

IMPATIENT CREDITORS.

Some of the Schemes Adopted to Secure the Payment of Bad Debts.

The problem of collecting "bad debts" is one of ever-increasing perplexity; and numerous are the devices suggested and tried to that end. Associations in almost every branch of trade and business have been formed for the purpose of circumventing the "beat" who buys without intending to pay, and of reaching him when by any chance he has succeeded in his design. But the "beat" still flourishes at the cost of the butcher, the baker and candlestick-maker, to say nothing of the grocer, the tailor and the hotel-keeper. "Black list" and "confidential circular" are alike futile; and when the army of "beats" is supplemented by the army of unfortunates who would pay if they could, but can not, the array of bad debts reaches colossal proportions.

One of the newest devices of forcing collections is the attacking of the delinquent through the post-office. The patience of creditors and collector having failed, the debtor receives some morning through the mail his bill inclosed in an envelope whereon is inscribed in large letters the legend: "Bad Debts." At the same time he is apprised that unless his particular bad debt is liquidated his bill will continue to seek him out with just such an envelope until it is paid.

In certain cases, no doubt, this method is as effective as its inventors and users claim. Some bad debtors can unquestionably be shamed by such a proceeding into paying a debt which they would otherwise permit to outlaw. We doubt, however, very much, however, if the method is efficacious enough in the long run or with the mass of bad debtors to justify the resort to it. The true "beat" can not be shamed in any such fashion. On the contrary he will regard himself upon the reception of a "Bad Debt" missive as a martyr, and hold himself justified thereafter in refusing payment if he has never before attempted justification. With the "slow" man or the unfortunate the process will be equally barren of results. The former, if in passable credit, will be angered and abandon, if he ever entertained it, the intent to pay. The latter will be hurt, perhaps, but he will not be made any more capable of payment.

There is risk, too, in the resort to this method of attempting to collect "bad debts." The sending of such an envelope as we have described is a direct attack on the credit of the person to whom it is addressed, and unquestionably libelous. If the recipient has any credit at all and is injured therein, he can secure damages from the sender if not from the creditor who authorizes collection in such fashion. There would be no risk, of course, if all bad debtors were "beats"; but such, as we have already pointed out, is not the fact. It very often happens that the non-payment of a bill is due to a dispute as to the amount or as to the fact of indebtedness. A "bad-debt" envelope, out of which it is inflated a law-suit may grow, was brought in yesterday in which there is a difference of two dollars between creditor and debtor. The former claims there is four dollars due. The latter admits that there is two which he honestly means to pay—or did mean to pay before his credit was attacked in the manner described. The sum is too small for litigation, but it is easy to see that in such a case—and there are many of them—the creditor or his collector could not well do a more unwise thing than to inclose his bill in a libelous envelope.

Creditors will, nevertheless, run the risk of this scheme or any other which gives the faintest promise of securing bad debts. But by and by, perhaps, they will learn that the true method of dealing with bad debts is not to have any. If our credit system were not grossly abused in the frantic rush to do business and make sales, there would be no bad debts worth scheming to collect.—*Detroit Free Press.*

A Clear Definition.

Omaha Boy (in New York)—What are all these men rushing into that place for?

New York Boy—That's a bucket-shop.

"What's that?"

"They buy and sell stocks there on margins, same as they do in the exchange."

"Oh! It's another exchange, eh?"

"No, it's a bucket-shop."

"Well, how do they tell the difference?"

"Why, one is in a great big building and the other in a little bit of a one."

—*Omaha World.*

No Cause for Worry.

"How is my boy getting on?" inquired an anxious father of the principal of a boarding-school.

"Wonderfully, wonderfully," replied the pompous pedagogue. "He is making rapid strides in every thing but penmanship. I'm sorry to say he's the worst writer in the school."

"Pshaw!" returned the father, "don't trouble yourself on that account. I intend to make a doctor of him."

—*Judge.*

—A plant has been discovered in India which is said to destroy the power of tasting sugar. It will be useful in counteracting a morbid appetite for sweets, which is an active promoter of indigestion. Another plant found in Madras destroys the relish for cigars and tobacco. Thus two important curatives are added to the materia medica.—*Boston Budget.*

THE DYING JUGGERNAUT.

