

NOT AS SHE HAD PICTURED

Girl Who Had Herself Paged in Hotel Unprepared for Meeting With Flippant Individual.

The girl had never been paged in a hotel. Time after time she had heard the bellboys go by calling out names, and always she had followed the young women who got up and envied them to the telephone.

It got to be a positive mania with her—this desire to be paged—and finally she persuaded one of her friends to telephone her at a hotel at a specified time.

She waited in the lobby, sitting on the edge of her seat in excitement, until the boy appeared.

"Miss Brown! Miss Brown!" She rose excitedly. "I am Miss Brown," she said.

"Gentleman waiting to see you out front?"

She looked rather surprised; that had not been in the scheme. But perhaps he had changed his mind. She followed the boy obediently, and was led face to face with a perfect stranger.

Her face grew pink with confusion as she gazed at him, and he, realizing the mistake, watched her in amusement. He was a rather loudly dressed young man with a great air of assurance.

For a moment they stared; then he spoke. "Not so good," he said slowly, and then, as an after thought, "but not so bad, either!"

And the girl fled in embarrassment.

OFFER MARK TWAIN REFUSED

Nothing Sadder, He Is Reported to Have Said, Than Editorship of Humorous Periodical.

About that time my wife helped me put another temptation behind me. This was an offer of fifteen thousand dollars a year, for five years, to let my name be used as editor of a humorous periodical.

I praise her for furnishing her help in resisting that temptation, for it is her due. There was no temptation about it, in fact, but she would have offered her help just the same if there had been one. I can conceive of many wild and extravagant things when my imagination is in good repair, but I can conceive of nothing quite so wild and extravagant as the idea of my accepting the editorship of a humorous periodical.

I should regard that as the saddest of all occupations. If I should undertake it I should have to add to it the occupation of undertaker, to relieve it in some degree of its cheerlessness. —From "Unpublished Chapters from the Autobiography of Mark Twain" in Harper's Magazine.

Where Long Necks Are Stylish.

In Burma, among the Karens, a long neck is the ambition of every woman. Her mother starts thinking about this when her daughter is a baby, and starts to accomplish this swan-like effect when the tots are scarcely able to walk.

The method employed is a series of heavy brass rings, which are as thick as your little finger. These are put around the child's neck, and as she grows, more rings are added, thus forcing her neck to lengthen out. More rings are added year after year as the girl grows into womanhood. Twenty-one of these coils is the average worn, although 25 have been achieved.

The 21-ring-coiled woman is thought beautiful, but the 25-ring lady is considered a ravishing beauty under the Karens of Burma.

Hidden Brine River.

A thousand feet beneath the town of Midland, Mich., run rivers of brine charged with calcium, sodium, magnesium, strontium, bromine and chlorine. Forty pumping wells raise the brine, and separate processes release from it the bases of photographic emulsions, medicines, cement, tanning materials, perfumes, preservatives and cold-storage solutions. The magnesium was used for war flares, and now, combined in a secret alloy, furnishes metal one-third the weight of aluminum, sustaining a pressure of 24,000 pounds per square inch. In the form of gas engine pistons, after a test equivalent to that of a motor car running 30 miles an hour continuously for 35,000 miles, scarcely a sign of wear was discernible. —Scientific American.

Of Course Not!

A negro boarded a tramcar. After a word with the conductor, he shuffled toward the door again.

An inspector, who happened to be in the car, said to him, "surely you don't want to get off so soon—and you haven't paid."

"Ah, want ter go ter Whopple street," said the negro, "an' de conductor says dah's no sich place."

"Well, there isn't," said the conductor.

"Den dah's sure no good in ma gwine dah." —Edinburgh Scotsman.

Baffin Land.

Baffin Land, a barren insular tract in British North America, lies between latitude 61 degrees and 72 degrees north, with Lancaster sound on the north, Baffin bay and Davis strait on the east, the Gulf of Boothia and Fox channel on the west, and Hudson bay on the south. The area is about 236,000 square miles. It is inhabited by a few Eskimos, but is visited occasionally by whalers.

