

THE VOICE ABOVE.

Follow the drift, and where the full clouds... The precipice there is no way... The mountain bell ring clear...

REPORTER AND CHINAMAN.

The Newspaper Man Was Very Tired When the Oriental Finished.

Numberless are the tricks which newspaper reporters play upon one another... The young reporter went inside the tea store...

The question of granting the right of suffrage to Chinese citizens who have come to the United States...

The young reporter went outside me and leaned against a lamp-post to rest and recover from a sudden faintness...

Reading at Breakfast.

Reading at breakfast is fatal to sociability. In breakfasting alone it is permissible, but not in company...

In the old days of The Spectator and Tatler, when papers were of a reasonable size and respectful to boot...

Respectability Defined.

British respectability has been defined in a London police court by a prisoner charged with begging...

What They Prefer.

Runting—You often hear of self made men, but never of self made women... Larkin—Women prefer to be tailor made...

In Germany, to prevent poison being obtained for evil purposes, none is allowed to be sold without a written order or certificate from a physician.

In England there are 70,000 girls engaged in public houses and drinking bars.

A Youthful Reasoner.

"Johnny," exclaimed Mr. Blykins, "what are you doing?" "Thinking, sir..." "How dare you waste your time thinking, when you ought to be studying your lesson?"

They Love a Fire.

"There are many men in London who have a positive craze for witnessing fires," said an old fireman to the writer...

Korea.

Of intellectual and spiritual life there is but a feeble glimmer. For 3,000 years the influence of China has been at its dry rotting work...

Of late there has been some reaction, Japanese prompted, so that official documents and The Gazette are now issued in a mixed script, partly English, the national language, and partly Chinese.

The Doctor Was Out.

A doctor perpetrated a witticism at his own expense late one night last week. He had lost his latchkey, the door was locked, he was cold from a long ride...

Opening the door a little, not far enough to present her dishabille to any intruding eye, she shouted into the frosty air...

"Yes, I know he's out," screamed the irate M. D., "and he wants to get in."—London Answers.

Youthful Marriages in Algiers. A census was taken lately in Algiers, and it was found that the youngest Arab married man was 12 years old...

Qualified. "So Elix passed his law examinations with flying colors?" "Yes, the examining committee pronounced 100 principal laws to him, and he told how 95 of them could be evaded."—Detroit Journal.

A Good Reason. Aunt Maria—What! Mary, cannot you comb your own hair yet? Mary—No'm, I ain't big enough.

Mary—Yes, it has. I ain't tall enough to look on the top of my head.—New York Tribune.

It is said that 60 per cent of the cases of shortsightedness are hereditary.

THE KING SNAKE.

DOES HARM TO NO ONE, BUT KILLS POISON REPTILES.

Rattles and Copperheads Are the Prey He Loves to Tackle—He Eats a Mouse or a Toad After Each Battle to Prepare Him for the Next Encounter.

The distant murmur of the waterfall, the hum of the bees among the flowers, made me feel lazy, and, laying aside my fishing rod, I stretched myself on the soft spring grass...

"I say, mister, this here is a powerful bad kentry fur snakes. One bit Jim Sloan's bay mare last night, an week afore last another bit Sally Milligan. Some on 'em air powerful pizen, specially the rattlers an coppers, an that 'minds me, of I wuz yerself, I'd move a little further from that 'ere copper."

Long before that speech had ended I had turned a somersault backward, which caused the mountaineer a great deal of genuine pleasure to behold.

"Not exactly understanding whether he expected a person of that name and failing to see what that event had to do with my laudable desire to smash the big, ugly thing that had presumed to take my leg for a pillow, I asked him for an explanation.

"Air it possible yer town folks dunno what a king air? Why, a king air the boss snake uv the woods. He don't do no harm to nuthin, 'ceptin snakes, an he don't pester them as hain't pizen. But he do love a copper an a rattler, which is the wurst snakes uv these diggin's, an he's death on 'em."

"T'other day I wuz gwine long a old road, an all uv a sudden I heard a singin as though a camp meetin had just tuck in. I knowed it wuz a rattler, an lookin round I saw him on a knoll, an a powerful big un he wuz. He wuz quilled up like a corkscrew, an his rattles wuz a-makin the air jiggle. But at first I couldn't 'cover the cause, an I knowed a rattler never got ready fur business fur nothin. Presently I seed the grass a-swayin an a-bendin, an then the rattler, he gets nervous an skeered, an un-quillin himself he made a break to run."

