

PUT ON THE BRAKES.

Slow Up, or Before You Know It You May Be Off the Track.

The limited goes sixty miles an hour. In the smoker men joke and they catch and tell risqué stories. The day coaches are crowded and comfortable. The heavy sleepers as they say go to and to make only a gentle rocking for the people who chat and read and nap. Crash! Engine and cars and flesh and blood are ground up together in a shapeless, horrid mass. Of the track, so goes humanity's fate. Here is a boy who got to running on a fast schedule. He began by piffing from his father's till. As he grew older he made faster time. Down grade he goes, and soon comes the crash. Newsboys cry a murder and a suicide. The crowd halts for a moment. His friends murmur, "I never thought he was so bad!" A young man is off the track!

A young girl thinks her mother is too slow for these record breaking times. Mother is "old fashioned." The girl goes to places her mother has warned her she should not frequent. The bloom is brushed from the first morning. "I never thought he was so bad!" A young man is off the track! A man gets in a hurry to be rich. His father went slowly, carefully, successfully. But father's methods will not do. What's the use of mulling and toiling when a quicker way may well do the business? So-and-so has speculated successfully. Surely I am as shrewd as he. * * * A pistol shot. A man is off the track!

THE PERFECT NUMBER.

From Time Immemorial Three Has Had Tensimal Significance.

The perfect number of the Pythagorean system, expressive of beginning, middle and end, was the number three. From time immemorial greater prominence has been given to it than to any other except seven. And as the symbol of the Trinity its influence has waxed more potent in recent times. It appears over and over again in both the New and Old Testaments. At the creation of the world we find land, water and sky, sun, moon and stars. Jonah was three days and nights in the whale's belly. Christ three days in the tomb. There were three patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Abraham entertained three angels. Job had three friends. Samuel was called three times. Samson deceived Delilah three times. Three times Saul tried to kill David with a javelin. Jonathan shot three arrows on David's behalf. Daniel was thrown into a den of three lions because he prayed three times a day. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were rescued from a fiery furnace. The commandments of the Lord were delivered on the third day. St. Paul speaks of faith, hope and charity. Three wise men came to worship Christ with presents three. Christ spoke three times to Satan when he was tempted. He prayed three times before he was betrayed. Peter denied him three times. He suffered three hours of agony on the cross. The subscription was in three languages, and three men were crucified. Christ appeared three times to his disciples and rose the third day.—New York Herald.

PAYING IN CENTS.

Creditors May Refuse Large Sums of Small Change.

Ordinarily when a debtor appears before a long time creditor there is no questioning of the United States coin in which the debt is to be paid, but the wide possibilities possessed by an arbitrary creditor in stipulating just what coins and in what amounts he will receive payment are enough almost to discourage borrowing. You can't force a mean creditor to take more than 25 cents' worth of nickels or 25 cents' worth of copper cents. If you could get as much as \$5 worth of old silver three cent pieces of an older generation you could unload \$5 worth on him, just as he would have to take \$5 worth of the silver five cent pieces and \$5 worth of the obsolete twenty cent pieces, such made so much trouble in the late seventies. But you can pay out \$10 in silver dimes and silver quarters and silver half dollars. The trade dollars, of which there are a few still coming into the treasury of the United States for redemption, are worth nothing, while the standard dollar is an unlimited legal tender, as is the old "dollar of our day," the first of which was coined in 1794 and the last in 1878.

Coins that virtually have disappeared from circulation are gold three dollar and one dollar pieces, the trade dollar of silver, the nickel three cent piece, the copper two cent piece, the copper half cent and silver three and five cent pieces.—Omaha World-Herald.

Icebergs as Indicators.

In the investigation of the currents round the coast of Newfoundland it has been observed that there is at times a wide difference in the direction of the drift of icebergs and that of the flat or pan ice, which, having no great depth, is governed in its motions by the surface currents and the winds, whereas the icebergs, the larger part of which is submerged to a great depth, follow only the movement of the ocean water as a whole and are uninfluenced by the winds. In consequence a huge berg may often be seen majestically maintaining its slow advance in opposition to the wind and across the general motion of the fields of flat ice surrounding it. The seals often take advantage of this fact by offering their vessels to an iceberg in order to prevent a drift to leeward.—South's Companion.

POLLY LARKIN

(Special Correspondence.)