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APE EXPERT MONEY TESTER

Said to Be Impossible to Fool Animals of Siam With Any Counterfeit Money.

The people of Siam are very fond of keeping monkeys of various kinds as pets. Owing to their close association with human beings, these creatures become very intelligent.

One of the most remarkable things that these monkeys can do is to test money. In Siam there is a large amount of counterfeit money, perhaps more than in any other country in the world. As a consequence, the lot of the merchant is a difficult one. They have, however, surmounted the trouble to a large extent by making use of apes to test the coins. Sitting by the side of each merchant is to be seen a solemn-faced ape. Every piece of money handed to his master is at once given to the ape. The animal tests the coin with his teeth. If it is good, he throws it into the money box; if it be bad he flings it to the ground.

The strange part about the business is that no white person has yet been able to discover how the apes tell the good money from the bad. The merchants politely refuse to explain how the creatures are trained to carry out this useful office. The only sure thing about the affair is that the apes never make a mistake.

STATUES THAT HOLD SPIRITS

Buddhists Firmly Believe That Souls of Long Departed Sages Are Present in Images.

Marco Polo, the celebrated Venetian traveler, with his two uncles, was the first European to travel in China. In the glided statue erected to his memory in Soochow, China, the Chinese believe his spirit still resides. According to Chinese superstition, a fly or spider is the means by which the spirits of the dead are coaxed back to earth to occupy their statues. Five hundred similar statues, life size, line the walls of a dimly lighted room in the Buddhist temple of that ancient city. They contain the spirits of the sages they represent, devout Buddhists believe.

A spirit is unable to enter a statue unless another and freshly liberated spirit is there to receive it, say the priests. Through a door in the back of a new statue, therefore, a spider or fly is introduced. The door is then sealed and the insect is left to mother. Its spirit, fluttering about inside the statue, is taken possession of by the soul of the long-departed sage. Marco Polo was brought back in this way, the priests say. Worshippers burn incense before the statue and seek communion with the spirit of the alien who dwelt so long in China, and even ruled as governor of one of the provinces.

Story of the High Heel.

The high-heeled shoe was introduced in the Middle ages, when both men and women took to it. Man, however, soon found that he could not live a man's life and do a man's work while wearing high heels, and so resumed his low-heeled shoes, leaving high heels to the ladies, with whom they have always been popular.

The modern high heel is, in its way, a triumph of art, being of wood, which is lighter than leather and keeps its shape. The heel contains a spring, which adds to the grace of its wearer's walk. As the instep is raised the figure is thrown slightly forward, and a pronounced elegance is the result. But it must be admitted the high heels, though improving the appearance, do not always improve the physique of their wearers, and are frequently the cause of ill-health.

Famous Explorer.

Louis Hennepin, a French Recollet friar, missionary and traveler in North America, was born at Ath, in Flanders, about 1640. He embarked for Canada and arrived in Quebec in 1675. Between that period and 1682 he explored the regions afterwards called Louisiana, and, returning to Europe, published an account of his researches. The geographical portions of his works are feeble, but they present much interest as descriptions of the manners of the aboriginal races which the author visited. He died in Utrecht about 1700.

Chinese Have Fondness for Birds.

In addition to using birds and their nests as food, the Chinese keep birds as pets. Their fondness for birds is one of the most pleasant features of their national character. Birds furnish them with much amusement.

Several kinds of bird pets are taught to catch seeds thrown into the air after jumping from perches held in the hand. Except in winter, one can always see people going into the open country early in the morning with their pets, to catch grasshoppers to feed them, and to teach their pets new songs.

Balked at Wearing Old Costumes.

At Princess Mary's costume ball no one could be found to represent the fashion between 1880 and 1900, in the fashion parade. They were so ugly that no one would wear them! Crinolines were there, and other eccentricities of fashion before and after that period, but that time of bustles, full and heavy trimmings, big sleeves and ridiculous hats were voted out altogether; they were not even considered funny or quaint enough to be given a place in the procession. —London Times.

