

### ALMOST THE SAME.

**Herr Krupp's Railroad Was as Wide as Anybody's Dinky Old Trackway.**

The waking hours of G. Otto Krupp were spent in thinking of schemes whereby he might get rich quick. As the owner of an eight-mile railroad he was a person of considerable local importance in the Pennsylvania German settlement where he resided.

One morning, relates Lippincott's, when Mr. Krupp's brain was particularly active, it occurred to him that by sending passes over his road to the presidents of the big railroads of the country he might receive complimentary passes in return. This would enable him to see something of the world at comparatively small expense, and such passes as he could not use personally he could dispose of advantageously. Mr. Krupp lost no time in getting letterheads printed with his own name in large type as president. Then he sent "R. & A." passes broadcast and awaited results.

One hot afternoon a flushed representative of a big western road walked into Mr. Krupp's office and said he had been all over town looking for the "R. & A." railroad, and could not find it. He said he was sent from Philadelphia to investigate before the company issued a pass over its entire line.

"It is chust outside of town—five minutes' walk," explained Mr. Krupp, suavely.

"How long is your road?" asked the railroad's representative.

"About eight miles, I think."

"Wonder! You don't expect us to exchange passes with a road like that, do you?" the representative demanded angrily. "Why, we have 8,000 miles of road."

"Vell," answered Mr. Krupp, drawing himself up with an air of offended dignity, "maybe my road ain't so long as yours, but it's chust as wide."

**Traffic on a Busy New York Thoroughfare Almost Blocked Temporarily by a Curious Occurrence.**

Traffic on Broadway was almost blocked for a few moments the other afternoon by the actions of two women, who went through what was evidently a superstitious rite which no one but themselves could understand. The women were middle aged, the New York Herald states, and beyond reproach in appearance, and no one noticed them, as they crossed Herald square; but midway of the Thirty-fifth and Thirty-sixth street block they paused, turned back and together retraced their footsteps for a short distance, gazing steadily at the ground as though they had lost something. When they had gone a few yards they stopped, and each woman put out her right foot and carefully touched one of the paving stones with the toe of her shoe. Then they turned again and resumed their walk in the most matter of fact way in the world. But the on-lookers did not take it so coolly.

New Yorkers are a curious people, and those who had noticed the women's action resolved to find out if there was anything peculiar about one of those paving stones. They stared eagerly toward that part of the pavement, and other persons, who had not seen the women, followed the crowd. But nothing unusual could be found in the pavement, and it was decided that it must be a new superstition, such as had not before been heard of, even in New York, which is as cosmopolitan in superstitions as it is in fashions.

### Big Postal Business.

The United States post office department in 1902 issued domestic money orders amounting to over \$313,000,000 and foreign amounting to nearly \$23,000,000. The money sent abroad was almost entirely remittances to relatives by immigrants.

### ODD SHOE FACTS.

Greek shoes were peculiar in reaching to the middle of the legs.

The present fashion of shoes was introduced into England in 1633.

In the ninth and tenth centuries the greatest princes of Europe wore wooden shoes.

Shoes among the Jews were made of leather, linen, rush or wood; soldiers' shoes were sometimes made of brass or iron.

In the reign of Richard II. shoes were of such absurd length as to require to be supported by being tied to the knees with chains, sometimes of gold or silver.

In the reign of William Rufus of England in the eleventh century a great "dude," Robert the Horned, used shoes with sharp points stuffed with tow and twisted like rams' horns.

The Romans made use of two kinds of shoes—the solea, or sandal, which covered the sole of the foot and was worn at home, and the calceus, which covered the whole foot and was worn abroad.

### Victory and After.

Many a man in a moment of fine enthusiasm applauds Patrick Henry's "Give me liberty or give me death." It is a proper sentiment to entertain, but not easy to live up to.

Most of us feel more like the Pennsylvania Dutchman who told his wife to write an appropriate inscription on his knapsack, which she was packing on the eve of his departure to join Washington's army in the Revolution. The enthusiastic woman, dreaming of her hero coming home a general, at least, wrote in good, round letters, "Victory or Death."

In a few moments her husband caught sight of it.

"No good! No good!" he exclaimed in great excitement. "Take that off quick! Put on good words. 'Victory, after come back again!'"—Youth's Companion.

### Overdid It.

Mrs. Passay—Mary, wasn't that gentleman asking for me? The New Maid—No, mum. He described the lady he wanted to see as being about forty, and I told him it couldn't be you. Mrs. Passay—Quite right, my dear. And you shall have an extra afternoon off tomorrow. The New Maid—Yes, mum—thankee, mum. Yes, mum; I told him it couldn't be you, for you was about fifty. Mrs. Passay—And while you're taking your afternoon off you'd better hunt a new place!—Cleveland Leader.

