

## GOOD Short Stories

A short-sighted woman, who was acquainted with twin brothers, one of whom was a clergyman and the other a doctor, congratulated the latter on his admirable sermon. "Excuse me, madam," was his reply, "over there is my brother, who preaches; I only practice."

A lady of Cape Town, on meeting De Wet for the first time, cried: "Oh! general, I am so pleased to meet you—or should I, she added, naively, 'address you as ex-general, as the English have it.'" "Ex-general will do, madam. You see I am a Britisher now, and as the English are so fond of prefixes and affixes to their names, I must be one of them. I am ex-general to-day. Who knows, some day I may be excellency!" And De Wet is said to have laughed at his own audacity.

George William Curtis, one of the most popular lecturers, once went to a village in the State of New York. In view of party differences, they begged him not to talk on politics. He had nothing in readiness except a lecture on "Thackeray." Nobody in the audience had read any of his novels. "Well," he said, "I will not talk on politics, but I will talk on Thackeray. At the close of the lecture, the chief personages came to greet him. "Mr. Curtis," said the schoolmaster, "you must bring about an agreement among us on one point. For a week we have been disputing over Longfellow whether he is dead or isn't dead." "I dined with him," answered Curtis. "A fortnight ago." "Ah," said the schoolmaster, "visibly disappointed; then presently: 'Anyhow, I'm sure somebody is dead.'"

The late James Tissot, who won fame as an illustrator of the "Life of Christ," had an unfortunate experience in London when he went there after the Franco-German war. He fought in the ranks, but after the Commune started up in Paris, he was startled to find that an accusation of being a Communist was being brought against him. It was another Tissot, who was in the Commune, but he thought it wiser to leave the country than to try to explain matters, since very often no time was given for explanation. His reputation as a Communist, however, clung to him after he had reached London, and began to flatter his hosts by painting like an Englishman. When the mistake was recognized, a number of "high personages," who had avoided him like the pest, visited his studio and made much of him.

### DUSTY OLD MISSISSIPPI.

Theory as to a Concomitant of Travel on Father of Waters.

"The Mississippi River is the dustiest road in the whole country," said a man who travels on the river a great deal, "and if you don't believe it put on a white shirt some time and make a cruise up the river a few hundred miles. Really, no thoughtful man would be stupid enough to question the statement if he had ever had any experience on the river."

"I was reading an article some time ago about the dust on the sea and from the description given of the fine, dry sediment which falls from the damp mist of the sea, I am inclined to think that the deposit is not in it with the dust of the Mississippi. The water of the river is charged with fine particles. The heavy particles in the water do not leave the surface except to sink at some point where an obstruction diverts the current and causes a temporary pool. It is this condition which forms the immense bars, or sand banks, which we find along the river. These formations are due altogether to the resistance encountered by the currents of the river. Mind you, the heavier particles of the river figure in these formations. The lighter particles, and the kind I have in mind at this time, form a sort of river dust which is wafted here and there by the winds which sweep the stream."

"I have heard a great many men advance the idea that this dust was blown from the sand bars and banks of the river during the dry season. But there is nothing in this claim which will explain satisfactorily the constant settling of dust on the boats plying the Mississippi. It blows into the cabin, settles on the deck and other exposed portions of the boat, and is just like any other kind of dust which one may find in an ordinary room during a dry season. There is this difference, that it is possibly not so dry, and hence has a greater cohesive power. It sticks to the thing it falls on. I have been traveling on the river for a quarter of a century in the lower trade, and I have paid considerable attention to this question of river dust, and it is really a very interesting subject, and one which should receive more attention. It may be pure or impure. In my judgment no kind of dust can be very pure. How this dust gets out of the river I cannot say, but since no scientist has explained the matter or set up a standard of judgment in this respect, I have a right to my opinion on the subject."

"There are, in my judgment, two ways of getting the fine particles out of the water. They may rise with the mist of the morning, and when the sun dries and dissipates the mist these fine particles become the sport of the winds and are blown higher and thither. Or it may be that the influence of the sun on the surface of the water will sufficiently dry and bake these fine particles to make them an easy prey to the winds. The wind which constantly sweeps the surface of the river would brush them from the water and waft them with the direction of the wind. I do not pretend to say that this is exactly what happens, but it seems to me to be a reasonable explanation of the existence of the strange phenomenon we call river dust.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

### DEATH TRAPS OF INSECTS.

Perils to Which Creatures that Fly and Crawl Are Subject.

