

A Latter Day Sphinx

By ZOE ANDERSON NORRIS

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I CAN'T say that I was prepossessed in Cornelia Hardman's favor from the first in spite of her excellent introductions from some dear writer friends. There was in her nature an inexplicable something difficult to understand, a certain sphinx-like calm, an impenetrability, the wariness of the animal that covers up its tracks for fear of detection, that looks upon the world as its natural enemy, from which it must conceal all things possible of concealment.

Cornelia was from the far west. She was said to have had some little success with her work of writing with a magazine or two. Evidently she wrote. Always upon her desk was a typewriter, into which some paper had been coiled. There were often unfinished sentences upon this paper.

However, in contradictory evidence one saw nothing of her work in print—that is, next to nothing. On the wall of her sitting room a newspaper article elaborately illustrated with photographs taken by herself was displayed. The photographs were good, the article mediocre.

This was the sole specimen of Cornelia's work ever exhibited to me. She lived in a three room flat at the top of a great new building of flats in a miserable neighborhood.

After our first introduction there were months that I did not see Cornelia. Then she called upon me. After a little in her quiet way she spoke of a young German whom she had met.

They were engaged, she said. Soon they were to be married.

She was glad. She was very tired of the constant work for magazines and newspapers, of trying to follow up her work, of waiting for it to appear so that they would send her money. The existence was a strain upon the nerves of any woman. She often wondered how I endured it. Except that I wrote with such exceeding rapidity when I did write—I passed over the implied inference that this was seldom—she was sure that I would succumb.

With that she arose and extended me an invitation to meet her fiance. As she stood in the light of the window I observed the crowlike blackness of her hair without a curl, the straightness of her nose, a peculiar pallor that was not of New York in her complexion.

Prompted more by curiosity than anything else, I accepted her invitation and in due time made a visit to her flat. I climbed six breathless flights, part light, part dark, and entered a room that was amply furnished with the young German with whom she was infatuated. I compared the two, resting my eyes first on one and then on the other. Younger than Cornelia, apparently, he was also far inferior in point of intellect. I was astonished that she could for a moment consider him. It may have been that his lack of knowledge of the language accentuated his intellectual inferiority, but before I had made my adieu I found myself regretting the fact that an American woman, particularly an American woman gifted with the ability to write, could so descend. The difference in intellect was not my sole regret. The difference in their heights! Cornelia was exactly one foot taller.

Strange to say, it seemed that at intervals she felt the necessity of my

presence and the need of turning me into a confidant of both sorrow and happiness.

Verbally she conitd the happiness; instinctively I felt the sorrow in a telepathic manner common to me.

Some months afterward she made me a visit.

She sat very still in a rocking chair, looking out my window with lackluster eyes. She folded her hands in her lap and began to talk to me.

"He has gone home," she told me. "His father sent for him. You know that Alfred belongs to a very aristocratic family in Berlin."

"They all do, from their own account," I inserted.

"Alfred does," she said firmly. "You can tell that from his manner, his bearing."

"But not from his English."

"He has had hardly time," remarked she, "to learn the English. He improved much before he went away. I taught him. I could not see him off. One grieves so to watch the boat leave the dock."

"But I helped him get ready. I write to him every day. Soon I am going to him. I shall not expect a letter from him for a week or two. The boat may be delayed this time of year—the

storms, you know; the wind. But that will not prevent my writing to him every day. Soon I am going to him," she repeated. "He wants me to marry him before he went away, but I refused to do that. I refused on account of his father, who is very stern. If Alfred married without his consent he would dishonor him. He would never forgive him if he married without his consent."

"But a bird in the hand, you know," I argued, "is worth a flock in the atmosphere."

"She turned her quiet eyes on me. If there existed a spark of humor or relief of it in her nature I had yet to discover."

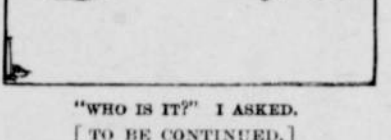
"I am quite sure of him," she said. "I have every confidence in him, in his integrity and in his love for me."

