A CAUTIOUS PROPOSAL.

No Chance For a Breach of Promise Suit From This Letter.

Many were the famous characters produced on the circuits of early days, says Arthur W. Spaulding—men fearless in danger, unwearying in labor, enduring in privation, powerful in exhortation, ready in wit and often prepared to use physical as well as spiritual muscle in their combats with the devil and his human agents.

Among the most interesting of them was Lorenzo Dow, a roving preacher, whose work was not confined to the mountains on the frontier, for although he labored from the high peaks of North Carolina to the banks of the Mississippi and from Georgia to Canada, he was well known also along the Atlantic coast and even in England and Ireland. Restless and eager, he continually traveled. Nor would he marry until he had found a young woman who would promise that she would spare him from home twelve months out of thirteen.

His proposal of marriage, a letter that is, I think, unique in the deliberation and caution with which it approaches the subject, ran as follows:

"If I am preserved, about a year and a half from now I am in hopes of seeing this northern country again; and if during this time you live and remain single and find no one that you like better than you do me and would be willing to give me up twelve months out of thirteen or three years out of four to travel, and that in foreign lands, and never say, Do not go to your appointment, etc.—for if you should stand in the way, I should pray to God to remove you, which I believe He would answer—and if I find no one that I like better than I do you, perhaps something further may be said upon the subject."—"The Men of the Mountains."

Sewing Machine Game.

"I learned to use the sewing machine in an enchanting game," says a writer in the Woman's Home Companion. "First, for the action merely, my mother left the machine unthreaded, therefore without complications. She showed me how to fold a square of thin paper diagonally once, then again, then a third time. Then placing the point of the triangle, which was the center of the square, under the needle, she started the wheel and let me guide the needle haphazard about the triangle, covering it with weird tracery. Behold! When the paper was unfolded, a beautiful symmetrical design, made by me! Many an iron holder I proudly worked in chain stitch from my own designs so made."

London's Highest Level.

The highest part of the city of London is the middle of Pannier alley, running between Newgate street and Paternoster row. Ben Jonson tells us that in his day this was a stand for tripe sellers and earlier still for bakers. The exact spot is indicated on the east wall by a stone monument consisting of a boy sitting upon a baker's basket, holding a bunch of grapes. On the pedestal is this inscription:

When ye have sought the city round,
Yet still this is the highest ground.
Aug. 27, 1688.

Were we to include Greater London, then Hampstead heath would be the spot, for it is 424 feet above sea level.—London Standard.

Scott's Rapid Writing.

Sir Walter Scott was one of the most rapid writers that the world has ever known. He wrote "Guy Mannering" in a couple of months, and the same time sufficed for "Old Mortality," while "Ivanhoe" was actually dictated as Scott lay upon a couch suffering from excruciating pain. But perhaps the most rapid work even he ever accomplished was his colossal "Life of Napoleon," in nine volumes. This he wrote in one year, intermixed with much other work.

Father In the Secret.

A girl in Philadelphia, who had recently figured in a romantic runaway match, was, after her return home, telling her dearest friend all about it.

The latter interrupted with this question, "When you eloped with Louis did you leave a note telling your folks where you had gone?"

"Why, of course," said the wife. "If I hadn't, how on earth would papa have known where to send us any money?"—New York Times.

Foiled.

"A man tried to pick my pockets in the street yesterday, but my wife prevented him."

"Did she grapple with him or just scream?"

"Neither. She wasn't there."

"Then how could she prevent him?"

"She had been through my pockets first."

PRESIDENTS RE-ELECTED.

Mr. Wilson Made the Tenth; Four Vice Presidents Re-elected.

Woodrow Wilson is the tenth president to be elected for a second term. The other nine were Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Jackson, Lincoln, Grant, Cleveland and McKinley.

Thomas Riley Marshall is the first vice president to be inaugurated a second time since the present system of party conventions came into use. Actually he is the fourth man to hold the office a second time.

John Adams was twice elected vice president to serve with George Washington; Daniel D. Tompkins served through the terms with President Monroe. John C. Calhoun was twice elected vice president on tickets with John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson and served until his resignation near the end of his second term in 1832.

March 4 has fallen on Sunday three times in an inauguration year. President Monroe, acting on the advice of Chief Justice Marshall, set a precedent and took the oath on Monday, March 5. General Zachary Taylor followed this precedent when he was inaugurated in 1849. March 4 again fell on a Sunday, and he postponed taking the oath until the following Monday. President Hayes, however, took precautions against any opportunity for a charge of irregularity. The final vote of the tribunal which gave to him the high office and thus ended the Tilden-Hayes controversy was announced on Saturday, March 3, 1877. Mr. Hayes at once took the oath.

The form of a president's inaugural was largely devised by George Washington, and, like most all of his work, has stood the test of time. The ceremony was conceived when the forefathers were in the throes of a great revolution, and they intended it to be distinctively American. Through the lapse of more than a century virtually no change has been made in the actual ceremonies, although elaborate and beautiful accompaniments have been added.—New York Times.

