Wit and Humor.

February is the most impecunious month; it is always short.

"It's all up with us now," as the balloonist said when he reached the clouds.

What is the most unfortunate vegetable they could have on board a ship? A leek.

Teacher (to class in geography)—"How is the earth divided?" Sharp Boy—"By earthquakes."

When the women get control they will organize their militia with needle-guns. *Lowell Courier.*

William Tell shuddered when he shot the apple from his son's head because it was an arrow escape.

A soft answer turneth away wrath, and so you should never kick a bull-dog back of the ear.—*N. Y. Herald.*

The Philadelphia *Bulletin* suggests that graduates of female colleges be given the title of "Spinster of Arts."

A person who had attended a stupid lecture being asked if "everything went off well," replied: "Yes; especially the audience."

A conceited English paper calls itself by the name of "*Brains.*" Webster and Worcester both spell that kind of thing "brayings."

"Pa," said a little four-year-old, "there's a man out there that would give anything to see you." "Who is it, my son?" "It is a blind man."

"Are you the mate of this ship?" said a newly-arrived passenger to the cook. "No, sir, I am the man that cooks the mate," said the Hibernian.

An Indiana preacher made use of the expression "the icouclastic segregate of sin," last Sunday, and has already received a call to a Congregational church in Boston.

Pay your way. Old gent: "We have lost our way, boy. Can you direct us?" Boy: "If a hold gent like you loses his way, can't expect a boy like me to find it for him—not for nothing."

If there is anything in this world that makes a man so mad that he can't distinguish his dad from Sitting Bull, it is to read a daily paper half through and suddenly discover it to be a week old.

"What is the difference between me and St. Paul?" asked one man of another. "St. Paul was all things to all men, and you are nothing to anybody!" was the reply. That wasn't the right answer.

Life Preserving Rules- 1—Never disturb a dog when he is eating. 2—Never interrupt an editor when he is reading proof. 3—Never call upon a housewife when she is up to her elbows in a washtub.

Oswego's old woman has reeached the age of 102 without having made a bedquilt with 10,000 pieces in it. Can a woman who has so neglected her plain duty squeeze into heaven.—*Detroit Free Press.*

The sermon of the best preacher in the world will not make as much impression upon a congregation as the sudden pattering of rain on the window panes of a church containg two hundred new spring bonnets.

A tramp who will borrow the family bread-knife and stab himself with it on the steps which have just been nicely washed, should have no public sympathy for the misfortune which led him to the rash act.—*Detroit Free Press.*

A country paper truthfully and pathetically assures us that—

"There is no town, however watched and tended,
But one dead bank is there;
There is no safe, however well defended,
But needs still greater care."

"I hope there are no cannibals around here," said a stupid traveller to a frontier girl, as she was making a batch of bread. "There are plenty of 'em," returned she, pouring some corn meal into the pan. "We almost always eat a little Indian with our bread."

What the President of—Reform Club says occasionally:

Backward, turn backward, oh, time, in your flight; let me remember when last I was tight. Wife at the window, her ma at the door; you all know how it is who have been there before.

An old farmer lately gave this advice to his sons: "Boys, don't you ever wait for something to turn up. You might just as well go an' sit down on a stone in the middle of a medder, with a pail atwixt your legs, an' wait for a cow to back up to you to be milked."

A philosopher says: "Nature is a faultless workman. She never makes a mistake. In order to give women something wherewith to occupy their minds and hands, she gave them long hair. At the same time, foreseeing that circumstances might arise in which the possession of long hair would be inconvenient, she made the back hair of woman detachable, so that it can be taken off and laid aside whenever such a course seems desirable."

A Hartford man went home to dinner, and saw part of the washing still left in the tubs. Hurrying to the yard he saw his wife braced against the fence, holding tothe end of a broken clothes line to keep the newly-washed garments from the ground.

"Here I've been, holding this line for over an hour, sir," she snapped.

"But why didn't you call some one?" he inquired. "There's that new family next door—the woman would have come over in one minute."

But the wife said: "Woman next door, you big idiot, you! Hasn't she been peeking around for two weeks to see my wash, and d'ye think I'd give her a chance to find out whether the sleeves of my nightgown were pieced down with unbleached cotton? You don't know anything, sir, and you make tracks for a piece of rope, sir."

