

BANDON RECORDER.

PIANO TUNERS.

They Are Masters of Harmony, but Few Know Written Music.

The piano tuner was jangling the keys with one hand as he twisted and swung his little hammer at the pins with the other.

"Won't you play something for me?" asked the mistress of the household expectantly.

"I am afraid I can't gratify you, madam," was the response. "I can't play."

A JAPANESE LEGEND.

Origin of a Strange Insect Found Only in Himel.

Lafayette Hearn gives a curious tradition about a strange insect which is found only in Himel, a pretty little town near the center of Japan.

The Dieting of Pet Dogs.

Pet dogs require to be put on a starvation diet occasionally, as well as men and women, said a fancier who makes a specialty of doctoring pets.

The Perfect Waiter.

The complete waiter, like the angel and the poet, is born, not made. Fortunately, however, for the comfort of the world, a great waiter is born a good deal more frequently than a great poet.

Prayer and Practice.

"Did the deacon pray at the meeting?" "Yes, wound up his prayer with a plea to help us overlook the faults of others."

A Recluse.

"He poses as a reformer, doesn't he?" "Oh, he's worse than a reformer. His ideas would upset the whole social and business world."

Even That Didn't Work.

"Did you do nothing to resuscitate the body?" was asked of a witness at a coroner's inquest.

Exact.

Mrs. Knieker—Was your new gown a good fit? Mrs. Boker—Lovely. Jack's bank account shows just 73 cents left.

He Knew It.

"Ah, Mr. Frankly," exclaimed Miss Gusher, "your secrets are so beautiful. You are surely the great poet."

The belle of ancient India was her hair tied by a jeweled band two or three inches back of her head and then braided into an enormous ball.

POLLY LARKIN

All winter long the anglers who have sat before glowing fires dreaming of the "good old days" to come when they might wander along the banks of the California North-western Fish Hatchery, have been replenished from season to season with myriads of lively little trout, have at last been rewarded and their dreams of big catches of the speckled beauties have been realized.

"It was simply glorious," said one enthusiastic angler. "Of all the sports given me trout fishing, I have gone everywhere along the line of the California North-western Railway and I have never returned empty-handed yet."

BRIEF REVIEW.

Scot In Russia.

Verily, the Scot abroad is a history maker. Admiral Stark, of Port Arthur fame, was probably of Scottish descent. Every man of that name in the Dictionary of Natural Biography has Scots blood, although, curiously enough, all have attained fame in England, with the exception hereinabove noted.

Lottery Clothes.

The girls employed in the potteries of England are good-looking and well-dressed. They have taste, which is cultivated by the art work of the factories.

Celery For Beauty.

London greengrocers have been surprised at the increasing demand for celery. The explanation is that a large number of smart and pretty women, together with an equally large section not so conspicuous for their pulchritude, have created a celery beauty club.

A Unique Military Memorial.

Among the many monuments erected in Japan to commemorate her signal defeat of the Chinese army some six years ago was one that is perhaps the most unique on earth. It is in the form of a huge bayonet standing upright on a column of granite, which is itself mounted upon a large pedestal, and the whole inclosed by a spiked iron fence.

How Anthracite Coal Was Formed.

Geologists are of the opinion that bituminous and anthracite coals were formed during the same period and under like conditions. Originally they were all bituminous, but during the violent contortions and upheavals of the earth's crust at the close of the carboniferous age the bituminous coals involved in that disturbance were changed by heat and pressure and the consequent expulsion of volatile matter from bituminous to anthracite.

Japanese Fiction.

Japan is a novel writer's elysium. There is one very celebrated work, entitled The Story of the Eight Dogs, that runs to 106 volumes, printed or written on only a single side of the page.

The Two Kings.

"The great art of conversation is to tempt other people to talk." "Yes, but some people need to be headed off."—Cincinnati Tribune.

THROWN UPON THE STAGE.

The Way English Audiences Reward Popular Players With Gifts.

There have lately in the provinces been several sensational nights at prominent theaters when to mark the last performance of a local pantomime all manner of gifts have been thrown upon the stage for the benefit of popular performers.