Coolies Hired to Draw the Car Once Drawn by Female Devotees.

The announcement that the once-famous festival of Juggernaut has so declined in popularity as to render it necessary for the priests to hire coolies to drag the car is a measure of the extent to which the destructive solvent of Western thought is being applied to Western creeds. The car of the great god of Pooree was one of the most sacred of Brahmanic "properties" and the rath jatra, a festival which, in importance, yielded to that of no other duty in the Hindoo Pantheon. From every part of the vast empire of Hindostan pilgrims flocked to share in it, and when the car of Juggernaut was dragged once a year from the temple in order to bathe the gods in the cool water of the tank a mile and a half distant the wildest enthusiasm seized the vast multitude of devotees. Thousands rushed to seize the cables, and so eager were the volunteers for this holy service that the best and greatest men of Orissa struggled with each other to obtain a hold upon the ropes. To use the language of an old writer who witnessed the rath jatra in its palmy days, "they are so greedy and eager to draw it that whosoever, by shouldering, crowding, shoving, heaving, thrusting, or in any insolent way, can but lay a hand upon the rope, they think themselves blessed and happy. And when it is going along the city there are many that will offer themselves as a sacrifice to the idol, and desperately lie down on the ground that the chariot wheels may run over them, whereby they are killed outright. Some get broken arms, some broken legs, so that many are destroyed, and think to merit Heaven."

At even a later date martyrs to Juggernaut, or Jagganna'th, as he is more correctly termed, were not infrequent. When Francis Buchanan was in Pooree early in this century, he describes the harsh grating of the gigantic car as it moved along, the obscene songs of the priests in honor of the god, and the fire-glances which the fanatics bestowed on the beef-eating Englishmen, as a pilgrim announced himself ready to become a sacrifice to the idol. No one daring or caring to prevent the self-immolation, the man prostrated himself in the road before the tower as it moved along, lying on his face with his arms stretched forward. The multitude passed around him, leaving the space clear, until he was crushed to death by the wheels of the ponderous structure. Then a wild cry of praise was raised, and as the god was seen to "smile," at the libation of spouting blood, the devotees threw cowries and pieces of money on the body of the victim in approbation of his holy deed.

It is, therefore, suggestive of a strange revolution in Hindoo opinion to hear that not only are victims lacking, but that instead of thousands struggling for the honor of a place at the drapades, laboring men, at so many annas per diem, have to be hired to perform the sacred function. The awe of the Indian people for "the Lord of the world" has been declining. For many years past the fame of the great god of Orissa has been on the wane, and the time when a human sacrifice was deliberately offered up to the hideous idol is fast getting beyond the power of the very oldest of old Indians to recall. Admitting that the number of devotees this year is smaller, owing to the loss of two pilgrim ships—and the prophecy that a third will be wrecked before the year is out—it is undeniable that Jagganna'th is doomed, and the wealth which it brought to the priests and the townspeople of Pooree is likely to vanish before many years elapse. Sometimes a poor decrepit wretch, weary of life, or dragged by the priests with Indian hemp or opium, will wildly throw himself in front of the wheels, though he is usually dragged out by the police, who have orders to prevent any attempts at suicide. Sadder abasement of all, from the standpoint of Brahmanism, it happened a few years ago, for the first time in history, that to the horror and chagrin of the priests, the car of Jagganna'th stood still in the streets of Pooree, while the pilgrims looked on in impious apathy. Yet no harm befell them, although a subsequent famine has been attributed to their sacrilegious carelessness. However, the result has been, that though worshippers still come to Pooree, they just as frequently prefer to save themselves the trouble of hauling the gods, and, as happened on the present occasion, the priests afraid of the idols never reaching the tank, have contracts with irreverent coolies to perform the job for a stipulated number of rupees. Mortality there is, of course, still. The poor die for want of food, of disease, and of lack of proper accommodations. But there is no longer any need for interfering, for the wrong will soon right itself by Jagganna'th ceasing to "draw." The East, we fear, is already grown lax in its religious observances. The pilgrim takes a third-class circular ticket to the holy places. Infidel ship-owners issue passages to Djeddah, and a tourist contractor escorts the faithful over the forty miles between Mecca and the sea. The Egyptian dervishes are becoming extremely chary about making a payment of their persons for the Saadeeyeh Sheik to ride over, and now that the Indian exchequer is becoming the reduced returns from the "Jagganna'th trade," and coolies have to be hired to drag the car, we seem a long way from the time when Job Charneck, factor at Fort William, was converted to Hindooism, or when General Stewart encouraged a Brahman to perform daily worship among the idols in his bungalow.—*London Standard.*

THE BRUSH TURKEY.