Apparently this ended the argument. The light flashing on a face in her brooch attracted my attention.

"Whose is it?" I asked, leaning forward and touching it. "I have never seen you wear it before."

"This partly to change the subject, which failed to trend toward happiness, and partly to know. The face interested me."

"It is a picture of my mother," she said, taking the brooch off and handing it to me.



"WHO IS IT?" I ASKED. [TO BE CONTINUED.]

COOLING LITERATURE.

Introducing Elanbert's Cruel Joke in the Desert of Kosselir.

Is there such a thing as cooling literature? We think there is, only it can be more properly called the literature of coolness. Horace, with his Handusan fountain, has some claim to be the father of it, though in the description of cool water Spenser has probably excelled every other poet. Goethe, who used to bathe in the Rhine by moonlight, told Eckermann that in his ballad of "The Fisherman" he had employed the mermaid myth with no other aim than to express the charm of water in summer. The fisherman sat fishing, "and lo, a dripping mermaid fair sprang from the troubled main." The mermaid protested against the cruelty of an angling. If, she said, he only knew "how gladly I'd die across the sea!" She then invited him to dart across the sea on his own account, and he consented to the watery bliss.

One of the coolest stanzas in the language is Matthew Arnold's:

The silent courts, where night and day
Into their stone-carved basins cold
The spashing fountains play—
The humid corridors behold!

But to know how the literary mind can evoke ideas of coolness when the literary body craves for it one need only recall Flaubert's persecution of poor Maxime Ducaup in the desert of Kosselir, near the Red sea. The camel carrying their whole supply of water had fallen and burst all the skins.

What happened is told by Ducaup. We quote Mr. Tarver's translation:

"After suffering thirst for thirty-six hours, while we were passing through a defile, a furnace formed of granite rocks, of a rose color, covered with inscriptions, Flaubert said to me, 'Do you remember the lemon ices that one eats at Torton's?' I made a sign in the affirmative. He resumed: 'Lemon ices is a superior article. Admit that you would not be annoyed at having swallowed a lemon ice.' Curtly enough I replied, 'Yes.' After an interval of five minutes: 'Ah, the lemon ices! All around the glass there is a cloud which is like a white jelly.' I said, 'Suppose we change the conversation?' He replied: 'That would be better, but lemon ices is worthy of being celebrated. One fills the spoon; it makes a little mound; one softly squeezes it between the tongue and the palate; it melts slowly, coolly, deliciously; it bathes the uvula, glides over the tonsils, descends into the gullet, which is only too happy, and it falls into the stomach, which bursts with laughing, so delighted is it. Between you and me there is a scarcity of lemon ices in the desert of Kosselir.'"

The maddened Ducaup would not speak again for hours. When at last they drank Flaubert took him in his arms and said: "I thank you for not having blown out my brains with your gun. In your place I should not have resisted."—London Globe.

Indian Corn.
Maize, or Indian corn, is a native of tropical America, from where the Spaniards first brought it to Europe. However, it must have been known long before in Asia, for in Pharaoh's dream he saw seven ears of corn growing on one stalk (Genesis xii, 3). By the aborigines it was gradually carried north and by the selection of the earliest ripe ears saved for seed acclimated to our harder New England conditions. It ripens now as far north as Canada.

Graphic.
The end of a novel, compressed by the editor owing to lack of space: "Ottokar took a small brandy, then his hat, his departure, besides no notice of his pursuers, meantime a revolver out of his pocket, and, lastly, his own life."—Deutsche Leschalle.

WASHINGTON LETTER

(Special Correspondence.)

The foundation of the house of representatives office building is being rapidly laid. The excavation is practically complete and the outlining of the cellar plan of the big building is being made in progress. Over nearly the entire square which is to be occupied by the building the brick work has been raised to a height of several feet. The railroad tunnel which cuts under the southeast corner of the square is complete and covered, so that progress of the office structure is not hindered in the least by anything in that direction.

