

Why She Didn't Believe a Word the Papers Say.

"John," said Mrs. Sanscrit to her husband, one evening last week, "I've been reading the paper."

"That's nothing," grunted John. "I've seen people before who read newspapers."

"Yes, but there are several things in the paper I can't understand."

"Then don't read 'em."

"What do they mean about the strike, John? What is a strike, anyhow?"

"A strike is where they have struck, and Sanscrit knocked the ashes from his cigar."

"I don't grasp your meaning exactly," said Mrs. S., with a puzzled look. "Now these strikes have stopped all the railroad trains in the country. Why did they do it?"

"To prevent 'em from running."

"Yes, but why don't they want trains to run?"

"Because they wanted more money for running them."

"Do they pay more for stopping trains than they do for running them?"

"No, you stupid woman."

"Then why in the world did they stop 'em—why didn't they run more of 'em or run 'em faster? Seems to me that would pay better."

"May Ann, you will never surround the problem."

"Maybe not, John. Some things are gotten up purposely to bother women. Now, here's a column headed 'Base Ball.' What is base ball, John?"

"Don't you know what base ball is? Happy woman! you have not lived in vain."

"Here it says that 'The Hartford' could not collar 'Cummings' curves. What under the sun are Cummings' curves?"

"It's the way that he delivers the ball."

"Is the ball chained?"

"No, you booby."

"Then how does he deliver it?"

"I mean pitches it."

"Oh! Now here it says Jones muffed a ball after a hard run. What was the ball doing after a hard run?"

"Hadh't you better confine your research to the ordinary and marriage columns, Mary, with an occasional advertisement thrown in to vary the monotony?"

"Yes, but John, I want to know. There's Mrs. Racket, over the way, who goes to all the base ball games, and comes back to talk me blind about 'fly-fouls,' 'brave hits,' 'sky scrapers,' and all those things. For heaven's sake, John, what is a sky-scraper?"

"Compose yourself, old woman. You are treading on dangerous ground; your feet are on slippery rocks, while raging billows roll beneath."

"Mercy on me. What do you mean?"

"I mean, my dear madam, that whenever a woman begins to pry about among three strikes, fair balls, base hits, daisy cutters, home runs, and kindred subjects, she's in danger of being lost."

"Well, I confess I'm completely lost to know what the newspaper means when it says Addy stole a base, while the spectators applauded. Have we come to such a pass that society will applaud a thief? Why wasn't Addy arrested? Now here's Mapping out by Start, assisted by Carey, and I can't see that he did anything wrong, either. Jemina Christopher! Here it says that Pike flew out; I don't believe a word of it. I never saw a man fly, and I won't believe it can be done till I see it with my own eyes. John, what makes these newspaper men lie so horribly?"

John was asleep, and Mrs. Sanscrit turned gloomily, not to say skeptically, to the letter list for information. Newspapers were not made for women.—*Cincinnati Enquirer.*

Conundrums.

What is the difference between a spider and a sea-gull?—One has his feet on a web and the other has a web on his feet.

Why is a Hansom cab a dangerous carriage to drive in?—Because the coachman always drives over your head.

Why are lawyers and doctors safe people by whom to take examples?—Because they practice their professions in the house, and desired to gain admittance thereto, the dandy replied, "Certainly, sonny." This little act of kindness, thought the dandy, certainly ought to accord him a salute or a "thank you" from the sister, who he had no doubt would answer the bell. It was in the hope of receiving some such recognition that he lingered for a moment. The door was opened by a robot daughter of the Emerald Isle, who carried a broom in her hand. "Phat did yee ring that bell for?" she inquired of the small boy, who had taken a position on the curbstomp.

"I didn't ring it; it was that 'ere man," responded the mischievous little rascal, pointing to the retreating dandy. Bridget started after the latter, and catching up to him gave him a whacking blow on the head with the broom, at the same time yelling at the top of her voice, "Annoy decent people, ye yer (another crack). O ye spalpeen, ye!" He tried to explain, but it was no use, and finding matters were likely to terminate with serious injury to himself, he took to his heels. Bridget was not disposed to let him escape with so little punishment, and accordingly following close behind, bringing her broom down upon his already demolished hat whenever an opportunity showed itself. It was a lively chase; coal heavers dropped their baskets, bucksters stopped calling out their goods, merchants and people flocked to their doors, and became interested alone in the race. Only by jumping on a street car was the dandy safe from the enraged woman. As he sank down in a seat, wiped the perspiration from his face, and tried to straighten out his hat, he was heard to mumble between his clenched teeth, "I will give \$5 if some one will show me that toy."—*Philadelphia Press.*

This number of beggars who solicit alms at this office has decreased lately, owing to the adoption of a very simple device. Every newspaper receives a large amount of spurious half and quarter dollars during the year, which can be distributed with excellent effect. Nine beggars out of ten have not eaten anything for three days, and on being presented with a bad coin immediately rush off to get something to eat at a beer shop. They get their whiff, and before they can leave with the change are handed over by an indignant policeman to a stalwart policeman (anxious to swell his record) on a charge of passing counterfeit coin. It is curious to notice how hungry that man will get after he comes out of jail again before he endeavors to enlist our sympathies in behalf of the vacuum in Mississippi region.—*S. P. News Letter.*

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Lo! the Poor Indian.

Every school-boy knows of Osceola, the Seminole chief. He it was that made the spirited "Seminole's Reply!"

"I will not bend the knee!"

