

BANDON RECORDER.

IDEOGRAPHIC FIGURES.

A Lesson in English That Was Taught by a Chinaman.

That we have partially adopted the Chinese method in our written language was a new thought to me and one that I got from the proprietor of a Park Avenue laundry when, in the natural Cantonese fashion, I referred to his written language as being very inferior.

"John," I said, "why do you people use those chicken tracks instead of having an alphabet, as we have?" "A B C? Too much trouble," he answered quickly. "Why, you use chicken tracks, too, sometimes."

"We don't use them," I replied. "Yes; you use them very good. I show you." Then he dipped his convenient brush in the ink and made the number "30" on a sheet of brown paper. "That name of street over there," he continued, pointing, "you say 'thirty-nine,' you don't write it with 'A B C.' That Chinese. One mark is one thing—you say 'idea,' yes, idea. You don't put down 'I-n-e'—and here his brush came into use again—"You put down '3.' That's very good Chinese. We do that all the time."

A DRAMATIC LAWYER.

Effective Climax That Resulted in Settling a Murderer Free.

Lachaud, the great French advocate, was renowned for deliberate and telling dramatic improvisations, as it were, upon the original theme.

At one time, for instance, he was defending a murderer on Dec. 24. All day long he harassed witnesses, recalling them, causing delay after delay before getting his final address to the jury. It was well on in the evening before he commenced. Then suddenly, at the height of his passionate appeals for the prisoner, the slow, solemn bells of the cathedral next door pealed for the midnight mass—the first mass of Christmas morning. Lachaud stopped as if overwhelmed by a sudden warning.

"Do you hear?" he said solemnly after a moment's silence, and his manner conveyed that all his own glib eloquence had been shattered by the divine interruption of Christ himself. "The Redeemer comes to amend our pitiable endeavors. Which of us would dare now, on this great day of mercy and forgiveness, to condemn another human being and, above all, to condemn one whose culpability is more than doubtful?"

The prisoner was acquitted without the least difficulty, though his death sentence ten minutes before had been regarded as certain. The actual sound of the pealing bells had been too much for nerves already strained to snapping point by the fatigue of a long day's sitting.

Simple Headache Cure.

Here is a headache cure that is said to be a marvelous remedy and to relieve the sufferer when all else fails. It is easy to make and easy to apply, and it consists simply of black pepper and camphor. Take a quantity of black pepper and put it in a handkerchief. Then fold the handkerchief over so that the grains cannot fall out and saturate the whole thing with camphor. Bind this "plaster" on the head and lie down. In a very few moments the headache will be relieved and the patient will be asleep. When the handkerchief becomes dry saturate again with the camphor; that's all. People who have tried everything else say that this home remedy relieves them quickest. At any rate, it is worth trying.

Gunpowder and Artillery.

There is abundant evidence that the origin of gunpowder and artillery goes far back in the dim ages of the past. The Hindu code, compiled long before the Christian era, prohibited the making of war with cannon and guns of any kind of firearms. Quintus Curtius informs us that Alexander the Great met with fire weapons in Asia and Philostratus says that Alexander's conquests were arrested by the use of gun powder. It is also written that those wise men who lived in the cities of the Ganges overthrew their enemies with tempests and thunderbolts shot from the walls.—Cassell's Magazine.

Jules Ferry's Escape From the Mob.

Jules Ferry had a narrow escape from violence at the hands of the Paris commune, to whom he was especially odious. He eluded their pursuit through a church, letting himself down in a basket out of a rear window while the mob was forcing the outer door. The basket fell to the ground with a thud and gave its occupant a severe shaking up.

Pistol Worse Than Sword.

Damocles was viewing the suspended sword. "It doesn't seem to trouble you," observed Dionysius. "No," returned his guest. "Now, if it was only a pistol you didn't know how loaded!"

Weakened by the mere thought, he hastily turned to the butter for strength.—New York Tribune.

POLLY LARKIN

I found a letter in the query box the other day and, owing to the nature of the question, will make it the beginning of the column this week in place of ending the subject with the interrogatory mark.

