

THE NAME MARY.

At One Time It Was Practically a Bar to Matrimony. Mary as a Christian name was held in very singular veneration during the medieval ages, and in some parts of Europe there existed a superstitious reluctance among men to marrying any one who chanced to have been so christened...

RATS KNEW CAT WAS ABOUT.

They Never Saw Puss and Were on Another Floor of House. "I have observed recently a rather curious thing with respect to the relationship between cats and rats, and it has led to a rather interesting reflection..."

Dangerous Fishing.

Some years ago the New London sloop yacht Redhot, while cruising off Martha's Vineyard for swordfish, was struck by a wounded fish and so badly injured that she sank...

Spencers and Titles.

Herbert Spencer in disdaining all titles happened to follow a lead set to him by others of his name, Charles Spencer, second Lord Spencer...

Shortest Street in the World.

What is perhaps the shortest street in the world is West South Division street in Buffalo. Furthermore, it has only one side...

Rather Prosaic.

A lady who was an ardent votary of modern culture happened to sit at an evening party next to an eminent composer and leader of an orchestra...

Thrifty Mother.

"She named her baby after all four of her rich uncles." "What good will that do? None of them will feel complimented when they know the others have been so remembered..."

Well Posted.

William-Solomon was a wise man. He knew all that there was to know. Foolie-Naturally a man with his extensive assortment of wives must have heard all that was going on...

POLLY LARKIN

"My life is filled with regrets, Polly," said a friend the other day as she rocked back and forth in her little wicker chair and gazed dully out of the window...

WASHINGTON'S METHODS.

The Way the Father of His Country Conducted Receptions. Presidential receptions at the White House nowadays are vastly different from those given by the Father of His Country...

WEeping AT A WEDDING.

A Chinese Marriage is a Most and Solemn Ceremony. A Chinese marriage is a solemn ceremony—no talk, no levity and much crying...

BRIEF REVIEW.

Collectors Seek Keys.

"Clefmania" is a comparatively modern form of the collecting craze. It consists of an irresistible ambition to gather together keys of all sorts, sizes and shapes...

German Scientist on Length of Life.

It was asserted by Buffon, the naturalist, that the number of years required by an animal to reach adult life is about one-sixth or one-seventh the entire length of life in that animal...

A Turkish Soldier's Pay.

A Turkish soldier's pay is one meedeah a month (about 3s. 6d. of English money). Payment is irregular, and though on great feasts he is supposed to be paid off to the last para, it is too often deferred, or lapses altogether...

Portugal is the most illiterate country in Europe.

Nearly 68 per cent of her population cannot write. In Italy the proportion of illiterates is 53 per cent; in Russia, 36 per cent; in Spain, 9 per cent; and in Britain not quite 4 per cent.

Glass houses of a very substantial kind can now be built.

Silesian glass makers are turning out glass bricks for all sorts of building purposes. Long engagements are rather expensive in Russia. An engaged man is expected to send a present to his intended every day...

Leather waste is no longer wasted.

Manufacturers use it in a compressed form, instead of throwing it away. Duodecimalisms. In theory the number 12 is a better one than 10...

DUODECIMALISMS.

In theory the number 12 is a better one than 10. Heretofore we have been opposed to the metric system. He was no such fool as to call the present British reckoning in pounds, shillings and pence satisfactory...

Speaking of the little city of Petaluma reminds me of a society event in San Francisco the other day, when one of the young ladies of the "400" dressed herself as a freak and trotted around the whole evening with unbuttoned shoes in her endeavor to look as slouchy as possible and bearing a placard, "Just from Petaluma..."

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NEW SHORT STORIES.

Boutwell's Clever Rejoinder. George S. Boutwell of Massachusetts, Secretary of the treasury under General Grant, was a most efficient executive officer and won the good will of the employees by his generous treatment...

During his term of office some of the less efficient men were removed to give place to new blood. One clerk who was dropped averred that he had lost his position because he was a Democrat. He appealed to Secretary Boutwell for restoration...

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FACTS IN FEW LINES.

It is estimated that the recent labor strikes in New York cost \$25,000,000. According to statistics, 150,000 persons go from New Jersey to Manhattan and return in a day...

Orders have recently been executed in Japan for a supply of fishing nets for Alaska, valued at \$30,000. The chamber of commerce has appointed a special committee to investigate the overcrowding in New York streets...

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CHOICE MISCELLANY.

