

## GOOD Short Stories

A short-sighted woman, who was acquainted with twin brothers, one of whom was a clergyman and the other a doctor, congratulated the latter on his admirable sermon. "Excuse me, madam," was his reply, "over there is my brother, who preaches; I only practice."

A lady of Cape Town, on meeting De Wet for the first time, cried: "Oh! general, I am so pleased to meet you— or should I?" she added, naively, "address you as ex-general, as the English have it?" "Ex-general will do, madam. You see I am a Britisher now, and as the English are so fond of prefixes and affixes to their names, I must be one of them. I am ex-general today. Who knows, some day I may be excellency?" And De Wet is said to have laughed at his own audacity.

George William Curtis, one of the most popular lecturers, once went to a village in the State of New York. In view of party differences, they begged him not to talk on politics. He had nothing in readiness except a lecture on Thackeray. Nobody in the audience had read any of his novels. Curtis's allusions and criticisms fell upon the void. At the close of the lecture, the chief personage came to greet him. "Mr. Curtis," said the schoolmaster, "you must bring about an agreement among us on one point. For a week we have been disputing over Longfellow whether he is dead or isn't dead." "I dined with him," answered Curtis, "a fortnight ago." "Ah," said the schoolmaster, "visibly disappointed; then presently: "Anyhow, I'm sure somebody is dead."

The late James Tissot, who won fame as an illustrator of the "Life of Christ," had an unfortunate experience in London when he went there after the Franco-German war. He fought in the ranks, but after the Communards started up in Paris, he was startled to find that an accusation of being a Communist was being brought against him. It was another Tissot, who was in the Communards, but he thought it wiser to leave the country than to try to explain matters, since very often no time was given for explanations. His reputation as a Communist, however, clung to him after he had reached London, and began to flatter his hosts by painting like an Englishman. When the mistake was recognized, a number of "high personages," who had avoided him like the pest, visited his studio and made much of him.

### DUSTY OLD MISSISSIPPI

Theory as to a Concomitant of Travel on Father of Waters.

"The Mississippi River is the dustiest road in the whole country," said a man who travels on the river a great deal, "and if you don't believe it put on a white shirt some time and make a cruise up the river a few hundred miles. Really, no thoughtful man would be stupid enough to question the statement if he had ever had any experience on the river.

"I was reading an article some time ago about the dust on the sea and on the description given of the fine, dry sediment which falls from the damp mist of the sea. I am inclined to think that the deposit is not in it with the dust of the Mississippi. The water of the river is charged with fine particles. The heavy particles in the water do not leave the surface except to sink at some point where an obstruction diverts the current and causes a temporary pool. It is in this condition which forms the immense bars or sand banks, which we find along the river. These formations are due altogether to the resistance encountered by the currents of the river. Mind you, the heavier particles of the river figure in these formations. The lighter particles, and the kind I have in mind at this time, form a sort of river dust which is wafted here and there by the winds which sweep the stream.

"I have heard a great many men advance the idea that this dust was blown from the sand bars and banks of the river during the dry season. But there is nothing in this claim which will explain satisfactorily the constant settling of dust on the boats plying the Mississippi. It blows into the cabin, settles on the deck and other exposed portions of the boat, and is just like any other kind of dust which one may find in an ordinary room during a dry season. There is this difference, that it is possibly not so dry, and hence has a greater cohesive power. It sticks to the things it falls on. I have been traveling on the river for a quarter of a century in the lower trade, and I have paid considerable attention to this question of river dust, and it is really a very interesting subject, and one which will receive more attention. It may be pure or impure. In my judgment no kind of dust can be very pure. How this dust gets out of the river I cannot say, but since no scientist has explained the matter or set up a standard of judgment in this respect, I have a right to my opinion on the subject.