The bricklayers, who are present in force, are very busy, and it is plain to be seen that the authorities do not intend to let the grass grow under their feet in the matter of putting up this magnificent building for the popular branch of congress.

How Cols is Counted.
The counting of the silver and gold in the vaults of the treasury inaugurated some time ago is rapidly nearing its end.

Formerly that is, about eight years ago—the methods of counting the currency were much more cumbersome and difficult than at present, thanks to improvements that have been made in recent years. The currency is not, as many people imagine, counted dollar for dollar, after the fashion of a paying teller in some country bank, but is gauged entirely by weight. The gold is put up in bags of \$5,000 each, and the silver in bags of the same material—i. e., strong cotton sailcloth—of \$1,000 each. The money contained in these bags is of all kinds and conditions. Some of it is fresh from the mint, while the contents of other sacks have been much in circulation and are often badly worn.

Weight of Silver Money.
A bag of 1,000 silver dollars fresh from the mint should weigh sixty pounds exactly, but some of the bags containing that sum of coin will not weigh that much, and in addition to the sack of new dollars which one of the members employs for a weight there are also lying near the scales several silver coins employed to ascertain how much has been lost by wear and tear. In other words, when a sack fails to weigh the exact sixty pounds, one or other of these coins is tossed into the scale to see what is lacking.

The committee and the employees engaged in this work seldom work two days alike. Some days they commence early and quit late, and the largest sum that has been thus far counted in one day was \$4,000,000 (120 tons of currency). In each of the treasury vaults there is usually one compartment that is empty, and in counting the money is simply shifted from one compartment to another. The several compartments are divided one from the other by massive steel gratings, but such is the weight of the silver and gold which in settling tends to spread out on either side that W. Howard Gibson, custodian of the vaults, states that it is no unusual thing to find at times bolts forced out of place by the pressure of the coin within. As it is the gratings are all without exception sprung and bent to one side by the strain placed upon them by the money.

Stacking the Treasure.
In counting the money the scales are placed near the entrance to the compartment to be filled with a long wooden trough leading from the scales to the compartment that is being emptied. Down this trough bag after bag of gold or silver is sent sliding by those engaged in emptying the compartment, and as fast as it is weighed it is passed in to workmen who stack it up in tiers reaching from floor to ceiling. Part of the money is in heavy yellow pine boxes, holding two bags of \$1,000 each, but the greater part is without other covering than the cotton bags. The bags containing \$5,000 gold weigh eighteen pounds each.

The men employed in this work handle on an average sixty to eighty tons of gold and silver each day.

Moving Pictures.
A picture of a moody in characteristic pose now adorns the wall of the office of the secretary of the navy. In going into the large reception room the first thing one sees is this new picture of Mr. Moody, and it is really so lifelike that one almost thinks that the former secretary is back in his old position. In a little while Moody's picture will be pushed farther along, and Paul Morton's will take its place. Of course no one can tell how long it will be before Morton gives way to Bonaparte.

Show Enjoya Cartoons.
While some statesmen are very much annoyed about cartoons in the public press, they do not in the least disturb Secretary Shaw. In fact, the secretary enjoys every one of them, whether they are good, bad or indifferent. He takes a keen delight in gathering up these cartoons. Some of the best and which hit the secretary just right have been framed and adorn the walls of the treasury department.

The White House.
During the president's vacation the White House has been thoroughly cleaned. Outside and in men have been at work scraping, cleaning, painting and otherwise improving the old structure, which is now entirely occupied by the president and his family, while there has also been some work upon what the president has designated as "the little 'dobe' shack that I am temporarily occupying" and which is used for the White House offices. The most noticeable improvement made near the White House offices has been in the tennis court. The hard ground has been dug up and recolled in order to give it the spongy texture which is so satisfactory to the tennis player.

