THE DEST MAN.

At One Time He Was More Useful Than Ornamental.

Do you know how "the best man." who plays so important a part in marriages that have any pretense to be fashionable, once upon a time in Sweden occupied a position that was useful as well as ornamental?

In olden days the Swedish bridegroom found it desirable, in fact, to have several "best men" to defend him from the assaults of rivals and prevent them from carrying away bis bride. The Scandinavian warrior of ancient times was far too lofty in his ideas to condescend to plend for a maiden's band. So be patiently waited until some other man who was more gallant had obtained the fair

Then when all the details had been nicely arranged the proud warrior. with a body of well trained retainers, dashed down on the wedding party and, if strong enough, carried away the bride.

The "best men" (and it was very essential that they should be the best men in those days) therefore became necessary fixtures to marriage ceremonies, and they were so well esteem ed and their popularity became so permanent that when the reason for their existence was in course of time removed they were still retained .- Pearson's Weekly.

A HARD WORKER.

His Soiled Appearance Brought Him a Raise In Salary.

The eccentric proprietor of a large newspaper in London had a way of appearing in the composing and press rooms at the most unexpected times. and as his visits often resulted in a general shakeup of the working forces of the paper they were awaited with fear and trembling by the employees.

One time one of the pressmen, an excellent workman, who had been there many years, but was sometimes guilty of a lapse of sobriety, had a black eye and was in a quandary as to what excuse be should offer if the proprietor noticed it. By a sudden inspiration he seized an ink roller and daubed some ink on his face, quite covering the discoloration. Presently the governor came in and, with the foreman, went through the room, commenting on every detail and looking very sharply at every workman. When about to leave he suddenly pointed to the inky pressman and said, "What is that man's name?"

The man quaked in his shoes until he beard the governor continue slowly: "I want you to give that man 5 shillings a week more wages. He is the only man in the room who looks as if he had been working."--London Tele-

Bird's Sense of Direction. The migratory instinct in birds is combined with another equally mysterious, that of the sense of direction. A gentleman engaged in scientific research work for the fishery board on board the government steamboat Gold Seeker recorded a very interesting observation he made of this characteristie of migratory bird life. An oyster catcher that was being buffeted by a head wind to its eastern flight across the North sea toward the continental shores alighted on the boat. It took cindly to the attention paid to it so long as the boat kept its easterly course, but when the course of the boat was altered a few points to the northward the bird immediately showed signs of uneasiness and after an apparent consideration of its bearings flew into the darkness of the night on its eastbound course. The atteration in the boat's course was revealed to those who were watching the bird only when the compass was examined.-

Norway's Many Meals. Among the well to do in Norway the frequency of meals and lighter refreshments is something startling, a least to the average American-break fast at 9, dinner at 3, coffee at 3:30. regular tea, with many dishes, in English style, at 4:30, supper at 7, and at 11 nature is finally fortified with further nutriment for the long, radiant night. These long, radiant nights, by the way, are a constant peril to Christiania. They encourage many forms of dissipation and immorality, much as the corresponding darkness of the long winter brings in its train a certain sordid depression, both mental and physical.-Caroline Thurber in Century.

Scotsman.

Stage Fright. "They tell me your busband has be come one of the easiest and most graceful after dinner speakers in the city. I understand be has no end of

"Yes, and I have to sit up and give him a good dinner after every one of

"Yes. When he knows they are going to call on him to speak he's always too scared to eat."-New York Journal

Wrong Method. He breathed his vow, yet still she regarded bim with disdain. "It is from my heart of hearts!" he

"Where did you go to school that you breathe from your heart of hearts rather than from your diaphragm?" she demanded severely.-Puck.

Success.

protested.

Some men act upon the principle that in order to be successful in business it is always necessary to compel other people to wait in the anteroom.

Happy are the miseries that end at joy .- German Proverb.

Fever Sores.

ing Chamberlain's Salve. This salve you'll be over it in no time. has no superior for this purpose. It is also most excellent for chapped hands, sore nipples, burns and dischards, sore nipples, burns and dischards, For sale by all be over it in no time. The mad a student and violent attack ing Chamberian's Coup. Much thick stringy chitis and all pulmonary diseases in phlegm came up after giving Chamberian's Couph Remedy. Mr. Peterstime, and in many cases within son says: "I think he would have three days. Sold by all good druggood druggists.

Work for a Greater St. Johns.

A COSTLY ACCIDENT.

