

HANDS RECORDED

A MAN'S NEGOTIE

What the measure of its approach... I wouldn't attempt to judge a man by his coat... The tie of the genius has afforded much copy for the pen of the satirist...

POINTED QUESTIONS

Put Yourself in the Other One's Place and Answer... The great task of sound ethics is to stimulate the social imagination... How would you like to be the tailor or washerwoman whose bill you are neglected to pay?

Two Clever Statements

One crisis in Lord Palmerston's life illustrates the absolute good humor which may prevail even when political enmity is at its worst... Lord Derby made an attack upon him in the upper house with such energy and eloquence...

Effective

Bjinks—Do you believe in the possibility of the cure of disease by suggestion? Bjinks—Why, certainly. I was feeling pretty sick last week and my wife suggested that I go to a doctor, and it cured me right away.—Somerville (Mass.) Journal.

The Only Way to Prove It

"Which do you think should be more highly esteemed, money or brains?" "Brains," answered Senator Sorghum. "But nowadays the only way a man can convince people that he has brains is to get money."—Washington Star.

To Market on Stilts

An interesting and picturesque custom in southwestern France is that of going to market on stilts. Groups of young men and women mounted on high stilts may be seen daily crossing the marshy plains known as the "Landes." The "Landes" are cut up into small ditches, pools and hummocks, and stilts are in consequence almost necessary to those who desire to traverse them.

Granite is the only common rock which shows no traces of animal or vegetable life.

POLLY LARKIN

What the Measure of its Approach

Ella Wheeler Wilcox, whose clever articles and trigrams are read all over the land, gives a fine article on "Girls Should Avoid Slang," which should be read, not only by the young girls, but by the fair sex all over the country. It is a rare thing to meet a young lady just out of school who does not use slang. They are the exception and not the rule. In speaking of this advice and commenting on the subject to a young lady the other day, she said, "Why, Polly, if you don't use slang now-a-days you are not in it, but back numbers, known to the rest of the girls as clumps. When a girl tries to enter our set and is so goodly-gooey and precise in her conversation, we just set to work to teach her a thing or two, and we shock her so she is dazed for a day or so. We tell her in so many words that she is a back number and to 'go 'way off and sit down.' It doesn't take long to bring her to herself. She knows perfectly well if she's going to live in peace in our vicinity she's got to overcome her prudish ways. It goes against the grain, too, at first, but gradually she falls into it and is soon as much of a gold brick as the rest of us. One of the girls, too, like for anything, refused to kick out of the traces, so she was very proper, so we just simply hounded her to 'death, or at least until she left school. I believe her parents are sending her to a private seminary now." "It doesn't speak very well for the bringing up of the rest of you girls," I could not help saying to this frivolous girl. "Oh, that's the way you look at it, Polly, but I tell you, you can't afford to be an odd duck. Makes you too conspicuous. That girl must learn the truth of the old saying, 'When you are in Rome, do as the Romans do.'" "I wish you would read that article of Ella Wheeler Wilcox's on slang, and I believe you would change your mind." "Not on your life," she replied. "Why, if I should read that article I'd lose prestige with the rest of the girls. I'm not as easily turned as a weather vane, Polly."

CHOICE MISCELLANY

Have I Done for the Misgranted? A stringent law against backwash has recently been promulgated in one of the states forming the Argentine Republic.

A man is unrecognizable in Argentina when he is twenty. If from that date and till he passes his thirtieth birthday he wishes to remain single, he must pay \$5 a month to the state. For the next five years the tax increases 100 per cent.

Between thirty-five and fifty the bachelor is invited to the tune of \$20 a month. From his fortieth year to seventy-five \$30 a month is the tax, but, having reached the seventy-fifth year, relief finally comes, and the tax becomes nominal, being reduced to \$20 a year. After eighty a man can remain single without paying anything.

The widow, if she is given three years in which to mourn and pick a successor. A man who can prove that he has proposed and been refused three times in one year is also considered to have earned immunity from taxation.

It is said that the law works like a charm.

