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If it was only health, we might let it cling. But it is a cough. One cold no sooner passes off before another comes. But it's the same old cough all the time. And it's the same old story, too. There is first the cold, then the cough, then pneumonia or consumption with the long sickness, and life trembling in the balance.

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What Was Raised.
 "Did the last tax laws raise any money?" inquired the queen regent.
 "No, your majesty," replied Sagasta.
 "They raised nothing but disturbances."—New York Journal.

Beyond the Critical Stage.
 Mrs. Nearby—I understand your husband is ill. Is his condition critical?
 Mrs. Growell—Critical, indeed! Why, he is positively abusive.—Exchange.

Looking Backward.
 The titles of the king of Spain suggest a large part of the history of the world. He is king of Jerusalem, which is Turkish; of Navarre, which is French; of Gibraltar, which is British, and of the East and West Indies, which are largely British; duke of Brabant and count of Flanders, now the two independent kingdoms of Holland and Belgium, and sovereign of numerous other lands long since independent or under the undisputed sway of other powers. He bears upon his person indeed an epitome of the glory and the fall of Spain.

The Scholar.
 Dr. Evans, a witty member of the parliament at Melbourne, was an old man, and the other members jokingly spoke of him as belonging to the era of Queen Anne.

Once, while making a speech, he referred to Queen Anne and was greeted with cries of "Did you know her?"
 "What was she like?"
 "Yes, sir," retorted the doctor, "I did know her. The scholar is contemporary with all time."

According to an old French saying, "A man's character is like his shadow, which sometimes follows and sometimes precedes him, and which is occasionally longer, occasionally shorter than he is."

Brazil produces on the average 300,000 tons of coffee per annum—that is, about four-fifths of the whole amount consumed in the world.

DYNAMITE GUNS.

Fifteen Men in Relays Are Required to Work Them.

Dynamite guns, such as are used upon the Vesuvius, are operated upon an entirely different principle from the ordinary powder guns. They have engines and boilers and air compressors and coolers and all sorts of intricate machinery in a house not far away, by which the projectiles are fired. The dynamite or gun cotton or explosive gelatin or whatever the explosive material may be is contained in the projectile only. This projectile is called an "aerial torpedo" by the manufacturers and is exploded by means of a fuse similar to any powder gun's.

Dynamite or any other high explosive cannot be used in an ordinary cannon, because the powder would explode the dynamite before it left the gun, therefore the system of using compressed air came into vogue as the only method of throwing dynamite to any distance. The air is compressed and passed along through various tubes before reaching the gun and is used at about 1,000 pounds pressure to the square inch, which is much less than the power of powder. Dynamite will be exploded at about 5,000 pounds pressure to the square inch. These guns are enormous affairs, smoothbore, 50 feet in length, made of the best iron, in three sections, flanged and bolted together and supported on a steel carriage. The carriage is mounted upon a steel railing ring, so called, and the system of hauling is by means of an electric motor. As these guns are covered by a large number of patents they are very expensive, costing the government many thousands of dollars each. Fifteen men in relays are required to work them.

The gunner stands upon a platform on the left side of the carriage, uses a fine telescopic sight, and when all is ready he pulls a lever which allows the compressed air to enter the gun, and the discharge takes place. These guns are all loaded at the breech, and the projectile is handled by a separate carriage. The projectile is about 10 feet in length for the 15 inch gun, and when charged with 500 pounds of dynamite or gun cotton weighs fully 1,000 pounds. It is a steel tube composed of walls three-sixteenths of an inch thick and has a spiral vane at the rear. The fuse is a foot in length and weighs 20 pounds. This fuse contains two pounds and a half of dry gun cotton and a few grains of fulminate of mercury as a detonator. It is set to explode at impact or as the gunner may desire as to time.—Leslie's Weekly.

A TRANSPPOSITION.

It Mangled the Salutation, but the King Contended His Face.

An American who years ago served as our minister to Spain was fond of telling the following joke upon himself: Shortly after he had become settled in his new home he was bidden to a state ceremonial, where he was to be presented to the king. His knowledge of languages was limited to English and French, and being desirous of addressing the sovereign in his own tongue he took pains to "coach" for the occasion. Several phrases were rehearsed until he felt that he had mastered them. When the critical moment arrived, he saluted the king with great dignity, spoke a few words in Spanish and passed on.