A Convincing Argument.—He was squirting tobacco juice over the floor of the saloon, and telling how capital oppressed labor, when one of the dozen men in the place inquired:

"Air you one o' them Commuists?"

"I hold, sir, that we must have an even distribution of property—yes, sir, or we'll fight, sir!" was the pompous reply.

A box full of fine-cut was handed him. He put it in his pocket, and was walking away, when the Communist called out:

"Beg pardon, but you are carrying off my tobacco!"

"S'all right—s'all right," replied the other. "I was out, and you have plenty. We've got to even this business up, you know, and you keep the box and I'll keep the tobacco."

He was too big to lick, and the Communist put the empty box in his pocket, and refused to laugh with the crowd.

French Orators.

Col. Higginson, in a letter to the *Woman's Journal*, from Paris, gives the following interesting description of the scene witnessed by him at the centennial of Voltaire:

I came to Paris a little earlier than I had intended, not so much to honor the memory of Voltaire—though in many ways I honor it, not in all—as to avail myself of an unusual opportunity of hearing French eloquence. I had always wished to know whether this wonderfully adaptive language lent itself to oratory as it does to prose writing and to conversation; and when I hear Victor Hugo and Emile Deschanel, I found that its resources were greater than I had dreamed. Its delicacy, its precision, the fine edge of its satire, the exquisite ease with which one who wields it can decapitate an opponent before he knows it, like the sword of Saladin—all this I observed with delight. But I found also that it had in it a power of gradual swell and reach, for which I was not so well prepared. I never heard a finer ocean-swell of a sentence than when Victor Hugo described all the arts of peace, all the joys of home, all the pursuits and interests of life, and then showed how sovereigns made all this to culminate in that frightful International Exposition called a battle-field! To say that it was brilliant and electric is nothing: it was a swell like an ocean wave, bursting at last in spray and dying away in sound.

It is idle to call Victor Hugo a mere rhetorician; it is impossible to appreciate his style without hearing it from his own lips. And it implies a French audience, too, full of enthusiasm, of literary perception, and of demonstration; men around me followed the progress of a sentence with smothered "Ah-h-h" of breathless delight, and the applauses at the intervals with hands and with shouts—never with feet—were such as might well carry an orator beyond himself.

Long before the hour of meeting, all tickets were sold, and placards announced the fact—a dense crowd surrounded the theater and it was hard to reach the door. When I told the *sergent de ville* (or policeman) at the door that I was an American and must have a place, he left his post to another and guided me to where a few more seats were yet sold by speculators, and I got one for less price than some who came later.

Never did I see an audience of finer aspect. There is among cultivated Frenchmen, I maintain, an air superior to that of Anglo-Saxons of the same grade; equal intellect with far higher polish. The platform was filled with such men and the audience had a prevailingly well-dressed look which surprised me. This, indeed, was the picked audience; the vast popular demonstration of six thousand persons was going at the American circus at the same time. When I asked my French neighbor whether Victor Hugo was on the platform, he looked at me with surprise. When Victor Hugo enters, he said, you will hear a sound from the audience like that of an ocean. And such indeed was the shout of applause when that commanding gray head appeared amidst the crowd on the platform.

When Victor Hugo rose to speak, the scene was to the eye far more impressive. Twelve candles were lighted that he might see his manuscript—these candles lighted up the strong face of the old poet, with its white hair and short white beard—and behind his face rose a laureled pedestal, on which smiled the bust of Voltaire. It was the only bust of him ever seen by me in which the smile was not cynical and a little repulsive—in this bust it was simply kindly and equable, and Victor Hugo's praises of the smile seemed therefore less daring. The speaker's manuscript consisted of sheets twice the size of the largest foolscap I ever saw, and the handwriting was in proportion, so that the speech was read without glasses. The effect of it was—to try a sentence in his own vein—serene, defiant, conciliatory, revolutionary, winning, terrific. You could not call his manner over-done, because it was so in keeping with the matter and so natural to the man. Never had he more felicious antitheses, more dramatic climaxes; and even when he raised his hand above his head, each finger quivering, with separate currents of excitement, and when he struck his head with his hands as if to tear his hair, it still seemed merely as if the key-note of the whole were pitched a little like ours, and as if all else were correct. And certainly, if the test of oratory is to make the most of an occasion and an audience, that effect was reached by Victor Hugo.