Arcturus, the Giant Sun.
There are other suns in space that are infinitely larger than the one which gives us heat, light and life. The star Arcturus, which is known to be a sun for a faraway system of planets, is 11,500,000 times farther removed from us than is our solar luminary. His diameter is 71,000,000 miles and his circumference about 224,000,000 miles. Our sun is but 866,000 miles in diameter, a fact which proves that Arcturus is at least 531,000 times greater in bulk than is our "great orb of day."

FARM GARDEN

SELECTING SEED CORN.

Some Illinois and the Illinois Corn Growers' Score Card.

Every one who has grown corn knows how readily it "runs out" or degenerates. Plant breeders are agreed that the most potent cause for this degeneracy in corn is inbreeding. To avoid this it is best to select ears from different portions of the field, and these ears are to be selected at as great a distance from each other as possible. We are constantly receiving inquiries as to the points and rules used in the



WELL FILLED TIPS.

scoring and judging of corn. The following is the score card adopted by the Illinois Corn Growers' association:

Uniformity	15
Shape of ears	15
Color of ears	15
Market condition	15
Tip of ears	15
Length	15
Uniformity of kernels	15
Shape or kernels	15
Space between kernels	15
Circumference	15
Per cent of corn	15
Total	150

Uniformity of ears in a variety is the best indication that that variety has been carefully selected for a number of generations.

The nearer the shape of an ear approaches that of a cylinder the greater will be the percentage of corn to cob. This cylindrical shape will permit the ear to carry straight parallel rows of kernels from butt to tip.

Those varieties of corn that have received the greatest care in their selection and improvement are uniform in color. The white varieties have a white cob, and the yellow and red varieties have a red cob. No corn should be used for seed that shows the effect of cross pollination. The effect of pollen is shown the first year.

By market conditions is meant the soundness of the ear and the conditions of the kernels. The ears should be free from decay or fungous disease, and the kernels should not be shriveled or chaffy, but show full maturity.

The tips of the ears should be covered with regular, uniform kernels, so that no part of the cob can be seen. The butt of the ear should be well filled out with even rows of kernels and swelled out evenly beyond the end of the cob around the shank.

The kernels should be uniform in size, shape and color, and should possess a similar characteristics. The shape of the kernel on the broad side should be as near that of a wedge as possible. This shape will permit the ear to carry a great number of rows of kernels on the cob.

There should be very little space between the rows of kernels. A wide space shows shallow kernels of a bad shape.

The per cent of corn on the ear is determined by weighing the ears, shelling the grain and reweighing the cobs and grain. A hundred pounds of ear corn should weigh about less than eighty pounds of grain.—Kentucky Experiment Station.

The Day of Small Things.
When Danny Griffin was a boy he had an eye to business and knew how to invest a dollar so it would increase. Once he trapped two skunks and sold their skins. With the money he bought a pig. Danny was a good feeder, and the pig grew large and fat. Apples and corn and milk were converted into pork. The hog went to the butcher, and the proceeds went for two sheep. They each had a lamb, and the ewes, with their increase, brought enough to buy a good heifer calf. When the calf proved to be a cow he sold her to Frank T. for \$35.

That was thirty-five years ago, and Danny was then fifteen. Now Danny Griffin owns a hundred acre farm besides other property, and his crops and his credit are good.

Moral.—Despise not the day of small things.—Farm Journal.

Finishing Grain Harvest.
Late sown grain will be harvested this month. The work should proceed without delay and the grain not allowed to stand until overripe. The late sown oats will make good hay if cut while yet green, and this is a very satisfactory use to which to devote them. Good crops of barley are sometimes grown when for various reasons it is found necessary to sow late, and it makes an excellent substitute for this purpose. This is an easy crop to cure late in the season. Where buckwheat is raised it should be in condition to harvest by the last of the month and receive proper attention.—American Cultivator.

Its Charm.
Fair Visitor—So you have really decided not to sell your house? Fair Host—Yes. You see, we placed the matter in the hands of a real estate agent. After reading his lovely advertisement of our property neither John nor myself could think of parting with such a wonderful and perfect home.