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RAISE BUGS TO FIGHT BUGS

French Scientists Breed Insects and Birds That Are Enemies of Fruit-Destroying Pests.

There is a quaint institution in Mentone, in the south of France, known as the Insectarium, where learned professors are rearing various species of bugs and other insects.

Mentone is in the center of an important fruit-growing district, and the object is to discover the best means of fighting those insect pests that prey upon plants and ruin the fruit.

The orchards have suffered severely through the ravages of the mealy bug, and the fruit growers were becoming quite alarmed. Then experts discovered that three other species of bug are the natural enemies of the mealy. So these are being bred and reared and turned loose in the orchards as allies of the fruit growers.

The institution is also breeding certain species of ladybirds to destroy the cochineal, an insect that plays havoc with orange and lemon trees. These ladybirds have been brought from far Australia and California.

The institution is nothing less than an up-to-date insect farm, consisting of a large private house and an acre of ground. In the laboratory are rows upon rows of phials and jars, the larvae of various insects which are kept at a high temperature. In the garden are cages full of all kinds of creeping and flying pests.

VAST WEALTH FROM SILVER

Fortunate Spaniards Spent Millions as the Average Man Might Dispose His Dollars.

In the old Spanish days in Mexico, millionaires were often made over night in the rich silver-mining sections around Guadalajara. A shrewd prospector in the early days, named Zambrano, discovered a mine which brought him immense wealth. He spent most of his time in the capitals of Europe, living as extravagantly as possible, squandering vast sums at the gaming table, but managing to leave a snug little fortune of \$500,000. One of his whims was to lay a silver pavement in front of his house, but this the authorities forbade. In those days silver was on a parity with gold.

The conde de Valenciana, who discovered one of the richest mines in this section, derived so much wealth from it that he is said to have gotten rid of \$100,000,000 in a few years. Another silver king sent the king of Spain \$2,000,000 as a Christmas present, and asked to be allowed to build galleries and portals of silver around his mansion. This request was refused, the authorities declaring that such magnificence was the privilege of royalty only.

Making Burglar's Tools.

The "Black museum" at Scotland Yard has recently acquired a fine set of house-breaking tools which had been abandoned by their owner after a burglary. These instruments show wonderful workmanship. There is a collapsible jimmy that folds up in the pocket, a rope ladder of silk that fits into the palm of the hand, a number of keys and lock-picking instruments, and a neat oxygen-acetylene blow-lamp. Where do burglars obtain these marvelous tools? They are experts at making skeleton keys and so on, but they are not capable of making the other implements. No respectable firm manufactures such articles, and, although a small quantity is made secretly by employees of reputable firms, the majority come from special factories engaged in nothing else but making burglars' tools. Such factories are hidden away in back streets, and it is almost impossible to locate them.

Caribb' Flashing Thunder Bird.

The Australian thick-headed shrike is about six inches long, rich-yellow below, with a jet-black collar and a white throat, black head and partly black tail. It is sometimes called the black-breasted fly-catcher and it has also a variety of French and New Latin names.

In the mythology of some low tribes, such as the Caribbians, Brazilians, Harvey Islanders, Karens, Bechnans and Basutos, there are legends of a snapping or flashing thunder bird, which seems to translate into myth the thought of thunder and lightning descending from the upper regions of the air, the home of the eagle and the vulture.

Simple Life in India.

In some parts of India, I discovered, clothes—or the lack of them—cause little concern; children up to six or eight years old wear absolutely nothing. All the barbering is done in the open street.

For the most part, houses are simply built of clay, with brush thrown over the top. The better classes of natives pile into tenement houses as people do in the congested districts of New York City, and their ambition seems to be to crowd as many persons into a room as possible, and to have as many children as nature will permit. —World Traveler.

Love of Nature.

"What is your favorite flower?" "Well," replied Farmer Cornsloss, "I guess an orchid is about as satisfactory as any." "Orchids are beautiful, but rare." "That's why I favor 'em. There's no chance of their gettin' a start like daisies or dandelions 'an' havin' to be weeded out." —Washington Star.

