## Wit and Humor.

EVEN a barrel hoop will turn when trod upon.

To sleep in one's clothes is apt to spoil the nap.

IF twenty grains make a scruple, how many will make a doubt?

CAN a musician *execute* a piece of music before he *gets the hang of it?*

WHY are jokes like nuts? Because the dryer they are the better they crack?

To draw a man's merit out, there is no poultice like the sod which covers his grave.

A WORD to the wise is always sufficient, no doubt but the trouble is, so few are wise.

"BONNETS," says a fashion paper, "are smaller." They must be made to fit the income.

WHY is the sun, after disappearing in the forest, like soft feathers? Because it is *down*.

THE man that was seriously injured by a sudden burst of eloquence is likely to recover.

"TALK about *silver!*" sneered a greenback man. "Silver is all well enough till it gets into a man's hair; then he dyes."

PRECOCIOUS BOY (munching the fruit of the date tree)—"Mamma, if I eat dates enough, will I grow up to be an almanac?"

DON'T spank your children with the bootjack. It is too hard to hold, and is apt to make bunions on your thumb.—*Hawkeye.*

WHEN you see a fellow talking to a lamp-post, you can make up your mind he is prompted by bad spirits.—*Port Chester Journal.*

AN old Quaker, in passing near a race-course on a field day stopped and asked a spectator: "Why this great concourse, my friend?" "It isn't a *con*course!" exclaimed the man; "its a race-course."

"Is Satan married?" asks the Chicago *Times*. No, he is a stingy, immoral old bachelor, and writes lying paragraphs about mothers-in-law, in order to scare young men away from matrimony.—*Appleton's Journal.*

AN optical delusion—Traveller: "Hi! guard! have you seen a man walking about with one eye, of the name of Walker?" Guard (musingly): "N-no, sir, I dun-no as I'av. What was the name of the other eye, sir?"

WE suggest a remedy for "hazing" in colleges. When the students are caught at it, let the president give them a difficult task to study—tines from some of the poets. For instance, he might say to them, "Go-Homer."

IT was said of a lady who had just completed her two-score years, and who played very loudly upon her piano, but never spoke of her age except in a whisper, that she was forty upon her piano, but piano upon her forty.

A FOP took a seat in a railroad car beside a young lady, but on perceiving she had a dog he moved off with an air of trepidation. "Don't be afraid," she said with a reassuring tone; "Jip won't bite you, he doesn't like veal!"

"WHO was the doubting disciple?" asked the Sunday-school teacher. "Peter," promptly replied the small bad boy. "No, Thomas," said the teacher. "Then what do people always say 'Petered out' for?" asked the smart bad boy.

"CAPTAIN," said an old lady, as a ship was nearing port in stormy weather, "have you an almanac on board?" "No, madam," replied the captain. "Well, then," said the old lady, with a resigned air, "I suppose we shall have to take the weather as it comes."

"YOU see," said a dissipated young man to a clergyman, "I don't like to stop drinking because, you know, the world looks so differently to a man who has a few inches of rum in him." "Yes, and he looks so differently to the world," was the cutting reply.

A JOHN BULL, conversing with a Canadian Indian, asked him if he knew the sun never sets on the Queen's dominions. "No," said the Indian. "Do you know the reason why?" asked John. "Because Heaven is afraid to trust an Englishman in the dark," was the savage's reply.

BEFORE beginning the second psalm for the day, a Glasgow minister reached down into his pocket and took a pinch of snuff. Even yet he can't understand what there was in the first verse of the psalm to make the congregation laugh when he read: "My soul cleaveth to the dust."

A CITIZEN was arrested yesterday on a charge of shooting a neighbor's dog. His defence was that the animal was a nuisance, continually barking and biting, as is its nature to. "Oh," said the Justice, "then you shot the dog in self-defence?" "No!" was the rejoinder. "I shoots him in de head un'er de fence. He was acquitted.

"I WISH to ask the Court," said a facetious lawyer, who had been called to the witness stand to testify as an expert, "if I am compelled to come into this case, in which I have no personal interest, and give a legal opinion for nothing?" "Yes, yes, certainly," replied the mild-mannered judge; "give it for what it is worth."