"I have been in love with a young man, refined, and the soul of goodness when he is sober, but the reverse when he is addicted. He promises to give up drinking, and I know he really tried very hard to break himself of this terrible habit and will at times go for months without taking a drop of anything, then suddenly, without the slightest warning, he forgets his good resolutions and his promises to me and falls again. He says when we are married he will find it easier to stop; that I alone can save him. I know my influence over him is good and that I can keep him from the demon of drink longer than anybody else. I realize what a wreck it will make of my life if I marry him and he should persist in the habit of intemperance, but what else I do? If I don't marry him and am I to do? He should become a habitual drunkard. I will always feel that I am to blame; that I should have encouraged and done what I could to save him. What would you advise me to do, Polly?"

"You are in a world of trouble, Edith. You think you see your duty plain and that it calls you to make a sacrifice of yourself. You are looking almost wholly on one side of the question. You undoubtedly care a great deal for him and you believe your life as well as his will be a blank if you do not marry him, and yet you confess that your life will be wrecked if he does not turn over a new leaf. 'Don't marry a man to reform him,' says one of our poets, and there is more truth than poetry in the advice. If Jack won't reform when he is trying hard to win you, do you think he is going to do it after you are his wife? To be a few rare instances of such a desirable result, but they are few and far between. It is a great risk to run. If Jack can break himself of this habit that means only unhappiness for you both, he will make the effort of his life to do it now. He knows full well that nothing else in life will bring you so much real happiness or make the future so bright. If you marry Jack to reform him, it will not be many months until you can answer that question, 'Is marriage a failure?' and it will not be in the negative unless your experience is vastly different from that of most other girls who have married a man to reform him."

In Wareham, Belgium, a number of young ladies have formed a society in which they have solemnly vowed that they will not marry men who drink, and have signed a pledge to that effect. Their society is to be known as the "Union of Swallows," the sole object of which is to ward off undesirable suitors. The members state that they are quite as willing to marry as other girls, but they vow that they will remain old maids to the end of their days rather than give their hands and hearts to men who betray even a moderate liking for strong liquor. As the members of the Union of Swallows are some of the fairest daughters of Belgium it is safe to say that they will do more good and more effective work by their mode of striking intemperance a severe and lasting blow than Carrie Nation's crusade with her little hatchet has ever accomplished. The young men of Belgium who have acquired a taste for strong liquor know that they must turn a new leaf and resolve once and for all to be total abstainers to win the hand or even a smile of acknowledgement from the fair and much-sought members of the Union of Swallows. The girls will be true to their resolve and never break their vow which they have solemnly pledged themselves to keep. They will do more good in their quiet way for the temperance cause than they have dreamed of, besides setting an excellent example.

Summer time, and everybody is packing their furs and heavy winter garments away with a liberal supply of moth balls and bringing out dainty and becoming organdies and summer fabrics for their routing. "Vacation 1903," that you told us about, Polly, gotten out by the California Northwestern Railway Company, helped us out immensely," said a friend the other day. "We sent for one and scanned its contents from beginning to end. Before we got it we were in a quandary where to go, and then we were in almost as great a dilemma to decide which one we wanted of the many places that appealed to us. Finally we wrote the names of several places on some slips of paper, placed them in a hat and let the baby put her chubby hand in and draw for us. It seemed as though she was in as great a quandary as the rest, for the first time she drew she grabbed the whole lot. We went up last week to look round and we found the place just as represented. There is going to be quite a little colony of us there, too, for we passed our "Vacation 1903" round among a few chosen friends with the result that they are going to spend the next two months in the same vicinity. The best part of it is that the men of our party can spend from Saturday evening to Monday morning with us. Some of them, my husband among the number, are going to make the trip every day. To accommodate the summer guests to the country the Northwestern Railway Company has increased the service and put on extra trains so that people coming from all places on the road can get into the city in time for their business. You don't know what a difference it has

BUOYANT MIDDLE AGE.

It Dullies Juvenity With Youth In These Progressive Days.

