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A CLANKING GHOST.

Awful Experience of a Chicago Man in a Midnight Boat.  
"The most disagreeable experience in my travels," said the man from Chicago, "was when I awakened in the middle of the night in a midnight boat and heard a chain clank in my room. I don't know whether it is the association of a clanking chain that makes the sound so dismal or the mere fact of being awakened by a noise that shows the presence of something living, but I don't know of a more unpleasant awakening."

"I sat up in bed, but could see nothing, for the room was as dark as a pocket, and my heart thumped with suspense as I heard that weird clank, clank, clank, accompanied by a strange rattle and rattling. I reached under my pillow and drew out my revolver."  
"Revolver?" suggested the man who finishes everybody's sentences.  
"Naw, my whisky flask. I took a pull that would have made my wife give me a temperance lecture if she could have seen me."  
"And what became of it?"  
"The whisky?"  
"Naw, no, the clanking ghost."  
"Well, I fell off to sleep after awhile, and when I got up in the morning and investigated, I found out what it was."  
"A mouse?"  
"No, I was the only mouse. It was curled up under my bed, chain and all, and I turned it to the right about 12 o'clock from its owner's side. It had escaped from his quarters. I found it's way to my room. Let it walk 'round in another night like that, and I'd run a wood lot!"—St. Louis Republic.

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A Check For \$700.

There was once a comedian who entertained Edward E. Rice, starting as the statement may seem, it is nevertheless true that when this affair referred from Mr. Rice's company he owed the manager \$700. To Mr. Rice the condition was not alone unusual—it was also irksome. One morning, when he was fretting under it, he learned that the actor had secured a first rate engagement at a large salary. He set down and wrote an agent letter, finishing with a demand for an immediate return of a "check for 700." In due course he received a communication by mail containing a heavy metallic disk. The letter read:  
"Dear Ned—Yours received. Find inclosed, as requested, check for 700."  
The metallic disk was a C. B. & Q. railroad baggage check numbered 700.—New York Herald.

Getting Ready For a Fight.

On the way to Richmond Sherman paid but slight attention to dress, but when he did the staff knew something was going to happen. "There is going to be a fight today, no?" said Colonel Anderson of the staff one morning.  
"How can you tell?" asked a comrade.  
"Why, man, the general's over there by the fire putting on a clean collar."  
That day Sherman with 40 cannon fell into the hands of the army.—Luman Documents.

Splendid Chemistry.

A French savant thinks that by the year 2000 a spiritual chemistry will have been discovered that should entirely change human nature. This will be greatly due to chemistry utilizing the heat of the sun and tapping the central heat of the globe. Under the reign of chemistry to earth, we are told, will become a vast pleasure garden and the human race will live in peace and unity.

CHECKING THE WITNESS.

Testimony of a Careful Old Man to a Shrewd Young Attorney.

The young lawyer was determined that if vigilance could accomplish anything the case should be decided in favor of his client, and so when the careful old man went upon the stand for the defense the attorney leaped forward, prepared to fight every inch of the way.  
"Mr. Johnson, the plaintiff," said the careful old man, "said that if I would buy the house he would get Mr. Gimpson to relinquish his lease. He said he thought Mr. Gimpson would agree to go. I guess."  
"Never mind what you guess. We don't want any hearsay or guessing. Your honor [to the court]. I object to this witness's testimony. He is guessing at what he says. We want facts."  
"I guess," said the old man. "I was about to say I guess at nothing and insisted on the understanding being established in my presence. So the two men got together, with me on hand, to listen to what they said. I understand."  
"Objected to as incompetent. Your honor, we don't want to know what this man understands to know. We want what he knows was done. We want facts."  
"One moment," said the careful old man. "I was about to say that I understand ordinary conversation with some difficulty, and so that there might be no error I insisted that they yell out their propositions in loud tones, which they did until you could hear them in the middle of the town. I am informed."  
"Your honor," cried the young attorney, "is our time to be taken up listening to hearsay evidence? He does not know. He was informed that such and such was so and so. What we must have is what he knows about the trade and whether or not he."  
"I am informed of real estate values, having been a real estate agent all my life," the old man said, "and I know what the worth of that lease was to the holder of it. Knowing the facts, I would fix his damages at \$78 3/4. I believe."  
"Objected to as a conclusion and as incompetent. What any man believes is not necessarily good proof. I don't want to know what you believe, but what you know. We must insist on your telling what you know and not what you surmise or what you conjecture or what you think or what you imagine. A courtroom is not a place for expelling what a man believes, but what he is sure of. I think the court will support me in saying that we don't want to know what this man believes." And the young lawyer looked confidently at the justice.

The Independent Stage Driver.

I sternly reprimanded a California stage driver who had a custom of climbing next to my car to smoke a pipe in the wild and woolly west, and they even have a lot of California drivers in the regular service of the material of the east.  
There is an old driver at Monterey who determined that his patrons should make no mistake concerning his exact status, and in a quiet way he checks all attempts to make a servant of him. A short time ago he was driving a party of tourists about when a gentleman asked him to lend him a pipe. "I'm not a little bit of a snob," he said, "but I don't know the name of the pipe."  
"I was going to say," said the witness, "that I believe that is all."—Chicago Record.

