

THE OREGON SCOUT.

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SUNDAY IN BURMAH.

Worshippers and Spectators Around the Famous Pagoda at Rangoon.

Perhaps one of the most wonderful structures that the Orient can boast is the pagoda at Rangoon. "Shway" is Burmese for gold or gilded, and, if the reader can imagine an elongated bulbous dome drawn out to a height greater than St. Paul's, and covered completely with burnished gold from base to summit, he may get an idea of the Shway Dagon pagoda. But stay, he must not forget the Eastern sun blazing on it in a clear atmosphere, causing the eye to turn away from it, dazzled by its supreme brilliance, for relief among the deep-green foliage at its feet. At the very crown of the spire is fixed a canopy studded with rubies, diamonds, emeralds and sapphires, and this again is crowned by a gilded flag, in which all the choicest gems are set in pure gold. This flag was recently dislodged by an earthquake and was taken down, and for three consecutive Sundays all the pious Burmese flocked to contribute a share toward the expense of remodeling and enriching this ornament. There are two or three layers of a leaden alloy inside, while outside these are covered with a layer of pure gold about a quarter of an inch thick and densely encrusted with gems.

The remodeling is a solemn ceremony conducted by the "poongyees" or Burmese elders, a select committee of whom gather and control the public funds. Clad in flowing white garments the "poongyees" gather behind a bamboo barrier inside a kind of square tent, and receive the offerings of the people, which vary from a diamond worth 6,900 rupees to a few pice, according to the wealth of the donor. The high-caste Burmese lady comes forward, and unclasping a costly bangle set with gems, hands it over to the presiding functionary; the magnate strips his rings from his hands, and they, too, go into the melting-pot, where the poorer people contribute small gold rings, bangles, necklaces, pins, etc., down to rupees, annas and pices. In the meantime, in the forepart of the enclosure, which is richly hung with all the native emblems, such as umbrellas, feathers, vases, quaintly-colored carpets, long muslin leavers covered with spangles and gold, and such like, two charcoal fires are being kept alive with blow-pipes, in which are to be seen crucibles full of molten gold. At six o'clock the gold is cast into ingots, and the final melting takes place on the last Sunday of the three.

The crowd of spectators pressing round the bamboo barriers is of a very varied nature. Gayly-decked Burmese girls, with faces plastered over with white paint of high rank, the hair turned up over the head, and clad in orange and brilliant colors; naked children; Chinamen in huge hats and loose coats, with yellow, oily complexions; Shans in black clothes; Pathans of fine stature and appearance; Parsees from Bombay, of a Semitic cast of countenance; Hindus, Sikhs, Punjabees, half-castes, and Europeans of all nations are to be found in this motley mass. The surroundings, too, are well worthy of remark. Surrounding the base of the pagoda are numerous shrines and smaller pagodas, fitted with the most wondrous carving; outside these sit musicians playing on tom-toms, gongs, strango violins and string instruments; you see two or three bands assembled within a few feet of each other, each playing its own tune (if tune it can be called) irrespective of its neighbors; there, too, are the chiromancers or fortune-tellers, astrologists and provision mongers. If you are inclined to be told your character and future, you pay a few annas and find that you are going to be blessed with ten sons and daughters, that you are hospitable and kind-hearted, and, above all things, extravagantly generous—the latter quality is never missing from the catalogue, for the wily Burman hopes in this way to screw out another anna or two, but, perhaps, as a rule, unsuccessfully.

When a Burman goes to pray he can do it most comfortably, as he breaks fast in church and puts in a prayer between each mouthful, and if any thing tickles him he stops to have a hearty laugh.—Chicago Times.

Niagara Falls Receding.

It is estimated that Niagara Falls will recede two miles and then remain stationary, their height at that point being eighty feet, instead of 164, as at present. The supposition is supported by an argument which appears reasonable. The present site is a limestone formation some eighty or ninety feet thick, with a shaly foundation. As the shale is washed away, the limestone breaks off, and the falls take a step backward. But the end of the shaly deposit will be reached two miles from the present falls, and then the rushing water will have more than it can do to wear away the solid precipice over which it will be projected.

A shoemaker at Soran, Germany, made a pair of boots for a customer but carelessly left a nail protruding from the sole; the wearer's foot was soon scratched, inflammation ensued, and the foot had finally to be amputated. The shoemaker was sued for damages, and the court compelled him to pay to the injured man a sum equal to \$225 per year for life, and to pay all doctor's bills and the costs of the suit.