AN obliging gentleman, who thinks that personal favors do not cost much, while they make friends, was applied to by a negro for a certificate of character, by which he might get a situation. The testimonial proving to be more complimentary than Scipio himself expected, that worthy, on recovering from his astonishment, exclaimed: "Say, Mr. ——, won't you gib me something to do yourself on dat recommendation?"

THERE was a little fellow who knew Mother Goose better than he knew his Bible. One Sunday he was asked in his class, "Who was thrown into the fiery furnace?" That was too much for him. The question was passed; the answer came promptly, "Shradrach, Meshach and Abednego." This was a mortification to the little fellow, and when the next question came, "Who put them in?" he answered with a jump "Little Johnny Green!"

WITTY MANŒVRE.—The Duke of Grammont was the most witty courtier of his day. He entered one day the closet of the Cardinal Mazarin without being announced. His Eminence was amusing himself by jumping against the wall. To surprise a Prime Minister in so boyish an occupation was dangerous. A less skillful courtier might have stammered excuses and retired. But the duke entered briskly, and cried, "I'll bet you one hundred crowns that I jump higher than your Eminence." And the duke and cardinal began to jump for their lives. Grammont took care to jump a few inches lower than the cardinal, and six months afterward was Marshal of France.

## A Fearful Swing.

The "shaftmen" at our collieries are selected for their physical strength and pluck, in addition to the skill and practical knowledge required for their particular work. The incident we are about to relate will show how severely the former of these qualifications may at times be tested.

The work of these men is confined to the shaft of the pit, and consists mainly in repairing the "tubbing" or lining of the shaft, stopping leaks, or removing any obstructions interfering with the free passage of the cages up and down the pit. The coal-pit at N—— has a double shaft, divided by a "bratticing" or wooden partition. These divisions we will call A and B. Two cages (the vehicles of transport up and down the pit) ascend and descend alternately in shaft A. At a certain point the shaft is widened, to allow the cages to pass each other, and their simultaneous arrival at this point is insured by the arrangement of the wire ropes on the winding-wheels over the pit-mouth. The oscillation of the cages is guarded against by wooden guiders running down each side of the shaft, which fit into grooves in the sides of the cage.

On one occasion, during a very severe frost, these guiders had become coated with ice, and thus their free passage in the grooves of the cages was interfered with. Before this obstruction was discovered, the engine having been set in motion, the downward cage, which fortunately was empty at the time, stuck fast in the shaft before arriving at the passing-point. The ascending cage, whose only occupant was a small boy returning to "bank," proceeding on its upward course, crashed into the downward cage in the narrow part of the shaft, where of course there was only a single passage. Though the shock was something terrific, the steel rope was not broken; as the engineman, whose responsible position entails the greatest presence of mind and watchfulness, had stopped the engine on the first indication of an unusual tremor in the rope. Yet such was the violence of the meeting that both cages, though strongly constructed of iron, were bent and broken—in fact rendered useless—by being thus jammed together in a narrow space. The greatest anxiety was felt as to the fate of the boy, as it was seen that even if he had escaped with life after such a severe crash, his rescue would be a work of great danger and difficulty.

We may imagine the horror of the poor little fellow while suspended in the shattered cage over a gulf some four hundred feet deep, both cages firmly wedged in the shaft, and the ropes rendered useless for any means of descent to the scene of the catastrophe. The readiest way of approach seemed to be by shaft B, the position of which we have indicated above. Down this, then, a shaftman whom we will call Johnson, descended in a cage until he arrived at an opening in the brattice-work by which he could enter shaft A. He found himself (as he supposed) at a point a little above where the accident occurred; and this conclusion he came to from seeing two ropes leading downwards, which he naturally took to be those by which the cages were suspended. Under this impression he formed the design of sliding down one of the ropes, with a view to liberating, if possible, the entangled cages, and securing the safety of the unfortunate boy. The hardy fellow was soon gliding through the darkness on his brave and dangerous errand. He had descended about forty feet, when, to his horror and amazement, his course was suddenly checked by a bend in the rope; and the terrible discovery flashed upon him that he was suspended in the loop of the slack rope, which here took a return course to the top of the downward cage.