"There are, in my judgment, two ways of getting the fine particles out of the water. They may rise with the mist of the morning, and when the sun dries and dissipates the mist these fine particles become the sport of the winds and are blown hither and thither. Or it may be that the influence of the sun on the surface of the water will sufficiently dry and bake these finer particles to make them an easy prey to the winds. The wind which constantly sweeps the surface of the river would brush them from the water and waft them with the direction of the wind. I do not pretend to say that this is exactly what happens, but it seems to me to be a reasonable explanation of the existence of the strange phenomena we call river dust.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

### DEATH TRAPS OF INSECTS.

Perils to Which Creatures that Fly and Crawl Are Subject.

The life of insects is beset with many perils, and the chances that they will live to "a green old age" are ex-

### CHANGING A RAILROAD'S NAME.

It Involves a Tremendous Amount of Labor, Painters and Printers.

John Rattenburg, master painter of the Rock Island system, is in Denver for a novel purpose. He is entering upon the work of changing the name of the "Great Rock Island Route" to "The Rock Island System," over the entire property of that company. At first glance such an undertaking would not seem so very great, but only a moment's thought is necessary to see that it will take a long time to accomplish the object and that the cost will be up in the thousands.

When the railroad consisted of only 180 miles of ill-laid track, all running in one State, the name of "The Rock Island Route" was adopted and for many years served its purpose, bringing fame to the little terminal point which is now only a station on the great system. But when that road grew into a powerful organization, with 7,000 miles of track, the name was not comprehensively enough, and a few weeks ago the edict went forth that hereafter "The Rock Island System" would replace the old trade-mark.

This little order meant that every piece of stationery in hundreds of offices, window signs, literature, advertising matter, box car names, and dozens of other accessories of the system would have to undergo a change as soon as possible. The master painter has only a part of the work to do. He must transform the name on the windows and doors of the offices and on signs at stations and on the billboards.

The corporate trade-mark is made of embossed and stamped lines which have recently come under the domination of the Rock Island, and the change was made much of a necessity by the manifold names which could be so much more easily used under one title.—Denver Post.



### English Tailors Can Tell Americans at Sight.

There is no mistaking the American when he wears the clothes he brought with him. He almost always wears a jacket of the lounge type, which somehow seems cut with the special object of making him appear to have very round and uncommonly fat shoulders. The jacket hangs away at the waist, and this, together with his singular fondness for straw hats, which, both in shape and texture, suggest the idea of a carving from a corncob, gives a dumpyness to the figure which is still further accentuated by the closeness of the fit in the trousers legs.

The Frenchman favors fancy vests of wonderful elaboration. He wears a frock coat with short skirts and is fond of a lot of trimming on the collar and lapel. The coat grips at the waist like a belt, and the skirt springs out like an infant crinoline over the baggiest part of his very baggy trousers, which, by the way, come in suddenly at the foot and look not unlike knickerbockers which have been left growing too long and have reached to the ankle instead of to the knee. His hat is usually a silk one, but it is flat-brimmed and of a pyramidal shape, such as is traditional in supposed to have been worn by Welshwomen and Irish gentlemen of the Kyle Daly and Hardress O'Connell period. He also wears an extraordinary ample black silk tie, which of itself would be a sufficiently distinguishing feature.

The Germans are more bulky as regards physique than most of the continentals, and carry themselves with an uprightnes which suggests military training. They are broad of shoulder and deep of chest, and they favor the morning coat suit which English tailors, if they are wise, recommend to those of their customers who are stoutly made. The cut of their clothes follows English lines; in fact, were it not for the prevalence of Prussian blue as the dominant color of the material it would be difficult to say in what respect any decided marks of distinction could be found.

The Danes and Swedes are fond of blue cloth, and in most of their suits the evidence of real good, old-fashioned tailoring is noticeable. Their garments appear to be mostly hand-sewn, and, though the cutting in most cases is indifferent, it is easy to understand when looking at the garments how it is that so many of the West-end workshoppers, especially in the ladies' trades, employ workmen who learned their tailoring in Denmark and the adjacent peninsula.—London Tailor and Cutter.