HEALTH AND BEAUTY.

An Explanation of the Intimate Relations Existing Between the Two.

To be beautiful, a woman must be healthy; the delicacy which comes from physical weakness is not an element of beauty. The grace of a perfect form is the result of sound bone and flesh; health strengthens the muscles, and the proper condition of the stomach and lungs is of great importance—the perfect circulation of the blood and its freedom from all impurities depends the beauty of the complexion. The skin must be kept healthy by frequent bathing and proper diet, as well as plenty of exercise in the open air. The English are wont to say the paleness and sallow tinge of the American girl's complexion is due to insufficient nourishment, the want of strengthening food. A French author of note says: "A train of exact and rigid observation has demonstrated that a succulent, delicate and careful regimen repels to a distance, and for a considerable length of time, the external appearance of old age. It gives more brilliancy to the eyes, more freshness to the skin, more support to the muscles, and as it is certain in physiology that it is depression of the muscles that causes wrinkles, those enemies of beauty, it is equally true to say that, other things being equal, those who understand eating are comparatively ten years younger than those who do not understand that science." Our dry atmosphere, it is true, is somewhat unfavorable to clearness and brilliancy of the complexion, and our climate is more or less exhausting to the constitution of women, yet with care and attention to certain rules any woman, not actually diseased, may have good health, and with it some degree of beauty.

Bathing is one of the first requirements, as it produces a healthful condition of the skin. Therefore, the daily bath, with a walk of an hour or more in the open air (not the exercise of housework), and a plentiful supply of good, well-cooked, nourishing food—plain food, not pies, puddings and sweet meats—will add not only to a woman's attractive appearance, but improve mind, body and soul, for health, happiness and virtue go hand in hand.—Ladies' Home Companion.

ILVA TO HER LOVER.

An Ingenious Maiden's Speech in "The Witness of the Sun."

"I seem to have belonged to you always," she said, with a beautiful candor. "I seem only to have a right to myself through you. Your love makes me glad to be myself, because if I had been any one else, no matter how great or good, you would not have loved me and your love is best. No, not you must not speak; you must not contradict me. Just let me say what is in my heart. I feel that what is there must run into your heart like a stream into the great sea. It is wonderful to think that I have your love—I out of the world! It is as though a great star were to concentrate its light all on some little flower and say, 'I will shine only for this flower that I love.' It is as though some high one in Heaven were to refuse to sing in the great choir, that his voice might be heard only in dreams of some poor woman upon earth whom he loved and waited for. Ah, do not interrupt me! It is so big in my heart. It strains me. I have no one else to speak to—indeed, no one that I care to speak to. You are the only one—the very first—the first since I was a little child and I gave you my silver book. You helped to form my life. You helped to make me into what you now love. You were like a song through the silence of my life. Always your memory was with me at the right moment. I never had a wrong thought, a wrong impulse, that your face did not come as clear, as clear—it was as clear as that white magnolia flower there in the moonlight. And your eyes would look so grievous. I longed to ask your pardon, to have you take my hand and say that you forgave me. I dreamed about you sometimes when I was awake, sometimes when I was asleep. When I used to fancy how it would be if you were dead it seemed like a tiresome voice insisting that I was alive. I would try not to listen to it, but it would seem to fill the room. And then I would lie quite still and think. 'After all, it is you who love him, my heart. Beat on, beat on! Oh, do not stop! without you I could not give him my love.'—From Mrs. Chamber's Latest Novel.

The Coat Made the Horse.

A citizen of Xenia, O., had the family horse clipped, and then told his wife and daughter that he traded off the faithful animal. Both were astounded and began immediately to criticize the new one. "How ugly his color is," said one of them. "What an ungainly shape, too," remarked the other. "And see how wild and reckless he acts," said the mother, who always doted on the gentleness of the old horse. In this way they dissected the new horse for quite awhile, and when told the truth could hardly refrain from apologizing to the old horse they had so slandered.

Two Scotch tramps, man and wife, make a good living off the baby. "We just gets 'im christened," explains the man. "In all the towns we passes, and then, you see, parson makes us all comfortable w' summat to eat and money for beds. On days orful bad we has to do 'm twice.

