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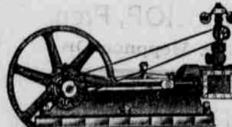
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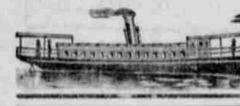
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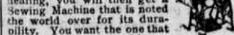
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TABLE TRICKS.

The Old Lady Was Not Up on Modern Customs.

Such a dear old rustic lady sat next me at a dinner the other night. It was quite a "swell" affair, in a fine restaurant, and when the coffee stage was reached she declined it and asked for a cup of tea, which had to be brewed expressly for her. I saw her fidgeting around, says a writer in the Louisville Post, so I asked her: "Can I bring you anything?" "I can't find my napkin ring," she whispered. "There are none," was my next remark. "Ain't none? Mercy me! Why not?"

"It's not the custom," I answered. "Well, it seems kind of slouchy," she said. "We always have 'em at home." "A napkin ring?" I explained, "and that is to be used again." "I don't know what you are talking about," she said. "Her tea had not come, and the poor old soul felt grumpy, I suppose, so this is what I got in sections: 'Good food! Mercy me! I never saw such a lot of fads as people are getting. Must not eat fish with your knife and can't have butter unless you ask for it, and having ice cream in the middle of your dinner.' She had received a punch between the sweetbreads and the duck. 'And no tea unless you disturb the whole table, and four or five kinds of liquor'—she meant wine—"and women drinking it and men smoking right here before us, and you mustn't take your fowl in your fingers. Well, I do wonder how I ever lived all these years not knowing any of these tricks!" Her tea reached her then and I heard no more from her.

A BEAUTIFUL MIXTURE.

Japanese Johnny's Heroic Effort at Composing.

An English teacher in a Japanese school has given for publication this essay on the whale, written by a Japanese boy. "The whale lives in the sea and ocean of all the country. He is large and strong in among of kinds of all the fish, and his length reach to ninety foot from seventy fathoms, and his color almost as dark, and he has a large head. When swim in the up water he is so large as island. When struck the water on angry he is so voice as ring great deal thunder. If he danced make the storm without winds, and also blow the water almost lay down the fog on the weather. His form is proper to live, for his front legs make him and afterlegs is no, and the tails is a hump that open on the top water, and the mouth have no leaves, but have leaves that is hard, narrow beard, as with horns. His body though is a fish, but he is not a fish, but is a creature. His leaves is named whales-leaves. The men make the everything with it. Every years to seven or eight month from four to five month, the whalermen catch on the sea or ocean. He may live on the sea of North-sea-way or Free island, of Hlardo on Hlgen country in Japan. Written by T. Hlralawa, P. S.—The tell of the whale is more—but I do not know fully to tell."

Mac's Rejoinder.

The captain of a Cunard liner one day while crossing the "herring pond," found that his ship was not doing the speed he considered she ought to, and, putting on the best front he wore, he went to the room of the chief engineer, a hard and dry Scotchman and an amateur violinist. The captain knocked at the door; the gray chords of a Scotch reel played on a fiddle was the only answer to his summons, so he burst the door open. "Mr. Mac," he thundered, "what are you about? I am not at all satisfied with your engine room, and I am sure you are not doing your best with his bow, and, after a jolly chord, said: 'Sair, my engines should have been in Liverpool these three days. It's your slow old ship that's at fault!'"

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Complaint That Good Work is in Demand

While the quality is poor.

There is an increasing demand for good American fiction. With all due respect to the galaxy of bright writers in Great Britain who have achieved such prominence here during the last few years, it is, nevertheless, a fact that publishers are looking eagerly for novels and novelettes dealing with American people and scenes. Said one of them to the Literary World the other day: "We have been publishing English and Scotch stories simply because we could not procure American fiction of corresponding worth. It is needless to say that there is a far greater demand for American novels than for those written about characters and incidents European and British. But it looks as if we could not do without them. We do not want a novel, for instance, that is dashed off, three or four chapters at a time, by a woman after she has given an afternoon tea before dressing for the evening. But we want American novels written by men and women whose brains surge and swell while they are at work. And see no hopeful outlook, excepting in the newspaper offices."

FOUGHT FOR THE HAIR.

A Barber and His Customer Stand Up for Individual Rights.

"Now you have cut my hair," said the shorn countryman to the barber, "kindly collect the hair from the floor, wrap it up in a paper and hand it to me."

"I shall do no such thing," the barber replied, firmly. "That hair belongs to me. I cut it off, didn't I? That makes it mine."

STORY OF A MISSING BABY.

Curious Experience of a Parisian Lady of Position.

The recent experience of a Parisian lady of position, writes Miranda in the Lady's Pictorial, may serve as a useful warning to some of my readers who reside abroad. The lady in question returned from a ball one night much earlier than she had given her servants notice to expect, and to her consternation found three members of her household missing, the nurse, the housemaid and—the baby! Greatly terrified, she rushed to the concierge to make inquiries, and after some preparation the man informed her that the two women, fancying their mistress would not return for some hours, had gone to a notorious dancing place, taking the baby with them, and the lady would be certain to find all three "quite safe and sound." As the master of the house was absent, the distracted mother went to seek a male relative, and together they visited the locality indicated, where they found the two women drinking with friends, but no baby. In reply to frantic inquiries after her child, the housemaid impudently told her mistress—whose smartest new gown she had borrowed for the evening, by the way—"that madam need not excite herself, the infant was in good hands." At first she refused to say where; but by dint of threats it was dragged from her, and the child had been taken to a low inn close at hand. Here the enraged parent found her precious offspring asleep in a filthy bed with eight other children, who were all being taken charge of at one franc fifty centimes a head while their nurses enjoyed themselves. Needless to say, the two wretches were dismissed on the spot.

A RABBIT PARLIAMENT.

The Prolific Animal Defies Law and Reference.

A rabbit parliament was held in Australia. This was not a convention of the animals, but a great gathering of gentlemen who are engaged in their extermination. For four days, says the Philadelphia Record, representatives from every part of the colony held high debate over the animal's performances. But acts of parliament seem vain in this matter and science itself bankrupt. The New South Wales government at one period had more than three thousand men employed in killing rabbits. It has erected fifteen thousand miles of rabbit-proof fencing. It once offered twenty-five thousand pounds sterling for a specific against rabbits, and though it received two thousand schemes, the too prolific bunny has triumphed over them all, and at the present moment the land department of New South Wales has one million acres of abandoned land, thrown up in consequence of the reckless march of the rabbit.

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