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ANNUAL SALE, TEN MILLION BOXES

THE "ROUND ROBIN."

One Knows Origin of the Strange

A "round robin" is one of those documents of which the name is familiar to most people, but which uncommonly few have ever seen or signed. Every one knows that the thing which bears so singular a name is a communication—letter, remonstrance, warning or the like-the signatures to which are written around the circumference of the circle which incloses the body of the epistle, or radiating therefrom like the spokes of wheel from a bub, so that the responsibility of signing is equally shared. No one signatory can be ac-cused of being either the first or the last to sign, of being the leader or the whipper in.

The most famous example on record probably is the remonstrance which was sent to Dr. Johnson in connection with his epitaph on Oliver Goldsmith. The doctor had prepared an epitaph in Latin, but some of his friends, who had also been friends of Goldsmith, took exception to it on two grounds, the first being that it did not quite do justice to the author of the "Traveler" as a writer, and particularly as a poet, and the second that it should be written in English. The party of friends were gathered around Sir Joshua Reynolds' hospitable if somewhat ill served table, and though they found themselves in general agreement on tackling the formidable Johnson on last," says Sir William Forbes, "it was hinted that there could be no way so good as that of a round robin, as the sailors call it, which they make use of when they enter a conspiracy so as not to let it be known who puts his name first or last to the paper."

The idea was at once accepted, the address to Dr. Johnson was prepared and all signed it in the form proposed. This very interesting paper is still extant and is preserved among other valuable manuscripts in the library of Haigh Hall, near Wigan, the seat of the Earl of Crawford. It begins, "We, the circumscribers," and the signatures, written around the circle which Incloses the address, include those of Gibbon, Burke, Joseph Warton, Sheridan, Sir Joshua Reynolds, George Colman and half a dozen others which are nowadays but little known. Johnson took the remonstrance in good part, but as to not writing the epitaph in Latin, declared that he would never consent to disgrace the walls of Westminster abbey with an English inscription! The whole story is eminently characteristic both of Johnson and his times.

No one has yet been able to give a itisfactory explanation of the strange term "round robin."-London Globe.

This is a true account of one person's idea of "breaking the news gently." The cook, whose home was off in the country, appeared before the "powers above" with a letter in her hand.

"I'll have to go home for a couple of days, mum," she said. "My cousin's just written to me." And she handed over the crumpled bit of paper with an audible sniff.

"Dear Mary," it ran, "you had better come home at once. Your father is very sick," And it continued with many particulars of the Illness.

At the end was a postscript which, like the old joke of a woman's P. S., had the pith of the matter.

"So long as you'll be driving up from the village you may as well bring the undertaker along with you in the wagon."-New York Times.

Sir Henry Irving's Wit.

On one occasion Sir Henry Irving's company, having been called to the theater for rehearsal, found upon their arrival that they were considerably ahead of time. As Sir Henry had not yet arrived, one of the actors in the company who was noted for his accomplishments as a mimic proceeded to give a lively and elaborate imitation of Sir Henry's highly characteristic acting. As he finished his dem-onstration a well known voice came from the depths of the darkened auditorium:

"Very good," it said; "very good in-deed—so good, in fact, that there is no need for both of us in this company."— Harper's.

Priscilla-Do you approve of long engagements?

Mayme-Well, that depends. If the fellow has plenty of money and takes you to everything a long engagement is endurable; otherwise it is better to rush it through and start a fresh one.-Detroit Free Press.

NIGHT TRADE NOT POPULAR

People of Astoria Have Got Out of the Habit, According to Local Merchants.

PREFER TO BUY IN THE DAY

Change of Sentiment Has Been Made Plain Since Stores Have Been Kept Open Till Late.

A remarkable state of affairs has ome to light during the past week or le days, according to statements made a representative of this paper by leading merchants of Astoria.

Briefly the old custom of night purchases has died out among shoppers male and female.