The Embassies at Washington. Sir Michael Herbert, the new British ambassador, will take rank next after Signor Mayor des Planches, the Italian ambassador, who has been at Washington now rank in this order: Germany, Russia, Mexico, Italy and Great Britain, with Austria-Hungary next, as Mr. Hengelmuller probably will present his credentials as ambassador before Mr. Tussaud, the new representative from France, arrives and is presented. There have been persistent rumors that Dr. von Holleben, the German ambassador, who is now dean of the corps, will soon relinquish his post here for another one on the continent, and there have also been intimations that Count Cassini, the Russian ambassador, who has been at Washington since June, 1908, will be transferred to another post. If these two prospective changes occur, Senor Azpilroz, the Mexican ambassador, will become dean of the corps, with Signor Mayor des Planches of Italy ranking next and Sir Michael Herbert third in the order of precedence.

Prefer Wages to Tips. The waiters of Paris are up in arms against tips. They held the other night a meeting whose battle cry was "A bas le pourboire" and are shortly to issue leaflets setting forth the evils of the tipping system. The waiters, though never before presented from the waiter's viewpoint, tipping is a complicated system in Paris. Each "pourboire" as it is collected is put into a general box, and at the end of the day the total is divided equally among the waiters. They receive no wages, but, on the contrary, have to advance to the cashier at the beginning of each day a sum estimated at one-half of the day's pourboire. Whether or not the gratitudes reach the estimated total the fixed sum is paid to the owner for "expenses." One garçon recently brought suit against his employer for these expenses and recovered. The 2,000 waiters at the meeting determined on similar action.

Freaks of the Mont Pelée Eruption. Professor Angelo Heilprin in an address before the Mont Pelée eruption said the first phase was the emission from the crater of a brown colored cloud which was impelled to a vast height. Almost simultaneously a black cloud intensely luminous shot downward toward the city and when over St. Pierre was shattered by a tremendous lightning stroke, which sent the death dealing blast in all directions.

Some of the freaks of the destruction, he said, were inexplicable. In one case a body was found scorched to a crisp, and beside it lay a box of matches untouched by fire. Jewel boxes were picked up with the exterior unscathed and the contents fused in a solid mass.—Philadelphia Record.

Doctors' Income in England. The British Medical Journal ventured an estimate of the average income that might be expected by the general practitioners in England and put it at £300 to £500. The estimate was copied into several daily papers and has produced a large crop of correspondence teeming with ridicule and indignation. The general practitioners, who ought to know, declare that only a small proportion of their number earn so much even after years of arduous work. The competition brought about by the overcrowded state of the profession is, they declare, so great that it is a cruelty to induce men by inflated estimates to enter it.

See Elephant Leather. A New England sea captain named Cleveland had created a sensation by bringing home a few hides of the sea elephant, a giant seal thus far hunted for only in the Arctic regions. The hides are said to be more flexible and tougher than those of cattle, and a process has been invented which produces from them a grade of leather superior to anything hitherto known. The elephant's hide increased rapidly in numbers during the last score of years on account of their comparative immunity from slaughter. Captain Cleveland's ship is the first vessel to sail after sea elephant hides.

Fixing It. "My price," said the merchant who had been asked to fix one for his business and who was quite willing to sell out, "is \$150,000; not a cent less." "Make it just that much less," suggested the promoter, "and I think we can close the deal." "How do you mean?" "Make it \$149,999.99. The head of this syndicate is a woman."—Philadelphia Press.

To Get a Divorce. When "love, cherish and obey" and "sickness, poverty and death" are left out of the marriage ritual, what do the happy pair "promise" themselves—merely to keep the peace?—Boston Herald.

An Offhand Answer. "Who can tell me the meaning of leisure?" asked the teacher. "It's a place where married people repel the tax boy at the foot of the class."—Philadelphia Record.

The thirty-four biggest estates in Britain average 183,000 acres each.