All these accumulated for long with the inner life of the theatrical profession can tell some remarkable stories of these gifts cast upon the stage. The most celebrated and universal of these relates to a lady who once held the main portion of the lease of a prominent London theater. While this lady was still an actress only and not a manageress, an actress of great talent and beauty, there was one night on the first performance of the piece a small bouquet cast upon the stage at her feet.

Where He Drew It.

Professor E. G. Dexter of the University of Illinois, whose interesting investigations have proved football to be a harmless game, is popular on account of his geniality.

TICKLING TROUT.

How Irish Poachers Catch the Fish With the Bare Hand.

In Europe trout poachers have the reputation of catching trout with their bare hands. The process in Ireland is called "tickling." I could scarcely believe that this thing was done—that the most timid and wary of fish could be caught by the naked hand.

IN THE LAND OF FIRE.

How the Native of Tierra del Fuego Managed to Exist.

In Tierra del Fuego the Yaghan Indian leads a remarkable existence. He braves the seas of Cape Horn naked in a frail bark canoe. He owns no faith, religion or tribal tie other than that of the family, which huddles together for food and sustenance.

Scotch Thrift.

As an illustration of thrift and foresight Andrew Carnegie likes to tell a humorous story about an old Scotchman whom he used to know in Dunfermline.

Johnny's Premonition.

"Come, Johnny," coaxed his mother. "You may as well confess that you ate the jam."

Ignorance Is Bold and Knowledge Reserved.

—Thucydides.

NEW SHORT STORIES

Preparing For an Exam.

At a dinner in Philadelphia of the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution George F. Baer, the president of the Reading railroad, said:

"There is an old man up the state whom I can't help admiring. This old man in a recent letter to our main office asked for rates, distances, time and so forth for many important kinds of freight over our principal lines.

AN ELEPHANT TRAIT.

The Animal While Busy Will Never Injure a Person.

"An elephant never injures a person when it is busy," says an animal trainer. "It may seem strange, but there is not a case on record of one getting ugly when it was performing or working. The reason, I think, is that the elephant is an animal of one idea—that is, it can think of only one thing at a time."

MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

Keep Them Out of the Home and Away From Friendships.

If love is to flourish between two people they must each be slow to take offense and not only willing, but glad, to pardon at the first and faintest sign of penitence.

A Rainy Day Costume.

The Japanese woman has solved the question of the rainy day. She tucks her robes up to her knees, puts on wooden clogs five or six inches high, and as her stockings are merely short socks the wet and the splashing only fall on bare ankles and legs.

Hard to Kill.

Cats, according to the old tradition, have nine lives, but they are not the only creatures that enjoy such a plurality. Infusoria have been dried and restored to life by moistening after remaining inert dust for twenty-seven years, and the drying resurrection has been successfully tried eleven times on one lot of rotifers.

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OYSTER FARMS.

The Natural and Artificial Beds In Eastern Virginia.

In eastern Virginia there are several thousand acres of oyster farms where oysters are raised by artificial methods on artificial beds.

The natural oyster bed is where the oyster breeds and matures naturally. There are thousands of acres of such beds in the Chesapeake bay system of salt water. In such beds the oysters breed by the millions, and as they are too close together they cannot all reach a satisfactory growth.

FACTS IN FEW LINES

There are more than 100,000 widows in Berlin.

At Rome twins were recently born to a couple both of whom are over seventy.

Bovine typhus killed 2,234 head of cattle in Egypt during the week ending Dec. 20 last.

Byproducts of oil refineries are expected to make excellent fuel for greenhouses.

In 1881 the London birth rate averaged 32.2 a thousand. It has steadily declined to 28.7.

Income tax has been introduced for the first time in Montenegro and is causing much discontent.

A Canadian egg merchant proposes to ship his wares to Great Britain packed in barrels and frozen solid.

Athens has a weekly periodical, the Bulletin d'Orient, which is concerned with the affairs of the Greeks in Macedonia.

