

BOOTH'S DRAWING POWERS.

is Famous Tragedian Was a Star Money Maker.

A retired theater manager said the other day: "It is not generally known at Edwin Booth received 50 per cent of the gross receipts of his performances while under the management of Messrs. Brooks & Dixon. There never was a star on the stage who could draw the money that Booth could to a theater. There were no spasms about business. It was as steady as a clock. We could bank on it. Out of the half of the receipts Brooks & Dixon paid the rent for theaters, paid salaries of the company, the railroad and hotel bills and the advertising throughout the country and made profits, which they shared with the actors, to whom Booth insisted that his affairs at the start and who afterward associated himself with Brooks & Dixon. Booth's agreement with Henry E. Abbey was this: After all expenses of every description were paid Booth got per cent and Abbey 15. Booth lost week in Philadelphia owing to the death of his wife. The company was in there without him, and we had indemnify the local manager. Our share that week was \$4,000. Deducting it, Abbey's profits on the season were \$1,000. I do not know any star, save Booth, who ever commanded 50 per cent of the gross receipts."—New York Press.

Where Blood Tells.

It was in one of the farming districts of New England. The young folks had gathered themselves together for month-long festivities during the winter and were about to celebrate the last dance of the season as well as a couple of pageants which had resulted from assemblies. Ben Hawkins, the local fiddler, and his Stradivarius had been engaged to lead them through the maze of the country dance, and all were looking forward to the "time of life."

But death inconsiderately claimed Ben Hawkins for his own on the afternoon of the eventful party. The young people gathered as arranged, but because of the absence of Old Ben, and as was being substituted for the fiddling when, lo, Hawkins and his fiddle appeared on the scene. Great astonishment and many questions greeted the old man, but he calmly slipped his fiddle out of its green case and as he meditatively rubbed the in on the bow said: "Waal, yes; Maria's gone; died this mornin'. But I reckon 'tain't no sin 'me to play for you tonight, seein' 'wa'n't no blood relation."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Yet He Loved the Sea. It is said that Bryan Waller Procter, known as Barry Cornwall, who wrote the well known poem—

"I'm on the sea! I'm on the sea! I am where I would ever be!— I am the very worst of sailors. When I read that he was so seaisick that he could scarcely bear the sound of a human voice it becomes apparent that his sea conduct during his affliction did scarcely have been reassuring. As he lay on the deck of a channel steamer, covered with shawls and a tartan, she had the pleasing habit of naming a strain of his jovial sea song. The poet who loved the sea, but did it best at a distance, had very little life just then, but what force he had is used in the entreaty: "Don't, my dear! Oh, don't!" "I don't doubt he loved the sea."

A Rude Awakening. The Centerville (Mo.) Record tells of a young man who had been writing a letter in Minneapolis for three years, ending some day to ask her to marry him. The other day he received a letter and a picture from her. The letter announced that she had been married a year, and the picture was of her. "My husband and I have enjoyed our letters very much," she wrote, "but I guess you'd better stop writing now, as I have to spend all my time caring for the baby." The Record says the words the young man used in reading the letter would shock a school of oysters.

Snakes. Dr. Rolker in McClure's robs us of our misconceptions as to snakes. When a snake is decapitated it is dead. A tail will remain sensitive for some time without reference to sundown. A rattlesnake does not suicide by biting itself. No snake is susceptible to poison of its own kind. That the black snake will swallow its young in case of danger is true, and they are a digested, making the mother a victim of the worst sort.

Hopes. "Yes—It was Dr. Killam who attended the late Mr. Oldgold, wasn't it?" "Yes. He was called in only a few days before the old gentleman died. Why do you ask?" "—Old Mr. Boxley was taken sick yesterday and his young son sent for Dr. Killam at once."—Philadelphia Press.

Did the Best She Could. Mrs. Uppmann—I must tell you, De—that I was displeased at your entertaining that policeman in the kitchen last night. Julia—Faith, O! did ax him into the parlor, ma'am, but he wouldn't go. —Philadelphia Ledger.

Fraining an Excuse. Little Boy—Please, Mrs. Grumpy, I want to know if you will lend me your wash tub. Mrs. Grumpy (gruffly)—No, I can't. The tubs are off, the bottom's out and full of water. —Glasgow Times.

When a fool has made up his mind a market has gone by.

Ibsen's Gruffness. In 1891 Georg Brandes happened to be with some friends at Sandviken, near Christiania, when they heard that Ibsen was staying at the local hotel. They decided to invite him to dinner, but he declined when he was told that there would be nine persons at the banquet. "I never dine with so large a party," he said. Finally he was persuaded to say "Yes," but in the meantime the number of persons whose request to be present Brandes could not possibly refuse had grown to twenty-two. Ibsen was furious when he discovered this, but Brandes managed to get him to the dining room, where, however, the poet looked so forbidding that the champagne had to be served immediately after the soup to give courage to the guests. Ibsen acted like a bear all the evening. When one of the guests, an actress, remarked that she liked his roles better than any others he answered gruffly: "I do not write roles. I represent characters, and never work for any actor or actress."

The Volcano. The London Globe contains a number of amusing answers to a recent examination for office boys in a government office. Some of the descriptions of a volcano are graphic: "A volcano is a hill, and smoke rises from the top."

"A volcano is a Mountain with sulphur and a collection of iron and lead. Soon after a few years they get hot and bursts the mountain Does a lot of Damage to the country."

"A volcano is a mountain which has a large amount of lather and this sometimes overflows and burns villages down."

The most flattering answer runs as follows: "The boundaries of England are united states america and Europe." "Latitude and Longitude," said another student, "are terms used to describe certain spots on the sea."

Had to Keep on Building. The Canadian Magazine has a story apropos of a building reputed to be the highest west of Chicago. The proprietor found some need of outside help in financing his expenses and every Saturday used to exchange checks with a friend to pay his building expenses. At last his friend got tired of these transactions and said: "Major, I've had enough of your checks. You've got that building high enough already. Why don't you roof it in?" "I can't afford to put the roof on," said the major. "You see, I have contracted to pay for the material when I get it roofed in."

The Best Way to Preserve a Body. There is no other way in which a body can be preserved so long, leaving freezing and mummification out of the question, as by burial in a lead coffin. If the receptacle is airtight, lack of oxygen brings putrefaction almost if not quite to a pause, and the face of a defunct person may be recognizable after a long period of time. The attempts frequently made to destroy bodies by covering them with lime usually have the opposite effect, preserving them by keeping out the air. —London Answers.

Poor Boy! "Your new brother is the eleventh child in the family, is he not?" asked the caller. "Yes, ma'am," said the little girl. "Have you named him yet?" "I think we're going to name him Jerusalem. That's what papa called him when he was born."—Exchange.

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