"Polly, I am really losing all faith and confidence in human beings," said a little friend the other day. "It is this way," she continued, "I have never had a friend, particularly among the girls, who ever proved loyal to me, and I don't understand it. I don't like everybody, but when I do care for anyone, I love them with my whole heart; nothing I would not gladly do for them, and no matter what it may be they ask, if it is a possible thing to carry out their wishes it is never a cross, but I take the greatest pleasure in attending to it. In my life I have, beginning from my childhood, had just seven friends whom I fairly worshiped. One after the other failed to prove their friendship, or rather transferred their affections to somebody else. They never gave any reason, but just gradually drifted out of my life. It all happened so quietly that I did not realize it at first, then one day I woke up to the fact that we were strangers—that there was a barrier between us. No explanation was ever given. It was a shock to me and I shed many bitter tears when I was by myself, for I loved them dearly. Strange to say, they were all blondes, and now I avoid people with golden hair and blue eyes that suggest forget-me-nots when you look into their azure depths; at least I never allow myself to become interested in them. My experience with my friends, however, has embittered me and made me distrustful. I gave them the best I had to give and received so little of their love in return. They were not sincere, and when they were weighed in the balance were found wanting. When I first found them out, one by one, it took all the brightness out of life, and while I have recovered from the effects it has left me unhappy and inclined to keep people at a distance until they have been tried. You can have no idea what a difference it has made in my life. Strange to say, I love every one of those girls still, and try as I will, I cannot shut them out of my heart, even though they have proved ungrateful for past favors, and have forgotten their old-time friend for others. Should anyone of them come to me to-day for a favor, in spite of their change in heart toward me I should grant it just as readily, and with as much pleasure as I ever did in the past. There is where I am weak, and fail to hold my own, and they realize, to my humiliation, that I am like puppy in their hands, and will yield in spite of my good resolves to retain my dignity and pride. That in my own mind I have said time and again, thus far and no farther you shall go, but they are not to approach with outstretched hand of friendliness and good-will, love-light shining in their eyes and a smile to make me a traitor to myself and all my good resolves not to yield to their friendly advances, for in my own heart I know they have a favor to ask when they come with banners of peace and good-will unfurled. Past experience has taught me that. I am disgusted with myself for my weakness whenever I yield and meet them half way. I am distrustful not only of them but everybody else."

Use For Old Newspapers.

Among the recent visitors at Washington was Leopold Haasmann, United States vice consul at Batavia, Java. Mr. Haasmann had been on a trip around the world. He is studying the question of what Americans do with their old newspapers. He says that the English newspapers and people save their old papers and send them to their colonies to be used as wrapping paper. He thinks that such a scheme would be useful in this country, and he will suggest the plan to American newspapers, which have thousands of copies left over after they get through making up their circulation statements.

Rabbit's Foot For President.

Through Secretary Loeb President Roosevelt has acknowledged the receipt of a finely mounted rabbit's foot sent him by John W. Frasier, register of the city bureau of surveys of Philadelphia. Mr. Frasier vouches for the fact that the rabbit was shot by a negro preacher on the seventh day of the seventh week of the year under the full moon in a graveyard at midnight.

Indian Relics.

Mr. James Mooney of the bureau of ethnology has returned after an absence of nearly a year in the west among the Indians and Cherokees of southwest Oklahoma, the object of his trip being to obtain a full history of the shields and tepees used by these Indians. He brought back to place in the National museum a collection which is probably the only one of its kind in the world. The shields of the Kiowa warriors are symbolic and are supposed to possess a sacred power in preserving the wearer from harm in battle. The designs are drawn not by the bearer, but by a shield maker, who gathers the ideas of the symbols from the dreams of one of the head men of the tribes. There are 120 of these models, most of them decorated with gay feathers and painted gaudily with yellow and red.

Valuable Load of Oil.

Henry Traux recently brought into Fennville the most valuable load of farm produce ever marketed in Michigan. The total value was \$11,963.75. The load consisted of nearly two tons of peppermint oil. The oil sold for \$3.56 a pound. Mr. Traux has a peppermint farm of his own, and a large part of the load came from there. He is also an agent for the oil there, and had gathered some from other farmers in the vicinity.—Detroit Journal.

Panama Not So Small.

Panama, little as it looks upon the map, has the area of Maine and the population of the District of Columbia. Its people are nearly colored or Mestizo; 40,000 of them are Jamaicans, of color black and by allegiance British subjects. There are 2000 Chinese. It is a good thing to look on the bright side, and if you can't find a bright side of it at the side next to you with a lot of elbow grease and polish it up till the reflection cheers you.