BURNED TO DEATH.

A Savage Punishment Revived in the Province of Yunnan, China.

The Governor of Yunnan states that in some of the country districts of that province the villagers have a horrible custom of burning to death any man caught stealing corn or fruits in the fields. They at the same time compel the man's relatives to sign a document giving their consent to what is done, and then make them light the fire with their own hands, so as to deter them from lodging a complaint afterward. Sometimes the horrible penalty is exacted for the breaking of a single branch or stalk, or even false accusations are made and men put to death out of spite. This terrible practice, which seems incredible when heard, came into use during the time of the Yunnan rebellion, and the constant efforts of the authorities have not succeeded in extirpating it since. Last autumn a case of the kind occurred in the Chulching prefecture. One evening a man named Peng Choa-Sheng was going down to watch his own field. His path led him along the side of a patch of maize belonging to another man. As he passed he pulled off a head of corn. The owner saw him and shouted out, upon which he dropped the corn and fled. The owner went and told his landlord, upon which the latter proposed that the pilferer should be burned.

The two men having agreed, next morning they laid the matter before an assembly of the villagers. As the matter was so trifling some advised that it should be let drop, but their opinion was not listened to. On the following day the two men seized their victim and bound him. The poor man's mother came with all her relatives and begged for mercy. She offered to make atonement by forfeiting the whole of her property to the community, but all she could say was of no avail. The men refused to give way, and ordered her to give her consent to the murder in writing, threatening her that otherwise they would put her to death also. Overcome by fear she asked a stranger, a traveling doctor who can not be identified, to write the required paper for her. They then piled up a heap of brushwood in an empty place outside the village and the next day at noon carried the man out and laid him bound upon it. The woman was compelled to set fire to the faggots, and her son was burned to death. Afterward, as soon as she could, she stole away to the town and gave information to the authorities. The two men were immediately arrested. One of them, the landlord, died in prison, but the other was sent to the provincial capital for trial.

The memorialist finds that in the fifteenth year of Ch'ien Lung, A. D. 1750, at the request of the Governor of Szechuen, it was decreed that in the case of any person being burned to death by a body of men, the principal offender should be executed by the lingering process and the participants in the crime be beheaded. The landlord, who in this case was the principal, has already died. His fellow-offender was condemned to immediate decapitation, and the sentence has been carried into effect without delay.—Peking Official Gazette.

THE LATEST DISEASE.

It Has a Short Name, But a Long List of Unpleasant Symptoms.

"It" is the name of a new disease—so-called for lack of a more descriptive title. Its symptoms and courses do not tally with the description of other diseases, although it resembles a good many in its different forms. The most prominent symptom, in the first place, is a muscular or neuralgic pain mostly in the back. Another important symptom is extreme weakness, coming on suddenly, without any rise in pulse and without fever. The patient is languid, disinclined to work, the appetite is usually abnormal, and in a majority of cases the throat becomes affected, giving rise to something like tonsillitis, but it is not however, amenable to local treatment, as is the ordinary form of tonsillitis. It is infectious without being contagious. In other cases the mucous membrane of the stomach becomes affected, giving rise to severe symptoms of dyspepsia. In still another class of cases the mucous membrane of the bowels is affected, and the symptoms appear to be typhoid fever, but in all these cases neither the pulse nor the temperature shows any febrile disturbances in the first day or two. In all these genuine cases the fever first comes and then the disease develops. After the lapse of several days the pain usually disappears, with the general weakness increasing, and then, as the heart becomes weaker, both pulse and temperature become higher. The glands, usually, in the neck or in any part of the body, are more or less affected, being tender to the touch and somewhat swollen. If it appears in the throat or nose we frequently find false membranes upon the surface of the mucous membranes closely resembling the false membranes of diphtheria, differing from it, however, in that they do not change color nor turn up at the edges, nor is there any rawness or ulceration beneath. A distinguished Philadelphia physician thinks the malady is caused by an organic poison known as ptomaine, which is very volatile and is probably introduced into the system through the lungs. Stimulation of their excretion is the proper treatment. Public speakers, singers and actors are prone to the ailment.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

FOREIGN GOSSIP.

—German cavalry officers hereafter will have to include steeplechasing in their studies.