### There is a considerable trade in live quails from Messina, Sicily, to England. The birds are caught in the neighborhood of the port. They are kept from three to four days in Messina in cages before being shipped, are fed on hemp seed and ground corn and are watered freely every day. It is estimated that from 90,000 to 100,000 are caught annually. The manner in which they are caught is with running nooses and traps, and in Messina they fetch from 8 to 10 cents a head. The birds are shipped in cages from Messina to Genoa, whence they are sent by rail to England. A recent writer, describing a pet parrot, says: "He was, like all good parrots, a wonderful mimic, and among other diversions he used to imitate to perfection the voice and tone of my wife calling to the cook. This led one day to an unexpected result. My wife, in the middle of writing a letter, suddenly remembered an order that she had omitted to give, and since, as usual on a hot day, the communicating doors were open, she called, without moving from her chair, 'Elizabeth!' To which came the startling answer from the cook: 'Shut up, you old fool!' Whereupon the parrot danced with joy." The ornithorhynchus, or duck-billed platypus, combines the attributes of two of the great orders of the animal world—those of the mammalia and aves. Like the bird, it hatches its young from the egg. At the same time the female is provided with teats, like other viviparous animals, whereby she is enabled to suckle her young when the latter have arrived at sufficient maturity, for which purpose the tongue of the infant platypus is pushed to the front of the beak. As it is an inhabitant of Australasia, it is not surprising that an examination of the skeleton reveals the presence of two short bones, which in the higher organized mammals serve to support the pouch. The duck-bill is purely nocturnal in its habits and is provided with cheek-pouches wherein to store its food for consumption at leisure. Its general color is dark brown, shading to light brown on the abdomen, and the fore feet are webbed beyond the claws, which web the animal folds back when burrowing, at which it is most expert. The hind legs of the male are armed with a spur, which is perforated and connected with a poisonous gland. The beak—which, of course, is the most extraordinary feature of this creature—is after death like a piece of old leather, but in life is very sensitive and reddish at the tip. It is furnished, in lieu of teeth, with four transverse plates, with which the animal crushes the small mollusks forming the main portion of its diet.

### Physicians in Peru.

Some of the young medicals of this city who have just graduated might get rich in a hurry by setting up in business in Peru or some other of the South American countries. United States Consul Charles V. Herdlika, of Callao, Peru, has just written a letter to the State Department in which he states that the people, both of that country and Bolivia, "have great faith in American physicians and surgeons on account of the advanced state of medical science in this country."

He also states that the American physicians now in Lima and Callao are doing far better than they could possibly expect at home, and that "before a physician can enter upon the practice of his profession in Peru he must pass a state examination upon medicine, conducted in the Spanish language.

### Cause of Steam-Pipe Explosions.

Many steam pipe explosions are due to water hammer action. A plug of water only six inches long propelled only two feet under a pressure of fifteen pounds can exert a pressure of 8,400 pounds on being suddenly stopped.

South Africa of Volcanic Origin.

South Africa is of volcanic origin, and the land in the vicinity of Kimberley is so sulphurous that even ants cannot exist upon it.

When you look at some people the first thing you think of is a club.

### THIS ELEPHANT IS NOT REAL.

Here is a "freak" photograph. At first glance one would suppose that it was a picture of a young lady riding on a baby elephant.

But it is not a real elephant. It is a mere silhouette cut out of boards and is intended for an advertisement, a sign being painted on it. The laprobe of a carriage is thrown over the sign to conceal it, and the young lady is managing herself with difficulty on the sharp edge of the elephant's back—for all that, she looks comfortable.

The photograph was taken in the outskirts of the City of Washington, the elephant being set up by the roadside.

A Convenient Deafness.

Mrs. Hall was just wishing she had some one to send down town after a spool of silk with which to finish her sewing, when her neighbor's little six-year-old boy came in.