Families Share Carriages.
A curious custom exists in Greece. Many of the well-to-do people as well as those in moderate circumstances do not own either horses or carriages. They own only an interest in them. Four or five or half a dozen families club together and buy a carriage and horses; then they arrange among themselves the days the different families will use it.

GIANTS ON WHEELS.

Odd Custom That Flourishes in Some European Cities.

Among the most interesting ceremonies in Europe are the giants' processions, as they are termed, which are held annually in various cities. They are especially popular in the Flemish provinces of France and Belgium, where every community of importance has some personage of huge proportions intended to represent a hero or other notable of the past. Although of enormous size, the giants are carried about the streets with little difficulty owing to the material of which they are composed. The skeleton is usually formed of light wood, with possibly one or two iron rods extending from the head to the feet to give strength to the structure. Over the skeleton is fastened a stiff fabric, such as canvas, and padding with cotton, hay or some other suitable material.

Upon this groundwork is placed the paper mache which usually forms the exterior. This substance is so light and is applied with such skill that the resemblance to the human features and figure is really remarkable. Occasionally the face is formed by a mask showing the flesh tints, but the majority of the giants may be termed enormous dolls, since their mode of construction is so similar to that of this toy and so much of the same material enters into their composition. At least once a year the giants are placed upon vehicles and drawn about the streets in a procession, in which regular and volunteer soldiers take part, their escorts sometimes numbering 1,000 people.

One well known group of giants is known as the Gayon family, the members of which are among the largest in Europe. The father of the family is no less than twenty feet in height, from the top of the plumes in his helmet to his feet, while his spear is over twenty feet in length and the shield larger in circumference than the wheel of an ordinary wagon. Mme. Gayon is eighteen feet in height. They are supposed to have three children, the largest of whom is eleven feet in height, the next is ten feet and the "baby" taller than an ordinary man.

CHINESE CARVINGS.
Artistic Ornaments Cut Out of Nuts and Tiny Fruit Stones.

The most curious objects which are made subjects of the carver's art in China are the various nuts and fruit stones. Among the latter class may be named the stones of the olive, plum, peach, cherry, and of the former the most common are made upon the shells of walnuts and coconuts. These seeds and nuts are collected with great care and carefully cleaned and dried before being taken to the carver, who has an invariable standard of size, proportion, weight, hardness, etc. When every detail has been carried out to the satisfaction of the artist a nut or seed is selected by the designer, who roughly traces upon its surface an outline of the future picture. This is handed over to apprentices, who block out the design by cutting through the ligneous tissue along the lines drawn. The crude carving is again passed to the designer, who sketches a second and more intricate series of outlines, when it again goes forward to the subordinates, who cut out the indicated channels. After this the designer gives the object its finishing touches, and the assistants prepare it for market by polishing, oiling and waxing the carvings.

These nut and fruit stone carvings are shown in the shape of buttons, watch charms, sleeve links, earrings and brooches. Collections of them strung on silver, copper or gold wire are also used as bracelets, anklets, necklaces, the rosaries and official ornaments.

The carvings represented upon these seed and nut ornaments are frequently of a very high order of conception and display much of the carver's cleverness and dexterity. The writer has seen single cherry seeds upon which were plainly and artistically outlined a dragon, two crickets, a cornflower and a bunch of grapes. On the larger seeds and nuts are represented entire trees and their fruits and leaves, vines with leaves, flowers and vegetables attached as well as buildings, bridges, towers, temples and fences. Among the second group, which are usually composed principally of animal figures, the horse, lion, tiger, elephant, camel and bull are most generally represented.—Exchange.