The Wave of a Hand, an Upset Ink Bottle and Bankruptcy.

mere motion of a hand ruined Cobbett & Co., one of the largest and wealthlest of English engineering firms. They and an American firm tendered bids for the building of the great Kaura bridge for the Russian government. Jacob Cobbett, who was the brain and center of the business, spent six months in the designing and contracting and had all his plans ready. His bid was accepted, and material was bought in enormous quantities. A time limit had been set both for the commencement and finish, and Cobbett was perfecting his plans and making sure of the smallest details, with all the formula spread out on the table before him, when he stretched out his hand, overturned an ink pot and drowned the most important of the papers in a black sea.

Cobbett had a poor memory. In a fever of anxiety he tried to reconstruct his plans from stray notes. It was impossible, and he called on the Russian government for more time. Time was refused, and Russia repudiated the had been broken. contract on the ground of delay, as the agreement allowed. Cobbett could not get his work through in time, and the Yankee firm, which now advanced a cheaper tender, with cut and dried plans, got the job. The loss drove Cobbett & Co. to bankruptcy, and the great Kaura bridge in Russia is Amer-ican built.—London Scraps.

THE WOODEN HORSE.

An Old Time Form of Military Punish

ment in England. Torture on a grand scale in England went out with Felton, the assassin of Buckingham, but torture on a small scale continued to be practiced on military offenders down to the eighteenth century. The form most frequently resorted to was that known as the wooden horse, to ride which was the punishment accorded for petty thefts, insubordination and so on. The wooden horse was made of planks train?" nailed together so as to form a sharp ridge or angle about eight or nine feet long. This ridge represented the back of the horse and was supported by four posts or legs about five feet high placed on a stand made movable by truckles. To complete the resemblance to the poblest animal in creation a

hend and tall were added. When a soldler was sentenced, elther by court martial or by his commanding officer, to ride the horse he his hands tied behind him, and frequently enough, in order to increase the pain, muskets were fastened to his legs to weigh them down or, as was jocularly said, to prevent the flery, untamed, barebacked steed from kicking him off.-London Graphic,

Decayed Families.

We have known Morieys who were remarkable example. It ended in the have passed away in the parish workhouse of Chesterie street had not Robert Surtees of Mainsforth, the historian of the country palatine of Duram, and other gene tervened. To the last he showed that he was well aware of the dignity of the house he represented and for some time declined to receive assistance from his friends. Another remarkable case is that of Grenville. This family was noteworthy in the wars of the Caroline period, yet as time passed sank so low that two of its members were at one time receiving parish relief, and one of them, evidently by some mistake which it is difficult to account for, was twice picked for high sheriff at the very time be was a pauper.-London Athenaeum.

Four Useful Senses. naturalist of Wobrook-in-the Hills had pointed out a rabbit squatting close under a bush, and the iadies had declared in chorus that they could not see the little animal. "How do you manage to see every

thing?" asked one of the party, with dattering indection. "Well," began the naturalist confidently, "'tain't altogether seeing Sometimes I see, but when I can't see nose, and when I can't smell things with my nose I hear 'em with my ears, and when I can't bear with my ears I prickle all over."-Youth's Com-

Curação's Good Schools. In all Curacao schools, from the most exclusive to the humblest government school, in which the little black or parchment Dutch twigs are bent, Dutch, French, Spanish, Euglish and Papiemento are used and taught. By the neighboring islands and even on the mainland and as far away as Central America these schools are highly regarded, and a large number of for eign children are sent to Curacao to get their education.—Charles Johnson Post in Century.

Definition of Tact.

Mrs. Pyne-Mrs. Blank certainly possesses a lot of tact. Mrs. Hyne-What is you definition of "tact?" Mrs. Pyne -Tact is a woman's ability to make her husband believe he is having his own way .- Lippincott's.

Hatred's Dividends. Hatred takes time and energy and health. And the dividends on the investment are pitifully small and upsatisfactory.-Atchison Globe.

A mere madness-to live like wretch that he may die rich.-Burton

Caught in the Rain

then a cold and a cough-let it run Fever sores and old chronic sores ou-get pneumonia or consumption, should not be healed entirely, but that's all. No matter how you get should be kept in healthy con- your cough, don't neglect it-take Peterson, a well known resident fully recovered. This is an un-

Glassware and Hardware.