Books.

Of the things that make for happiness the love of books comes first. * * * A book, unlike any other friend, will wait not only upon the hour, but upon the mood. It asks nothing and gives much when one comes in the right way. * * * Is your world a small one, made unendurable by a thousand petty cares? Are the heart and soul of you cast down by bitter disappointment? Would you leave it all, if only for an hour, and come back with a new point of view? Then open the covers of a book.—From the "Master's Visions."

WASHINGTON LETTER

(Special Correspondence.)

Count Cassini, the Russian ambassador, and Mr. Takahira, the Japanese minister, have agreed to a treaty of peace. Under the terms of diplomacy it would be a gross breach of etiquette for either to recognize the other while their countries are at war, but they have continually met at the state department. These encounters became embarrassing, and to put an end to them it has been agreed that whenever Mr. Takahira has any business at the state department he will call in the morning, while Count Cassini will visit Secretary Hay only in the afternoon. The afternoons were given to Count Cassini because he is an ambassador, while Mr. Takahira is only a minister. At one of the meetings of the two ministers at the state department early in the war they met face to face in the diplomatic ante-room, where a number of ministers and attaches were assembled. Mr. Takahira bowed before Count Cassini inclined his head very slightly and frigidly left the room. Mr. Takahira afterward explained that he bowed to the count as dean of the diplomatic corps and as Russian ambassador. After that the two diplomats agreed not to see each other when they met.

Capitol Alterations.

Considerable attention was attracted in Washington some days ago by a statement made by William S. Eames of St. Louis, president of the American Institute of Architects, hearing of the proposed alterations of the capitol, which is now considering the enlargement of the capitol, recommends to congress should be carried out in staff construction in order that it may be seen just how it would look before the actual work on the present capitol should be undertaken. If congress would appropriate \$100,000 such a temporary enlargement of the capitol might be made in all its details and with exact reproduction of the color effect by contrast with the older stones, which such an enlargement would actually produce. The assurance that this would give of the success of the plan might prove to be eventually worth millions of dollars.

Chevy Chase Club Raid.

No little amusement was caused in official and social circles of Washington by the recent seizure of liquors made by Maryland authorities at the Chevy Chase club. This club is located in Montgomery county, Md., just outside the District of Columbia, and numbers among its members many high government officials, members of the supreme court and diplomats. Among the frequent golf players of this club is Justice Harlan of the supreme court of the United States, while Justice McKenna is often seen following interesting matches. Several of Washington's best known clergymen are among the golfers who frequent the club.

Lost on Ice on Lake Erie.

No landmarks can be seen—there is nothing by which to direct a course. A man may easily be lost and wander until overcome. Too often this has happened, and hardly a winter has passed without some such disaster. A man so lost will often trust to the instinct of the dogs to find a way home through the bewildering storm and gloom. Sometimes, however, even the animals have been at fault. In a recent case a fisherman with three dogs was overtaken on the homeward way by a sudden tempest of wind and snow. To see even a few feet must have been impossible, and even the dogs must have been overcome with fright or found that they were unable to guide themselves in the right direction. Still, two were loose, but they did not desert the man. When the searching parties found him on the following day he was dead, frozen to death, but the dogs with him were alive. One dog, which had not been unharnessed, was mad, overawed, and had to be killed at once.

Big Collection of Shells.

Perhaps the finest and largest collection of sea shells and deep sea growth is to be seen at the office of the East Coast Fish Company at the railroad wharf. The collection is the highly prized property of H. W. Seward, a member of the firm. Mr. Seward has been on the lookout for rare specimens and he certainly has succeeded in getting together a display that would be a creditable feature of a Florida exhibit at the World's Fair, had there been one. The collection includes several hundred shells, no two of which are alike. Most of them were obtained near the inlet, where there is a great variety, if one only knows where to search.

Billiard Tables in France.

Taxation enables many curious tables of statistics to be compiled. It would probably puzzle the best of English statisticians to guess even approximately at the number of billiard tables in use in England. There is no such difficulty in France, where the billiard table is a taxed luxury, and its relative frequency in communes of all grades of population and wealth is made the subject of calculations as elaborate as they are ingenious. In all France there are 89,676 billiard tables, divided among 18,601 communes, and realizing more than £40,000 in taxes.

Presenters For the President.

