucky congressman, "and among the first questions debated was, 'Resolved, That the negroes have more cause for complaint than the Indians.'" It was stipulated the arguments should be confined to the United States. The first disputant on the affirmative opened with a speech to sustain his position, every word of which was listened to with close attention by the chairman. The disputant for the negative made a few remarks in answer and then turned to the Bible and commenced reading passages for the purpose of proving that some of the points made by his opponent were not backed up by the good book.

"The chairman stopped him with: 'Halt right where you are, Jim. Don't go any further. You have gone out of the United States for argument.'"—Nashville Banner.

### A Robust Babe.

Sir John Richard Robinson in his "Fifty Years of Fleet Street" tells of an amusing incident during the visit of the Swazi deputation from the Transvaal to England at the close of 1894: "The Swazi braves went to Windsor and had an audience of her majesty Queen Victoria. They were very graciously received. One of their number began to speak, and an interpreter followed him phrase by phrase. 'We come, O great mother,' he said, 'to bring to you our babe. Take him, O mother, to thy knees; fold him to thy breast.' Here the queen, half frightened, exclaimed: 'But where is the child? I don't see him. Where is he?' 'Here, O mother,' said the Swazi gravely, at the same time bringing forward a big black about six feet high and weighing well over 200 pounds. 'He is here.'"

### Diamonds on Board Ship.

Millions of dollars' worth of diamonds are imported into this country every year. In carrying packages of such tremendous value over seas extraordinary precautions are taken. They are immured in strong safes and so carefully guarded that not an instance has ever been recorded in which diamonds have been lost or stolen, though a man could easily walk off with half a million dollars' worth of gems in his waistcoat pockets were it not that it is one of the most difficult undertakings in the world to commit such a theft or even to find where the gems are stored on shipboard.

### Blucher and His Pipe.

Cromwell's Ironsides were smokers, and large numbers of pipes have been dug up from the sites of William III's camps. The wars of the eighteenth century found tobacco esteemed in all armies, and Wellington was the only general who objected to it. Even he was moved to admiration by the unconscious heroism of Blucher's pipe servant at Waterloo. Everywhere he went Blucher was attended by Christian Henneman, a Hussar, carrying clay pipes and tobacco for the general's refreshment. As his share of the fight began at Waterloo, Blucher sat his charger gravely puffing away. He had reached out his hand to take a refilled pipe when a cannon ball plowed up the ground before him. He exclaimed: "Get a fresh pipe for me! I'm going to drive those rascally Frenchmen back!" It was evening before he returned, riding with Wellington over the stricken field. Where he had left him Blucher found Henneman, wounded and bleeding, but with the pipe ready according to orders. "You have been admiring my highlanders," said Wellington, "but what shall I say of this brave man?" "Well, your highlanders had no tobacco to inspire them," replied Blucher.—London Standard.

### Trout That Are Not Trout.

Dr. Theodore Gill of the Smithsonian Institution in calling attention to the misnaming of our native fish by early settlers instanced among others the trout. The pilgrims, finding in New England streams a fish that reminded them of the trout of England, gave it the same name, although Izaak Walton would have told them that it was not a trout, but a char. In Maine landlocked salmon and in certain lakes another salmonid fish were also called trout. In the south the name trout was given to black bass. In California a peculiar fish was named trout, apparently for no other reason than its possession of spots. The Gila river trout is not a trout at all.

### Conspirators.

It will surprise many to know that Washington Irving was a confessed orchard thief. Once, while picking up an apple in his own orchard, he was accosted by an urchin of the neighborhood, who, not recognizing him as the proprietor, offered to show him a tree where he could get some better apples than those.

"But," said the boy, "we must not let the old man see us."

"I went with him," said Irving, "and we stole about a dozen or two of my own apples and then went shares."

### She Can That's a Fact.

Boyce—Why does a woman give so much attention to dress? Is it because she wants to attract men or because she desires to outshine her sister women? Mrs. Boyce—Can't a woman do two things at once?—Smart Set.

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