Of the 12,703 newspapers and periodicals published in Germany more than 27 per cent are in other languages than German, 9 per cent being in English alone.

In 1885 there were only 16,000 to 17,000 Jews in Jerusalem. Last year in the city they numbered at least 41,000. In all about 150,000 are actually living in Palestine.

An attaché of the Japanese legation in London says that he knows personally of five women who committed suicide because their husbands disgraced themselves in the army.

A movement has been started by Japanese residents of New York to erect a Buddhist temple in that city, to serve not only as a house of worship, but as a central gathering place for all natives of Japan.

Plans have been filed in Chicago for an Iroquois Memorial Emergency hospital, to be erected in that city, and to provide and maintain an institution in memory of the victims of the Iroquois theater fire on Dec. 20.

St. Paul and Minneapolis are the largest frog markets in the world. The total receipts for the last year from the frog catchers of the state exceeded 500,000 dozen, requiring the slaughter of no less than 5,000,000 frogs.

One of the most curious facts in regard to snakes is that their eyes are never closed. Sleeping or waking alive or dead, they are always wide open. This is because they have no eyelids. The eye is protected only by a strong scale, which is cast off every time the reptile changes its skin.

The Swedish Mission society of America is trying to secure a share in the \$1,300,000 of profits that have resulted from a gold mine discovered in Alaska by P. H. Anderson, a missionary sent there by the society. The point is whether a mission board is entitled to profits which its missionaries make outside of their calling.

As the increased traffic which new railways will bring to Trieste will necessitate larger harbor facilities than the present contracts call for, the government has decided to change its plans and to construct at once a new harbor in the bay of Muggia of a capacity at least equal to that of the old one to the northwest of the city.

While the general expenditures of the government are steadily increasing from year to year, the per capita expenditures in proportion to population do not depart far from a constant average. In 1870, owing to war debts, etc., the per capita taxation for the government was in 1880 \$6.07, in 1890 \$6.46, and in 1900 \$7.46. This year it is about \$7.

It is said that the younger element of the Mormon church in Salt Lake City is rebelling against the intolerable tyranny of the Mormon elders. Ten young men, all officials of the church, have been expelled because they refused to promise obedience in business and political affairs, and many others have been given seven days in which to submit or be expelled.

Among the reasons given by Dr. James M. Whiton of New York, a lifelong religious writer and journalist, for the decline of the denominational newspapers is that "the daily press now supplies a great amount of religious news and prints many sermons," thus giving to a greater number of readers all the religious news they have time to read in the rush of life.

The United States government has recently granted a suitable site for a union church building in the grounds of the United States legation at Peking. The Roman Catholic church has a site in the French legation and is building a fine cathedral. The Greek Catholic church has a church building in the grounds of the Russian legation.

The Established Church of England has for years had a church in the grounds of the British legation.

The ship subsidy law of Austria provides bounties and premiums. Iron and steel steamships receive an annual bounty of \$2.44 per ton, while the bounty of iron and steel sailing ships is \$1.83 and that of wooden and part iron sailing ships \$1.23 a ton. Iron and steel sailing ships have their bounties increased by 10 per cent if built in Austrian shipyards and by 25 per cent if at least half the raw material used in their construction is of Austrian origin.

A jury in the Washington county court at Montpelier, Vt., has awarded Claude R. George, a student at Montpelier seminary, \$1,000 for the discomfort and injury to his person which resulted from a coat of fur and feathers. The evidence showed that George had been hazed by half a dozen students on the night of Jan. 12, 1903. They broke into his room and after treating him roughly administered a light coat of fur and feathers. As an outcome George left the seminary, and several of the students were dismissed.

A Cautious Youth.

"Bobby, your father wants to see you."

The boy looked dubious.

"Do I want to see him?" he asked.

"How should I know?"

"You ought to be able to tell by the look in his eye."—Chicago Post.

"So you were at Mrs. Marrable's dinner yesterday, Flossie. What was the menu like?"

"I really can't tell you, for I didn't take any. It's a thing I very seldom touch."

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