The Unique Process of Hatching Adopted by This Intelligent Bird.

"All birds hatch their eggs." Zoology knows very few exceptions to this rule, and although old works on natural history states that the sun relieves the ostrich of this duty, it is now known that she attends to the work most conscientiously. Only the cuckoo succeeds in shirking this business entirely, leaving her little ones to the mercy of kind-hearted little singers. Besides this bird, we may mention the brush turkey as one which does not hatch its eggs, but it is more conscientious about the matter than the cuckoo. The brush turkey (*Talagallus lathami*) is a powerful bird, attaining a size of about thirty-one inches, and can be recognized by its powerful build, rather long neck, large head, sharp bent beak, strong feet, and short, rounded wings. The scarlet of the featherless neck and the yellow pouch dependent therefrom stand out in decided contrast to the brown plumage. The home of the brush turkey is in the thick forests of Australia. At mating time (in the spring) the male develops a surprising amount of activity and industry. He picks out a sheltered spot for a nest, and then goes to work to build a mound. With his strong feet he throws a quantity of leaves, fibers of wood, small twigs, dry grass, etc., into a heap behind him, and this forms the center of a large circle, the periphery of which soon appears perfectly clean; and a mound about a yard and a half high is built. While other birds go at once to their newly prepared homes and begin to lay their eggs, the brush turkey pursues an entirely different course. The wise creature waits several weeks until the fermentation and decomposition of the vegetable matter in the heap has generated a heat of about 104 deg. F., the temperature required for either natural or artificial hatching of eggs. It is wonderful to see with what certainty the birds determine upon the proper time. The male often mounts the nest to examine it, scrape off a little here and a little there, and then covers the places over again carefully. When he finds that the temperature of the mass is what it should be, he digs numerous holes about the axis of the mound, and in each one of these holes the female drops an egg with the blunt end up. After the male has closed these holes both birds go away, the male only returning from time to time to regulate the heat, covering the eggs more or less, according to the moisture and temperature of the atmosphere. After about three weeks the young are hatched. They are entirely covered with feathers, their wings are well developed, and they seem as strong as our domestic chickens. The whole process reminds one of the development of the butterfly, which is able to fly soon after leaving the chrysalis. After about twelve hours the young brush turkeys appear merry and active, wandering about with their parents, but in the afternoon they are buried in the nest again by their careful father. On the third day they are able to fly, and after that are perfectly independent. Their process of hatching has been repeatedly carried out by brush turkeys in captivity, as, for instance, in the Berlin Zoological Garden, when they formed the center of attraction for friends and students of zoology.—*Deutsche Illustrirte Zeitung.*

Heads to the North.

The superstition that human beings should sleep with their heads to the North is believed by the French to have for its foundation a scientific fact. They affirm that each human system is in itself an electric battery, the head being one of the electrodes, the feet the other. Their proof was discovered from experiments which the Academy of Sciences was allowed to make on the body of a man who was guillotined. This was taken the instant it fell and placed upon a pivot free to move as it might. The head part, after a little vacillation, turned to the north and the body then remained stationary. It was turned half way round by one of the professors, and again the head end of the trunk moved slowly to the cardinal point due North, the same results being repeated until the final arrestation of organic movement.—*Science.*

—At a recent seance in Rochester, N. Y., by a medium from Brooklyn, several written communications, purporting to come from the spirit world, were handed out from the cabinet. Six of the notes in which the chirography seemed to be the most dissimilar were submitted to experts in the matter of handwriting. Both of the experts agreed that not more than two persons wrote the notes, and one of them was inclined to think that all were written by the same hand. A pencil-drawing, purporting to be a portrait of J. an Angelow, represented her as a man.

—The Bronson library of Waterbury, Conn., has received a fifty dollar bank note on the once noted Eagle bank of New Haven. It has no intrinsic value, but would bring much more than it represents from collectors. The celebrated failure of the Eagle bank is still remembered by the older residents of New Haven.