It will be understood that when the descending cage stuck upon the runners, as the rope continued to unwind from the pulley it hung down in a loop, descending lower and lower, until the engine was stopped by the meeting of the cages. This loop or "bight" was naturally mistaken by Johnson for the two ropes, and he did not discover until he found himself in the fearful situation described, that he had entered through the brattice into shaft A below instead of above where the cages were fixed. There he hung, then, over a yawning abyss many fathoms deep—closed from above by the locked cages—all below looming dark and horrible.

None of course knew his danger; his hands were chilled by the freezing rope; his arms, already fully exercised, began to ache and stiffen with the strain and intense cold, added to the bewildering sense of hopeless peril. Good need there was then that pluck and endurance be found in the shaftman! His square, sturdy frame and unflinching spirit were now on their trial. Had his presence of mind gone or his nerve failed he must have been paralyzed with fear, lost his hold, and been dashed into an unrecognizable mass.

But self-preservation is a potent law, and working in such a spirit, he framed a desperate plan for a struggle for life. The guiders running down the inside of the shaft are fastened to cross-beams about six feet apart. Johnson hoped that if he could reach one of these he might obtain a footing whereon to rest, and by their means clamber up to the opening in the brattice-work. How to reach them was the next question that flashed lightning-like through his brain. This he essayed to do by causing the rope to oscillate from side to side, hoping thus to bring himself within reach of one of the cross-beams. And now commenced a fearful swing. Gaining a lodgment with one knee in the loop, he set the rope swinging by the motion of his body, grasping out wildly with one hand each time he approached the side of the shaft. Once, twice, thrice, he felt the cold icy face of the "tubbing," but as yet nothing except slimy boards met his grasp, affording no more hold than the glassy side of an iceberg. At last he touched a cross-beam, to which his iron muscles, now fully roused to their work, held on like a vise. He soon found footing on the beam below, and then letting go the treacherous rope, rested in comparative security before beginning the perilous ascent. With incredible endurance of nerve and muscle he clambered up alongside the guider, by the aid of the cross-beams, and by thrusting his hands through the crevices of the timber. In this manner he reached the opening in shaft B, where the cage in which he had descended was waiting. Chilled, cramped, and frozen, and barely able to give the signal, he was drawn to the pit-mouth prostrate and exhausted. The boy was rescued unhurt by a man being lowered to the top of the cages in shaft A. Johnson suffered no ill consequences, and though a hero above many known to fame, he still pursues his hardy task as a shaftman; while beneath the homely exterior still lives the pluck and sinew of iron that did not fail him even in his fearful swing.—*Chamber's Journal.*

## A Tree-Agent Treed.

The July *Scribner* contains the concluding installment of Mr. F. R. Stockton's droll "Rudder Grange" sketches, which are to be published in book form in the fall. One of the incidents of this last sketch is quoted below. The proprietor of Rudder Grange, returning from a ride with Euphemia, his wife, finds a tramp in one of his trees and a tree-agent in another near by, with his savage dog, Lord Edward, plying between. The following scene ensues:

"This one," said Pomona, "is a tree-man——"

"I should think so," said I, as I caught sight of a person in gray trowsers standing among the branches of a cherry-tree not very far from the kitchen door. The tree was not a large one, and the branches were not strong enough to allow him to sit down on them, although they supported him well enough, as he stood close to the trunk just out of reach of Lord Edward.

"This is a very unpleasant position, sir," said he, when I reached the tree. "I simply came into your yard on a matter of business, and finding that raging beast attacking a person in a tree, I had barely time to get up into this tree myself, before he dashed at me. Luckily I was out of his reach; but I very much fear I have lost some of my property."

"No, he hasn't," said Pomona. "It was a big book he dropped. I picked it up and took it into the house. It's full of pictures of pears and peaches and flowers. I've been lookin' at it. That's how I knew what he was. And there was no call for his gittin' up a tree. Lord Edward never would have gone after him if he hadn't run as if he had guilt on his soul."

"I suppose, then," said I, addressing the individual in the cherry-tree, "that you came here to sell me some trees."

"Yes, sir," said he quickly, "trees, shrubs, vines, evergreens—everything suitable for a gentleman's country villa. I can sell you something quite remarkable, sir, in the way of cherry-trees—French ones, just imported; bear fruit three times the size of anything that could be produced on a tree like this. And pears—fruit of the finest flavor and enormous size——"

"Yes," said Pomona. "I seen them in the book. But they must grow on a ground-vine. No tree couldn't hold such pears as them."

