

CHOICE MISCELLANY

Ants Which Eat Rock. The engineers in charge of a telegraph line at Hongkong were surprised recently by the discovery that about seven miles of their cable, though it was well protected and had underground in a concrete trench, had been severely damaged.

It was agreed that insects must have been the authors of the mischief, though what kind of insects was not obvious. It might be possible to find one which enjoys perforating lead. But these insects seemed to have drilled the holes not in order to make a passage, but by way of making a meal.

Portions of the damaged cable were sent to the Natural History museum with a hope that some opinion might be given and the oracle replied that there could be very little doubt that the damage was caused by white ants. Specimens of their peculiar forms of appetite and industry are kept in the museum, which show not only that they will eat lead, but will also bore through hard sandstone rock.—London Spectator.

No Secrecy in Technical Work. Those who have been reading the technical journals of the leading industrial countries during the past winter must have been impressed by the unusual publicity given to methods of production and the detailed design of apparatus still in course of development. It would seem as though the old policy of secrecy in such matters had largely disappeared. Not only have works formerly forbidden even to large customers been thrown open to the inspection of properly credentialed visitors, but technical processes still incompletely developed have been described in papers before scientific societies.

The spirit of the scientific investigator has possessed the engineering world during the last six months, and progress has been correspondingly rapid.

It has been generally presumed for some years that the day of secrecy in business was past, but the publicity of late has never been so surprising. Engineering Record.

Dummy Horses. The various movements of the pet out office team with odd and absurd devices, but one of the oddest ideas yet put forward is a dummy horse, for which a patent has recently been granted of a Canadian inventor.

The object of this horse is to avoid trouble with nervous animals which are not to run away at the sight of a motor car or carriage. It is intended to be attached to the motor car for the benefit of the real horse's nerves. In order that the "dummy" may serve its full purpose of utility it is made with a hollow body, in which are to be stored the tools, extra gasoline and other things required by the motorman. The automobile horn is fastened in the mouth of the dummy, and at night the eyes are lighted up, one being green and the other red, and are supposed to serve the same useful purpose as star-board and port lights on board ship.

A Hint From Carolina. It is to be hoped that one of the first things done abroad the new leadership South Carolina when it is established will be to re-examine a class in the pronunciation of its name. Let the crew from the captain down, be trained to "South Carolinians." The word "Carolina" is pleasing to the ear and is in its American application of historic significance. The early colony was named from the Latin in honor of Charles II, who made the original grant to the colonists in 1663. It is therefore particularly disconcerting to South Carolinians to hear their state referred to as "South Carolina" and themselves of "South Carolinians." Such corruptions of the two words are totally inexcusable. Let the crew of the "South Carolinians" be trained in the proper pronunciation of the name, and perhaps in this northern part of the world in the habit of the "South Carolina" sake, do not have a "South Carolina" in the United States navy.—Chimble State.

The Island of Pearls. A rise in the price of pearls two or three years ago produced great activity among the pearl fishers of the Venezuelan islands of Margarita, whose name is the Latin word for pearl and whose gems were fought over by the early Spanish explorers. About 2,000 men and constant effort is placed in this business, which has its thrilling moments, since the opening of a shell dredged from the pearl oyster banks may disclose a jewel of great price. The Margaritan pearls are of fine quality, usually white or yellow, with an occasional black one, and such a one is considered a jewel of great value. About \$900,000 worth of pearls are found near Margarita every year.

Liked the Prescription. About a year ago Dr. Gray laid a wallet containing a large sum of money. He offered a liberal reward for its return, but the party who found it thought the whole thing was better than the reward. The other day the doctor entered his coal house, and the first thing he saw was his wallet, and protruding from the end was a card bearing the inscription, "Doctor, please fill this prescription again."—Garden City (Kan.) Herald.

Natural Cross of Pearls. Some curious things have been found in the briny deep, but one of the odd est is an ecclesiastical emblem made of pearls which was washed ashore on the coast of West Australia. There are nine good sized gems in this natural curiosity. These have been joined together to form a perfect Latin cross. Seven pearls of equal size comprise the upright and two more form the transverse piece. The joining has been the work of nature. The odd prize, discovered in a pearl oyster, is said to be worth at least \$50,000. It is called the Great Southern Cross pearl.

