

BANDON RECORDER.

Origin of the Jirikisha. Most travelers in Japan would suppose that so general a Japanese institution as the Jirikisha was of native origin, but not so.

Taking Him at His Word. Joseph Jefferson in his biography relates what was probably the last jest of Artemus Ward.

On His Own Merits. A young man who spent his summer vacation on a Maine farm says that new instances of the thrift and shrewdness of his landlady are constantly thrusting themselves upon his attention.

The Necessity of Mystery. To be content in utter darkness and ignorance is indeed unmanly, and therefore we think that to love light and find knowledge must be always right.

Conversations. "What's the matter, dear?" "Nothing."

Needed, Too, Apparently. Teacher—Now, what do you understand by brain work?

Little Clarence—Pa, what is experience? Mr. Callipers—Experience, my son, is the headaches you acquire from buttoning the world.—Puck.

In settlement of the claims for indemnity made by those Italian subjects who were expelled from the Transval the British government has paid down £12,000, which will be divided among 120,000 individuals.

POLLY LARKIN.

What a "bugbear" the Christmas holidays are to some people. What hard work they make of it and how much of the pleasure of the X-mastide is lost in the fretting and the worrying.

They could make it so much easier if they followed the plan of a certain little friend of Polly's.

It is stated that experiments with aluminum as a substitute for paper are now under way in France.

The value of the coal mines in Japan is almost equal to that of all other minerals combined.

In Russia factories are usually near forests, wood being still the chief fuel.

All the new trains on the Central London Railway are to be of fireproof construction, steel and asbestos being largely used.

To our parents, says an expert, we are indebted for half our mental traits; to our grandparents, one-fourth; to our great-grandparents, one-eighth, and so forth.

Green wood contains fully 45 per cent of water, although seasoning usually expels but 35 per cent of this fluid.

Italy makes eight millions a year out of foreign visitors.

DUMAS ON SNAKES.

A Characteristic Story of the Impetuous French Author. When M. de Villenoussant was founding Le Grand Journal, he wrote to Dumas, asking for his assistance.

Received the sum of 50 napoleons on account of my story. A hearty squeeze of the hand. A. D.

The very same evening came a dispatch from Havre: On receipt of this please send 20 napoleons to my lodgings at Frascati.

Some of the Almost Human Work These Clever Canines Perform. Reading denotes that a dog is following a trail toward the birds by their foot scent, as a man in an analogous manner might follow a flock of sheep by watching their tracks.

A Bird's Bump of Locality. On shore the penguin is an awkward creature, says Professor C. E. Borchgrevink, the Antarctic explorer, in Leslie's Monthly.

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NEW SHORT STORIES

Why, what's the matter? Inquired the yawner. "You said something about 2 to 1," was the explanation.

London papers teem with articles on pingpong, the new parlor game. One writer even declares Londoners make a boast of the destruction they cause with the little celluloid balls.

Three precious ornaments were broken. But occasionally hostesses have been known to make complaints.

Long before Lord Rosebery had won a name or place for himself he was for some time in New York, where he became the intimate friend and ardent admirer of the late Sam Ward.

Upon one occasion Nat Goodwin invited a prominent English artist to visit him at his country house in the suburbs of London.

Representative Olmstead of Pennsylvania tells this story: "A client of mine the necessities of whose large family, recently augmented by twins, made him poor came to me joyfully one day and said he had found oil flowing from a spring on his land."

Miss Lily (after the proposal)—I don't think you'd better see papa to-day, Tom. My dressmaker has just been here with her bill.

"For a new actress she adopted an original way of drawing attention to herself."

The Sister—I have become engaged to Fred. The Brother—Whatever induced you to do that?

The Sister—Why, Fred, of course!

THEY DRINK SEA WATER.

Cockatoos and Wild Pigeons Do Not Seem to Mind It. "In 1881, while resident on Gazelle peninsula, the northern portion of the magnificent island of New Britain, in the south Pacific, I had many opportunities of witnessing both cockatoos and wild pigeons drinking salt water."

"My nearest neighbor was a German, and one day when we were walking along the beach toward his station I noticed some hundreds of pigeons fly down from the forest, settle on the margin of the water and drink with apparent enjoyment."

"At first I thought that as fresh water in many places bubbled up through the sand at low tide, the birds were really drinking the sea water, but by watching closely I distinctly saw them walk across these tiny runnels without making any attempt to drink."

The Harons believe that the dove carries the souls of the departed hence, The Dakotas say the storm bird dwells so high as to be out of human vision and carries a fresh water lake on his back, so that when he plumes himself it rains, when he flaps his wings thunder rolls. The Alaskans hold much the same idea about the "thunder-bird."

Among them all the eagle is mighty, brave, aspiring, the symbol of their warriors for apparent reasons. The kingfisher is anxious to serve his brother man.

William the Conqueror did not introduce swearing into England, but he brought with him a very forcible oath. William was accustomed to swear "by the splendor of God," and on such occasions he combined with it the "terrible aspect of the eyes," which always took the place of swearing in the case of Sir Joseph Porter, K. C. B. After William's time the rulers of England, with possibly here and there an exception, swore with great frequency and vigor.

The sculpture was done by John Flanagan of Newark, N. J. He studied under St. Gaudens and at the Paris School of Fine Arts.

Years ago it was discovered in a district of France that the agricultural prospects had been damaged by the slaughter of small birds, and steps were at once taken to protect the birds. In Antwerp the authorities have gone a step further. They have caused, so it is reported, artificial birds' nests to be placed on the fir trees with a view to favoring the multiplication of insectivorous birds. It is an ingenious attempt, but it is hard to imagine that the birds that they will either abandon their natural instincts to build their own nests or flock to one district because there the trouble is saved.

The skins of fruit of all kinds should never be eaten, but before removing the skin the fruit should be carefully washed, to avoid the transference of bacteria from skin to pulp. Experiments have shown that a stomach whose contents contained no microbes after a breakfast of sterilized food, ending with grapes of which the skins were eaten, contained 500,000 microbes to each fluid ounce. These microbes cause the fruit to decay before it can be digested.—Farm and Ranch.

"How do you manage to live within your income, Briggs? Don't you feel cramped?" "Cramped, did you say? Why, I have got to go out and borrow \$10 every time I want to stretch myself!"—Smart Set.

One Girl—Jack tried to kiss me last night. Another—What in the world did you do? "Oh, I was up in arms in a minute."—Smart Set

Naturally. The Sister—Why, Fred, of course!

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CHOICE MISCELLANY

The "Lounge Game." The "lounge game" has been played at least once in Brooklyn and twice in New York; perhaps oftener, but these are the only cases the police have heard of.

Duelling in Switzerland. The duel, though prohibited by law, still exists in Switzerland, but the practice is confined to the students in the Swiss German universities.

A Spider's Web. A small spider that dropped itself from an oriel window in the rotunda over the north entrance to the city hall courtyard gave an interesting illustration of the length to which these insects can spin out a single thread.

Congressional Library Clock. The clock in the reading room of the library of congress has been completed and unveiled. The timepiece itself has been in place for several years, but the allegorical figures surrounding it have just been added.

Birds' Nests Built by Cities. Years ago it was discovered in a district of France that the agricultural prospects had been damaged by the slaughter of small birds, and steps were at once taken to protect the birds.

The Skins of Fruit. The skins of fruit of all kinds should never be eaten, but before removing the skin the fruit should be carefully washed, to avoid the transference of bacteria from skin to pulp.

In a Close Place. "How do you manage to live within your income, Briggs? Don't you feel cramped?"

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"I BEG A THOUSAND PARDONS"