"What did you say?" asked an English gentleman.

"I spoke in Spanish," was the rejoinder. "I said, 'I can myself as your foe,' which I am told is the most respectful form of salutation."

"Ah, no," corrected a Spaniard, who had been observed to smile at the ambassador's greeting. "You are mistaken. You transposed your words, and quite altered the meaning."

"What did I say?" asked the diplomat.

With a twinkle in his eye the Spaniard made answer, "What you really said was, 'I throw my heels at your head.'"

But the king had not betrayed by so much as the fluttering of an eyelid that anything unusual had occurred.—Harper's Magazine.

No Fixation In Space.
 The common idea as to the path of the earth being "fixed in space" is taken exception to by astronomers on the ground that there are few if any things in the domain of astronomy that can really be called fixed space, that fact being that unceasing changes are going on, though these changes are generally so slow as to escape the notice of a superficial observer, but are fortunately periodic, so that they fall within the possibility of computation. Thus the earth's path is not fixed, since the ecliptic undergoes a very slow change, so that, while at present it is a few seconds more than 23 degrees 27 minutes, in about 15,000 years, astronomers calculate, it will be reduced to 22 degrees 15 minutes, after which it will begin to increase again, a change so slow and within such narrow limits that it can produce no sensible alteration in the seasons.—Kansas City Journal.

Even Up.
 While some Swiss militiamen were resting from their drill one of the men stepped from the ranks to light his cigar from that of the officer. The latter took this evidence of the "spirit of freedom" in good part, but said, "In the Prussian army you could not have done this, John."

"Right you are," was the prompt reply, "but in the Prussian army you could not be an officer."

Red Pipestone Quarry.
 Every one familiar with Longfellow's "Hiawatha" remembers the references to the famous red pipestone quarry, which is situated at the extreme eastern boundary of South Dakota. This is the only quarry of the kind known to exist on the American continent.

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Barcelona—Slower Madrid.

Barcelona is a great trading port, about on a level with Marseilles. It has grown very much within recent years. The Barcelonense consider themselves a model to all Spain in the matter of industry and in common sense, yet in this town, which is really a handsome place and rich, the head telegraph office is in the suburbs; there is only one branch office in town, and messages have to be sent from that by hand. The postoffice is well away from the port in a by-street. If you are there on business, you will find as likely as not that one clerk is in attendance out of an immense staff. He will probably be very polite, but he will put his hand to a pen or a bundle of letters as if he feared they would burn, and Barcelona is a model of smartness compared with Madrid.

One wonders what would happen to the dawdling officials one sees at these places if they were transported by some malignant fairy to St. Martin's-le-Grand. Madness would probably be their fate if they made an effort to meet the call. But then they would not. The hurry and drive would simply revolt their sense of what was due to a gentleman.—Pall Mall Magazine.

Mrs. Cleveland's Courtesy.

The following pretty story is told of Mrs. Grover Cleveland: At one of the public receptions given at the White House an old lady who was drawn up in the line that was pushing its way forward to shake hands with the president's wife dropped her handkerchief just before getting to Mrs. Cleveland. She was too old and rheumatic to stoop down and recover it, and those back of her in the line were too intent upon getting the one fleeting glimpse possible of the mistress of the White House to notice the old lady's loss, and the handkerchief was trampled upon roughly.

Just before the old lady reached her Mrs. Cleveland stepped out of her place and deftly picked up the handkerchief, tucked it in her dress and, taking her own fresh one, which was of the most delicate, dainty lace, smilingly handed it to the old lady with the sweet remark, "Please take mine, and when you get home send it back to me, will you?" And when the handkerchief came back to her Mrs. Cleveland returned that of the owner, freshly laundered, lying on the top of a beautiful box of rosebuds that came from the White House conservatory.

The First Teacups.

Even after tea was introduced into Europe and had come into general use teacups were scarce. At the same time coffee was introduced; but, apart from Constantinople, the first coffee cups in Europe date back only as far as 1645 in Venice, 1659 in Paris, 1652 in London and 1694 in Leipzig. From the first, however, the conventional oriental coffee cup, without stem or handle, was little used, and in Germany not at all. The Chinese teacup was used for tea, coffee and chocolate as well. Specimens of porcelain were undoubtedly introduced into Europe in the middle ages, yet not till the sixteenth century were cups imported from China in any great quantities, and even then it was as articles of vertu. Most of those found their way back into China again, as collecting porcelain is a lasting fad there, and high prices are paid for good specimens. The collection of Chinese porcelain, if only the genuine specimens are desired, requires immense study and knowledge, as the Chinese are skillful imitators and put numerous falsifications on the market.