NEW SHORT STORIES

Abolished the Chancery Court. Many tales are told of the high handed action of county courts, but none equals the story of the court of Maury county, Tenn., which abolished the chancery court of the division at the instance of Senator Carnack. Carnack himself was once a member of the Maury county court, and every farmer, no matter how far in the backwoods he may live, knows Carnack and calls him Ned.

While visiting Columbia, the capital of the county, during a recess of congress Carnack, then a representative, strolled into the county courtroom, where the quarterly court was in session. He took a seat in a corner and listened to the county orators. A bill

presented for window shades for the chancery courtroom. Instantly an exalted justice was on his feet. "Learn the chancery code! Let 'em pay for their own window shades! That code ain't nothin' but an expense no-how!"

During his torrent of invective against the offending body Carnack scribbled a few lines in a notebook and handed the sheet of paper to one of the fellows sitting near him. When the orator finished, Carnack's neighbor arose and presented the following resolution:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this court that the chancery court is a useless expense and burden to the county. Therefore be it resolved that it be declared and is hereby abolished.

Business Mixed With Religion. Representative Brouard of Louisiana tells of a man who lived in New Orleans who was a cotton broker during the week and a full fledged preacher on Sunday, says the Washington Post. He mixed business with his religion in a manner surprising to the natives. Several years ago there had been great upheavals in the markets, and the bulls and bears had been having a high jinks time. The entire week was one of intense excitement and strain on the men who dealt in the staple. Fortunes were made and lost in a day.

Profit and Loss. William Allen White tells a story illustrative of the tribulations of an editor of a paper in the west in the old days. Away back in the early eighties he appeared in a journal published at Dodge City which ran as follows:

Longworth and Longfellow. Nicholas Longworth of Cincinnati while a student at Harvard college was on a certain occasion introduced to the poet Longfellow. Grasping Mr. Longworth by the hand, Mr. Longfellow immediately said, "Here is an instance where 'worth makes the man, the want of it the fellow.'"—Boston Herald.

Queer Lot of Names. Miss Death was brought to the German hospital in Philadelphia to be operated upon for appendicitis. She was a daughter, she said, of an undertaker. The name of the surgeon who was chosen to perform the operation was Dye. Dr. Frank Hackett Dye. When the operation was over Miss Death was placed in charge of two nurses.

Suspicious. Junior Partner—the bookkeeper has been married nearly six months now. Senior Partner—Why? Junior Partner—Well, he isn't asked for a raise in salary. Senior Partner—Heavens! We'll have to have his accounts examined.—Philadelphia Press.

WASHINGTON LETTER

For Warm Days. The shirt waist suits continue to hold their own as prime favorites, and a pretty linen suit, such as shown in the illustration, is desirable to have ready for warm days.

It is an excellent model for separate waists; also for remodeling plain waists, as the tucked sections in front and center portion of back, which is tucked to simulate a graduated double box pleat, may be made of a contrasting fabric.

It is a most effective design for flannel, or white or colored duck, lawn, taffeta, foulard, mohair, fine serge, cashmere, nun's veiling or albatross.

Trucked sections of English eyelet embroidery form a pleasing decoration for the skirt. The fronts and sides are circular and cut in one, to give a yoke and paneled effect that is entirely new and novel.

Linens Suits. The majority of linen suits this year have long severe coats, relieved perhaps by a deep lace or embroidered waist collar and cuffs to match.

Summer Suits. Summer slips for the women who dislike wearing sheer blouses directly over corset cover or chemise are made of the lawn or china silk.

New Shirt Waist Design. One of the most charming of the new shirt waist modes is the surplice waist shown in the accompanying cut. It has won its way into the feminine heart because of its long lines and grace giving effect.

The Garfield Tree. The Garfield tree in the botanic garden has this novel history: At the funeral ceremonies of President Garfield a small seedling branch of acacia was placed by a member of the assembly in front of his coffin.

Convention Hall Project. With more than \$700,000 already subscribed for stock and Mr. Charles C. Glover having consented to act as treasurer, the project of the Washington Auditorium association to erect in this city a big convention hall is meeting with mounting success.

Distances at Sea. That man was laughed at who on his first voyage said that the ocean did not look so large as he supposed it would, but he was not alone in experiencing disappointment.

Setting Her Right. Mrs. Housekeeper—Jane, are the eggs boiling? Jane (late of Boston)—Most assuredly not, madam. I may safely say, however, that the water is in which they are immersed.—Philadelphia Press.

