

MAN'S FAITHFUL FRIEND

Bobby loved me—Bobby's dead—
Who shall say no heaven holds him?
Who shall say that God's
Who shall deny that God's
All embracing love enfolds him?

MR. BOFFIN AND THE BAILIFFS.

"Well! of all the crooked things as
ever was" ejaculated Mr. Boffin, the
butler.
"Is a wicked shame, that's wot it
is," Mr. Boffin chimed in Mrs. Asprey,
the housekeeper.
"Couldn't have believed it of the
butler. Never, till this mornin', know'd
me do anything but wot was puffed
up."

very kind of you to commend it—most
condescending, as I may say," re-
marked Mr. Boffin, the butler, with sar-
casm.
"Ah? What?" laughed the anno-
tator, good-temperedly. "Come, my dear
sir, don't look so glum. You may as
well put a cheerful face on it. It can't
be helped, you know."
"When I want your advice in regard
to my personal appearance I shall prob-
ably ask you for it, young man," re-
ported Mr. Boffin in a withering tone.
"All right. All right. It's no use get-
ting shirty, my good fellow."

so deferentially to Mrs. Holly, the cook,
and to Miss Hannah, the head house-
maid, and so affable to the Misses
Sarah, Jane, Eliza and Martha, subor-
dinate domestics, and so respectful to
Mr. William, the footman, and so po-
tential to Walter, the butler, that it was
wonderful all on good terms with him almost
before they knew where they were.
His conversation, too, was spicy
without being vulgar, and amusing
without being vulgar. Nor did he ob-
trude his remarks unduly. As Mrs.
Holly whispered behind her hand to
Hannah, "The man knowed his place,
and kept there." Mrs. Holly and Miss
Hannah were pleased to smile at his
family anecdotes; Mr. William to snig-
gle languidly, as for the four under-
nods and the butlers they giggled
without reserve. The servants' hall
waited altogether quite jovial. It was
obvious that our lowly-legged bailiff, in
his social capacity, had scored a dis-
tinct success.



Limits of the Universe.

Prof. Simon Newcomb, in a recent
paper, discussed the question of stellar
distances. He said the stars of small
magnitude were evidently not as re-
mote from the earth as their faintness
would indicate, and this fact seemed to
warrant the inference that the visible
universe has a definite limit in space.

Animals Imitating Plants.

Not long ago Prof. Verrill exhibited
to the members of the National Acad-
emy of Sciences in New York some
beautiful examples of mollusks, dwell-
ing in the Sargasso Sea, that imitate
not only the seaweed among which
they live, but even the parasitic
growth found upon the weeds.

Music for the Deaf.

At a meeting of the Royal Society in
December Prof. McKendrick described
a method by which it was possible
to stimulate electrically the sensory
nerves of the skin so that some of the
elements of music rhythm and inton-
ality might be perceived and even en-
joyed by those who had become deaf.

A Gigantic Pear-Tree.

A famous pear tree, which had lived
nearly six centuries, near Toulon, was
destroyed recently by a violent wind-
storm. The trunk was nearly twelve
feet in circumference. Monsieur Cha-
band, the proprietor of the ground on
which the tree stood, after correspond-
ing with nearly all the botanical so-
cieties in Europe, could learn of no
pear tree equal in size and age to this
one.

How Fast Can Ducks Fly?

While measuring the height and ve-
locity of clouds recently, Messrs. Clay-
ton and Ferguson, of the Blue Hill
Observatory, observed a flight of ducks
passing across their baseline in the
Seponset River valley. With their
theodolites they succeeded in measur-
ing the height of the ducks above
ground, 858 feet, and subsequent obser-
vations enabled them to calculate the
velocity of flight of the birds, which
was about 47.8 miles per hour.

Transmission of Electric Power.