WRITING THE SERMON

Friday is the Saturday Day for Performing This Task

Probably few of the good people who listen with rapt attention to the sermon which is preached to them each Sunday, says the Denver Post, know that for nearly 300 years Friday has been the time honored day for the pastor to go into his study, write the sermon which is to furnish "food for thought" to the congregation on the following Sunday. In speaking of this custom a clergyman says: "When Christianity was first promulgated, all preaching was done extemporaneously. Such a thing as preparing a sermon was unknown. Many gifted men expressed their views on various subjects, then added a few words of good advice to their listeners. This practice is still continued in the Roman Catholic church of the present day, and I think that a very limited number of the ministers, however, adhere to this rule by any means. When Henry Ward Beecher was asked on what day he prepared his sermon, he replied, 'On Sunday morning, of course.' "Well, Mr. Beecher, don't you think that is a rather dilatory habit for you to get into?" asked another. "Oh, no, not at all," replied Mr. Beecher in his quick way. "You see, I look at a sermon like some do on a pancake. They can be served hot or cold, and I like mine hot; that's all."

His Friend Geoffrey. The following story, told by the Washington Post, leads us to wonder which to condemn first, the booster or his critics. It concerns a certain man who has a large collection of autographs.

Indeed, the envy and sometimes the skepticism of his friends have been excited by the number of successful authors who have set down familiar and flattering inscriptions in his books. Some carpers have even gone so far as to hint darkly at a similarity of handwriting throughout the collection.

He recently purchased a rare edition of Chaucer, and one evening when a party was gathered at the house the precious book was passed from hand to hand. The owner held it up to him, but the next morning he found it lying on his library table.

On the fly leaf was inscribed: "To Jack —, from his old friend and schoolmate, Geof. Chaucer."

Wit of Horne Tooke. It is said that Horne Tooke, who excelled in that duplicitous controversy exhibited by two disputants when pitted against each other with only the breadth of a mahogany board between them, was exceedingly quick and sharp at retort. When he made his most deadly thrusts, it was with a smiling countenance and without seeming effort or emotion. Replying to a man who contended that only landowners should be allowed to vote at elections, he said, "Pray tell me how many acres does it take to make a wisacre?"

When asked by George III. whether he ever played cards, he replied, "I cannot, your majesty, tell a king from a knave." What can be more uniquely comical than his saying to his brother: "You and I, my dear brother, have inverted the laws of nature. You 'are' risen in the world by your gravity, and I have fallen by my levity?"—Saturday Evening Post.

The World's Largest Crab. How would you like to have a crab like this squeezing your toe when you go bathing? The gigantic Japanese crab, measuring twelve feet, is probably the largest crustacean in the world. The specimen, a type of the spider crab, which inhabits the waters of the group of islands forming the empire of Japan. The body portion is the size of a half bushel measure, while its two great arms or "feelers" could easily encircle the figure of a man. Its eight arms or legs resemble huge bamboo poles and are extremely elastic, and it strung into one line they would reach to the top of a four story apartment building. One of the extraordinary peculiarities of this crab is the faculty of assuming a disguise by affixing pieces of seaweed and sponges to the body.

Norway Hotel System. There is a capital hotel system in vogue in certain parts of Norway. In villages where no hotel exists one of the more prominent inhabitants is subsidized by the Norwegian government and in return is bound to provide accommodation for not less than four travelers. He may take as many as he chooses, but four is the minimum. The accommodation and food supplied are excellent, and the charges are very moderate.

The Drop Curtain. A youngster had been to the theater, and upon his return his uncle asked him how he liked the play. "Oh," he replied, "the play was all right, but I didn't see nearly all of it." "Why, how did that happen?" asked his uncle. "Because," answered the youngster, "the other must have had broke, for the window blind fell down two or three times."—Chums.

A Fair Exchange. Editor—See here, Mr. Dolan. You delivered me a load of hay for the six years' subscription you owed for my paper. Mr. Dolan—O did. Editor—Well, my horse won't eat that hay, b' gosh! Mr. Dolan—Well, my goat won't eat your paper, b' gosh!—Puck.