Individual Odors.

Every human being has a specific odor of his own, according to A. Bæbe in the Archiv der Gesamten Physiologie, by which he can be recognized not merely by dogs but by persons with sensitive organs of smell. The case is mentioned of a man who blindfolded could pick out each individual in a company of 20 by his odor.

The smell is not born with us, but develops gradually till the age of puberty, after which it remains unchanged. Members of a family have a kind of common odor, which persists even when they have lived apart for a long time.

Nicely Caught.

A few evenings ago a gentleman stepped from a train at one of the London stations, and a young lady skipped up to him, threw her arms rapturously about his neck and kissed him many times, saying:
 "Oh, papa, I'm so glad you have come!"

Siberian Prisoners.

The Rev. Dr. Lansdell publicly stated, after a thorough visit to Siberia, that should he ever have to change from clerical to courtier life, he would choose Siberia and not Millbank or any other English prison, as the scene of labor. I have no hesitancy to say that personally I prefer prison life in Siberia to Sing Sing, and to set the stamp of my approval upon the prison, following the kindly invitations of the chief of police, I was about to transfer my baggage from the hotel of the rich Chiu-man to the jail. However, though the prison tempted me by its superior comfort, better food and bath, I had to give up the project. Interesting things were to be seen in the town and upon the great river every minute of the day, so I remained with Tai Phoo-Tai, only raising the prison for my tab every day. As upon my first visit I was always allowed to walk about the place and visit all the prisoners, and I saw nothing to change my opinion of the cleanliness and the humane condition under which they lived.—Stephen Borsal in Harper's Magazine.

A Marvellous Time Measurer.

As illustrating the triumphs of modern science in the construction of instruments of precision The Scientific American instances a chronograph for recording infinitesimal intervals of time, such as a millionth of a second or less, which is stated to have been used to record photographically the compression by a blow of a cylindrical piece of copper. In one case a 33 pound weight fell 15 inches and produced a permanent compression of .1658 inch in a copper cylinder, the time consumed in producing this compression being .008917 of a second. The machine produces by means of photography a curve showing the precise progress of this compression. The chronograph which reaches such remarkable results consists of a rotating cylinder, with a surface velocity of 100 feet a second, on which is photographed a pencil of light, which is passed through a hole in the end of a rapidly vibrating tuning fork. The delicacy of this instrument is far greater than that of the ordinary tuning fork chronograph recording on a surface blackened by smoke.

Hotel Clocks Always Truthful.

"When I am traveling, I never put the slightest confidence in a household clock," writes Robert J. Burdette of "Tongueless Liars," in The Ladies' Home Journal. "A hotel clock I can depend upon. There are too many watches in a hotel—good watches, watches whose absolute correctness means money to the commercial men who regulate the traveling life of this country. A lying clock would be spotted in a quarter of a second, and the unhappy clerk accursed with pitiless sarcasms therefor. In the course of my wanderings up and down this part of the globe I missed a few trains and lecture engagements by depending upon clocks in the homes of my friends. Having thus paid for my lesson, \$15,000 or \$20,000, I think, by my own computation of the value of my lectures (set about a little bit, you know, it may be a trifle fast. I haven't time to look up the exact figures.) I withdrew all my trust from mantel clocks, especially the highly ornamented marble and gilt variety with silver bells or cathedral chiming."

Nicely Caught.

A few evenings ago a gentleman stepped from a train at one of the London stations, and a young lady skipped up to him, threw her arms rapturously about his neck and kissed him many times, saying:
 "Oh, papa, I'm so glad you have come!"

The old gentleman threw both arms around her and held her firmly to his breast.

"Ob, my, you're not my papa!" she said, trying to free herself from his embrace.
 "Yes, I am," insisted the old gentleman, holding her tightly. "You are my long lost daughter, and I am going to keep you in my arms till I get a policeman."
 When the officer came, he found the old gentleman's diamond pin in the girl's hand.—Pearson's Weekly.