—In Rome there are 30 cardinals, 35 bishops, 1,469 priests, 2,215 nuns and 3,000 monks, friars, candidates, etc.

—At the recent London diocesan conference the Bishop of Bedford advocated card playing in workmen's clubs, but, rather strangely, disapproved of dominoes.

—The Boers have whipped England five different times, and one of their prophets now predicts a coming war in which a Boer will be raised to the British throne.

—In 1882 Iceland was visited by a remarkable sand-storm, lasting two weeks, which hid the sun and objects a few yards off like a dense fog, and caused the death of thousands of sheep and horses.

—A discussion as to the height of trees in the forests of Victoria elicited from Baron von Mueller, the government botanist, the statement that he saw one of a height of 225 feet. The late chief inspector of forests measured one fallen and found that it was 385 feet long.

—The commander of the French National Military School at St. Cyr lately issued an order forbidding card playing. He defends the order by asserting that playing for money was so common in the school that young men of no fortune had frequently mortgaged their pay for five, six, and even ten years after leaving the college to pay gambling debts.

—A German traveling on the Lake of Como recently gave a waiter a paper of diamonds telling him that it was a tip, and made similar presents to others. The police asked him some questions, and he replied that he lived upon diamonds and he paid with diamonds, whereupon he proceeded to swallow several of the precious stones. He was locked up in an asylum and his friends sent for. He had nearly fifty thousand dollars' worth of diamonds in his possession at the time.

—The population of Kamchatka, which was carefully registered in 1878 and 1879, shows a regular decrease; since 1741 the population seems to have been reduced to one-half of what it was 148 years ago. Years of scarcity of fish, the staple food of the population, are quite common. In such cases the Lamutes and the Koryaks usually bring to the Kamchadales a number of their reindeer; but this voluntary help is not sufficient to prevent starvation.

—Rev. Dr. J. M. Buckley, writing of Spain, says: "Bribery is general in Spain. Almost any thing can be done with a fee. Not more than forty per cent of the taxes levied by the government can be collected. Mayors of cities get rich in a year. One at least of the most important cities is destitute of credit. No one will lend it any money. Spaniards so distrust each other that money is not forthcoming for great public works. The English manage the water-works, the street cars and almost every thing else."

—One of the strangest pieces of artillerie in Europe is at Metz and is known by the name of the "Griffin," from the figure of the fabulous animal which is to be found among the ornamental portion of its workmanship. The gun was cast in 1529 at Ehrenbreitstein, near Coblenz. It is 17 feet in length and 3 in diameter. The bore is 10 1/2 inches; weight, 22,500 pounds. Its carriage is 24 feet in length, and the weight of the ball which it carries is 150 pounds; 42 pounds of powder is required for the charge. Napoleon intended it for the War Department, Paris, but found difficulty in transporting it.

AN AMUSING CASE.

A French Widow's Glass Eye Creates Considerable Excitement in Court.

A very curious cause lately came before the justice of the peace of Neuilly, France. Some time ago Madame Puyette, a widow of fifty, but who still attaches much importance to personal appearance, and the misfortune, in playing with a lap-dog, to receive from it so severe a wound in one of her eyes that it came out of the socket. Having heard much of artificial eyes, and being recommended to apply to an expert manufacturer in this way, named Tamsier, she gave an order for a glass eye for which the optician charged her 100 francs (\$20). Refusing to pay this charge, the manufacturer summoned her before the justice of the peace.

Madame Puyette, having appeared, holding the glass eye in her hand, the judge asked her why she refused to the bill which Monsieur Tamsier had sent in?

"For a very good reason," replied the defendant: "I can see no more with this eye than I could before."

"What!" said the judge, "did you really imagine that you would be able to see with a glass eye?"

"Did I think so?" retorted the angry dame. "Certainly I did. Will you be so good as to tell me what eyes are, for except to see with? I ordered the eye for use, and until Monsieur Tamsier makes me one with which I can see I will not pay him a sou."

The justice of the peace endeavored to convince Madame Puyette that glass eyes were for others to look at, and not for the wearer to look through; but finding all appeals to her reason of no avail, he condemned her to pay the plaintiff the amount of his demand. When the defendant heard the decision she became furious with anger, and, after dashing her glass eye on the floor, she rushed out of court, amid the laughter of the crowd.—N. Y. Ledger.