The average man is always anxious to meet the food killer for the purpose of sending him next door.—Chicago News.

Bedford the Foundation. The oldest city in Canada, the fabric of Bunyan's own imagination, an elaboration most probably of the town of Bedford, which, though not a walled city, had its gates fixed here and there to guard the town in troublesome times. The gateways on the old Bedford bridge, within which Bunyan was imprisoned for so long and through which he passed times out of number, must have been foremost in the mind of the great dreamer.—Bookman.

FILIPINO FUNERALS

Picture-Show for the Rich and Pauper for the Poor

One of the most striking things to be seen on the streets of Manila is a Filipino funeral. If the deceased was wealthy and had hosts of friends, the funeral will be headed by a band playing selections from comic operas. The body of the deceased follows in a hearse covered with black cloth arranged in a graceful design and drawn by six black ponies, each decked with headgear of long black feathers. The hearse will be followed by men on foot wearing knickerbockers and cocked hats, and after them follow innumerable vehicles of every description. If the body is to be interred, the gravediggers will precede the band, with their tools over their shoulders.

Most Filipino funerals, however, are more pathetic. The father of a few weeks old baby will trot out to the cemetery entirely alone, with the little white coffin balanced well on his head, and if a man had not the price of a vehicle his remains will be carried out on bamboo poles by four Chinamen, and the coffin will be one that has seen service before.

The natives have different ways of burial. Some bodies are put into the ground, while the larger majority are placed in niches in the wall of the cemetery. A slab cemented into the opening of the niche contains a brief biography of the deceased.

Some Survivals of Fashion. Man is unquestionably a highly rational being. Still, if you travel and observe from the mouth of the Danube to the Golden Gate you will find most men wearing a coat with a useless collar marked with a useless V shaped slash and decorated with two useless buttons at the small of the back and one or two more useless buttons at the cuffs. The collar, the slash and the buttons are there in answer to no rational need. It is not a common climate nor a common racial need of protection against climate that they represent, but a common civilization whose form and ritual they mutely confess.

Over this entire area those who aspire to be of the Brahman caste deck their heads for wedding, funeral and feast with a black cylindrical covering, suited, so far as we can discern, neither to avert the weapon of the adversary or the dart of the rain, nor to provide a seat whereon man may sit and rest himself. And as for the women contained within this same area we behold that the amplitude of the sleeve, the disposition of the belt and the outline of the skirt all obey the rise and fall of one resistless tide which neither mood nor seasons control.—Benjamin Ide Wheeler in Atlantic.

The Certainty of Fate. The Mohammedans have a fable which they repeat to illustrate the certainty of fate. The Philadelphia Times quotes it as having been told by Mr. Robert Barr, the celebrated novelist.

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Nelson's Only Defeat. Nelson, like all the greatest commanders on sea or land, made his mistakes and his failures, but there is only one instance on record of his having been actually defeated in a direct attack. This occurred at Santa Cruz, in the Canary islands, on July 24, 1797. The place was very strongly fortified, and Nelson, in the face of a fire of fifty guns from the batteries, attempted to storm the town by boats. The attempt was frustrated by the strength of the mole and the nonappearance of a land force which should have co-operated. A hundred and fifty men were killed and a hundred wounded on the British side, and Nelson lost his right arm. Two flags were also captured, and these are still kept in the cathedral of Santa Cruz.

The Scotch Sunday. As an instance of the observance of the Sabbath in Scotland, an English paper tells of a postman having a route between Stirling and Blair Atholl. He was observed to ride a bicycle over his six miles on weekdays and to walk the same distance on Sunday, and when asked why he replied that he was not allowed to use the machine on Sunday. An investigation followed, and the postman's explanation proved to be correct.

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CRUSHING A BORE

The Authorities on Natural History

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The guests roared, and during the rest of the dinner nothing further was heard on the subject of natural history.

THE COOKBOOK

Peeled, chopped tomato sprinkled over lettuce, the whole covered with French dressing, makes a Russian salad.

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