The world-wide renown of Niagara
Falls has lent peculiar distinction to
the great electric power plant recently
installed there, but the American Ma-
chulist says that "in so far as the Ni-
agara plant is a long-distance one the
work done up to date has been sur-
passed in several instances, both in the
distance covered and the amount of
power transmitted." Many of the
greatest electric power plants are
among the Rocky Mountains and on
the Pacific coast. At Fresno, Cal., a
reservoir on the brow of a near-by
mountain supplies the headwater of
water yet used for such a purpose,
1,400 feet, and the power is distributed
over a distance of thirty-five miles.
In some of the Western installations the
generating electric power, is utilized
for irrigating land.

Seeing Right-Size Up.

The lenses of the eye produce on the
retina an inverted image of objects
looked at, and the question is often
asked, "Why do things appear right-
side up when their images are wrong-
side up?" It occurred to Mr. Stratton,
of the University of California, to try
the effect of preventing the inversion
of images on the retina. This was ac-
complished by means of an optical in-
strument which excluded from the eye
all light except that which passed
through the instrument itself. The in-
strument was adjusted to the eyes at
3 o'clock one afternoon, and was not
removed (except at night, when the
eyes were bandaged) until noon the
next day. At first, to the person whose
eyes were thus treated, everything
seemed topsyturvy and illusory, and
the mind instinctively tried to imagine
objects to be in the position in which
they ordinarily appear. After a time,
however, the feeling of the unreality of
what was seen passed away, and the
person experimented on even began to
imagine everything that lay outside his
field of vision to be arranged in the
same way as what he saw. This goes
to show that habit and experience
counteract the effect of the inversion of
images in the eyes.

Animal Wars.

Twenty-five years ago the mongoose,
the great enemy of snakes in India,
was imported into Jamaica to destroy
the rats which were devastating the
sugar-cane and other crops of the is-
land. Having exterminated the rats
the mongooses next attacked poultry and
all kinds of game, as well as snakes,
lizards and turtles, and finally even
began to feed upon sugar-cane, banana,
and pineapples, etc. But at length, ac-
cording to the account of Jamaica,
published by Prof. Duerksen, of Jamaica,
the tables were turned against the in-
truder. What its larger foes could not
accomplish seems to have been done
by ticks and other small insects. The
natural enemies of these pests having
been driven off by the mongooses, the
ticks multiplied enormously, until
even human beings suffered from their
attacks. The little pests then fastened
upon the mongooses, which within the
past few years has notably diminished
in numbers. And now, as the mongooses
gradually disappear, the snakes, birds
and lizards are beginning to return.

Man is not the only animal who carries on his warfare by means of or-
ganized bands, and calls in the forces
of nature to assist him. The German
naturalist and traveler, Brehm, with-
out in Central Africa fights that
necessitated in an orderly man-
ner as if the warriors had been really
men, instead of only somewhat like
them in form.

Traveler's dogs, though the baboons
were ready to fight with any creature
that attacked them, man only excepted;
and he owed his exemption solely
to the fact that the baboons could not
often gain a point of vantage.

The naturalist himself was once
stolen out of a pass in a very few min-
utes by these creatures, who sprang
upon lodges and stones, looked down
for a few seconds on the valley, growl-
ing, snarling and screaming, and then
began to roll down stones with so
much vigor and address that the in-
truders took to flight. The baboons evi-
dently knew the value of cooperation,
for the naturalist saw two of them
combine their efforts in order to set a
particularly heavy stone falling. One
monkey, bent on making the most of
his missile, was seen to carry a stone
up a tree, that he might hurl it with
greater effect.

On the occasion when the dogs at-
tacked the baboons, the baboons were
crossing a valley, and as usual during
a march, the females and young were
in the center, the males heading the
column and bringing up the rear. As
the dogs rushed upon them, only the
females took to flight.

The males turned and faced the en-
emy, growling, beating the ground
with their hands, and opening their
mouths so as to show their glittering
teeth. They looked so fierce and ma-
jestic that the dogs—Arab grey-
hounds, accustomed to fight success-
fully with hyenas and other beasts of
prey—shrank back. By the time they
were encouraged to renew the attack,
the whole herd had made their way
covered by the rear guard, to the rocks,
one six months' old monkey alone ex-
cepted.