—Brown—"How are you getting on with your patent fire escape, Smith?" Smith—"I won't be able to push it much until my leg gets better. But it's a big thing." Brown—"What's the matter with your leg?" Smith—"I broke it while testing the fire escape."—*N. Y. Sun.*

FANCIES IN FURNITURE.

Forms and Styles Most in Demand at the Present Time.

One of the most fanciful as well as novel designs for the electrolier is in representations of the pitcher plant.

The demand is continued for handsome mahogany furniture in Renaissance of richly carved decoration.

Butternut is a comparatively new adaptation for libraries. A very general fancy is shown for natural wood of every kind.

The most recent fancied form of toilet table is arranged with oval glass above, the whole being draped with English chintz.

A carved band in pierced design between moldings in either wood or gilt is a form of picture-frame decoration specially adapted to architectural subject.

An admired example of the Chippendale style, which is considerably in use, is in white mahogany suitably upholstered in satin damask, for a reception-room.

Hardly a better frame is provided for water colored pictures than that of simple molding covered with gold leaf leaving perfectly visible the grain of the wood.

The most elegant varieties in wall paper include one in silk which is formed by uniting this material to a paper background, after which the design is printed.

Suitable frames for pictures in black and white are of oak with possibly a light touch of bronze in the moldings, and showing a decoration of finely-carved work in the outer border.

A rather newly adopted form of upholstered couch is modeled from an East Indian style in cane, being formed with a downward curve at the center, with one end also more elevated than the other.

A general weariness from the want of variety in French design picture frames has led to independent activity in this production, and which is becoming in a large degree successful in results, the best example being of a high order.

Solid gold pieces are fancied for drawing-room in forms of cabinets, tables, easels, pedestals, screens and fancy chairs. These are in Renaissance style and of wondrous splendor. Other rich pieces in onyx and gilt are of elaborate forms.

Orange wood, resembling white mahogany, is used in elegant forms inlaid with ivory. The odor of the wood is pleasant, and the style becomes more exquisite with age from increasing harmony between the ivory tint and that of the yellowish wood.

The disposition to combine several styles is illustrated in a new set in satin wood, inlaid with amaranth, in which a French feature in the form of carved wreaths is introduced at the top, while something of the Adams style appears in the portion beneath.

Some handsome styles in white mahogany are distinguished by inlaid designs in amaranth, ebony and pearl. One especially elaborate example in chamber furniture in this wood, finished in the natural color, is adorned with wide bands of inlaid work in amaranth, ebony, satin, wood, brass and copper.

A fanciful style is represented by a table in white mahogany inlaid with copper; a border is formed with squares of tin metal, which is introduced in like form of different proportions in the central design, showing also forms of insects, here and there, with bodies and wings in mother of pearl tinted in various colors.

The electricism everywhere in practice is shown with one of the recent styles in white and gold of modified colonial design introducing spindles in reversed arrangement, the larger portion being uppermost, and with a band above bearing a form of ornament cut in and gilded, which is of somewhat gothic character.

New patterns in wall paper include one for a frieze in imitation of a looped curtain. This shows running borders of vines and dark green and yellow foliage, on a ground in French gray with a tinge of red, the ground of the wall paper being in sea green. A representation of a rod in bamboo is painted to aid the effect of suspended drapery.—*N. Y. Star.*

—Juan Panadero gives a very funny account of the performances of the Mexican Indians in Guadalajara on the 1st of September, the day on which the law compelling them to wear pantalons went into effect. The balconies were full of pretty girls, watching and laughing at the antics of the aguadores, cargadores, carboneros, etc., as they went about their respective duties. Some of the men got their pantalons on wrong side before, others did not know how to use the pockets, and others walked very awkwardly. The Indians have finally accepted the new order of things with great good humor, after the usual preliminary grumbling.

—The California Pioneer Society has a section of timber taken from the side of the Powhatan, including a portion of the skin, which is four inches thick, and a piece of the abutting knee, which is nine inches thick. Transversely through the whole a swordfish had dashed his sword, and the portion broken off is still embedded in the timber. The sword pierced through fourteen inches of solid oak, and the fish was going in the same direction as the vessel, which was under a good head of steam. An idea of the strength which must have been exerted can be obtained from the fact that a rifled six-pounder could not have done more than pierce that thickness of wood.