WHY NOT WALK IT OFF?

Try This Man's Scheme When You Have a Fit of Depression.

"On my desk, between the calendar and the clock," said Mr. MacKlickerton, "I have placed a little card with this on it, 'Now Get Out and Walk.'

"I used to carry that card tucked away in my hat, but then I never thought of it when I needed to. Now I have it where I can't fail to see it several times a day, where it is kept practically always in mind.

"I suppose the best of us have periods of depression, times when we sink, if not into a slough of despond, at least into a state in which we lose cheerfulness and energy, a state in which we can accomplish little and what we do is of no account.

"I can shake off all mental ills and stave off pretty much if not quite all of a bodily nature, too, just by walking. After I have once got fairly started I shed troubles at every step till they are all gone. From a good brisk walk I come back always refreshed, invigorated, renewed.

"I always knew that I could have walked off one of those fits of depression any time, but the trouble was that I never thought of doing this when the depression was on. And then I struck the card plan.

"Now when I begin to get dull and sluggish, with things dragging and going hard, I am not permitted, as I once was, to slide insensibly down to the bottom of the decline. My eye is sure to light on that sign, and I drop things right where they are and get out and walk.

"And it works every time."—New York Sun.

Paste and Mold.

Mold is a vegetable growth induced by the proper amount of heat and moisture. Bottles of library and office paste so generally used in offices are likely to be covered with mold, particularly where the paste is not used very often. As with many other plants, too much water will check the growth of mold. Keep the top of the paste covered with water and the mold cannot increase.—New York Sun.

Not Americanisms.

Those "characteristic Americanisms," such as "take it from me," "the real stuff," "piker," "sure thing," and so on, have been traced to Sheridan, Thackeray, Smollett, Dickens and others and are in common use in Great Britain, while there appears to be little question that Aristophanes was the first to use the expression, "We take the cake."

Making Him Happy.

"When I die," said the husband, "I want you to have this sentence placed on my monument: 'There are peace and quiet in heaven.'"

"I think," rejoined the wife, "it would be more appropriate to say, 'There were peace and quiet in heaven.'"—Indianapolis Star.

To Open a Sardine Can.

In opening a sardine can start the key in the ordinary way and, after giving it a few turns, insert the point of the ice pick in the key loop. With the pick acting as a lever the whole top of the can will wind off easily and without breaking the sardines.

Artistic Success.

"So your son is succeeding considerably as an actor. Who is supporting him?"

"I don't mind telling you that I am."—Baltimore American.

Illogical.

He—A woman is always illogical. She—How do you make that out? He—She can always remember her birthday, but never her age.

MODERN TORPEDOES.

Mechanism and Operation of These Deadly Naval Weapons.

The modern torpedo dates from 1876, when the British engineer Whitehead produced a torpedo carrying twenty-six pounds of guncotton and traveling straight as an arrow to its mark at a speed of eighteen knots.

The head of the torpedo is packed with several hundred pounds of guncotton or other powerful explosive, the Germans preferring trinitrotoluene. A steel rod or striker extends through the head. This projects a few inches beyond the head of the torpedo. It may be equipped with cutters that will cut through the protective steel nets swung outboard by a battleship. The inner end of the steel rod is pointed. When the nose of the torpedo strikes a ship's side or bottom the steel rod is forced back, the sharpened end strikes a detonator and the charge of guncotton is exploded.

Back of the head of the torpedo is its fish shaped body, containing all the machinery to drive and steer after it has been launched. From forward aft we find compartments as follows: A compressed air reservoir, an immersion or balance chamber, engine space and a buoyancy chamber. In his book "Submarines, Their Mechanism and Operation," Frederick A. Talbot says of the torpedo:

"The tiny engine is driven by compressed air, which is compressed to a high degree, and it rotates the propellers whereby the projectile is carried through the water. * * * The immersion or balance chamber provides the means of maintaining the depth at which the torpedo shall travel through the water after being launched. * * * In the engine chamber there is also the device for keeping the projectile to its designed path during its travel. This is achieved by means of a gyroscope. * * * The buoyancy chamber, which is placed aft of the engine chamber, is virtually a vacuum. * * * Without this chamber the torpedo would sink."

The propellers and rudders are astern and outside the torpedo's body.

The twenty-one inch Whitehead torpedo carries a bursting charge of 330 pounds of guncotton and has a maximum range of 11,000 yards or 6¼ miles. At this range it has a speed of thirty knots. At a range of 7,000 yards or about four miles it travels at forty-five knots.

A Darling of the Gods.

In 1886, when she was twenty-seven years of age and at the height of her fame, Miss Mary Anderson, "Our Mary," retired from the stage. As illustrating the popularity of Miss Anderson before her retirement the following story may be told: One night she was appearing as Galatea and in this character had to turn with outstretched arms to the audience, with the words, "The gods will help me." On this particular occasion the audience was so carried away with her acting that with one accord the "gods" of the gallery roared out the hearty response, "We will!"