CULTURE OF CELERY.

KALAMAZOO RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF ITS CHIEF CENTERS.

What Hollanders Have Accomplished in the Vicinity of This Michigan Town—Varying Claims as to the Profits of Celery Growing.

Kalamazoo celery is so well known in every part of this country that the name is used for all the better kinds of celery, and, like Blue Point oysters and Little Neck clams, the guarantee contained in the name sells the article to the exclusion of other brands. The excellence of this celery is said to be due to three things—good seed, dark, heavy soil and care in growing and bleaching it. Careful packing might be added. But as any gardener can select good seed and give the plants good culture Kalamazoo must excel in the soil or better natural conditions as a celery region.

The celery meadows are just outside of the town of Kalamazoo, north and south of the city, and surrounded by hills, divided crosswise by a high ridge, on which the houses are built. The meadows are about three miles long and a mile wide. These portions of land are not common farming lands, but are composed of a peculiar form of black muck, the result of vegetable decomposition, and formerly they were so rich that no fertilizers were needed. Not more than a dozen years ago very little celery was raised on these meadows and none for shipment to other markets. Joseph Daulky, the florist, was one of the pioneers in the industry, recognizing the peculiar value of the muck soil for celery. He owned one of the earliest celery farms, and it is reported that he amassed a fortune from the business before it was injured by competition.

In recent years the output has been so enormous that prices have dropped from 30 cents to 10 cents per dozen, and many growers have been complaining. The seasons of 1892-3 were comparatively poor ones, and a number of the growers left their farms to engage in the business in the suburbs of New York, but they soon returned to their home town. The growers are nearly all Hollanders, and they live in dwellings on their small holdings, which generally consist of from five to ten acres. They are a frugal, industrious race, and they adopt the most advanced system of intensive farming. Five acres here easily support an ordinary Holland family, and there is no doubt but the head of it saves money.

The city of Kalamazoo is one of the prettiest in the country, and it owes not a little of this to the industry of the celery growers. The amount of celery shipped from the city varies from year to year, but a conservative estimate places the average quantity at 60 tons per day from July 1 to Jan. 1. This would mean about 3,600,000 dozen, and at 10 cents per dozen this would amount to \$360,000. As this is a very low estimate, one is almost sure in saying that the industry nets the town at least \$500,000 a year.

The benches of celery are packed in wooden boxes and shipped to commission men. The boxes are made in the town, giving employment to a number of mechanics. They are about the size of a peach crate, 24 inches long, 10 inches wide and 6 to 8 inches deep.  
Fertilizers are now used freely upon the already rich lettuce lands, and every two or three years a load of celery into the town is trucked back a load of fertilizer. It is claimed that four crops of celery are raised in one season on the land, but this is not literally true. The farmers make four plantings, which mature from July to December, but these can hardly be called four crops. The first planting is made early, and as this celery must be bleached with boards it is in inferior grade. The old saying is that celery is not fit to eat until after the first frost, and in a sense this is true, but modern conditions of our markets demand that celery shall be ready for use all the year round. The southern growers send it north early in summer, and since people will buy this vegetable out of season the Kalamazoo growers begin to send their product to the cities much earlier than five years ago.

The question of profit in celery growing is a disputable one, and like strawberry farming, there are stories current of farmers making \$500 per acre, while others claim that if they make \$50 per acre they are doing well. At Greenview, O., where the largest celery farm under the control of one man is located, the profits are said to average between \$200 and \$400 per acre. There are nearly 100 acres planted with celery on that farm, and if these figures are correct the owner has every reason to believe that farming does pay. Like the Kalamazoo celery lands, the soil at Greenview, O., is exceedingly rich and well adapted to the culture of the celery plant. But even so, cheap labor must be employed to make the farm pay anything like \$300 or \$400 per acre. Here in Kalamazoo the growers believe that \$200 and \$300 per acre is a good profit, and a man with ten acres of soil need not suffer greatly with such an income. Six years ago the same land could have made profits of \$400 per acre, but then the growers were receiving just twice as much for the celery as they are today.—Kalamazoo Ctr. New York Post.

Presence at the Earth's Center.

The philosophers who have figured on the condition of things at the earth's center give opinions which vary widely. Some think that the earth's interior is composed of white hot molten matter, others are of the opinion that the pressure is so great that all substances have been condensed beyond our present conception. Dr. Young goes so far as to say that a block of steel 10 feet square would be pressed into a block only 9 feet square if taken 4,000 miles below the earth's surface.

The Passion Flower.

The passion flower is intimately associated in popular legends with the crucifixion. In these petals are supposed to typify the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, while in its other parts the imaginative eye finds the cross, the nails, the spear, the crown of thorns, the halo and various other emblematic objects.

The first visit of pestilential fever to this country was in 1733. It was brought from the West Indies to New York by trading vessels.

Charles VI of France was hated by his people, and Louis XIV was termed the Well Beloved.

A new moon falling between 6 and 8 a. m. in the summer season means rain.