The Hearts of the Hapsburgs.
In the imperial vaults carved in the Church of the Capuchins in Vienna is a row of more than 150 crystal vases mounted in gold and topped by a crown. Each of these vases contains the heart of a dead Hapsburg, a member of the imperial family. In the thirteenth century the Duke Francis died in Switzerland and directed that his heart should be removed and sent to Vienna. Ever since that custom has been observed in the Hapsburg family. On the death of a member the heart is removed and preserved in a crystal vase. In the vault there are now 152 such vases and 113 imperial coffins. The surplus of thirty-nine vases contain the hearts of Hapsburgs whose bodies are buried elsewhere. The sole exception to this Hapsburg custom was that of the late Archduke Ludwig, whose will forbade the removal of his heart.

Surveying Land.
The art of land surveying owes its origin to the fact that the Egyptians were unable to keep permanent monuments on land which was overflowed every year by the Nile. Under such circumstances it became necessary to have some means of redefining the various pieces of land. The instruments and mathematical methods of astronomy, with suitable modifications, were used by the Egyptians for land surveying.

The Lion's Share.
It is really not the male lion, with his terrific roar and formidable appearance, that the explorer fears, but his mate. The male lion is a good looking pouter, but when it comes to business it is his wife who counts, a la the African native. Game is pulled down by the female lion, and then the male beats her off until he has feasted to repletion, when she may have what is left; hence "the lion's share."

STAGE TRICKS.

How Some of the Scenically Difficult Feats Are Performed.

When you see a man come out on the stage and shoot the ashes off a cigar which is being smoked by an assistant don't believe all you see. A hatpin is run through the cigar, the point just reaching the ash. The assistant just pushes the knob at the other end, and down falls the ash to great applause, of course only blank cartridges are used.

Breaking two glass balls with two pistols is almost as simple. One of the pistols only is loaded and with shot. The other has a blank cartridge. The loaded pistol is aimed between the two balls, and the shot scatter, breaking them both. That's the trick.

Extinguishing several numbered candles by number on request of the audience is seldom more than a hollow joke. Behind each candle is a hole in the target. An assistant hidden behind it simply blows out the candle, taking care to blow the right candle at the right time—that is, when the pistol cracks.

Blindfold shooting simply means that the performer glances down his nose to a mirror fixed at an angle behind the back sight and aims as straight this way as if the bandage were not there.

Painting a complete picture in a jiffy in presence of the audience is also artifice. What looks to you like an immaculate and untouched canvas is in reality a finished picture covered with whitewash. All the "artist" does is to simulate painting with his brush. The result is a picture that would require if it were honestly done at least a day's work.

Those awfully heavy looking dumbbells of the strong man are sometimes somewhat hollow at the core. You will notice they are always put in the same place, preferably on a special platform, when the man from the audience is invited to lift them. Under the platform are powerful magnets holding the weights down. Suddenly roll the bar off the platform, and you can probably lift it in one hand, and that operation releases it from magnetic control.

A MAORI LEGEND.

The Story of How Te Kupu Discovered New Zealand.

The Maoris are not the aborigines of New Zealand. This is the story of their coming as told by a legend handed down from chief to chief from generation to generation.

Te Kupu, a priest, lived on an island called Kawahiki, supposed to be Hawaii. He incurred the displeasure of his chief and was compelled to flee for his life. He secured a canoe and, stocking it with provisions, paddled out to sea, leaving his home and his friends, as he thought, forever. He was mourned as dead, but about a year later he returned with a glowing story of a wonderful country he had discovered. He gave graphic accounts of its mighty forests, its burning mountains, steaming lakes and huge birds.

The story caused the widest excitement among his people, who hailed Te Kupu as a god, and preparations were at once made to explore this magic country. Seven large canoes were built and stocked with provisions and water, and a party of islanders, directed by Te Kupu, set forth on their adventurous journey. In time they reached the place he had described, and Te Kupu's canoe, the Aotea, was the first to touch the shore; hence the Maori name "Aotearoa" was given to New Zealand.

Just when this took place is one of the points in the history of these people that are lost in the shadowy memories of the past, but it is supposed to have been about 800 years ago. The Maoris of today always refer to Hawaii as the fatherland, and there is a native proverb, "I kune mai i Hawaiki to kune kat te tangata" ("The seed of our coming is from Hawaiki").