PEDDLERS OF COREA.

Some of the Singular Wares Which They Offer for Sale.

The peddlers of Corea sometimes bring their things in packs on coolies' backs, and sometimes they produce a bushel of bundles from the depths of their loose sleeves. After a boy had shown his choice lot of copper bowls one day he went up his sleeve and brought out a trained sparrow that he put through several tricks and slipped up his sleeve again when we refused to buy. Several brought quantities of hair for sale, and insisted upon unrolling the bundles of coarse, black queues that had been clipped from the heads of Corean boys. There is a great trade with China in these Corean locks that are used to piece-out queues. A large black bowl, inlaid with mother-of-pearl, was brought one day and gave occasion for many remarks about this wonderful wash-bowl being the only proof that any Corean had ever intended to wash himself; but it turned out that the bowl was used to hold the back hair of the palace ladies and singing girls, who wear tremendous chignons weighing fourteen and twenty pounds. Of the really good things that are brought for sale the best are small iron boxes, padlocks and small weapons inlaid with silver in some really fine designs, many of them so nearly Persian as to astonish connoisseurs, and others in a fine diaper and key pattern quite as foreign to this end of the world. As inlaid metal work it is crude and coarse compared to what other and very near nations can do. Disks of open-work bronze and iron are often brought hung full of coins strung on strings of colored silk. The coins and medals are curious in themselves, and they are regarded not only as charms and ornaments but as a proper way for a collector or to display his treasures. Of embroidery, either new or old, very little is seen that is good or curious, considering the near neighborhood of China and Japan. The peddlers often bring the square bits of embroidery worn on the front and back of the mandarin's palace clothes, but they are generally too frayed, faded and stained to be of any use. The plastron of a civil mandarin has two Corean stalks flying toward each other. Distinction as a Chinese scholar allows others to wear the storks, while a General sports a brace of most dangerous-looking white tigers embroidered on black silk, with a finish of conventional clouds and waves in brilliant colors. At weddings the bridegroom, however lowly in station may ride in an official chair, sit on an official leopard-skin near the royal red, and also embroider cranes on his gown. The bridegroom pushes the privilege to its limit then, and the plastron of cranes becomes a veritable apron of red satin covered with four six and eight cranes of different colors.—*St. Louis Globe-Democrat.*

—I asked a Crow buck how he got so many feathers when his bow was unequal to sending the light-feathered shafts to such a distance in the air. I was much surprised to hear the two methods adopted by the Absaraka tribe to capture the much-prized birds. First they hold an eagle dance. Then the braves go to the Big Horn mountains, proceed upward toward the summit until they arrive in the perpetual snow district and far above timber line, when each selects a spot and digs a pit, which he covers lightly with reeds and grass. A piece of rough meat—usually bear or mountain goat—is done up in a piece of rawhide and laid on the pit. Just at the dawn of day, as the sun is peering over the distant peaks, the eagles, who have all night long smelled the savory bait, swoop down upon the hides, which they proceed to tear with their talons and beaks. Meanwhile an Indian has concealed himself in each pit, and reaching up with his hand he seizes the bird of liberty and drags him down. Here the latter is quickly dispatched, when the brave warrior returns to his lodge, proud of his possessions and rejoicing in his skill. The other method is to go high enough up among the mountains above the aeries of the eagles, then it is an easy matter with bow and arrow to shoot downward, and usually with skillful results. The head-dress I saw must have contained over two hundred feathers all told. They were sewed or fastened with sinew threads to a long piece of elk skin which reached from the crown of the head to the feet and then trailed for eighteen or twenty inches, and at the end of this trail was fastened a buffalo bull's tail, which completed the full war-dress costume of this peculiar warrior when in a barbarous or half-savage mood. He looked harmless enough with his bow in his hand, but there is no telling what he would be capable of doing were a few Sioux to come around, or a raid be made from the north by his old-time enemies, the Blackfeet, Bloods and Piegans.