On occarious of impending danger people sometimes do what seems to them most absurd at other moments. When the steamship America, which carried one of the Ziegier exploring expeditions to Franz Josef Land in 1903, was being crushed by ice the following winter it became necessary to abandon the ship in baste. Orders were given to unload upon the ice everything that would be of use in the long winter yet before the men. The

work must be done with dispatch. While the crew was passing the bags over the side of the ship the cook, who was of an excitable nature, suddenly appeared at the rail with a large bag, which he heaved over with all his strength. It struck the ice below with a resounding crash, causing one of the sailor's to exclaim;

"Hello, cook, what was that?" "Oh, that is all right," be answered. It was lamp chimneys and flatirons,"

But it was bardly all right, for during the winter they were obliged to cut the bottoms out of pickle bottles and use them in place of chimneys that

Doubtless True.

A teacher in a Birmingham school was endeavoring to explain the term "booking" as applied to our railway system, says London Tit-Bits.

"Now," he was saying, "can any of you tell me the name of the office at which rallway tickets are sold?" "The booking office," replied one of

"Right," responded the teacher. At this moment his eye fell on a small boy at the end of the class who was evidently paying very little attention to what was said. "Did you hear that, Spry?" he de-

"Wot, sir?" asked that youth inno-

cently. "As I thought, you were not listening. We will suppose your father de-cided to have a day's holiday and visit the seaside. What would be have to do before he could take his seat in the

Without a moment's thought the youngster electrified his teacher by replying:

"Pawn his tools!"

Odd French English.

A correspondent has been studying English pronunciation in a French dictionary (Pierre Larousee, 1890) and picks out a few examples to show how much effort is necessary for a Frenchman to acquire a true articulation of was placed on the brute's back, with English. They are all taken from a surprisingly long list of English phrases current in France. "Broken down" (as applied to a race horse) is "bro-k'n-daoun." "Dead heat" is rendered as "did-hith," which is ingenious, but hardly correct. "Ai-laif" is not a bad attempt for "high life," although the aspirate is missing. "Self government" looks an even more imposing political ideal as "self gheuvernmentt," entirely ignorant of the race from and the word "shocking" is quite ap-which they came. Sometimes it is far plicable when rendered "chok-inn-que." otherwise. The family of Conyers is a The opening words of Hamlet's famous sollloquy have a decidedly forhast baronet, Sir Thomas, who died in eign look, "Tou bi or nott tou bi, 1810 without male issue. He would that is thi kouess-tcheunn."-Manchester Guardian.

> Alluring Surroundings. A young man who had just gone to ala to take en business house was casting about for a suitable room for himself in Germantown when he chanced upon one in a fine bouse overlooking a cemetery,

He was a little doubtful about the terms and more than doubtful about the cemetery. "Your rate is pretty high," he mur-

"But consider the cheerful view, sir." ventured the mistress of the house, "Cheerful view!" exclaimed that applicant for lodgings. "Is that what you call a view that embraces a graveyard?"

mured hesitatingly to the landlady.

"Why, certainly," was the response. "Just think how comfortin' and cheerin' it will be when you look out of your window and think you're not there."-Cincinnati Commercial Trib-

Arsenic. Arsenic is mined in Japan, Italy Portugal, Spain, Germany, England and, within a limited area, in the United States. Its uses are many. As with my eyes I smell things with my a poison it has been known from very early times. The peasant women of Austria consume large quantities of it. having faith in its virtues as a beautifler, and the men of the same region are addicted to its use in the mistaken belief that it increases their bodily strength and endurance.

> Noblesse Oblige. "What are you staring at, Nellie?"

"Ob. please, ma'am, with your nair like that and your diamonds you do ook so like Lady Plantaganet Gingham that I was own maid to: Are you any relation, ma'am?"

"No-at least no near relation. But you can have that pink silk waist of mine, Neilie!"-Life.

An Effort to Console. "Yes," said Mrs. Flummerton, "my incestors were among the country's first settlers."

etc., in the right proportions ourselves we are using a prescription which is universally found the most effective. "Well," answered Mrs. Cumrox consolingly, "the social and educational facilities in those days must have been It is known as the D. D. Prescriprather crude, but I don't believe in heredity."-Washington Star.

Foolish Question. "Some one stole every blessed stocking off our line." "What are blessed stockings?" "Those which are not darned, of

course."-Exchange. Great characters shine out through

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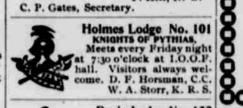
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