The life of insects is beset with many perils, and the chances that they will live to "a green old age" are exceedingly remote. Honey bees and insects and bugs of less degree find pitfalls and often death in the beautiful blossoms of the milkweed, otherwise known as the Virginia swallowwort. If these flowers are examined any sunny day one will be pretty sure to find them decorated with a miscellaneous assortment of struggling or dead insects with their legs fast in the silts of the peculiar blossoms. The pollen of this common plant, instead of being a powder, as in the case of most plants, consists of sticky, waxy masses hidden within the blossom. When a visiting insect thrusts a proboscis or leg into the opening of such a flower some of these masses stick to it, and the natural course is for the insect to fly off to another flower and fertilize this with the adhering pollen.

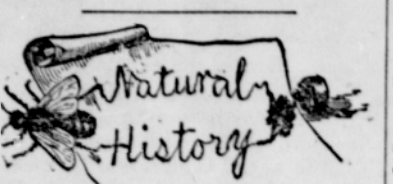
All insects, however, are not strong enough to extract their legs from the sticky places, and then ensue the slow torture of hanging there until death or a helping hand releases them from misery. Besides being beautiful, it could be quite a useful plant if we cared to develop its virtues. Thus its milky juice contains caustic; brown sugar has been made from the flowers; the silky hairs of the seeds are serviceable in the manufacture of textile fabrics, as cotton is, and a fiber of good quality for rope-making may be extracted from the stalk.

### CHANGING A RAILROAD'S NAME.

It Involves a Tremendous Amount of Labor, Painters and Printers. John Rattenburg, master painter of the Rock Island system, is in Denver for a novel purpose. He is entering upon the work of changing the name of the "Great Rock Island Route" to "The Rock Island System," over the entire property of that company. At first glance such an undertaking would not seem so very great, but only a moment's thought is necessary to see that it will take a long time to accomplish the object and that the cost will be up in the thousands.

When the railroad consisted of only 180 miles of half-track, all running in one State, the name of "The Rock Island Route" was adopted and for many years served its purpose, bringing fame to the little terminal point which is now only a station on the great system. But when that road grew into a powerful organization, with 7,000 miles of track, the name was not comprehensive enough, and a few weeks ago the edict went forth that hereafter "The Rock Island System" would replace the old trade-mark.

That little order meant that every piece of stationery in hundreds of offices, window signs, literature, advertising matter, box car names, and dozens of other accessories of the system would have to undergo a change as soon as possible. The master painter has only a part of the work to do. He must transform the name on the windows and doors of the offices and on signs at stations and on the billboards. The corporate trade-mark is made to embrace all the various lines which have recently come under the dominion of the Rock Island, and the change was made much of a necessity by the manifold names which could be so much more easily used under one title.—Denver Post.



There is a considerable trade in live quails from Messina, Sicily, to England. The birds are caught in the neighborhood of the port. They are kept from three to four days in Messina in cages before being shipped, are fed on hemp seed and ground corn and are watered freely every day. It is estimated that from 50,000 to 100,000 are caught annually. The manner in which they are caught is with running nooses and traps, and in Messina they fetch from 8 to 10 cents a head. The birds are shipped in cages from Messina to Genoa, whence they are sent by rail to England.

A recent writer, describing a pet parrot, says: "He was, like all good parrots, a wonderful mimic, and among other diversions he used to imitate to perfection the voice and tone of my wife calling to the cook. This led one day to an unexpected result. My wife, in the middle of writing a letter, suddenly remembered an order that she had omitted to give, and since, as usual on a hot day, the communicating doors were open, she called, without moving from her chair, 'Elizabeth!' To which came the startling answer from the cook: 'Shut up, you old fool!' Whereupon the parrot danced with joy."

The ornithomorphous, or duck-billed platypus, combines the attributes of two of the great orders of the animal world—those of the mammalia and aves. Like the bird, it hatches its young from the egg. At the same time the female is provided with teats, like other viviparous animals, whereby she is enabled to suckle her young when the latter have arrived at sufficient maturity, for which purpose the tongue of the infant platypus is pushed to the front of the beak. As it is an inhabitant of Australia, it is not surprising that an examination of the skeleton reveals the presence of two short bones, which in the higher organized marsupials serve to support the pouch. The duck-bill is purely nocturnal in its habits and is provided with cheek-pouches wherein to store its food for consumption at leisure. Its general color is dark brown, shading to light brown on the abdomen, and the fore feet are webbed beyond the claws, which web the animal folds back when burrowing, at which it is most expert. The hind legs of the male are armed with a spur, which is perforated and connected with a poison gland. The beak—which, of course, is the most extraordinary feature of this creature—is after death like a piece of old leather, but in life is very sensitive and reddish at the tip. It is furnished, in lieu of teeth, with four transverse plates, with which the animal crushes the small mollusks forming the main portion of its diet.