—There is a firm in Philadelphia which paints pictures by the yard. The work is simple. A piece of canvas nearly one hundred feet long is stretched in a gallery shaped like a corridor. On each picture, which, by the way, costs \$4.50, five men are employed. Each man has his particular line. One puts in the foreground, another does the clouds and cows that you see browsing in the pasture. A fourth man does the trees and shrubbery. In this way they are enabled to work fast. In exactly three hours five of these landscapes were finished, which is thirty minutes' time given to each. The fifth man does the finishing touches, and perhaps performs more and better work than any of the others.—*Public Opinion.*

—Some excavations proceeding in Pileadilly on the site of the new premises of the Junior Travelers' Club have brought to light many interesting objects. A series of subterranean passages, apparently connected, were discovered. These were full of foul gases and contained a vast quantity of rubbish, among which have been disclosed numerous articles of interest. Not the least interesting is a red granite tomb dated 1509, some bronze armor, several fowling-pieces, a richly embossed lamp, and a large quantity of vellum manuscripts. The vaults have been only partly explored and further discoveries are anticipated.

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THE CROW INDIANS.

How They Obtain the Gaudy Eagles' Feathers for Their Crests.

Writing of the Crow Indians of Montana a correspondent says: In one of these lodges I saw a most beautiful head-dress of eagle feathers, perhaps the handsomest it has ever been my good fortune to behold—and this brings me to the conclusion that an Indian always tries to accomplish one of two things—either to excite the admiration of the women or the fear of the men. This particular head-dress was made principally of the feathers of the bald and black eagles, who soar very high among the peaks of the Rocky mountains, and it is a very difficult matter, even with a fine-sighted bird, to kill these high-flying American rife, yet the Crows have captured them with arrows where the white man would have failed, although armed with the best of modern breech-loaders.

I asked a Crow buck how he got so many feathers when his bow was unequal to sending the light-feathered shafts to such a distance in the air. I was much surprised to hear the two methods adopted by the Absaraka tribe to capture the much-prized birds. First they hold an eagle dance. Then the braves go to the Big Horn mountains, proceed upward toward the summit until they arrive in the perpetual snow district and far above timber line, when each selects a spot and digs a pit, which he covers lightly with reeds and grass. A piece of rough meat—usually bear or mountain goat—is done up in a piece of rawhide and laid on the pit. Just at the dawn of day, as the sun is peering over the distant peaks, the eagles, who have all night long smelled the savory bait, swoop down upon the hides, which they proceed to tear with their talons and beaks. Meanwhile an Indian has concealed himself in each pit, and reaching up with his hand he seizes the bird of liberty and drags him down. Here the latter is quickly dispatched, when the brave warrior returns to his lodge, proud of his possessions and rejoicing in his skill. The other method is to go high enough up among the mountains above the aeries of the eagles, then it is an easy matter with bow and arrow to shoot downward, and usually with skillful results. The head-dress I saw must have contained over two hundred feathers all told. They were sewed or fastened with sinew threads to a long piece of elk skin which reached from the crown of the head to the feet and then trailed for eighteen or twenty inches, and at the end of this trail was fastened a buffalo bull's tail, which completed the full war-dress costume of this peculiar warrior when in a barbarous or half-savage mood. He looked harmless enough with his bow in his hand, but there is no telling what he would be capable of doing were a few Sioux to come around, or a raid be made from the north by his old-time enemies, the Blackfeet, Bloods and Piegans.

—There is a firm in Philadelphia which paints pictures by the yard. The work is simple. A piece of canvas nearly one hundred feet long is stretched in a gallery shaped like a corridor. On each picture, which, by the way, costs \$4.50, five men are employed. Each man has his particular line. One puts in the foreground, another does the clouds and cows that you see browsing in the pasture. A fourth man does the trees and shrubbery. In this way they are enabled to work fast. In exactly three hours five of these landscapes were finished, which is thirty minutes' time given to each. The fifth man does the finishing touches, and perhaps performs more and better work than any of the others.—*Public Opinion.*

—Some excavations proceeding in Pileadilly on the site of the new premises of the Junior Travelers' Club have brought to light many interesting objects. A series of subterranean passages, apparently connected, were discovered. These were full of foul gases and contained a vast quantity of rubbish, among which have been disclosed numerous articles of interest. Not the least interesting is a red granite tomb dated 1509, some bronze armor, several fowling-pieces, a richly embossed lamp, and a large quantity of vellum manuscripts. The vaults have been only partly explored and further discoveries are anticipated.

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