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.
When you are in a hurry for a thing how slow it travels.
An excuse never accomplishes all it is expected to accomplish.
If you want people to like you don't know anything "on" them.
Ever notice this? If one thing goes right with you something else goes wrong.
Every one owes something to himself except the father. He owes it all to his family.
When you see two people who dislike you whispering together, doesn't it give you a funny feeling?
About the easiest thing in the world that we know anything about is to find the bright side for somebody else.
They speak of it as "life's bitter fever," but most of us have such hair raising experiences that it is more like chills.—Acheson Globe.

TO WIN POPULARITY.
Have a good time, but never let fun degenerate into license.
Rejoice as genuinely in another's success as in your own.
Learn to control yourself under the most trying circumstances.
Have a kind word and a cheery, encouraging smile for every one.
Meet trouble like a man, and cheerfully endure what you can't cure.
Believe in the brotherhood of man and recognize no class distinctions.
Do not be self opinionated, but listen with deference to the opinions of others.
Never utter witticisms at the risk of giving pain or hurting some one's feelings.
Be ambitious and energetic, but never benefit yourself at the expense of another.
Be as courteous and agreeable to your inferiors as you are to your equals and superiors.—Success.

A Wood Mine.
One of the most curious mines that are worked is in Tsoungin, China, where in a sand formation at a depth of from fourteen to twenty feet there is a deposit of the stems of trees. The Chinese work this mine for the timber, which is found in good condition and is used in making troughs and for carving and other purposes.

Those to whom everybody allows the second place have an undoubted title to the first.—Swift.

FACTS IN FEW LINES

House boat life on the Thames is on its decline.

The cost of cremating a body in France is only 60 cents.

A serum for hay fever is used by physicians in the island of Heligoland.

A Kentucky woman, only thirty-three years old, has just acquired her ninth husband.

Government authorities estimate the egg and poultry business in the United States last year at \$280,000,000.

Somebody inquired at a Columbus (O.) bookstore the other day for "That poem of Kipling's, 'Don't You Forget It.'"

The celebrated emerald mines of Muzo, Colombia, are owned by the government and are among its most valuable assets.

The British First East Yorkshire regiment, which has been twenty years on foreign service in the far east, has just been ordered home from Burma.

A correspondent of Nature says he had his portrait painted by two well known artists and calculated that in each case about 20,000 strokes of the brush were made.

An intelligent elephant is attracting attention in New York. The animal not only bows, but with a piece of chalk keeps record of the number of pails it knocks down.

While fishing in a quarry hole near Portland, Me., Joseph Kinnead caught a fish which is puzzling the experts. It has a body something like an eel and a head like a bulldog.

Ireland has a prodigy. Three and a half years old, a Kilmegonny boy reads the newspapers, sings about fifty comic songs and dances a sailor's romp in a regulation Jack tar suit.

Every day in this world has its complications, and a writer in a late medical journal conveys the comforting information that baldheaded people are immune from pulmonary tuberculosis.

A tramp struck Whitelyville, Me., recently one morning and ate breakfast in nine different places. In one house, where the people seemed to be particularly easy, he asked what time they had dinner.

One distillery company in Kentucky turns out every seven days 1,200 barrels of sweet mash whiskey. The output for a year would be 62,400 barrels. The cost of all this to the manufacturers may be fairly estimated at \$74,000.

Somebody congratulated Russell Sage the other day on his hearty appearance just after he had passed his eighty-ninth birthday. Mr. Sage replied quietly and characteristically that he expected to see the end of his life.

There is a tame squirrel at Belfast, Me., which has learned not only to find a bag of peanuts hidden in the house which he happens to invade, but to take the cover off a tin box in which one good housewife keeps her plump squash seeds.

In the office of Stevens & Stevens, at Millinocket, Me., is a peculiar thermometer, or, rather, heat recorder. It consists of a growing palm. Mr. Stevens marks on the growth for each week and finds that the warmest weeks show much more progress than the cooler intervals.