True Economy. "So you have bought your wife another expensive ring. Isn't that a waste of money?" "On the contrary, it is true economy, for she won't require half so many pairs of gloves as formerly."

WOMAN AND FASHION

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HUMOR OF THE HOUR

In the Day's Work. "And then," according to the author of a late book, "a wild shriek rent the air."

"The two people hiding behind the door bushes felt their blood curdle." "And?" "Again came the wild, weird shriek."

"Looking into each other's faces, they found them the color of marble." "And?" "That sound again—that terrifying sound which made the heart stand still and the listeners to gasp for breath."

"With a moan of despair, Aspasia slowly sunk on the cold earth, and flung a look, looking at her like one struck dumb." "And then, after an interval of ten minutes."

"All of a sudden it came to them that the sounds were produced by a neighbor licking her ten-year-old boy for drinking up the molasses on his way home from the grocery, and life went on with them in the same happy strain as of yore. Life is full of such mistakes, though, and one can't be too careful about getting the labels mixed."—Detroit Tribune.

Resented It. "Gerald," said the young wife, "noting how heartily he was eating, 'lo I cook as well as your mother did?'" "Could you put up his monocle and stared at her through it."

"Once for all, Agatha," he said, "I beg you will remember that, although I may seem to be in reduced circumstances now, I come of an old and distinguished family. My mother was not a cook."—Chicago Tribune.

No Time For Details. An American speeding over the continent of Europe in his automobile asked of his chauffeur, "Where are we?" "In Paris," shouted the man at the wheel, and the dust flew.

"Oh, never mind the details!" Irritated screamed the American millionaire. "I mean what continent?"—Chicago Post.

Giving Him Advice. Young Masher (to rival)—I say, old fellow, I hear you are an excellent runner. Is that true? Rival (eagerly)—Rather. Young Masher—Well, then, run home.

Mysterious. "So you have read your daughter's engagement essay?" "Yes," answered the matter of fact father. "I am dumfounded. I can't understand how anybody who can write so sensibly and profoundly would cheat you and wear high heeled shoes."—Washington Star.

The Woman's Way. "Many a married man who might make a fortune is handicapped because his wife demands too much of his attention." "That's right. Just as soon as fortune begins to flirt with him his wife gets jealous."—Philadelphia Press.

HUMOR OF THE HOUR

All He Found. "I trust," the new joke contributor wrote, "you may find something to attract you in this batch."

"High" erred the editor. "I find an error in spelling. The word 'batch' should be 'batch'." Philadelphia Ledger.

Evidence. Nettle—Do they have airships in Europe? Willie—I guess so. At least I heard Aunt Molly say she was going to take a flying trip through there this summer.—Detroit Free Press.

A Case of Compulsion. Willie—There's another fellow in the back parlor with sister. Castleton—What is he doing there? She knew I was coming, didn't she? Willie—Oh, yes. But she begged him to stay.—Brooklyn Life.

Bar 'Em Out. Sing a song of Maytime. Pretty flowers and queens; Guts now have a gay time—Hold your window screens.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

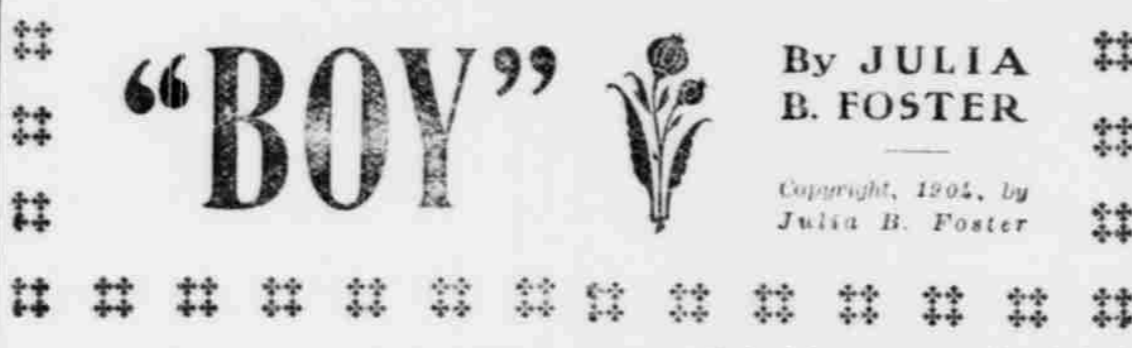
Wants the Chance. "Late again, Mr. Brown! Late again!" chirped the manager. "I believe you'd be late at your wedding." "Ah!" murmured the married man. "And a lot later, too, if I got the chance again."—Chicago Journal.