"Well, Bobbie," said Mrs. Hall, "if I pay you 3 cents will you go down to Stone's and get me a spool of silk?"

Robert was very willing to go and waited while Mrs. Hall wrote the number and color of the silk she wanted, and as she handed him the slip Bobbie said:

"Mrs. Hall, I guess I must be a little hard of hearing, but did you say 4 cents?"—Little Chronicle.

### Aluminum as a Substitute for Paper.

It is stated that experiments with aluminum as a substitute for paper are now under way in France. It is now possible to roll aluminum into sheets four-thousandths of an inch in thickness, in which form it weighs less than paper. By the adoption of suitable machinery these sheets can be made even thinner and can be used for book and writing paper. The metal will not oxidize, is practically fire and water proof, and is indestructible by worms.

Like Paps.

"I saw Klumney's baby yesterday. It's a regular chip off the old block."

"Why, I couldn't see any resemblance at all."

"No? Well, when I saw the kid it had just opened its mouth and put its foot in it."—Philadelphia Press.

A wife can read her husband's mind all right. The difficulty is in getting him to acknowledge that she reads him right.

### LONG TRIBE OF ESKIMOS

There has been discovered upon one of the islands of the Hudson Bay, the remnant of a lost tribe of Eskimos, a community which has been for centuries without intercourse with any other representatives of the human species, and whose members never, until quite recently, had an opportunity of seeing a white man. The facts of the discovery are well established, having been reported to the Federal authorities at Ottawa by the Rev. A. W. Buckland. Mr. Buckland says that these strange people will virtually live in the stone age, knowing no metals. Their habitations are built entirely of the skulls of whales.

The home of the tribe is upon Southampton Island, a piece of water-logged land nearly as large as the State of Maine, lying at the extreme north end of Hudson Bay. These people or their ancestors have undoubtedly inhabited the island ever since pre-Columbian days, and at the present time they exist exactly as they must have done then. Having been isolated for so long a period it is natural that they should possess many peculiarities. A very remarkable collection of their utensils, weapons of the chase, and other objects, was secured by Mr. Buckland, but, to the great regret of the Canadian authorities, it was allowed by him to pass into the hands of private persons.

The huts on the island are built by putting together the great jaws of whales, and then covering them with skins. In the middle of the primitive dwellings is a slight elevation, on which stands the stone lamp, employed for lighting, heating, cooking, and melting snow and drying clothes. This lamp is nothing more than an open dish of whale oil, with a wick of dry moss soaked in fat.

The whale is the chief means of subsistence of these poor people. They use the bone for many purposes, making plates and cups and toboggan-like sleds. They also manufacture sledges of walrus tusks, with deer antlers for crosspieces. The members speak a dialect peculiar to themselves and they are the most daring of hunters. There are more than sixteen members of the tribe now surviving.

Mr. Buckland agrees with the explorers who believe the story that Andree was murdered by the Eskimos. He has lived for years with these people in their tents, and can not say too much for the kindness of disposition and readiness to assist strangers. He explains the finding by them of instruments and other property by the hypothesis that they belonged to the Tyrell brothers, who in 1894, nearly lost their lives near Marble Island, Hudson Bay, and left many valuable articles behind, including their cameras, plates, etc.

Mr. Buckland is confident that Andree will never again be heard from. When he was asked by the Norwegian government last year to undertake a search for him, he declined, believing that to do so would simply mean a waste of time and money.—New York Sun.

### Anything But Funny.

Myer—The average man takes life much too seriously.

Gyer—Oh, I don't know. It's no joke to be arrested for murder.

Millions of sufferers use Hamlin's Wild Oil for pain every year and call it blessed. Ask your druggist, he knows.

Giving Papa Away.

"Mamma," said 5-year-old Tommy. "I'll bet my pony can beat you."

"Why, dear, what do you mean?" asked the astonished mother.

"I mean in a race," replied the youngster. "I heard papa say that you could talk faster than a horse can trot."