"I will not bend the knee!" etc.

which, in times gone by, at least, was a favorite on declamation day. But Osceola was forced to submit, and at the end of the Florida war was a captive in Fort Moultrie. His brother accompanied the tribe on its pilgrimage to the West, and was recognized as its chief; but, having saved the life of a merchant and his daughter from New York, he was induced to go to that city, where he became that merchant's adopted son, and assumed the name of Cooper. He traveled abroad and had various adventures of education, and having married a Spanish lady at Barcelona, took her to New York and settled down as an Indian doctor. He gained a wide reputation and a lucrative practice. He lived in a manner combining civilized tastes and savage fondness for barbaric display, having a richly furnished wigwag as well as a fine modern house in the city and a wigwag at Saratoga for summer residence. He drove his horses, traveled at will, visited the tribe several times, and before his death, in 1863, had accumulated a large fortune, enjoyed mostly in real estate.

A son of this teacher of Osceola, the Seminole chief, and of his Spanish wife, died on Thursday in a Bond street attic from the effects of intemperance. He was known as Osceola Cooper, and was thirty-four years of age. He combined in his personal appearance the Indian and Spanish characteristics to a marked degree, but the savage instincts were strong in him. He might have had the best of education, but never learned to read and write. He led a wild and irregular life, sometimes wandering over the country and sometimes plunging into the dissipations of the city. He served in the war, and was distinguished for daring bravery and great skill as a scout. He is said to have had great dignity at times and a fine sense of honor, but his appetite for drink dragged him down to the level of a common drunkard. When his father died, his affairs, which had been managed by a confidential clerk, using a power of attorney, were found to be in great confusion. Here young Osceola felt the need of education and of sober habits to enable him to secure his own, but he seems to have been miserably swindled. He set his mark to deal and power of attorney when intoxicated, and so signed away large amounts of property. He finally employed as a lawyer Wm. C. Barrett, who absconded some months ago, leaving the affairs that had been entrusted to him in inextricable confusion. The last years of Osceola's life were embittered with struggles for his property and with his evil passions, and he finally died in poverty, the victim of drink.

There is believed to be considerable of the father's property still available for the heirs, consisting of two children of a sister of Osceola Cooper. That sister was well educated and well married, but died some years ago, and her husband has since deceased. One of the children, a boy, was in the hands of a foster-sister of old Dr. Cooper, a Sioux square, who is thoroughly Indian in all her instincts and tastes, and Osceola had long been engaged in a futile attempt to gain possession of the land and place him in better hands. He died with that mission unfulfilled. He was but a poor savage and civilization did not agree with him. He might have been better off at the head of his tribe on the western plains. Wealth and the advantages of civilized life were his ruin, because the vices and ailments which surrounded him fed and inflamed his fierce passions, while none of the higher restraints had effect. Lo, the poor Indian!—the representative of a great chief of the last generation, died a wretched drunkard in a poor attic.—*Boston Globe.*

How Kindness Was Appreciated.

"Please pull that bell, mister," asked an innocent looking boy who was standing on the step of a house on Franklin street above Girard avenue yesterday morning, of a dandy chap who was passing by. Thinking that the boy resided in the house, and desired to gain admittance thereto, the dandy replied, "Certainly, sonny." This little act of kindness, thought the dandy, certainly ought to accord him a salute or a "thank you" from the sister, who he had no doubt would answer the bell. It was in the hope of receiving some such recognition that he lingered for a moment. The door was opened by a robot daughter of the Emerald Isle, who carried a broom in her hand. "Phat did yee ring that bell for?" she inquired of the small boy, who had taken a position on the curbstomp.

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Famous Automata.

No automaton or deception ever had such a success as the automaton chess-player, which for more than half a century astonished and delighted the whole of Europe. The chess-player was constructed in 1769 by Van Kempelen, a gentleman of Presburg in Hungary. It was exhibited to thousands in Presburg, Vienna and Paris, immediately after its completion. In 1783-84 it was exhibited in London and other parts of England. After this it seems to have fallen out of repair. In 1819, Maelzel, the mechanician, overhauled it, and exhibited it in Great Britain in that and the following year, where "it excited" says Sir David Brewster, "as intense an interest as when it was first produced in Germany." The chess-player was a life-sized figure, clothed in a Turkish dress, and seated behind a large chest or box—somewhat resembling a library desk—three and a half feet high. The machine ran on casters. The chess-player sat on a chair fixed to the square chest; his right arm rested on the table, and in the left he held a pipe, which was removed during the game, as it was with that hand that he made the moves. A chess-board, eighteen inches square and bearing the usual number of pieces, was placed before the figure. The exhibit was unlocked four doors in the front and two in the back of the chest, and held a lighted candle at the opening by which to exhibit the machinery, which consisted of levers, wheels, cylinders and pistons. The figure was also examined, and out of a drawer at the bottom and front of the chest a small box of counters, a set of chess-men and a cushion for the automaton's arm, were taken. All the doors and drawers were then closed and locked—the spectators having satisfied themselves that there was no place for a concealed person—the exhibitor busied himself in adjusting the mechanism from behind the chest, removed the pipe from the figure's hand and wound up the machinery. The automaton was then ready for play, which began as soon as an opponent was found in the audience. The automaton took the first move in all cases. "At every move made by the automaton the wheels of the machine are heard in action; the figure moves its head, and seems to look over every part of the chess-board. When it gives check to its opponent it shakes its head twice, and only twice when it checks the queen. It likewise shakes its head when a move is made, replaces its adversary's piece on the square from which it was taken, and takes the next move itself. In general, though not always, the automaton wins the game. 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