Here Euphemia reproved Pomona's forwardness, and I invited the tree-agent to get down out of the tree.

"Thank you," said he; "but not while that dog is loose. If you will kindly chain him up, I will get my book, and show you specimens of some of the finest small fruit in the world, all imported from the first nurseries of Europe—the Red-gold Amber Muscat grape—the——"

"Oh, please let him down!" said Euphemia, her eyes beginning to sparkle.

I slowly walked toward the tramp-tree, revolving various matters in my mind. We had not spent much money on the place during the winter, and we now had a small sum which we intended to use for the advantage of the farm, but had not yet decided what to do with it. It behooved me to be careful.

I told Pomona to run and get me the dog-chain, and I stood under the tree listening, as well as I could, to the tree-agent talking to Euphemia, and paying no attention to the impassioned entreaties of the tramp in the crotch above me. When the chain was brought, I hooked one end of it in Lord Edward's collar, and then I took a firm grasp of the other. Telling Pomona to bring the tree-agent's book from the house, I called to that individual to get down from his tree. He promptly obeyed, and, taking the book from Pomona, began to show the pictures to Euphemia.

"You had better hurry, sir," I called out. "I can't hold this dog very long." And, indeed, Lord Edward had made a run toward the agent, which jerked me very forcibly in his direction. But a movement by the tramp had quickly brought the dog back to his more desired victim.

"If you will just tie up that dog, sir," said the agent, "and come this way, I would like to show you the Meltingape pear—dissolves in the mouth like snow, sir; trees will bear next year."

"Oh, come look at the Royal Sparkling Ruby grape!" cried Euphemia. "It glows in the sun like a gem."

"Yes, said the agent, "and fills the air with fragrance during the whole month of Semtember——"

"I tell you," I shouted, "I can't hold this dog another minute! The chain is cutting the skin off my hands. Run, sir, run! I'm going to let go!"

"Run! run!" cried Pomona. "Fly for your life!"

The agent now began to be frightened, and shut up his book.

"If you only could see these plates, sir, I'm sure——"

"Are you ready?" I cried, as the dog, excited by Pomona's wild shouts, made a bolt in his direction.

"Good day, if I must——" said the agent, as he hurried to the gate. But there he stopped.

"There is nothing, sir," he said, "that would so improve your place as a row of the Spitzenberg Sweet-scented Balsam fir along this fence. I'll sell you three-year-old trees——"

"He's loose!" I shouted, as I dropped the chain.

In a second the agent was on the other side of the gate. Lord Edward made a dash toward him; but, stopping suddenly, flew back to the tree of the tramp.

"If you should conclude, sir," said the tree-agent, looking over the fence, "to have a row of those firs along here——"

"My good sir," said I, "there is no row of firs there now, and the fence is not very high. My dog, as you see, is very much excited, and I cannot answer for the consequences if he takes it into his head to jump over."

The tree-agent turned and walked slowly away.

FREEDOM OF MIND.—We call that mind free which is not imprisoned in itself or in a sect; which recognizes in all human beings the image of God, and the rights of his children; which delights in virtue, and sympathizes with sufferings whenever they are seen, which conquers pride and sloth, and offers itself up a willing victim to the cause of mankind. We call that mind free which is not passively formed by outward circumstances; which is not the creature of accidental impulse—but which bends events to its own improvement, acts upon an inward spring from immutable principles which it has deliberately espoused. We call that mind free which protects itself against the usurpations of society; which does not cower to human opinions; which feels itself accountable to a higher law than that of fashion; which respects itself too much to be the slave of the many or the few.

HE that seeketh trouble never misses.


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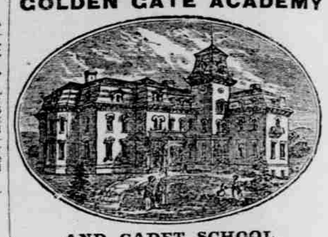

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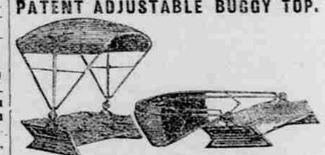

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### The Stiles Rotary Engine.