This little monkey sat on a rock, sur-
rounded by the dogs, but he was not
long left in his perilous position. An
old baboon stepped from a cliff near
by, advanced toward the dogs, keep-
ing them in check by threatening ges-
tures and sounds, picked up the baby
monkey and carried it to a place of
safety on the cliff, while the whole
crowd of baboons watched the act of
heroism and shouted their battle-cry—
YOUTH'S COMPANION.

vice on the face. The campaign buttons
are made by photographing a portrait
or device upon a plate of metal, a very
intricate machine afterward stamping
the face of the button into shape and
fitting on the back and shank. The
fancy and expensive buttons used on
ladies' costumes are usually imported
from France or Germany, where the
best grades are hand-made.



Tommyson used to tell the story of a
farmer who, after hearing a red-hot
sermon of never-ending fire and brim-
stone, consoled his wife quite sincerely
with the naive remark: "Never mind,
Sally; that must be wrong; no coun-
tesson could stand it."

North Shore Matron Made Miserable
Because of Her Child's Prank.
Over on Bellevue place there is a
young woman who is giving thanks
that she is not in the penitentiary. One
whole day recently she spent in dread
of imprisonment at Joliet or at least as
an inmate of the county jail, and every
time she heard the rattle of a coming
carré on Rush street she grew faint,
for she thought the patrol wagon was
surely after her.

BABY GETS THE LETTER.

The unhappy young woman is a great
favorite in the exclusive circles of the
north shore and is the wife of a prom-
inent young business man. She is the
proud mother of a little girl, who is
never denied anything that she wants,
and if she sees anything she generally
takes it. One morning recently the let-
ter carrier called as usual at the house
and left a large package of notes, in-
vitations and letters. Among them was
one that belonged to the same number
in another street. The young woman
sent it to the hall tree, to be given to
the postman at his next call. When
the carrier came the maid reported the
mistake, but could not find the letter.
The carrier made complaint about it,
and said he must have it when he called
again.

The poor young matron by this time
was thoroughly frightened. With her
house maid she renewed the search,
but it proved fruitless. In her misery
her beautiful 3-year-old baby came in
from her walk, accompanied by her
nurse. The mother took her little one
upon her lap to recover her composure,
and asked the nursery maid if she had
seen anything of the lost letter. The
nurse thought a moment and then ex-
claimed:
"I think the baby took it!"

One of the amusements of the little
one was to always carry something in
her hand when going out for a walk.
Upon thinking a moment she remem-
bered that the child had something
white in her hand when they started
for a walk, but the nurse did not re-
member seeing it after the first few
moments. Then the young mother's
misery began all over again. She knew
now that the penitentiary was her
down, and she sat down and waited
for the letter carrier to come to seal her
fate. She met the postman on the
front step as he made the rounds for
the third time that day and told him
that she was ready to take her punish-
ment; that her baby had carried the
letter off and lost it.

OLD PRACTICAL JOKES.

Scene of Confusion in King George's
Court.
A practical joke may be defined as
one in which merriment is produced or
sought not by words but by action,
practiced upon a fellow-creature—com-
monly an offensive or annoying action.
Even if harmless, it holds up the suf-
ferer to ridicule, and intelligent human
beings do not need to be told that such
conduct is reprehensible.

But if the joke be well contrived,
sufficiently humorous in idea and neat-
ly executed, we do not care so much as
we should if it fell under the "practi-
cal" class. Who would have liked
to be present at the royal masquerade
when Heldegger, master of the revels
to George II., was confronted by his
double?

The Duke of Montagu had obtained
a cast of the great man's face. From
this he caused a wax mask to be fash-
ioned and colored. Heldegger's tailor
supplied a fac simile of the new and
gorgeous dress he was to wear, and
the duke engaged an actor to play the
part. He told the band, at the last mo-
ment, to strike up "Charley Over the
Water" at His Majesty's appearance
instead of "God Save the King."

