

AN EXCITING CONTEST

O. H. Barnhill Describes a Recent Basketball Game at the High School.

I have been asked to give my impressions of the Ashland-Yreka basketball game, not because I know anything about this athletic exercise, but because the way it impressed a tyro might be interesting.

All work and no play makes Jack a good clerk, but why saw wood when you can saw the air? Why punch tickets and cows when heads are waiting to be punched?

This game of basketball is quite different from what its name had led me to expect. The players do not carry the ball around in a basket, but endeavor to throw it through rings.

Another surprising thing about basketball is that special uniforms are worn by the players. At the high school where the writer absorbed knowledge—it was just an ordinary school located high up on a hill—the pupils never thought of changing clothes in order to play games—not even hockey.

These basketball suits deserve more than passing notice and should be of particular interest to dress reformers. Those worn by the girls do not require tight lacing, being designed to put corset-makers out of business.

The feminine basketball costume somewhat resembles Turkish trousers, being inclined to bag at the knees like the bathing suits worn by society queens at Palm Beach the past season.

When the masculine players emerged from their dressing room I at first thought they had absent-mindedly forgotten to don their outer garments. As I realized that their garb of abbreviated underwear was the regulation basketball suit I blushed for my sex and endeavored to hide behind a large iron pillar near which I was sitting.

Such economy of clothes may be all right in warm countries, but I could not help feeling sorry that our boys were forced to appear in such scanty garb in the dead of winter, with the ice frozen ten inches thick at the plant on Water street and nine feet of snow in the mountains.

Basketball is something like football, with the prize-fighting features of the latter game eliminated. When two players get hold of the ball the umpire blows a whistle, whereupon they are forced to break away. When anyone fouls, the ball is given to the other side's star player, who

is permitted to pitch the ball from position. Pulling hair, whether it be false, ratted or real, is considered a foul, and so is kicking shins, swatting another player in the eye or dealing him a solar plexus blow.

The boys' game was a veritable slaughter of the innocents, the home team representing the meat men and the visitors the victims. It seemed like taking candy from a baby, so easily was the victory won. The girls' game was somewhat different, the teams being pretty evenly matched.

The Ashland boys were a husky lot, averaging six feet in height and 160 pounds in weight. By getting up on his toes the star player could almost reach the basket, which enabled him to put the ball through the ring like a cat playing with a mouse.

As our boys warmed up to the game and began to play ball in dead earnest most everybody stood up and laughed and hollered to beat the band. In order to obtain a better view of the contest, which grew more and more exciting, I climbed the cast-iron pillar, gracefully twining my limbs around the classic column.

Has Narrow Escape. Mail Tribune: A valuable horse was lost and William Walters, 16, had a very narrow escape from drowning when he attempted to ford Rogue river a short distance below Gold Ray Sunday afternoon.

Australia is irrigating more than 2,000,000 acres of grazing lands with artesian wells.

STORIES OF SHERIDAN.

The Great Writer Had a Hard Time Dodging His Creditors.

Like many a brilliant man before and since his time, Richard Brinsley Sheridan had a habit of resting on his oars a bit too long when he thought himself tired.

Benjamin Robert Hayden, who was himself woefully addicted to the same bad habit, tells with evident glee two stories of his fellow sufferer.

But the laugh was not always on Sheridan. A creditor whom he had successfully avoided for some time came plump upon him as he emerged from Pall Mall.

"Oh," said he, "that's a beautiful mare you're on!" "Yes, indeed. How does she trot?"

The creditor was pleased—even flattered. He told Sheridan he should see and immediately urged the mare to do her prettiest.

NEATNESS IN ATTIRE. It Not Only Impresses Others, but is a Factor in Self Respect.

The fixed habit of presenting always a neat and cleanly appearance to the world is sure of a double reward. It not only creates a favorable impression, but begets a sustaining self respect.

A One Time Literary Mystery. In the Newry Telegraph, an Ulster (Ireland) tri-weekly, on April 19, 1817, under the simple head of "Poetry" appeared what Byron called "the most perfect ode in the language."

By breaking open rotten logs one can find in midwinter the grubs or larvae of many of the wood boring beetles, and beneath logs and stones near the margins of ponds and brooks hordes of the maggots or larvae of certain kinds of flies may often be found budded together in great masses.

The Perverse Sex. "I thought you had such a good maid coming?" "I did. But when she called up on the phone my husband answered her."

Turn About. "The doctor made me show him my tongue, and it cost me \$2, but I got even." "How?"

Permanent. Maud—Are you engaged to Jack for good? Ethel—It looks that way. I don't think he'll ever be in a position to marry me.

LADY MARY'S DIET.

It Was Entirely Too Dainty to Suit Her Italian Doctor.

That recipe of the tallest Scotsman in London—two meals a day and live forever—would not have appealed to the Englishman of the eighteenth century nor yet to the man who lived abroad.

"I wake about 7 and drink half a pint of warm asses' milk," she wrote, "after which I sleep two hours. Then come three large cups of milk coffee and two hours after a large cup of milk chocolate. Two hours later my dinner, where I never fail to swallow a good dish (I don't mean plate) of gray soup, with all the bread, roots, etc., belonging to it.

THE COUNTRY LAWYER. A Legal View of Him as the Slave of His Clients.

"A professional baseball player in part bases his claim for a large compensation upon the theory that in accepting service he surrenders in a great measure his liberty and becomes the property of his employer."

Gallant Unto Death. When Sir Ralph Abercromby was mortally wounded in the battle of Aboukir he was carried on a litter on board the Fondroyant.

Black Opals. Black opals seem almost misnomers, for while some of the stones are actually black and all of them have a dark body or underground they are really wonderful, fascinating, changing masses of color.

A Rare Film. "Madam, I understand that your daughter helps you daily with your housework." "It is true."

The Helpful Man. Any man who, by sound thinking and hard work, develops and carries on a productive industry and by his good judgment makes that industry both profitable and stable confers an immense benefit on society.

He Told Her. She—I wish I knew how I could make you extremely happy, dear Karl. He—Well, write to your father and ask him to double your dowry.

An Old Joke Retold. Friend—The public will miss you now you have left the stage. Actor—That's why I left. I dislike being hit.

BIBLE STUDY COUPON.

Bible and Tract Society, 17 Hicks Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. Kindly send me the Bible Studies marked below: "Where Are the Dead?" "Forgivable and Unpardonable Sins." "What Say the Scriptures Respecting Punishment?"

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