Obit 1905. Jimson—Why is Snulley wearing that black band around his leg? Grimsom—His mother-in-law was buried yesterday.—New York Times.

Not Inconsistent. "Straight party man, is he?" "Yes, but he's crooked."—Boston Herald.

Why, Then? "Did you finish your shopping today, my dear?" asks the model husband. "Yes, I think so," answers the trusting wife. "You think so?" "Yes, I don't know, though. You see, I went to get my hat and there were so many and all of them so pretty that I got five of them."

"Five? Why did you do that?" "I really—I must have lost my head." "In that case, why get a hat at all?"—Chicago Tribune.



"BOY" By JULIA B. FOSTER Copyright, 1905, by Julia B. Foster

One day, the oxen having laboriously toiled through sand to their fetlocks, these people, with the sun shining in their faces, passed a square railed in enclosure. Learning from his horse, the captain read the inscription printed upon an upright headboard. Boy walked on at his stirrup.

"Sacred, sacred," she spelled "Sacred" to the memory of the Outman family." Her father touched her shoulder, and with her foot on his, she sprang to his shoulder, where he clasped her tight with one arm.

"Who was Mr. Outman?" questioned Boy, her head against her father's breast. He ran lightly over the history in reply to the treacherous visit of the Indians to the lonely camp, the sudden attack, the murder of the parents and infants, the burning of Lorenzo, the captivity of Olive, the oldest daughter, and little Mary Ann.

"Come for? Why, Boy, the valleys of California, where you shall be a millionaire's daughter some day, I hope," he replied almost gaily, for that purple glow of gold was always blinding before his eye even along the endless stretches of glistening sand. Yet what was his desire more than another man's—the desire to better himself? Inspired by it, now run over the earth like ants.



"DARK THE CHANCERY CODE" presented for window shades for the chancery courtroom. Instantly an exalted justice was on his feet. "Learn the chancery code! Let 'em pay for their own window shades! That code ain't nothin' but an expense no-how!"

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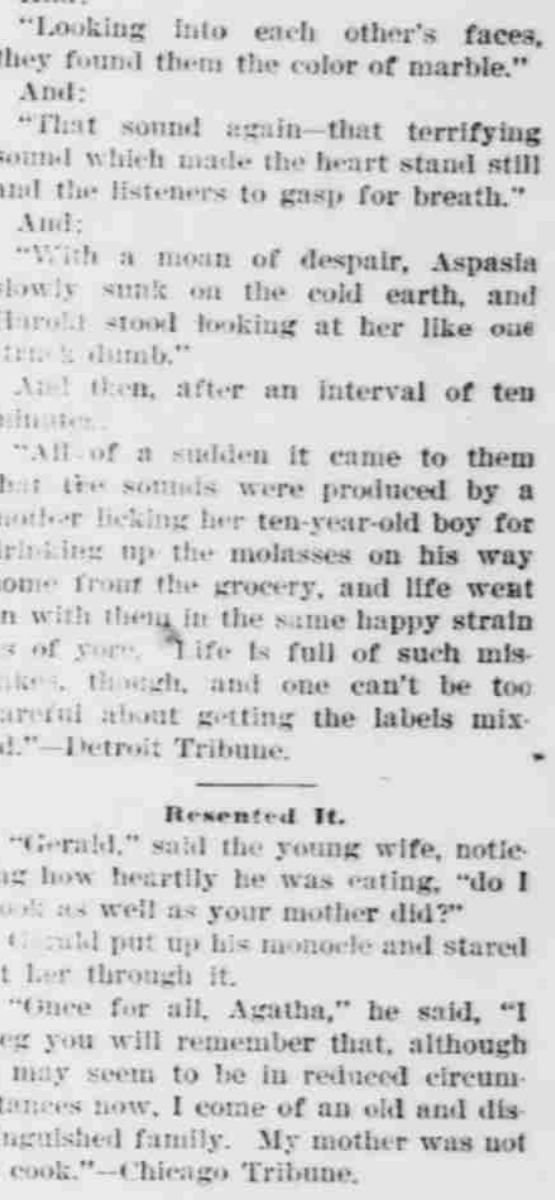
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