They hesitated. But it was unduly
late Heldegger—features, voice,
clothes, and also imprecations when
the conductor demurred. So the king
heard that treasonable air, perhaps for
the first time, on entering. We can
faintly imagine the tumult. Heldegger
rushed to the band, struck the con-
ductor, set him playing "God Save the
King," and rushed back to apologize.
Next moment he returned to the or-
chestra, equally furious—that is, his
double returned—ordering the band to
resume "Charley Over the Water,"
and the bewildered musicians obeyed.
There was never such a scene in the
presence of royalty.

The officers of the guard in attend-
ance made a dash at the band with
swords, but those in the secret blocked
the way. Heldegger, dancing round
the king, made inarticulate protesta-
tions and excuses, whilst His Majesty
stormed and threatened, making for
the door. The situation became peril-
ous. So the counterfeiter stepped for-
ward crying, with passionate indigna-
tion, "Sire, the devil has taken my liken-
ess to undo me! Look at him!"

Heldegger saw his double, gasped,
gibbered and fell senseless. One may
think that longer and more compli-
cated "business" might have developed
from such an ingenious hoax, but for
a dramatic situation of its class this
could not be better.

In some parts of South America good
folk store all the glass and crockery
broken in the twelvemonth, and at car-
nival time put it into a sack attached
to the lofty balcony by a stout cord,
not quite long enough to reach the
ground. When a desirable victim pass-
es beneath, the sack is quietly let go—
to be stayed, with a hideous crash,
upon his very heels. It is credibly re-
ported that foreigners unprepared for
this jest have tumbled headlong at the
shock and others have taken to their
heels with an attack of fever. These
are rare triumphs.

The "Soo Canal."

The "Soo Canal," a familiar collo-
quial designation for the Sault Ste.
Marie Canal, connecting the waters of
Lakes Superior and Huron, is famous
in the history of canals and canal build-
ing. Begun in 1855, by the State of
Michigan, it was subsequently trans-
ferred to the United States Govern-
ment, since which time very great im-
provements have been made. One lock,
said to be the largest in the world, is
over 500 feet long and 80 feet wide,
with a lift of 20 feet. A much larger
lock was projected and is now nearing
completion on the site of one made in
1855, the later structure being 1,000
feet long, 100 feet wide and 21 feet
deep. The importance of this canal to
lake navigation may be judged from
the fact that it transports every year
a larger tonnage than the Suez Canal,
between the Mediterranean and Red
Seas. In the census year it bore 22,
600,000 bushels of wheat, 2,500,000 tons
of iron ore, 165,000,000 feet of lumber
and great quantities of coal.

Buttons.

Cloth buttons are machine made, a
very intricate piece of mechanism
stamping the metal, then cutting the
cloth, placing it in position, drawing it
over the button and putting the cap in
place, leaving a projecting portion of
cloth in the center for the thread. Rice
buttons are made of the white earth
used in chinaware. There is a variety
of button manufactured, from the
starch of rice, which is almost as hard
and quite as durable as the china but-
ton. Horn buttons are cut from the
material by machinery. Metal buttons
are also machine made, a die stamping
the metal into proper shape. Pearl but-
tons are turned by machinery from the
oyster or mussel shell and afterward
pierced by steam drills. The choicest
grades of collar buttons are made of
the material used in chinaware, a better
quality is turned out of bone; the metal
collar buttons are manufactured by
machinery from brass plates and after-
ward gilded by the electro-plating pro-
cess. The brass buttons used on uni-
forms are made by machinery, a special
die stamping the required initial or de-

Hard to Understand.

He—There is one thing I cannot un-
derstand about you women.
She—What is that?
He—Why, you are such experts at taper-
ing waists and such lamentable fat
arms when it comes to tapering lead
pencils.—Yonkers Statesman.

An Inquiry.

New Arrival—I'm a reporter for the
Daily Sensation.
Mystrophiles (at home)—Intend to
stay or have you merely come to write
us up for Sunday's paper?—Brooklyn
Life.