Eats Corn Off the Cob.

"I can bite an apple as well as I could when a child, and I can eat corn off the cob as well as any person alive," said a lady sixty-eight years old and a customer of Wise Bros., the famous dentists, of Portland, Oregon.

She had been fitted with full sets of upper and lower teeth by Wise Brothers, and was perfectly astonished to find that she is now as well supplied with teeth that she can use as she was when a little girl. Wise Brothers have revolutionized modern dental methods. There is no more pain to be feared by people who have their teeth attended to, and the cost is very moderate. They make a great specialty of crown and bridge work, and even when it is necessary to take out all of the old teeth and put in full new sets, the result is simply wonderful. The false teeth, of course, cannot be told from natural ones, and the person using them can do everything he, or she, could do with natural teeth. The sets of teeth are made to fit the gums perfectly that there is no slipping, and the strength of the possible bite is just like that of a natural healthy set of teeth.

The experience of the lady customer here related can be yours if your teeth need attention. No one can afford to postpone having their teeth put in order. No one need suffer a single day longer because they have lost the use of their own teeth. We hope our readers will carefully watch the advertisements of Wise Brothers in this newspaper, and be persuaded to consult this splendid dental institution.

A Natural Question.

"At your age I never told stories," said Myron Loffingwell to the youthful one who had been "yarning" as is a way sometimes with imaginative youngsters.

"At what age did you begin, papa?" was the disconcerting answer.—New York Times.

### How the Miracle Occurred.

"Why did the evil spirits enter into the swine?" asked the Sunday school teacher.

"Cause hogs will eat any old thing," replied little Sammy.

Must Forget One.

Flannigan—"Phat's the matter wid Hogan these days?"

Hooligan—"He invented an armor that nothing can pierce, and a shell that will pierce any armor, and he doesn't know which to fertig.—New York Times.

Shoes Wouldn't Fit.

Clerk—So you want to exchange these shoes because they aren't mates?"

Mrs. Hogan—O! do. Firted Oi put wan on me left foot an' threw it on the roight; an' an' thin Oi put wan on me roight foot, an' Oi wor made for the left.

### The Truth Will Out.

The Parson (to stranger)—This is the first time I have had the pleasure of seeing you at our church. Where is your regular place of worship, may I ask.

Young Man—Why, er—at her father's house, to be sure.

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### OLD PEOPLE

Do not always receive the sympathy and attention which they deserve. Their ailments are regarded as purely imaginary, or natural and unavoidable at their time of life. Disease and infirmity should not always be associated with old age. The eye of the gray haired grandiree may be as bright and the complexion as fair as any of his younger and more vigorous companions.

Good Blood is the secret of healthy old age, for it regulates and controls every part of the body, strengthens the nerves, makes the muscles elastic and supple, the bones strong and the flesh firm; but when this life fluid is polluted or poisoned and loses its nutritive, health sustaining elements, then there is a rapid decline of the vital powers, resulting in premature old age and disease. Any derangement of the blood quickly shows itself in an ulcer, sore, wart, tumor or some other troublesome growth upon the body, and rheumatic and neuralgic pains become almost constant, accompanied with poor digestion and cold extremities.

S. S. S. being purely vegetable, is the safest and best blood purifier for old people. It does not shock or hurt the system like the strong mineral remedies, but gently and thoroughly cleanses the blood and stimulates the debilitated organs, when all bodily ailments disappear. S. S. S. is just such a tonic as old people need to improve a weak digestion and tone up the stomach. If there is any hereditary taint, or the remains of some disease contracted in early life, S. S. S. will search it out and remove every vestige of it from the system.

Write us fully about your case and let our physicians advise and help you. This will cost you nothing, and we will mail free our book on blood and skin diseases.

THE SWIFT SPECIFIC COMPANY, Atlanta, Ga.

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CURE YOUR HORSE OF COUGH, COLIC, AND DISTRESS.