Orientals at the Exposition.—You drink your coffee to an accompaniment of concerted music. The musicians are four in number—a comic negro, who rolls his head and eyes about in an alarming manner while he plays, and three Arabs. Near them sat a lovely Arab maid, who seemed to be the chief's daughter. She is not more than ten, and already she is a woman. Her eyes are singularly sweet, and her figure no doubt would seem charming to a Turk, though to us, who like not a too houri-like development, it might appear no worse if it were thinner. While I sat sipping my coffee two Frankish journalists entered, bearing in their hands some Oriental sweetmeats they had bought in the bazar below. As soon as he set eyes upon them, our friends of the sunny smile made them understand by signs that the young lady would not have any objection to a taste, and like true Franks, they instantly sent the sweets across to her. She accepted the gift with a gracious glance of approbation worth twenty times the six sous expended on the sticky confectionary. A woman in one sense, to be sure, but child enough still in another. Poor thing! If all we read of Arab life is true, this visit of hers to Europe is likely to be one of the few happy incidents she will know before she comes, when old and ugly (women are both at twenty or twenty-five in the desert), to be ranked by some turpaned infidel as something a little higher than his dog and a great deal lower than his horse.

A correspondent of the Charleston *News* and *Courier* writes the voyage of the *Azor* to Liberia: The sufferings of the immigrants were intense. They had not been accustomed to practice self denial, and soon exhausted the limited daily supply of water. There was great waste despite the efforts of the officers. The fever spread rapidly, and before we reached this point, which is a colonial settlement on the West Coast, belonging to Great Britain, twenty-three of our ill-fated emigrants had died. I have never seen a sadder sight than when their remains were committed to the deep. The names of the dead will go to you by the first mail steamer that touches at this place.

St. Louis Compared with India.

"This is hotter than India," said a gentleman behind the counter of a prominent cigar store on Fourth street to an *Evening Post* reporter who was buying a weed.

"How do you make that out?"

"I mean one suffers more from the heat as it now rages here than do the white people in India. I was in India nine years, sergeant in one of the British regiments stationed there, and I know that I have suffered more from the heat during the past three days in St. Louis than I ever did in all the years I was in India. The reason is that the temperature, high as it is, is eqable—it ranges all the year round from say 110 to 120, and the system gradually becomes accustomed to it. While here the changes are so sudden that the people are prostrated at once."

"How do the white people in India keep cool?"

"The hot winds that blow there seem to come straight from a furnace, and to protect themselves from these winds masses of seaweed, called taties, are erected in front of all the doors, stretching in a slanting direction from the top of the door to the ground, and these taties are kept wet by natives throwing water upon them all day long. Drafts of air are produced in the rooms by what they call punkahs, like the movable fans, kept in motion by steam, that you see in the restaurant. Only the punkahs are about six feet long and three feet wide, and a native keeps pulling them, standing at one end, by means of a rope. Attached to the bottom of the punkahs are curtains, which sweep down within six inches of your face when you lie in bed. You find your bed, though, covered with bugs; you can sweep them off in handfuls. If you clear the bed of them by placing it in the sun, you find it covered the next morning the same as ever."

"Are sun-strokes frequent?"

"Not as long as the men are not on duty. From 6 A. M. until 4 P. M. it is dangerous to be out in the sun. During one march which my regiment made in in 1858, about fifty men a day were struck in that regiment alone. A man would begin to laugh, then to cry, and in fifteen minutes he would be a corpse. I have seen their skulls split open as if some one had struck them on the head with an ax, and you could see their brains boiling while the skull itself became black. Very few men ever survive a sun-stroke, and if they do, it always leaves its work upon the mind."—*St. Louis Evening Post.*

The Postal Congress of Paris.

Our representatives at the Postal Congress, which has recently been in session at Paris, have done their work very well. Those representatives were First Assistant Postmaster Gen. Tyner and Mr. J. H. Blackfan, Superintendent of Foreign Mails. By their efforts, a much more satisfactory price will be paid for European mails transported across the United States, than was originally intended. Four francs a kilogramme for letters was the sum named in the French project of the Postal Congress. But our Commissioners insisted that the price should be six francs a kilogramme, or half as much again, and that amount was finally agreed on.