"B'ILIN' THE WATER"

A Maine Girl's Comments Upon Seeing a Steam Fire Engine.

It was not many years ago that Katury Barker, a brisk and talkative Maine girl, came up from York County to Boston to look for household employment. She found it in a family where the people were willing to submit to her talkativeness and familiar ways—she had no idea that she was in the family or any other than equal terms—for the sake of getting a capable and industrious helper. One afternoon Katury was sent by her mistress to the square to get some thread which was very much needed.

The errand was not likely to take more than fifteen minutes, and Katury's mistress did not think it necessary to tell the bustling Maine girl to make haste. But after a long time had passed, and the girl did not return, the mistress began to worry.

"What can have happened to the child? I have never known her to loiter."

Soon after, however, the girl came in, red and breathless with excitement.

"Why, Katury, where have you been?" asked her mistress.

"Been! My goodness, ma'am, there's a fire down 't the square—the awfulest fire you ever see! More'n five hundred folks stan' in round lookin' on, an' the craziest lot o' fools—my! Why, what do you think they're a-doin'?"

"What, Katury? Putting out the fire?"

"No, and that's the wust on't. There they be, fellows with big hats on an' red shirts, an' their sleeves rolled up, stan' in round a kind of a b'iler, pilin' on coal, an' b'ilin' that there water before they put it out! the fire!"

"Boiling the water! Why, Katury, it must be a steam-engine!"

"Steam-engine? I guess not! Them fellows they jest went to work, kinder cool an' collected, an' got a lot o' coal an' stuffed it in underneath their b'iler, an' there they was, b'ilin' the water an' not goin' a step toward that fire! I jest stepped up 't the policeman that stands there, an' says I: 'May be they call us folks from Down East green, but if that 'ere ain't the greenest thing I ever see, my name ain't Katury Barker!'"

"Green?" says he, kind o' careless.

"What's green?"

"'A-stoppin' to bile that water 'fore they put it out! the fire!' says I. 'No, sir,' says I, 'ye don't catch the folks down in Maine doin' a stupid thing like that! An' that policeman he laughed right in my face!'"

The joke was so good that the family were soon all in possession of it, and finally an anecdote based upon it crept into one of the newspapers. This printed anecdote was shown to Katury.

"Oh, dear! dear!" she exclaimed. "I'll get copied into the York County papers, an' what'll I do then?"

"O Katury," said her mistress, to reassure her, "you see there is no name given in this story; it just says 'a country cousin.' Nobody could tell it was you."

"Land's sakes, ma'am," said Katury, shaking her head sadly, "the minute they see that 'down in York County they'd jest know 'twas me!'"—Youth's Companion.

TO REDUCE DISCOMFORT.

How Ladies and Gentlemen Should Conduct Themselves in Public Places.

Do not carry your umbrella or cane so that the person behind you is threatened with the loss of an eye, or must dodge to avoid a thrust in the face or ribs. Be especially careful not to carry it under the arm at an angle of forty-five degrees going up stair-ways.

Do not wait until in front of a railroad ticket window to consult the timetable. Do not wait until in front of the ticket-seller before your pocketbook is found. Try to have the money ready, the exact change if possible, and remember that, while you may have plenty of time, every one following you is not so fortunate.

When entering a pew in church, do not sit down in the aisle end, and compel each person to crowd past you. Go through to the end, and remember that to be polite requires that the least discomfort and excitement shall be caused by your acts. Brigands, robbers, or Indians are not likely to make descents on public places of worship or amusement in our day, and women may be trusted to sit in the aisle end of the pews and seats.

When there are no reserved seats, and the whole house is sold at a uniform price, it is hardly fair for one person to go and reserve three or four seats for her friends, to say "the seats are engaged" to those who, more just and polite, refuse to question the injustice, and unquestioningly take less advantageous seats, though they sacrificed time to secure better, and are disturbed, after the performance or lecture has begun, by the late arrivals who had used a friend to defraud the public.

If you meet a friend in a store, do not forget, in your own joy of meeting her, that the clerk's time is paid for, and that you have no right to monopolize it to the exclusion of other trade.

In leaving church or any public hall, do not stop in the aisle-ends of seats, preventing other people from leaving the building who may have no time to spend that way.

To remember that there are other people who have their own affairs that need immediate attention, who make engagements for certain time which they expect to keep, is to be simply just. To clog a little as possible the currents of travel is the part of every considerate man and woman.—Christian Union.