Half a century ago a man of forty-five was regarded almost elderly, and a woman of the same age was expected to have long since cut herself adrift from all ties binding her to her youth and to assume the appearance and deportment of a staid, exemplary matron. All this has changed in a particularly interesting way, of which the present feature is a striking contradiction. If the three-year-old child of today is as knowing as was the six-year-old half a century ago and the ten-year-old boy of today is in many respects quite as much a man as was his grandfather at eighteen, one might naturally expect that in due gradation the modern middle aged man should be old beyond his years. But such is not the case.

Middle age, so far from hurrying on into senility, so far even from standing still, would seem actually to have stepped backward and marched along side of youth. There is a jaunty, a buoyancy, an elasticity, about the middle age of today at which our fathers would have shaken their heads as unreasonably. The gulf which once separated the middle aged man from his children has never so happily as when working or playing upon an equality and actually in connection with youth.

As with men so it is with women. Social statisticians tell us that the age at which women are considered most eligible for marriage has been very notably advanced of late years, and we know that the lament of many a matchmaking mamma is that the most dreaded rivals of her darling are not to be found so much among the girls of her own age as among women who not many years ago would have been relegated to the ranks of hopeless old maidhood. The fact that the middle aged lady of today is much younger in manner and tastes is of course not the only reason for this, but it is among the most potent.—London Spectator.

That Had Never Occurred to Him.

When Lafayette visited Loudoun county he was entertained with the other eminent guests by President Monroe at Oak Hill. Leesburg, too, the historic town nine miles from Monroe's country seat, accorded him honors on that occasion, and at a dinner that town John Quincy Adams delivered a famous toast to the surviving patriots of the Revolution, who, he said, were like the sibilant leaves—the fewer they became the more precious they were.

On the return to Oak Hill another of Monroe's guests said to Mr. Adams: "Excuse the impertinence, but would you not tell me what inspired the beautiful sentiment of your toast today?" "Why," replied Mr. Adams, "it was suggested this morning by the picture of the sibilant that hangs in the hall of the Oak Hill mansion."

Chewing Dry Rice.

"A strange way of testing the innocence of an accused person is employed in India," said a Philadelphia merchant who lately returned from Madras. "They haul the man up and give him a mouthful of dry rice to chew. I don't suppose you ever chewed dry rice? Well, it is hard work. It takes a deal of chewing to get it masticated into a glutinous mass like gum, and that is the condition that the accused is required to get it into within ten minutes. If you are calm and not afraid you succeed, but if you are nervous and scared you fail, for it seems that fear has a strong effect upon the salivary glands. It prevents them from secreting saliva. The mouth of a badly frightened person is always dry as a bone. It requires a tremendous flow of saliva to chew dry rice, and therefore the scared prisoner inevitably fails in this test. It isn't of course a test employed in the courts of the big towns. It belongs to the interior, less enlightened villages."

Reptiles That Walk Erect.

Lizards of several sorts can walk and run easily on their hind legs. The Australian water lizard, which is three or four feet in length, keeps quite erect when traversing long distances on land. It is found in the neighborhood of river banks, and passes much of its time in shallow water. The frilled lizard of Queensland also travels on its hind legs on level ground, keeping the frill folded when running. When attacked it expands this fold of skin, which stands out like a ruff at right angles round the neck, giving it a most formidable aspect, so that dogs that attack and kill larger lizards will often retreat before a frilled lizard at bay.

There is also a tree lizard in Australia that moves in a similar way. All these species walk on all fours when merely moving about or going short distances.

Children Do Lie.

Do children lie? Yes; constantly, persistently and universally, says the Kindergarten Magazine. A child does not tell the truth because he could not. He does not know the truth, and his approximation to the truth is very much vaguer than ours. And there are certain qualities of his mind which make it inevitable that he should pervert the truth. In the first place, truth is synonymous with knowledge. He does not know what truth is. In the second place (and it is the same with us), children gradually approximate the truth. They have their ideas of truth. In the third place, the child's imagination drives him often to tell what is not true.