### Her Clever Scheme.

Fanny—Why in the world do you send away for so many catalogues and then never buy anything? Suzette—To keep the postman coming here. I don't want those women across the street to know that Jack and I don't correspond any more.—Detroit Free Press.

### Too Polite.

Mrs. Jasper—I shall never send for Dr. Veriswell when I am ill, Mrs. Jumpuppe—Why not? Mrs. Jasper—Because he is so excessively polite that if he found me at death's door he would hasten to open it for me.

### A One Night Stand.

Bosh—Is Blank on the stage? Josh—No, Bosh—Why, yes he is! He told me that he made his first appearance two years ago. Josh—Umhuh! He made his last appearance on the same night.—Detroit Free Press.

### Efficient Support.

Tess—I hear Miss Strongmind has asked you to be her bridesmaid. Is that so? Jess—No, indeed. She has asked me to be her "best woman."—Philadelphia Press.

### CHARACTER OF ISABELLA.

**The Beautiful consort of Ferdinand Who Helped Columbus.**

Isabella was a lady, she was a queen, and, above all she was an autocrat. Gracious and gentle in her manner, says R. Ulick Burke's "A History of Spain," she brooked no opposition from prince or peer, and she soon made it known and felt throughout Spain that, although she was the daughter of John II. and the sister of Henry IV., her will was law in Castile. Beautiful, virtuous, discreet, with that highest expression of proud dignity that is seen in a peculiar simplicity of manner, with a hard heart and a fair countenance, an inflexible will, and a mild manner—something of a formalist, more of a bigot—Isabella united much that was characteristic of old Castile with not a little that was characteristic of new Spain. And if her boldness was inherited from the Cid, her bigotry was bequeathed to Philip II.

No man can read the history of the times without being struck by the enormous personal influence of Isabella. An accomplished horsewoman, a tireless traveler, indefatigable in her attention to business of state, the queen with her court moved about from place to place, swift to punish crime and to encourage virtue, boldly composing the differences and compelling the submission of rival nobles, frowning upon the laxity of the clergy, denouncing the heresy of the people and laying a heavy hand upon enemies of every degree and evildoers of every class. In Andalusia the unaccustomed and unexpected presence of the sovereign was everywhere productive of peace and order. Even in the remotest districts of Galicia the royal power was felt. Over fifty fortresses, the stronghold of knightly robbers, were razed to the ground, and one thousand five hundred noble highwaymen were forced to fly the kingdom.

### Lighthouse in a Desert.

There is at least one lighthouse in the world that is not placed on any mariner's chart. It is away out on the Arizona desert and marks the spot where a well supplies pure, fresh water to travelers. It is the only place where water may be had for 45 miles to the eastward and for at least 30 miles in any other direction. The "house" consists of a tall cottonwood pole, to the top of which a lantern is hoisted every night. The light can be seen for miles across the plain in every direction.

### MODERN RACE HORSES.

**High Average of Speed That Has Been Attained To in the Last Few Years.**

The average race of 1903 was run a half second faster than in previous seasons. Years ago when the Suburban and the Brooklyn handicaps were created, they were intended primarily to be endurance races, in which horses should take up strong weights and run a respectable route at a moderate pace, says Outing. We once called those handicaps "distance" races. Now they are "sprint" races—nothing less than that. The pace is terrific. Five years ago horses sprinted six and seven furlongs. Last summer they sprinted a mile and a quarter, taking the popular handicap routes at a pace that not many years ago would have been that of a quarter horse. The first of the great handicaps is the Metropolitan, a mile at Morris Park in May. Only those horses that are especially "forward" in their preparation may start. So early in the year no great deed is anticipated in the Metropolitan, and yet the running in the season that has just passed was remarkable for the pace. William C. Whitney's splendid four-year-old Gunfire was the winner after a terrific struggle, during which the clipset by the front runners was a strain of the most trying sort. Alternately Gunfire, carrying 108 pounds, and Old England were leading with no great distance separating them at any time. With the field close at their heels they ran the first furlong in 12 3-5, the first quarter of a mile in 24 seconds, the three furlongs in 35 1-5 seconds and the half mile in 48 2-5, the five furlongs in 1:00 4-5, the six furlongs in 1:14 3-5, and the full mile out, Gunfire beating Old England by a length and a half in 1:38 3-5.

### Gunboat on the Ohio.

Gunboats were common on the Mississippi river forty years ago. In recent years the river has seldom floated ships of the navy. Consequently, when the monitor Arkansas, one of the newest ships of its class, steamed up the river recently on its way to St. Louis, it attracted much attention. It astonished and delighted the people of Evansville, Ind., by making an excursion up the Ohio as far as that city, for not since the civil war had any ship of the navy touched at that port. Both the Mississippi and the Ohio are deep enough to float a much larger vessel than the Arkansas.



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