"But it wuz too late, fur on came the king like a hurricane, an puttin himself just ahead the rattler showed him his jig wuz up. Seem he couldn't 'scape, the rattler quilled ag'in an showed fight. The king, he commenced to run round his intiny in a wide circle, the rattler watchin, lickin out his tongue an makin his rattle sing like a banjer. Closer an closer the king drawed his body as he dashed round until he wuzn't more'n three feet from the intiny."

"Then the rattler, thinkin he saw the last show to save his bacon, made a powerful spiteful lunge at the king, an that is whar he slipped up, fur the king he dodged, an quicker'n gunpowder wuz on to the rattler. Thar wuzn't nothin but a ball uv snakes in sight fur a few minutes as they fought an tussled over the grass, but arter a little I could see the red an black striped king wound round the big rattler just like a grapevine on a tree.

"Then I seed the king hold 'im by the back uv the neck, an I could hear him crushin the rattler as he tightened on him. It wuz all over in half an hour, an the king, unwindin hisself from his victim, got behind an waited fur ten minutes. Then he crept up an put his nose on the rattler's to see if he wuz breathin. Ye see, other snakes know the king an sometimes possum on him by pretendin to be dead.

"But the rattler wuz shore 'nuff gone, an when the king wuz satisfied uv this he crawled in a old stump hole an presently came out with a mouse's tail stickin out his mouf. But he soon swallowed the mouse, an, wipin his nose on the grass, went off sarbin for more trouble. A king allers eats a rat or a toad arter a fight to make him strong fur the next un.

"An now, mister, I could tell ye a powerful lot more'n that, fur I knows snakes, I do, but I'll help ye kill the copper, which mouf not meet a king until he bites some un of we didn't, an then I must hurry on after my oxe, whar I wuz huntin when I seed that varmint a-tryin to go to sleep with yerself."—Philadelphia Times.

Cleanliness.

One of the most important factors in maintaining health in good order is cleanliness. It is comprised in measures that tend to keep the organs clean and in proper order to perform all their functions.

A Good Reason.

Aunt Maria—What! Mary, cannot you comb your own hair yet? Mary—No'm, I ain't big enough.

Aunt Maria—Your size has nothing to do with your being able to comb your hair.

Mary—Yes, it has. I ain't tall enough to look on the top of my head.—New York Tribune.

Unconventional Lady Aberdeen.

Her ladyship's dinner parties are rather the outcome of a happy thought suddenly conceived and equally suddenly executed than the result, as with most people in her position, of careful consideration.

It was not till the viceregal party were seated at dinner that the double vacancy made Lady Aberdeen aware of the absence of Mr. and Mrs. X. "My dear," said Lady Aberdeen at once to her husband across the table...

To Prevent Iron Rust.

Among the new and useful metallurgical processes of note the San Francisco Scientific Press speaks of one by which iron may be effectively protected from rust. In this a solution of ferrocyanide is mixed with a flaxseed varnish, to which has been added a small quantity of turpentine or benzol.

France and Depopulation.

While European Russia will need only 45 years or so, Germany about 65 years, Austria-Hungary 70 years, England 80 years, Italy 110 years, it will take France over 860 years to double its population!

Forest Veterans.

The largest British oak is the Major or Queen oak, in Sherwood forest (where Robin Hood and his merry outlaws shot the king's deer and robbed the rich and helped the poor and held their revels 'neath the greenwood tree), and is supposed to be one of a forest planted 1,600 years ago.

Her Advice.

There were two women saying good-by at the corner. One was round and plump and healthy, the other was thin and apparently ill. It was evident that the one who was not in health had been telling her troubles to the one who had probably never been in any other state, and she was receiving sympathy and advice so cheerfully given that no passer could fail to overhear it.

Crushed.

Nell—So you're really engaged in earnest? Belle—Yes, and to think that I should do it, after rejecting almost a hundred proposals!

Nell—Indeed. What a very persistent young man he must have been.—Philadelphia Record.

They Scatter.

So many people talk at random that half of what is said never makes a hit.—New Orleans Picayune.

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