Life's Surprises.

"Life," said the tobaccoist to the wooden Indian, "is for most people a continuous process of getting used to things that they haven't been expecting."—Syracuse Herald.

CHOICE MISCELLANY

Marvels of Corn Culture.

Thousands of practical instances could be given to show the value of improved varieties of corn. For instance, one southern Illinois farmer more progressive than the rest was induced to secure enough improved seed to plant 300 acres as a result of his study of corn in the Illinois College of Agriculture. The other fields on his farm more than thirty bushels per acre, and so far as could be determined the fields of that entire section yielded about thirty bushels per acre. This increase in yield meant a total gain of about 9,000 bushels, which represented a cash value of about \$4,000 that season. As this increase did not represent an increased cost of production, the gain was pure profit. In another case a farmer in central Illinois became interested in improved seed corn through the school of corn judging in the Illinois Agricultural college. He secured enough seed grown by a corn breeder to plant eighty acres. As a result he raised about twenty-five bushels more per acre on this field than where the ordinary seed was planted.—Cronopolitan.

Married in Her Petticoat.

In order to live up to her vow to be married in white Mrs. Martha Gordon of Frankfort, Ind., took off her dress skirt and was married in her white petticoat. Henry Harris was the bridegroom. The couple were married in the county clerk's office by Justice of the Peace William Campbell. Just before the ceremony the bride elect asked County Clerk Smith if there was a room convenient where she could arrange her toilet. Mr. Smith directed her into a private room, and then the assembled guests waited.

Presently the door opened, and the bride appeared. The squire, a white bearded official, gasped and turned round about the cars, for the lady came forward with her white petticoat the most prominent portion of her trousseau.

"I said I'd be married in white, and I will. Proceed with the ceremony," she said. After the ceremony the bride retired to the room and again donned her skirt.—Indianapolis News.

Triumphant Schoolboys.

A few days ago the venerable king of Denmark received a letter purporting to come from four lads, scholars of a school at Flakkenbjerg. It was short, clear and sensational and ran as follows: "To King Christian in Copenhagen: We are four boys of the Flakkenbjerg seminary who have been flogged by a teacher with a steel wire rope. Unless that is stopped it will kindle a fire. The missile was unsigned. Usually anonymous letters are tossed into the waste paper basket. But in this case the monarch held that an inquiry ought to be made, so he sent the letter to the minister of justice and instructed him to have the matter thoroughly investigated. This was duly done, and the facts which came to light confirmed the extraordinary allegation of the unnamed scholars. One of the masters, overzealous in applying the rod, had used the unacademized steel wire rope in the hope of making a deeper impression on his backward or wayward pupils. Once the fact was established he was dismissed on the spot.—London Telegraph.

She Knew Women.

Floesie, who is doing her first year in school, albeit she is a very bright child, came in the other evening and began catechising her mother. "Mamma," she inquired, "is there anybody in history named Timon Tyde?" "I've heard of such a name as Timon," ventured the mother doubtfully. "Was Timon a man or a woman?" "A man, if I remember correctly."

Doesn't Appreciate Art.

The sculpture representing Kansas in a group at the St. Louis exposition is a half nude woman with one arm thrown over the neck of a bull. "The woman," comments that high art critic, the Atchison Globe, "has no clothes on except a drapery across her knees and a handkerchief wound around her forehead. The former might be a bath robe, but the latter looks as though she had just finished dusting and sat down to rest. But she has a sickle in one hand, and Kansas women don't use sickles to dust with. And there is the bull. Bulls are not that tame. If it had been a cow on her feet, with a milking bucket under her, it would have been more like. The woman's feet are bare except for a pair of sandals. Our women don't hang around fierce bulls in such attire, but on the contrary, run from them."

A Rebel Wife.