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SEEN IN DIFFERENT LIGHTS

Beauties of Nature Made Varying Appeal to the Artist and the Two "Flappers."

The woman and the artist were sitting on the sands at the beach. Near them were two girls murmuring to each other.

Silence fell when the artist sat up excitedly and, waving a thumb at the magnificent sunset, said: "Get that color!"

It was one of Nature's great pictures—a pile of lavender thunder clouds tipped pink by the setting sun and slashed from time to time by flame lightning. The lake gave back the glories of the sky, enhanced by its own green waves.

The bobbed-haired one of the two girls spoke first: "Say, Minnie, wouldn't that make a swell negligee?" "You said it," replied Minnie, "but how'd you get all them colors?"

"Layers and layers and layers of chiffon," was the dreamy response. The artist fairly exploded in the woman's ear: "Gosh! Is that all they can think of! Now, when I get back to the studio I'll show you—"

The woman said nothing, only sat back and pondered on the number of things that genius might create from one source of inspiration. —Chicago Journal.

NO CHANGE IN PROCEDURE

"Same Old Objection, Same Old Ruling," and Judicial Proceedings Went on Their Way.

A reader was overhauling his old files of life the other day when he came across a story with a distinct Cleveland flavor.

It concerns a once noted member of the local bar, and a well-known judge, who, happily, is still numbered among the living.

Here is the story just as it appeared 20 years ago:

"A most amusing reply was made by Judge Neff to an objection made by Attorney Vernon Burke. The replevin suit of Capt. Joseph Deville against Constable Hudson was on hearing. Mr. Burke had continually made objection to certain testimony, and every one of the objections was religiously overruled by Judge Neff.

"Later, Captain Deville was on the stand and the same question came up again.

"I object," cried Mr. Burke in a stentorian voice.

"What's your objection?" asked Judge Neff.

"Same old objection," replied the attorney.

"Same old ruling," answered the judge. "Proceed." —Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Costly Bird-Books.

A London bookseller reports that many of the standard works on birds are conspicuous for their high prices. Thus a copy of "Lilford's Birds of the British Isles" with Thompson's plates, is listed at £75. A complete copy of the "Ibis" runs to £130, and the "Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum," to £54. Beebe's "Monograph of the Phalarope" stands at £50, and Elliot's monograph of the same order at £80. If you want Dresser's "Birds of Europe" today you must pay £95, and for Gould's "Birds of Europe," £105. Gould's "Birds of Australia" can be obtained for £285, and his "Monograph of the Humming Bird" for £78. The climax is reached by the "Ornithological Bibliography Relating to American Birds" that appears in the list at £875, and by Audubon's "Birds of America," which demands a shilling as large as an ordinary dining table for each of its gigantic volumes, and is priced at £990. Thus the would-be possessor of the eleven works named above must be prepared for an expenditure of £2,424.

In Search of Ambergris.

An expedition has left Seattle for Bering sea to search for ambergris, which is now more precious than gold. There is a decided shortage of this material, which is used in perfumery, and as yet no substitute has been evolved.

Ambergris is a morbid growth in the whale's intestines and when ejected into the sea floats like the chilled grease on broth, until found. It contains a property necessary to hold various chemicals in solution.

Near the mouth of the Yukon river there is said to exist a virgin field for ambergris. Actions of various currents tend to congregate all floats into one gigantic whirlpool, and in the hope of finding ambergris there, several hardy fellows are now en route north on the steamer Victoria.

Rug Factories in Peking.

There are sixty rug factories in Peking, China, employing over 200 workmen each and with capitals ranging about \$10,000. This is a remarkable increase on the figures recorded a few years ago, and is explained by the increasing popularity of Peking rugs in the United States. Direct buying is now done by many large American firms. In addition to this number, there are numerous small establishments—estimated at over a hundred—which each employ a few score workmen and operate with a small capital.

That Silenced Him.

Blackstone: Why do women always like to parade their new finery before their friends? Mrs. Blackstone: For the same reason, I suppose, that you men dress up like drum majors at your lodge conventions.

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