When the clerks' union was first or ganized here it sought to secure a short r working day for its members. The stores of the large cities of the country were closed at 6 o'clock the clerks said, and they believed the stores of Astoria should likewise be closed at 6, except during the rush season. The merchants took the matter under advisement, were dubious as to the effect of the innovation on their business, and then, with characteristic enterprise, notified the clerks that they would

grant the request. The how! that went up from the huvers could be heard half way around the world. Housewives were up in arms and heaped imprecations upon the heads of the well-meaning merchants. While the agitation for a shorter work day for the clerks was on they paid little heed to it, with feminine peculiarity, but when they proceeded, with the self-same peculiarity, to forget to order their groceries, etc., and found the stores were all closed after 6 o'clock these two points, no one had the courage to be willing to "bell the cat," or, in other words, to take the lead in Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Smith beld indignation meetings on many occasions, these two rather delicate matters. "At abused the merchants like a pirate, and threatened to go to Portland or Skamokawa to trade. But the merchant persevered in his course, and soon he angry housewife became docile. She acquired the happy faculty of placing her orders during the day with the resuit that the habit is now firmly fixed upon her

And so it was with the men. They did not take kindly to the new order of things, for when they forgot to bring home at 6:30 what their wives had told them to purchase they were roasted. Domestic difficulties increased and for a time it seemed that an age of divorces could ensue

But it's all over now. Whereas the trade between 7 and 8 at the grocery, dry goods and clothing stores was very brisk, there is almost no business at all new. People do their trading during the day and put in the evenings enjoying themselves. The change in public sentiment has been very pronounced of late, since the stores have been kept open for the holiday trade, and mersit around for two hours every night. It is expected that the night trade will be brisk commencing Saturday and con tinuing until after New Years but the opinion seems general that the late losing hour might fust as well have been observed a week later.

The situation bears out the prediction of the clerks at the time of their demand for shorter hours for they said then that people would soon fall into

the new order of things and eventually lose all desire to trade at night.

Trade, by the way, has been better in Astoria than ever before. The stores have been bettered 100 per cent during the year, and Commercial street now beasts some handsome fronts, a well as Bond street. Stocks have been enlarged and shoppers have equally as fine assortments to select from as have the people of Portland. One merchant, whose business scarcely reached \$40,-000 last year, will pass the \$50,000 mark by December 31. Generally business men report increases varying from 20 to 50 per cent. Of 17 merchants interviewed by a reporter, not one reported an increase for the year of less than 20 per cent. Not including the month of December, one merchant reported an increase as compared with last year of about 19 per cent, but he expressed the conviction that the holiday trade would bring the year's increase up to 20 per cent. Merchants remark the interesting fact that there is much less credit business done now than in past years, and that the demand for the better classes of goods is growing.

August Thompson, aged 16, was reelased today from the county jail having served out a six months' sentence for burgalry. The lad lives at Seaside and last spring, with another boy entered the store of a man named Bergman and found the man's strong About \$80 was taken by the boys. Thompson was detected, but his companion escaped. Owing to the youth of the lad, the authorities were inclined to be lenient with him. and he was sentenced to six months imprisonment. In all he served seven months, having waited in jail a month for trial. His father came up this morning to get him. When asked if he would herafter refrain from unlawful practices, the lad replied that he did not know if he would, apparently being of the belief that fate would work out its course in his particular case,

GOLD CANNON BALLS.

he Jungle Ridden Treasure of East Indian Princess.

Not long ago an old peasant was wandering in the jungle about half a mile from the city of Ahmaduager, in India, when he found a round ball of metal. It was black and looked like an old iron round shot, but when the old man lifted it he was struck with its immense weight. He carried it home and found on scratching it that it was a lump of solid gold. It weighed eight pounds and its sale made the finder rich for life.

There are many more of these cannon balls, each worth a small fortune, lying hid or buried in the recesses of this jungle, and their story is a curious At the end of the sixteenth century Akbar, the greatest emperor Hindustan ever saw, was at the beight of his glory. At the head of his conquering army he summoned Ahmadnager to surrender. The city and its rich treasure were then under the rule of the Princess Cande. Knowing that resistance could be but short, and in bitter rage against the oppressor, she caused all the treasure of gold and silver to be melted down. She cast the metal into cannon balls and en graved upon each maledictions against conqueror. These were fired into the jungle and when Akbar entered the city, instead of the rich hoard h had hoped to win, he found a treasury

absolutely empty. That this is not the only occasi upon which cannon balls of gold have been cast is proved by the fact that I the treasury of the shah of Persi there may be seen in the same roop where stands the famous peacoc throne two small globular projectile of gold. They were estimated by a re cent visitor to weigh about thirty-on pounds each and are roughly made Their origin or purpose is, however, totally forgotten. It is only known that they are very old.-Chicago Chron-

The Pioneer

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Chicago, Milwaukee &

The railway company owns and operates the sleeping and dining cars on its trains, and gives to its patrons an excellence of service not obtainable elsewhere. The buffet cars, compartment cars, standard sleeping cars and dining cars of The Pioneer are the handsomest ever built.

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