FACTS ABOUT WINDS.

How They Are Caused and How Mankind Is Benefitted by Them.

The atmosphere which surrounds this earth, the presence of which is essential to the existence of every living being, extends to a very considerable height, and, as the philosophers have demonstrated, exerts a pressure of fifteen pounds on every square inch of the earth's surface. This being remembered, we can readily conceive that every motion or agitation of this atmosphere will be sensibly felt, whether it occur in slight and gentle breezes, such as may on a summer's evening refresh all animate nature, or whether it assume a more fearful character, such as when, under the form of the simoon, it threatens death to every traveler in the desert.

By agency of the winds the atmosphere is purified from the noxious effluvia which arise from the marshy soils and stagnant waters, and which would be destructive alike to animal and vegetable life; by their currents the clouds are transported into distant regions, where falling in rain, they refresh and fertilize lands that would otherwise be barren; by their aid, too, little seeds, provided with pinions or fringed, as it were, for the purpose—such is the beneficent foresight of Nature—are borne along to spread far and wide the empire of vegetation. The ingenuity of man, too, has made a lever of the winds, which he has applied in the operation of machinery, as may be observed in wind-mills; also, in taking advantage of their power, and adapting them to his service by the ingenious manner in which the sails of a ship are set to catch every side-wind that may still urge her on her voyage.

The cause of winds is simple and easily understood. When the air, by which we are surrounded becomes specifically lighter, in consequence of which it mounts upwards; and the colder and denser air which surrounds the mass thus rarified, rushes in to supply its place.

When the door of a heated apartment is thrown open, a current of air is thereby immediately produced; the warm air from the apartment passing on near the top of the door, and the cold air from the passage rushing in below.

On applying these principles to account for the origin of the wind, we find that, when the rays from the sun, by their reflection from the earth's surface, have rarified a portion of the surrounding air, the air so rarified ascends into the higher regions of the atmosphere, and the colder air by which it was surrounded moves forward in a sensible current to fill the vacancy. When, also, a condensation of vapor in the atmosphere suddenly takes place, giving rise to clouds which speedily dissolve in rain, the temperature of the surrounding air is sensibly altered, and the colder, rushing in upon the warmer, gives rise to a sudden gust of wind. For this reason a cold, heavy shower passing over head with a hasty fall of snow or hail, is often attended with a violent and sudden gust of wind, such as sailors call "a squall," which ceases when the cloud disappears, but is renewed when another cloud, sweeping along in the same direction, brings with it a fresh blast. Accordingly, a whistling, or howling, or noise of the wind, is universally considered to be a prognostic of rain, because it indicates that a change is taking place in the temperature of the atmosphere, owing to the vapor in its higher regions being condensed into rain-clouds.

The general nature of the winds in this and in other countries depends very much on the character of the region whence they may have swept, and, accordingly, it is necessary to remember that the globe is divided into five zones or belts—the torrid, which is exposed to the direct rays of the sun; the two temperate zones, which, meeting the rays of the sun obliquely, enjoy a moderate degree of heat; and the two frigid zones, which, deprived of the heat of the sun for a great part of the year, and during the other part receiving his rays still more obliquely, are regions of ice and snow.

Currents of wind are described not according to the point to which they proceed, as is the case with the currents of the sea, but according to that from which they are derived.

By a westerly current of water we imply a current flowing towards the west; by a westerly current of air, one coming from the west. We may now therefore observe, that a wind is moist because it comes from the Atlantic, where a great quantity of vapors arise. When mingled with that of the south, which comes from the torrid zone, it is rendered particularly warm. The wind is the driest which comes from the continent of Asia, where there are few seas. The north wind, however, is the coldest, because it sweeps from the immense tracts of ice and snow in the frigid zone. The northeasterly winds are in this country proverbially chilly and bitter.—N. Y. Ledger.

His Case the Sadder.

"This is the seventh time within two hours that you have asked me when the train left for Lansing," replied the policeman at the Third Street depot to a young man with a sachel.

"Is it against the law?"

"No, but it is rather annoying to me."

"Well, if it annoys you, how do you think I must feel about it? The fare is \$2.60, and I've got to think of some way to get out there on \$1.50."—Detroit Free Press.