Several exhibitors at St. Louis have expressed a desire to the committee in charge of the distribution and return of the exhibits in the Philippine reservation to the islands that their displays, which have been greatly admired by world's fair visitors, be presented to President Roosevelt. Mrs. Roosevelt, Miss Alice Roosevelt and Secretary of War Taft.

Belgium's Public House Record.

Belgium, where public libraries are almost unknown, enjoys 100,000 public houses. That means one public house for thirty-six inhabitants or one public house for twelve men above seventeen years of age, the publican included. During the last fifty years the population has increased 50 per cent and the number of public houses 258 per cent.

An Insurance Story.

They tell this story down on Wall street: The executive officer of a great insurance company, happening one day to meet a friend in the street, found himself violently upbraided because his company refused to invest in the bonds of an enterprise with which his friend was connected. The insurance man stood it a few minutes, then said carelessly, as if he were ordering a box of new brand of cigars, "Oh, well, send me up a million and a half of them."—World's Work.

CHOICE MISCELLANY

A South Sea Romance.

Years ago there came to the British colonial governor of Fiji a man in a tattered white suit, a typical "beach combber." After a private interview of some duration the governor was persuaded to put a sailing boat at his disposal for the visitor's disposal to take him to an island which he had named. The man said he was by right of descent twentieth Baron Somerville, but he had settled down with a dusky bride in a Polynesian paradise, was perfectly happy and had no desire to take the status that belonged to him. The governor was skeptical, if soft hearted. The episode passed into the realm of the half forgotten. News came to this country recently that "Hugh Somerville" eldest son of Hugh, rightful twentieth Lord Somerville, had arrived in Cooktown, Queensland, from some where in the neighborhood of the Solomon islands and was seeking means to enable him to come to England and claim the title. He is described as a young man of twenty-two, tall and handsome and with a complexion bronzed to the tint of copper, obviously of partly native descent, but well educated and pleasantly spoken and fairly well educated. No details of his claim are given.

Communes of Vesuvius.

Communal ownership of Vesuvius seems rather ridiculous—that the flaming mount, with its beacon glass burning through all the known centuries, should be the appanage of a village and terrene patch on its slope, but that is the present claim. Four communes—Resina, Torre del Greco, Bosco Treccano and Ottagiano—are competing for its overlordship and have gone to law about it. The dispute will not make any difference with the mountain. Pompeii and Herculaneum may have had a similar one for all that is known. Vesuvius, like Niagara and the Yosemite and a few other natural features of unusual sublimity, belong to the great world and to time and can add to no other possession. Farmers may own the farms, as Emerson says, but none among them nor all together can own the landscape. The Vesuvian villages are pushing too ambitious a claim and might almost as well intend it to the sky overhead, which indeed is fine enough to justify covetousness if that could be of any avail.

Will the Car Hold Out?

We cannot find any evidence that the bureaucracy or the car or any real controlling force in Russian life is tired of the war. The military party is bitterly hostile to any arrangement with Japan previous to an acknowledgment of defeat by that power, and the military party in Russia counts for a great deal more than the peace party in any other country in Europe, hardly excepting Germany.

Doubles of Great Personages.

Nearly every well known personage has a double who by careful dressing does his best to keep up the flattering illusion. King Edward has several, but the one with the strongest resemblance lives in the east end of London. The kaiser's double is a tailor. King Leopold of Belgium is a pickpocket, who takes advantage of the likeness to practice his rascality upon smart crowds on public occasions. President Loubet, it was shown the other day, has a double in Paris. M. Combes, the French premier, is the exact likeness of an old general of the empire, while M. Pelletan, the French minister of marine, is double by a bookmaker and a cab driver.

Lucky Laborer.

A laborer has picked up what is believed to be genuine Strad at a sale at Holme Eden, near Carlisle. Stringless, bridgeless, pegless and covered with dust and cobwebs, it was knocked down to him for 6 shillings. He knew something of the value of fiddles, however, and disposed of his purchase to a dealer for £600. The dealer, it is said, has sold the fiddle for £1,800. The violin is believed to be a "Strad" which has been missing for at least a century and has at different times been thought to be in London, France, Germany and America.

"Sport."

Stubs—After all, this shooting at clay pigeons isn't so exciting as firing at live ones. Twist—No. There's little fun shooting at things that can't feel it when they are hit.—Boston Transcript.

The Count.

Madge—Are you sure the Russian count was intoxicated? Marjorie—Positive. He couldn't pronounce his own name.—Town Topics.