Barnstorming Thespians who occasionally have to dodge substantial expressions of displeasure of audiences will sympathize with the claim of a veteran who recently reached the pension bureau. It is a story of domestic infelicity and opens up a field of vengeance for those who keep in touch with poultry products. The claim is made in a letter that indicates a lack of familiarity with the three R's, and it contains this brief, succinct proposition from the battle scarred survivor of his country: "I got blood poison by being hit with a hens egg when I came back from the front. The egg was not good when you send my pension I want the Deed made so my wife cant get none of it—she throd the egg. She war a rebel."—Washington Cor. New York Tribune.

A Sweet Compliment.

On one occasion as Mme. Melba was coming out of her room in a New York hotel after some hours practice a lady who was staying on the same floor approached her and said: "Pardon me, madam, but I think you will be touched at hearing what my little boy said just now. He is lying in bed recovering from an illness, and when you began to sing he held up his little hand and murmured, 'Hush, mummie, dear; birdie singing!'"

Where Invention Is Necessary.

"Have you made any improvements in your invention?" "I have," answered the enterprising scientist. "One of my assistants has just discovered a new way to put stock on the market."—Washington Star.

A Literalist.

Wealthy Citizen—But I said distinctly in my advertisement that I wanted a reliable colored coachman, and you are a red faced Irishman. Applicant—But, sure, sor, isn't red as reliable a color as black?

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NEW SHORT STORIES

Change of Front.

An interesting story is recalled of a newspaper correspondent who came to Washington from Pittsburg a dozen or so years ago. He worked for a newspaper which was very bitter in its denunciation of special privileges to corporations, especially to transportation companies. After he had been here a short time he changed his service and was employed by a very conservative newspaper. He then began furnishing an entirely different kind of correspondence.

One of his old friends paid him a visit from Pittsburg and after warm congratulations as to the professional progress he was making offered this observation: "Tom, I certainly am delighted to see you getting along so well. But I must say that I miss those rib roasting dispatches you used to fire in about the railroads. What is the matter? Are you losing your nerve?"

Tom chewed his cigar reflectively for a moment and then produced a fat pocketbook, from which he extracted a dozen annual passes over various railroads. After exhibiting them he drew: "Jim, so far as I am concerned the railroads can have the rotunda of the capitol for a roundhouse."—Washington Post.

Treatment For Too Much Talk.

The Duke of Argyll tells this story of Winston Churchill, which shows that the talent for talk developed young in the author and member of parliament: Some years ago he visited Harrow and, noticing a boy running round a room convenient where she could arrange her toilet. Mr. Smith directed her into a private room, and then the assembled guests waited.

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FACTS IN FEW LINES

The average American uses 126 pins a year.

A person can now go from New York City to Seattle, on Puget sound, in four days.

Antrim, Ireland, has decided to resume the ringing of the curfew bell nightly.

Ventnor has by far the most hours of real sunshine of any town in the British Isles.

There are six canals connected with the Thames, which extend altogether 534 miles.

The number of persons employed in the mining of coal in England and Wales is 825,401.

The Korean government is considering the advisability of introducing universal conscription.

A Chicago cereal food company recently ordered fifty tons of ink for use in printing its packages.

In the last decade the increase in wealth was one-seventh greater than the increase of population.

The cotton spinners of the south used last year 334,415 bales, almost as much as the New England mills.

No case of smallpox has been found in a reacquainted person for years in Chicago, says the commissioner of health.

Earthquakes have been felt as far apart as the island of Dominica, West Indies, and Aquila, Italy. Vesuvius is in eruption.

Professor Calmette of Lille, France, pays snake catchers 10 cents for the vipers for the production of his antivenom serum.

The world's average daily production of electrolytic copper is about 833 short tons, of which 86.5 per cent is supplied by the United States.

The consumption of mineral waters in the United States has been increased enormously until it now aggregates \$18,000,000 worth per annum.

Steps were taken recently toward forming in Paris a Canadian chamber of commerce to extend commercial relations between France and Canada.

"All over the world," said Dr. H. T. Bulestrode a few days ago at the College of Surgeons in London, "there is now a marked decrease in tuberculosis."

Machinery has been ordered for the Argentine Republic to turn out 250 tons of food of molasses, the new cattle feed from molasses and sugar cane fiber.