It is a sure cure for all ailments from which horses suffer. CURED 34 HORSES.

Have been using Russian Horse of Heaven for the past eight months and in that time have cured 34 horses of Cough, Colic, Distress, etc. The Russian Remedies have gained a great reputation in this section. Send for full particulars, New York, N. Y. Write for a full copy of the Russian Horse of Heaven, and you will be able to cure your horse of all ailments.

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PORTLAND SEED CO., Portland, Ore., Coast Agents.

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Castoria is a harmless substitute for Castor Oil, Paregoric, Drops and Soothing Syrups. It is Pleasant. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other Narcotic substance. Its age is its guarantee. It destroys Worms and allays Feverishness. It cures Diarrhoea and Wind Colic. It Relieves Teething Troubles, cures Constipation and Flatulency. It assimilates the Food, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, giving healthy and natural sleep. The Children's Panacea—The Mother's Friend.

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"I have used Ayer's Hair Vigor for a great many years, and although I am past eighty years of age, yet I have not a gray hair in my head."

Geo. Yellott, Towson, Md.

We mean all that rich, dark color your hair used to have. If it's gray now, no matter; for Ayer's Hair Vigor always restores color to gray hair. Sometimes it makes the hair grow very heavy and long; and it stops falling of the hair, too.

\$1.00 a bottle. All druggists.

If your druggist cannot supply you, send us one dollar and we will express to you a bottle. Be sure and give the name of your nearest express office. Address, J. C. AYER CO., Lowell, Mass.

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Write Allen S. Olmsted, LeRoy, N. Y., for a free sample of Allen's Foot Ease. It cures chilblains, sweating, damp, swollen, itching feet. It makes new or tight shoes comfortable. It is a cure for Corns and Bunions. All druggists sell it. 25c. Don't accept any substitute.

His Choice Jury.

Lawyer Brief—I see that case of yours is on. Jury drawn yet?

Lawyer Skinner—Yes, and it's a splendid one.

Lawyer Brief—Above the average in intelligence, eh?

Lawyer Skinner—No; way below it.

False Economy.

It is the experience of every good housewife that to practice economy, as in such articles as spices, baking powder and the like is generally at the risk of health and comfort. The few cents possibly saved may be very expensive if they result in impure and indigestible foods. If you want to be sure you are getting only the very purest and strongest spices and baking powder made, see to it that your grocer supplies you only with the Monopole brand. If your dealer doesn't handle them send us his name. Wadhams & Kerr Bros., Portland, Or.

Preference.

"You say that young woman complimented my singing?" he exclaimed, anxiously.

"In a way," the young woman replied. "She said she would rather hear you try to sing than try to converse."—Washington Star.

Tennysoman.

"Why do you call your neighbor's pig 'Maude'?"

"Because it always comes into the garden."

Mothers will find Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup the best remedy to use for their children during the teething period.

Somewhat Uncertain.

"He's what you'd call a professional public speaker, isn't he?"

"Well, I don't know. He speaks in public every chance he can get, but the public never waits to hear him."

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Foot of Morrison Street.

Can give you the best bargains in Rollers and Engines, Windmills, Pumps and General Machinery. Wood Sawing Machines a specialty. See us before buying.

TWO PER CENT DIVIDEND.

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This wonderful Chinese doctor is called great because he cures people without operating. He has cured thousands of cases of cholera, dysentery, cholera morbus, influenza, whooping cough, pertussis, pneumonia, tuberculosis, consumption, and many other ailments. His medicine is made of natural herbs, roots, barks, and vegetables that are entirely natural. Known to medical science since 1890, his medicine is the most successful remedy in the world. He has cured thousands of cases in different countries. He guarantees to cure cholera, cholera morbus, influenza, whooping cough, pertussis, pneumonia, tuberculosis, consumption, and many other ailments. Call and see him. Patients out of the city write for blanks and circulars. Send a check in payment. CONSULTATION FREE. ADDRESS

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