The St. Louis Coliseum. The Coliseum at St. Louis, where the Democratic national convention will be held, was constructed in 1838 at a cost of \$230,000. It stands practically in the center of the city and is within five minutes' street car ride of all the principal hotels...

According to the census taken by the prefecture of the Seine, there are at present in Paris 41,250 Italians, 42,000 Belgians and 32,500 Germans. The Buckinghamshire township of Beconsfield, England, which has a population of 6,000, has not had a case of infectious disease in a year...

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"I SIMPLY HAD TO WRITE IT."

and the French version and the English were printed side by side. The other day, when he visited Sarah in Paris at her big house in the Boulevard Pereire, Thompson found that she had forgotten him. He discovered this fact when he picked up a beautifully illustrated book by the tragedienne, which to his surprise was "Noel." Mr. Thompson was staring at it as one stares at the ghost of an old sweetheart, when Mrs. Sarah came swift footed, rustling in an orange colored morning gown. "Oh," she exclaimed, noticing the book in his hand. "Have you read it? A little thing, but real—une tranche de la vie. It was an event in my own life that haunted me and haunted me until I simply had to write it, a fragment of my childhood. Ah, those days, those days!"—San Francisco Argonaut.

Sent Home Without Their Dinner.

When the bishop of Truro, Dr. Gott, was dean of Worcester, says a writer in V. C. his absentmindedness was so notorious that he earned for himself the sobriquet of Dean For-Gott. On one occasion he had invited some friends to dine with him. On their arrival a short time before dinner hour he suggested that in the interval of waiting his friends would perhaps like to walk through the grounds...

Check on Bronze Horses.

Representative Champ Clark is a connoisseur about bronze horses. The other day he was going down Pennsylvania avenue, past the equestrian statue of General Hancock. "That horse," quoth he, "is the second best bronze horse in this city." "And the best one?" "The best one," added the Missourian, "is the Thomas horse. The man who made the horse of which the statue of General Thomas sits was brought up with horses, and I will tell you how I know it. "The mane of the animal is docked a little on one side. I suppose I have reached forward with my whip a thousand times when riding and lifted flecks of the mane over to the proper side."

Wifely Optimism.

Husband—When I see all these bills I am tired of life. Do you think the time will ever come when we shall be free of debt? Wife (cheerfully)—Why not, darling? You know that you are carrying an exceptionally large life insurance.—Harper's Bazar.

Maccedonian Girls.

In Macedonia girls usually marry at the age of thirteen or fourteen, and a husband will pay £15 to £20 for a wife if she is a good reaper and expert at housework and spinning. When girls from the villages marry townsmen no money is paid, the bride instead bringing her trousseau with her in exchange, as it were, for the privilege of becoming a "town lady." In the latter case the bride's most likely will be required to do little or no work in the fields; and that is the great ambition of most girls there.—London Globe.

How the Wolf Outwits the Dog.

Timber is on the increase in Kansas. Any farmer will tell you so. The fences shield the young saplings, and the prairie fires that used to sweep the underbrush and leave the young trees and saplings to grow no longer. But the coming of the fences has done away with the prairie fires have helped wolves. There are more wolves in the country now than there were thirty years ago. The wolf is smart. He runs with his head down and dodges under fences. The dog runs "to the line," with his head up. He runs into fences that the wolf has led him to, and the dog is cut up and abandoned the chase. There should be a larger bounty on wolves. The growth of timber in Kansas will more than pay the extra bounty.—Empire (Kan.) Gazette.

Primitive Plowing in England.

On the outskirts of the little village of Codford, pleasantly situated almost in the heart of the famous Wiltshire downs, the old traditions of plowing by oxen are still faithfully preserved. For years and years past C. Naylor has had many of his broad acres of land furrowed by the aid of pairs of oxen yoked to the plows. The sight has attracted numerous tourists passing along the Codford road, and many of these have stopped to secure snap shots as interesting memoranda.

A More Important Matter.

"Wifely," said the punctilious person, "I got a letter from the person you have been praising, and there was actually a capital in the wrong place." "May be so," answered Mr. Umvoz. "But he never gets his capital in the wrong place in the market. And that's more important."—Washington Star.

Knecker—Do you believe in a college education?

"Yes," answered the punctilious person. "I got a letter from the person you have been praising, and there was actually a capital in the wrong place." "May be so," answered Mr. Umvoz. "But he never gets his capital in the wrong place in the market. And that's more important."—Washington Star.