Physicians in Peru. Some of the young medicines of this city who have just graduated might get rich in a hurry by setting up in business in Peru or some other of the South American countries. United States Consul Charles V. Herdlicka, of Callao, Peru, has just written a letter to the State Department in which he states that the people, both of that country and Bolivia, "have great faith in American physicians and surgeons on account of the advanced state of medical science in this country."

He also states that the American physicians now in Lima and Callao are doing far better than they could possibly expect at home, and that "before a physician can enter upon the practice of his profession in Peru he must pass a state examination upon medicine, conducted in the Spanish language."

Cause of Steam-Pipe Explosions. Many steam pipe explosions are due to water hammer action. A plug of water only six inches long propelled into a pipe under a pressure of fifteen pounds can exert a pressure of 6,400 pounds on being suddenly stopped.

South Africa of Volcanic Origin. South Africa is of volcanic origin, and the land in the vicinity of Kimberley is so sublimely that even ants cannot exist upon it.

When you look at some people the first thing you think of is a club.

### LONE TRIBES OF ESKIMOS

There has been discovered upon one of the islands of the Hudson Bay, the remnant of a lost tribe of Eskimos, a community which has been for centuries without intercourse with any other representatives of the human species, and whose members never, until quite recently, had seen an opportunity of seeing a white man.

The facts of the discovery are well established, having been reported to the federal authorities at Ottawa by the Rev. A. W. Buckland, Mr. Buckland says that these strange people will virtually live in the stone age, knowing no tools. Their habitations are built entirely of the skulls of whales.

The home of this tribe is upon Southampton Island, a piece of water-girt land nearly as large as the State of Maine, lying at the extreme north end of Hudson Bay. "These people or their ancestors have undoubtedly inhabited the island ever since the pre-Columbian days, and at the present time they exist exactly as they must have done then. Having been isolated for so long a period it is natural that they should possess many peculiarities. A very remarkable collection of their utensils, weapons of the chase, and other objects, was secured by Mr. Buckland, but, to the great regret of the Canadian authorities, it was allowed by him to pass into the hands of private persons.

They are at stations and are built by putting together the great jaws of whales and then covering them with skins. In the middle of the primitive dwellings is a slight elevation, on which stands the stone lamp, employed for lighting, heating, cooking, and melting snow and drying clothes. This lamp is nothing more than an open dish of whale oil, with a wick of dry moss soaked in fat.

The whale is the chief means of subsistence of these poor people. They use the bone for many purposes, making plates and cups and toboggan-like sleds. They also manufacture sledges of walrus tusks, with deer antlers for crosspieces. The members speak a dialect peculiar to themselves and they are the most daring of hunters. Not more than sixteen members of the tribe now survive.

Mr. Buckland agrees with the explorers who believe the story that Andrew was murdered by the Eskimos. He has lived for years with these people in their tents, and can not say too much for the kindness of disposition and readiness to assist strangers. He explains the finding by them of instruments and other property by the hypothesis that they belonged to the Tyrell brothers, who in 1894, nearly lost their lives near Marble Island, Hudson Bay, and left many valuable articles behind, including their cameras, plates, etc.

### THIS ELEPHANT IS NOT REAL.



Here is a "frank" photograph. At first glance one would suppose that it was a picture of a young lady riding on a baby elephant.

But it is not a real elephant. It is a mere silhouette cut out of boards and is intended for an advertisement, a sign being painted on it. The laprobe of a carriage is thrown over the sign to conceal it, and the young lady is managing herself with difficulty on the sharp edge of the elephant's back—for all that, she looks comfortable.

The photograph was taken in the outskirts of the City of Washington, the elephant being set up by the roadside.

A Convenient Deafness. Mrs. Hall was just wishing she had some one to send down town after a spool of silk with which to finish her sewing, when her neighbor's little six-year-old boy came in.

"Well, Bobbie," said Mrs. Hall, "if I pay you 3 cents will you go down to Stone's and get me a spool of silk?" Robert was very willing to go and waited while Mrs. Hall wrote the number and color of the silk she wanted, and as she handed him the slip Bobbie said:

"Mrs. Hall, I guess I must be a little hard of hearing, but did you say 4 cents?"—Little Chronicle.