When Daddy Was a Boy.

I'm very, very naughty, and I play most awful tricks! My daddy says he wasn't half as bad when he was six. He never ran away from school nor broke his pretty toy.— They simply couldn't do such things when daddy was a boy.

It's "Baby" this and "Baby" that.

It's "Baby" this and "Baby" that and "Baby" don't annoy! Your daddy never did such things when daddy was a boy! They never put a scuttle full of coals on kitty's tail. Or tackled dogs to empty cans to hear them yelp and wail. Or stood the cat in walnut shells to see her jump for joy. Or cripple frogs, or anything, when daddy was a boy!

Too Much Athletics.

Many physicians now claim that the general health is hurt rather than benefited by athletics, that muscle building is not necessary to good health, that to bring about a perfectly trained condition has a severe effect on the nerves, that a built up muscle has a tendency to degenerate and that the heart, being a muscular organ, shares in this danger.

Blessed is he who has found his work.

Blessed is he who has found his work. Let him ask no other blessing.—Carlyle.

HUMOR OF THE HOUR

Another Good Man Gone.

"Sir," he began as he entered the county clerk's office almost as soon as the door was opened for business the other morning. "I am in love with a person of the opposite sex." "Meaning a woman," remarked the clerk as he looked up. "Meaning a woman, sir, and one of the nicest women on the face of this terrestrial globe. I not only love her, but I have asked her to be mine." "And you want a license to get married, of course? What name, please?" "Sir, my name is Schuyler Jenkins White, but I don't desire a license. I have called here to say to you that any law demanding a marriage license is a relic of the dark ages."

"Y-e-s."

"To force me to publish to the world at large my intention of making Amanda Jane Binkersbom my wife is nothing short of an act of barbarism, and I don't propose to put up with it, sir—not for a moment, sir. Even if my feelings cannot be respected, hers must be." "I'm sorry," replied the clerk, as he thought of how much hard coal his fee would purchase. "But that makes no difference to me," continued Mr. White, as he got more voice on him. "I find that I cannot marry in Detroit without submitting to indignity and insult. Therefore—"

"You won't marry at all."

"But I will, sir. I am now about to proceed to the home of my fiancée and start with her for Buffalo. Upon reaching that city, where no license is required, we will be made one. Not only that, but I shall invest \$600 in that town and become a resident. Detroit not only loses that money, but a thrifty, law abiding citizen and a widow who can make muffins to meet in your mouth. That's it, sir, that's it, and now you and your old barbaric law can go to Texas, and I will proceed to efface the name of Michigan from my memory and forget that I ever dwelt within her confines and had my neck under the heel of the despot."—Detroit Free Press.

A Sure Thing.

While women are allowed to vote in Australia, no disposition is shown to elect them as legislators. The most popular woman candidate at the last election received only 30,000 votes as against the 80,000 of the man lowest on the list of competitors.

For cutting down with his sword and afterward stabbing a drunken man who had jeered at him a German sergeant has been sentenced to forty-five days' imprisonment. The same court sent to prison for four months a private who had neglected to feed his horse.

The Canadian maritime board of trade recently passed a resolution requesting the government to place such restrictions on manufacturers as will enable them to mark plainly all woollen fabrics with the proportions of pure wool and adulterants contained in them.

The Tacoma smelter, controlled by D. O. Mills and associates, is making \$24,000 a month by saving precious metals that have heretofore been carried away in smoke from its furnaces. The smoke is passed through a cooler and then strained through light canvas. The result is a harvest of gold, silver, copper, etc.

Only two obstacles are met, say German papers, in the employment of big sailing vessels. First, it is hard to secure assurance of a sufficient cargo, and, second, it is difficult to secure a crew of sufficient skill. These obstacles are important, because sailing vessels in order to be able to compete with steam must be much larger than heretofore.

It will require five years to construct the Ratcliff-Rotherhithe tunnel now being built under the Thames. Its length will be 6,883 feet, with an external diameter of thirty feet, which will allow a carriage-way of sixteen feet and two footways four feet eight and a half inches wide. When it is finished there will be three tunnels under the Thames at London.

The hardest fact that six young men and a boy of fifteen ever kept alive on was the daily menu of the Window's survivors, who were cast on the Irish coast near Kilsgeek. They lived for sixteen days on stewed rope yarn, without a crumb of anything else to help digest it except water, and, though it made them ill, they kept alive on it and did not waste away very much.