In commemoration of the Thirty Years' war the battle field of Lutzen, where King Gustav Adolf of Sweden met his death, is to be turned into a public park.

Armour & Co. expect to make an annual saving of \$100,000 by establishing wireless telegraph communication between their Chicago office and western branch houses.

Anomalous electric conditions hold at the foot of Niagara falls. The impact of the water upon the rocks gives the water a positive and the spray a negative charge.

A great ship's boiler furnace from Swansea was recently on view in the private roadway by the law courts in London as "evidence" in a case heard before Justice Walton.

The commercial relations of the Albanians are principally with Venice. The Turkish government gives the Italians the right to maintain post offices in the cities of Albania, and Albania has import and export agents in Italy and a bank in Venice.

The shipping of about 600,000 boxes of lemons to eastern markets from California has caused a serious depression in the lemon producing areas along the Mediterranean, especially in Sicily, whence the United States import trade has fallen from \$4,000,000 to \$2,000,000 worth a year.

The largest apartment house in the world is the Ansonia, which is just completed at Seventy-second street and Broadway, New York. It is seventeen stories high, provides for 1,800 persons and has sixteen elevators. The building cost \$4,000,000, and rents range from \$500 for a single room to \$1,000 for a double suite.

In a gorge of rock little more than 200 feet wide the United States government has decided to construct a dam of solid masonry, the first under the Hansborough-Newlands act, at the Fonto basin site, that will create in the valleys of the upper Salt river and Louto creek the largest artificial lake in the world. It will irrigate 200,000 acres.

Official tests of the new army rifle were made at the United States barracks, Columbus, O. The rifle is said to be greatly superior to the Krag-Jorgensen, being lighter, having a higher velocity and greater accuracy. It is a magazine gun, five cartridges being carried in a clip. The bayonet is round, fits under the barrel and is released by a spring.

One may get an appreciation of the magnitude of the St. Louis world's fair by comparison. The Centennial exposition covered 226 acres, the last Paris exposition 336, the Columbian exposition at Chicago 633, while that at St. Louis will cover 1,180 acres. The total cost of the Columbian exposition, the greatest the world has ever seen, was \$27,250,000. That of the St. Louis fair will be \$40,000,000, this exclusive of state appropriations.

Since the year 1900 pneumonia has claimed more than one-eighth of all the victims of the "gravelly reaper" in Chicago, one-third more than consumption and 44 per cent more than all the other contagious and infectious diseases combined, including diphtheria, erysipelas, influenza, measles, puerperal fever, scarlet fever, smallpox, typhoid fever and whooping cough, the total of which deaths was 4,489 as compared with a total of 6,500 deaths from pneumonia.

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In order to live up to her vow to be married in white Mrs. Martha Gordon of Frankfort, Ind., took off her dress skirt and was married in her white petticoat. Henry Harris was the bridegroom. The couple were married in the county clerk's office by Justice of the Peace William Campbell. Just before the ceremony the bride elect asked County Clerk Smith if there was a room convenient where she could arrange her toilet. Mr. Smith directed her into a private room, and then the assembled guests waited.

Triumphant Schoolboys.

A few days ago the venerable king of Denmark received a letter purporting to come from four lads, scholars of a school at Flakkenbjerg. It was short, clear and sensational and ran as follows: "To King Christian in Copenhagen: We are four boys of the Flakkenbjerg seminary who have been flogged by a teacher with a steel wire rope. Unless that is stopped it will kindle a fire. The missile was unsigned. Usually anonymous letters are tossed into the waste paper basket. But in this case the monarch held that an inquiry ought to be made, so he sent the letter to the minister of justice and instructed him to have the matter thoroughly investigated. This was duly done, and the facts which came to light confirmed the extraordinary allegation of the unnamed scholars. One of the masters, overzealous in applying the rod, had used the unacademized steel wire rope in the hope of making a deeper impression on his backward or wayward pupils. Once the fact was established he was dismissed on the spot.—London Telegraph.