Aluminum as a Substitute for Paper. It is stated that experiments with aluminum as a substitute for paper are now under way in France. It is now possible to roll aluminum into sheets four-thousandths of an inch in thickness, in which form it weighs less than paper.

By the adoption of suitable machinery these sheets can be made even thinner and can be used for book and writing paper. The metal will not oxidize, is practically fire and water proof, and is indestructible by worms.

Like Papa. "I saw Klumsey's baby yesterday. It's a regular chip off the old block."

"Why, I couldn't see any resemblance at all."

"No? Well, when I saw the kid it had just opened its mouth and put its foot in it."—Philadelphia Press.

### An Excellent Reason.

An old sea captain, under the impression that he was saying a good thing, asked a lady passenger why men never kiss one another, while ladies waste a world of kisses on feminine faces.

"Because," the lady replied, "the men have something better to kiss and the women haven't."

For forty years Pisco's Cure for Consumption has cured coughs and colds. At druggists. Price 25 cents.

### Showed Profound Conceit.

Phyllis—Harry is the most conceited man I ever met.

Phyllis—What makes you think so?

Phyllis—Why, he first asserts that I am the most adorable woman in the world, the most beautiful, intellectual, and in every respect a paragon, and then he wants me to marry him!

Anything But Funny. Myer—"The average man takes life much too seriously."

Gyer—"Oh, I don't know. It's no joke to be arrested for murder."

Millions of sufferers use Hamlin's Wisard Oil for pain every year and call it blessed. Ask your druggist, he knows.

Giving Papa Away. "Mamma," said 5-year-old Tommy. "I'll be your pony can beat you."

"Why, dear, what do you mean?" asked the astonished mother.

"I mean in a race," replied the youngster. "I heard papa say that you could talk faster than a horse can trot."

Eats Corn Off the Cob. "I can bite an apple as well as I could when a child, and I can eat corn off the cob as well as any person alive."

She had been fitted with full sets of upper and lower teeth by Wise Brothers, and was perfectly astonished to find that she is now as well supplied with teeth that she can use as she was when a little girl. Wise Brothers have revolutionized modern dental methods.

There is no more pain to be feared by people who have their teeth attended to, and the cost is very moderate. They make a great specialty of crown and bridge work, and even when it is necessary to take out all of the old teeth and put in full new sets, the result is simply wonderful. The false teeth, of course, cannot be told from natural ones, and the person using them can do everything he, or she, could do with natural teeth. The sets of teeth are made to fit the gums so perfectly that there is no slipping, and the strength of the possible bite is just like that of a natural healthy set of teeth.

The experience of the lady customer here related can be yours if your teeth need attention. No one can afford to postpone having their teeth put in order. No one need suffer a single day longer because they have lost the use of their own teeth. We hope our readers will carefully watch the advertisements of Wise Brothers in this newspaper, and be persuaded to consult this splendid dental institution.

A Natural Question. "At your age I never told stories," said Myron Leffingwell to the youthful one who had been "yarning" as is a way sometimes with imaginative youngsters.

"At what age did you begin, papa?" was the disconcerting answer.—New York Times.

How the Miracle Occurred. "Why did the evil spirits enter into the swine?" asked the Sunday school teacher.

"Cause hogs will eat any old thing," replied little Sammy.

Must Forget One. Flannigan—"That's the matter wid Hogan these days?"

Hooligan—"He invented an armor that nothing can pierce, and a shell that will pierce any armor, and he doesn't know which to forget."—New York Times.

Shoes Wouldn't Fit. Clerk—"So you want to exchange these shoes because they don't mate?"

Mrs. Hogan—"Oh, no. First I put 'em on me left foot an' 'twor made for the right; an' then I put 'em on me right foot, an' 'twor made for the left."

The Truth Will Out. The Parson (to stranger)—This is the first time I have had the pleasure of seeing you at our church. Where is your regular place of worship, may I ask?

Young Man—Why, er—at her father's house, to be sure.

## Dark Hair

"I have used Ayer's Hair Vigor for a great many years, and although I am past eighty years of age, yet I have not a gray hair in my head."

Geo. Yellott, Towson, Md.

We mean all that rich, dark color your hair used to have. If it's gray now, no matter; for Ayer's Hair Vigor always restores color to gray hair. Sometimes it makes the hair grow very heavy and long; and it stops falling of the hair, too.