An American Pullman, with its crowded and avoidable intimacies, is a decent and polite hermitage compared with a packed coach in Japan. All sorts of unexpected things happen. During ablutions are performed and complete change of raiment is frequently effected, the constantly recurring tunnels serving to screen the astonishing character of these proceedings.

Of the 56,675,000 acres which form Great Britain, exclusive of foreshore and tidal water, over 22,225,000 acres are under crops and grass and 12,955,000 acres are accounted for as being mountain and heather land used for grazing, while 2,675,000 acres are occupied by woods and plantations, and 600,000 acres are covered by inland waters. Only 16 per cent of the surface remains to be accounted for.

The first steamship that made the western trip across the Atlantic was the Sirius. She sailed from Queens-town April 3, 1828, and crossed to New York in eighteen days. June 16, 1867, she was lost off the south coast of Ireland. In May of this year the wreck was raised, and now most of her metal is being made over into steam fittings and taps. Her crank shaft, of solid brass, will be sawed into small disks, which will be suitably engraved for souvenirs.

Posthumous Editions.

"Did you ever see anything to equal the way some of these live young authors turn out books?" "Well, they can't compete with some of the dead ones who keep on getting out new volumes every year."—New Orleans Picayune.

Gaggy-by-Jones Is Very Wealthy.

Gaggy-by-Jones is very wealthy, but he says his life is full of trials. Waggy-by—Yes; that's what makes him wealthy. "How so?" "He's a lawyer."—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

FACTS IN FEW LINES

The Chinese name for Port Arthur is Lushunkow.

The most common form of color blindness is an inability to distinguish red.

According to the latest returns to the territorial board of equalization, there are 237,696 cattle in Arizona, valued at \$1,578,625.

Great Britain's public revenue from April 1 to the latest date at hand was \$18,312,535 less than last year and expenditures \$16,483,820 less.

The Lewis and Clark centennial will commemorate the acquisition of the only territory possessed by the United States the title to which was obtained by discovery.

More than 3,000 experiments on living animals were made for British government departments of public authorities in 1903 and 1,313 for the tuberculosis commission.

Liverpool's death rate—thirty-nine in a thousand—is more than twice that of London. Much of the difference is due to the extraordinary loss of infant life in Liverpool—from 107 to 245 in a thousand.

The people of the Caucasus are said to be concealing imported arms by burying them in coffins, with the usual funeral ceremonies, the police not being that the death rate is rather higher than usual.

An angry man who called a telephone girl a "sheephead" over the wire in Nuremberg, Germany, has been fined \$2.25. A Viennese, who called the woman operator a "Chinese" in similar circumstances has suffered to the extent of \$8.

There is a young woman in New York who makes her living by acting as valet to lap dogs. She charges \$1 a week for her services and visits the dogs each day, combing and brushing them and sometimes taking them out for a walk.

Patrolman John Bentley of Staten Island, N. Y., was kicked off the running board of a trolley car by a mule tied to the rear of a wagon which the car passed. It grazed the hind quarters of the mule, and instantly the animal's heels were flying.

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We cannot find any evidence that the bureaucracy or the car or any real controlling force in Russian life is tired of the war. The military party is bitterly hostile to any arrangement with Japan previous to an acknowledgment of defeat by that power, and the military party in Russia counts for a great deal more than the peace party in any other country in Europe, hardly excepting Germany.

Doubles of Great Personages.

Nearly every well known personage has a double who by careful dressing does his best to keep up the flattering illusion. King Edward has several, but the one with the strongest resemblance lives in the east end of London. The kaiser's double is a tailor. King Leopold of Belgium is a pickpocket, who takes advantage of the likeness to practice his rascality upon smart crowds on public occasions. President Loubet, it was shown the other day, has a double in Paris. M. Combes, the French premier, is the exact likeness of an old general of the empire, while M. Pelletan, the French minister of marine, is double by a bookmaker and a cab driver.

Lucky Laborer.

A laborer has picked up what is believed to be genuine Strad at a sale at Holme Eden, near Carlisle. Stringless, bridgeless, pegless and covered with dust and cobwebs, it was knocked down to him for 6 shillings. He knew something of the value of fiddles, however, and disposed of his purchase to a dealer for £600. The dealer, it is said, has sold the fiddle for £1,800. The violin is believed to be a "Strad" which has been missing for at least a century and has at different times been thought to be in London, France, Germany and America.

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