Out representatives also succeeded in limiting the obligation to pay for loss of registered packages, in all countries belonging to the Postal Union which agree to it, to $10 or thereabouts, without regard to the contents of the packages, the value of the contents to be endorsed on the packages, in order to secure special care in transmission and handling. It was not possible to arrange finally an international money order system with France, because France desires to have the rate uniform for all countries, a thing out of the question, at present at least. But the subject was well ventilated, and it is probable that at a special convention to consider the international money order system some arrangement will be made. The Commissioners have not only done much for the convenience of their countrymen, but have strengthened the ties which connect the people of France and the United States.—*N. Y. Mail.*

The Biggest Man in the World.—William Campbell, who is said to have been the biggest man in the world, died in Newcastle, England, last May, at the age of twenty-two. He was born in Glasgow in 1856, and went to Newcastle last November, where he became landlord of the public house known as the "Duke of Wellington." When but nine months old, he weighed 56 pounds, and at the age of ten he turned the scale of 252 pounds. He continued to increase in size until, just before his death, he weighed 728 pounds. His height was 6 feet 3½ inches, he measured 95 inches around the shoulders, 76 inches around the chest, 47 inches around the thigh, and the circumference of his calf was 35 inches. One suit of clothes for him required more cloth than would be needed to make three suits for an ordinary man.

A Woman's Bravery.—Quite a romantic tale of reward for bravery comes from Copenhagen, of which a laborer's wife past fifty years of age is the heroine. It seems that the poor woman, observing, a few months ago, three children who had fallen through the ice on the lake, rushed into the water, and, at the imminent peril of her own life, rescued the children. His majesty the king decided that this act of bravery should not pass unrewarded. The poor woman was sent up to town from the country; a room was prepared for her in the royal palace, where she staid a couple of days to see the sights of Copenhagen, and the other day she received from the hands of the king, in the presence of the royal family, the medal and ribbon for civil acts of bravery, being the first woman in Denmark who has received this honor,

George Washington Revised.—"George, did you chop down the cherry-tree?"

"What do you soy?"

"Did you chop down that tree?"

"Ax me no questions ond I'll tell you no lies."

"George, you have a hatchet?"

"So's a hen."

"You chopped down that tree?"

"Didn't."

"Young man, commere to me."

"What d'you want?"

"To play hide and seek."

So the old man went out to seek the hide. The scene which ensued in the wood-shed beggars description. It was touching in the extreme.

"I hold it to be a fact," says Pascal, "that if all persons knew what they said of each other, there would not be any friends in the world."

A woman need not always recall her age, but she should never forget it.

A Healthy Body and a Clear Head.

If indigestion, constipation and biliousness torment the body, the head cannot be clear. These disorders react upon the brain most hurtfully, and produce a cloudiness in the organ of thought not experienced by a healthy man. Happily these brain-oppressing maladies may be entirely dispelled by that peerless alterative, Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, which cheers, refreshes and invigorates the brain and nerves, while it regulates the organs of digestion, assimilation and bilious secretion. It expels the morbid humors which poison the system through the bowels and urinary passages, and exerts a powerfully invigorating influence as well. Its cathartic action is never irritating, violent or painful, but even, natural and progressive. As an appetizer and sleep promoter the Bitters is unrivalled; it mitigates the infirmities of age, relieves the ailments peculiar to the gentler sex, arrests premature decay, and builds up an enfeebled physique.

Herrmann, the Hatter.

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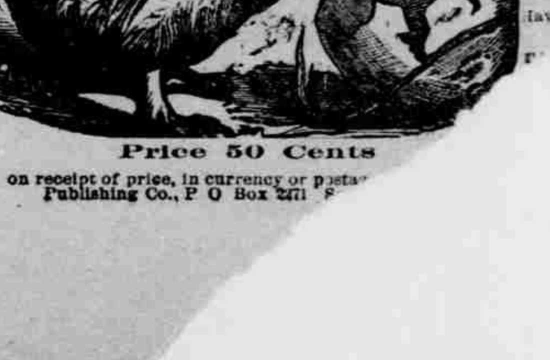

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