It costs 25 cents a bottle. All druggists.

If your druggist cannot supply you, send to one dollar and we will express you a bottle. Be sure and give the name of your nearest express office. Address, J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.

WISCONSIN CURE FOR CONSUMPTION.

Women prompters have been tried at the Berlin theaters with success, as it has been found that their voices carry better across the stage and are less audible in the auditorium.

You Can Get Allen's Foot Ease FREE. Write Allen & Ginsted, Litchfield, N. Y., for free sample of Allen's Foot Ease. It cures chilblains, sweating, damp, swollen, itching feet. It makes new or tight shoes easy to wear. Cure for Corns and Bunions. All druggists sell it. Don't accept any substitute.

His Choice Jury. Lawyer Brief—I see that case of yours is on. Jury drawn yet?

Lawyer Skinner—Yes, and it's a splendid one.

Lawyer Brief—Above the average in intelligence, eh?

Lawyer Skinner—No; way below it.

False Economy. It is the experience of every good housewife that to practice economy on such articles as spices, baking powder and the like is generally at the risk of health and comfort. The few cents possibly saved may be very expensive if they result in impure and indigestible foods. If you want to be sure you are getting on the very purest and strongest spices and baking powder made, see to it that your grocer supplies you only with the Monopole brand. If your dealer doesn't handle them send us his name. Wadhams & Kerr Bros., Portland, Or.

Preference. "You say that young woman complimented my singing?" he exclaimed, anxiously.

"In a way," the young woman replied. "She said she would rather hear you try to sing than try to converse."—Washington Star.

## OLD PEOPLE

Do not always receive the sympathy and attention which they deserve. Their ailments are regarded as purely imaginary, or natural and unavoidable at their time of life. Disease and infirmity should not always be associated with old age. The eye of the gray haired grandchild may be as bright and the complexion as fair as any of his younger and more vigorous companions.

Good Blood is the secret of healthy old age, for it regulates and controls every part of the body, strengthens the nerves, makes the muscles elastic and supple, the bones strong and the flesh firm; but when this life fluid is polluted or poisoned and loses its nutritive, health sustaining elements, then there is a rapid decline of the vital powers, resulting in premature old age and disease. Any derangement of the blood quickly shows itself in an ulcer, sore, wart, tumor or some other troublesome growth upon the body, and rheumatic and neuralgic pains become almost constant, accompanied with poor digestion and cold extremities.

Best blood purifier for old people. It does not shock or hurt the system like the strong mineral remedies, but gently and thoroughly cleanses the blood and stimulates the debilitated organs, when all bodily ailments disappear. S. S. S. is just such a tonic as old people need to improve a weak digestion and tone up the stomach. If there is any hereditary taint, or the remains of some disease contracted in early life, S. S. S. will search it out and remove every vestige of it from the system.

Write us fully about your case and let our physicians advise and help you. This will cost you nothing, and we will mail free our book on blood and skin diseases.

THE SWIFT SPECIFIC COMPANY, Atlanta, Ga.

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Distemper or Pink Eye with PRUSSIAN POWDER. They ARE A GREAT BLOOD PURIFIER and CONDITIONER, a sure cure for all ailments from which horses suffer.

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## CASTORIA

The Kind You Have Always Bought has borne the signature of Chas. H. Fletcher, and has been made under his personal supervision for over 30 years. Allow no one to deceive you in this. Counterfeits, Imitations and "Just-as-good" are but Experiments, and endanger the health of Children—Experience against Experiment.

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Castoria is a harmless substitute for Castor Oil, Paregoric, Drops and Soothing Syrup. It is Pleasant. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other Narcotic substance. Its age is its guarantee. It destroys Worms and allays Feverishness. It cures Diarrhoea and Wind Colic. It relieves Teething Troubles, cures Constipation and Flatulency. It assimilates the Food, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, giving healthy and natural sleep. The Children's Panacea—The Mother's Friend.

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Tennysonian. "Why do you call your neighbor's pig 'Maude'?"

"Because it always comes into the garden."

Mothers will find Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup the best remedy to use for their children during the teething period.

Somewhat Uncertain. "He's what you'd call a professional public speaker, isn't he?"

"Well, I don't know. He speaks in every free chance he can get, but the public never waits to hear him."

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W. L. Douglas shoes are worn by more men in all stations of life than any other make, because they are the only shoes that in every way equal those costing \$5.00 and \$6.00.

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