We illustrate herewith a new form of rotary engine recently patented through the MINING AND SCIENTIFIC PRESS Patent Agency by W. C. Stiles, of San Francisco. The arrangement is such that both the force and expansive power of the steam can be exerted to drive an endless chain or belt, provided with suitable pistons which pass through the cylinders, and thus produce a rotary motion of the pulleys over which the belt passes, and from which the power may be taken.

As shown by the engraving, the engine consists of two horizontal cylinders mounted upon a suitable frame. At each end of the cylinders is a peculiarly constructed pulley, or wheel, around which travels an endless steel belt or chain, which passes through the cylinders, and which is provided with pistons. These wheels are provided with recesses in their rims, which serve the double purpose of providing a seat for the pistons on the endless belt while they are passing around the pulleys, and also for preventing the belt from slipping on the wheels. The endless belt passing around these wheels has pistons attached to it at regular intervals so constructed and packed that they will fit snugly in the cylinders. One cylinder being placed above the other, the action of the steam on one cylinder is in the reverse direction to its action in the other. The cylinders consist of simple tubes, inside of which the pistons fit closely, being provided with proper packing to make them steam tight while passing through. At one end of each cylinder is a steam chest provided with a cut-off valve and gates. These gates are operated by an automatic sliding bar, a cam motion being given to a lever from the wheel upon which the belt travels, to open the gates of the cylinder at the proper instant to allow the pistons to enter. Just as they enter, the gates close behind them, making a steam-tight compartment, and the steam being admitted by the same action, the piston is forced through the cylinder, the other end of which is open, a continuous rotary motion of the pulleys thus being maintained. One piston is going through one cylinder as the other is going through the other in an opposite direction. The pistons are so arranged that one is taking a full head of steam, while the other is running on expansive steam. The exit of each piston allows the steam to escape freely, leaving no back action whatever. As the endless belt expands when heated, the slack is taken up automatically by having one of the pulleys set on a sliding carriage.

Mr. Stiles has one of these engines, an experimental one, now at work in the basement of the Cosmopolitan hotel, corner of Bush and Sansome streets, San Francisco. This has two brass cylinders five feet long by three and one-fourth inches bore, the pulleys being three feet three inches in diameter. Mr. Stiles states that this indicates 15 horse-power, running 200 feet per minute under 100 pounds of steam. The endless chain is 25 feet long, and is really a linked piston rod, passing through suitable stuffing boxes in gates.

An engine of this class can be moved at any time there being no heavy bed frame, but simply good strong framework. The inventor proposes to build one with two cylinders 20 feet long, 10-inch bore, to run 400 feet per minute, the whole engine to weigh about four tons. Steam may be cut off at any desired point and allowed to work expansively the rest of the way. By this means the full force of the steam can be utilized, there being no opportunity for any back pressure whatever. By the peculiar construction described, a rotary steam engine is provided in which the full expansive force of the steam can be utilized, and the difficulties heretofore encountered in the practical working of rotary engines are avoided.

As to the advantages claimed by this style of engines over the reciprocating engines the inventor makes the following points: "That for instance in a small reciprocating engine of three to six inches bore of cylinder the length is five, six or eight inches, and there is a certain amount of back action every time the pistons go from one end of the cylinder to the other; hence in running the distance of 10 feet there would be 20 back actions. Now by taking the lowest back action laid down by the ablest writers, 3 per cent. has been lost every six inches run, which in 10 feet run would amount to just 3 per cent. of the whole power. Every time the piston moves from one end of the cylinder to the other the valve is opened to let the steam in and then closed; the valve to let the steam out is also opened and closed. This requires the moving of these valves twice each time the piston moves six inches, making or taking power 40 times in 10 feet. There is also loss when cutting off steam in this class of engines, and in the crank motion and power required to run a large fly-wheel."

In this new rotary engine there is no back action of steam. The cylinders may be made of any desired length to 40 feet and upwards. The power is always given off at full leverage and pound for pound secured, less the friction. The steam ports and gates are moved but four times in going the length of a ten foot cylinder, or any length of cylinder, while they are moved 40 times in going that far in a small reciprocating engine, as above referred to. If there are any leaks they may be remedied at once. The steam may be cut off at any point and works expansively to the end of the cylinder. The exhaust may pass off up the pipe, shown in the engraving, on top of one end of cylinder, or may exhaust into a case containing the pulley.

In marine engines, for which the inventor considers this one specially adapted, heavy bed plates and working beams are done away with