Nothing to Do but Live.

The Friendly islands of the south seas are described as an earthly Eden. The natives have nothing to do but catch fish, gather fruit, sing songs and grow fat. The women are very beautiful, but a trifle heavy, weighing between 250 and 400 pounds. When a white man goes there to live he has to deposit $50 with the government. If he lives a decent life this money is returned to him at the end of two years. If he makes trouble the money is confiscated and he is deported.

The Better Lot.

It is evident that Dickens' characters were alive to him as well as to his readers and that he moved them on and off the board with sympathy and consideration.

"I can never forgive you, Mr. Dickens," a lady once said to him, "for the death of Little Nell in 'The Old Curiosity Shop.'"

"Surely," he replied, "you would not have liked her to marry a butcher or a baker."

Commercial Complexities.

"Let's give that motion picture star an interest in the business," said the film manager.

"Let's give her the whole business," replied the partner, "under agreement that we are to have reasonable compensation. Then she can owe herself her enormous salary."—Washington Star.

Where Rain Is Scarce.

A certain congressman in discussing the long droughts that sometimes afflict his state tells this story: "One day some one asked an old farmer, 'How would you like to see it rain?' 'I don't care about it myself,' said the old man, 'but I've got a boy six years old who would like to see it rain.'"

MAKING HIGH EXPLOSIVES.

Dangers of Poisoning to Which the Workers Are Exposed.

The making of modern munitions of war has brought into prominence several types of industrial diseases hitherto almost unknown.

One of the most troublesome of these is that commonly known as "T. N. T. poisoning," due to exposure to the fumes of tri-nitro-toluol or to the inhalation of dust generated in mixing certain high explosives of which it forms a constituent.

Unusual drowsiness, frontal headache and eczema are the first symptoms of T. N. T. poisoning, and workers so affected are promptly given some other occupation, when the symptoms quickly disappear.

Less dangerous, but very troublesome, is tetryl poisoning. Manipulation of this explosive produces a light dust, which gets into the mouth, nose and eyes and sets up a painful soreness, accompanied by headache, nausea and an almost intolerable itching.

Curiously enough, individuals vary very considerably in their susceptibility to tetryl poisoning. Some workers are not all affected by it or only in a very slight degree, while others can hardly enter a room in which it is being handled without suffering severely.

Luckily tetryl poisoning does not endanger life, nor are the symptoms in any case so severe as those due to T. N. T. poisoning. Tetryl possesses the annoying property, however, of staining the skin and hair yellow, but means have been found of largely counteracting this if the workers care to avail themselves of them.

Other industrial diseases of a similar nature more or less prevalent in munition works are due to handling fulminate of mercury, to exposure to the fumes of a substance known as tetrachlorethane, to inhalation of various other noxious fumes and dust generated in the workshops by the different processes carried on there and also from lead poisoning.

Yet another danger the munition worker is exposed to is acute poisoning due to the accidental escape of nitrous fumes into the work places. Many of these cases are apt to terminate fatally, for the gas is extremely deadly.—Pearson's Weekly.

EXERCISING AT HOME.

How One Wise Man Utilizes His Open Air Sporting Outfit.

"I didn't know your business allowed you much time for sports," said the visitor as he glanced around at the athletic paraphernalia displayed on the walls of his friend's den.

"It doesn't—much," replied the middle aged business man. "When I get a chance I sneak off to a gymnasium or to the country club, but most of my exercising I do right here in this room."

"Surely you don't use the basket ball or the ice skates or that rifle here," said his friend, with a smile.

"You're wrong; I do," said the busy man briskly. "See that hook in the ceiling? I string the basket ball up, put on that pair of old kid gloves and bang it around for ten minutes every other morning or so. Best punching bag I ever tried.

"Those ice skates are just the right weight to use as dumbbells in some very quick exercise. Any one of those golf sticks makes a wand such as they use in gymnasiums to take the quirks out of the muscles of the arms, chest and back.

"Those tennis balls are invaluable for strengthening the grip of the hands and the cords of the forearm. Take one in each hand and squeeze it about fifty times as hard as you can every day.

"With that hunting rifle I haven't used in four years I go through the same stunts, including the manual of arms that Uncle Sam has worked out to keep his soldiers in good trim. I must admit that that tennis racket has puzzled me. I can't think of a thing to do with it except practice strokes with one of the balls against that clear part of the wall."—New York Sun.

The Word "Rubaiyat."

The word "Rubaiyat" is the plural of "ruba'i," meaning quatrain, and the plural is used to denote a collection of quatrains. The form has a verse scheme of its own and is the distinctive and most ancient Persian meter. It is said to have been invented by Rudagi, the earliest of the great Persian poets. Nearly all the Persian poets include Rubaiyat among their works. Edward FitzGerald made it an English form.

Money Panic.

"What was the worst money panic you ever saw?" asked one financier of another.

"The wost money panic I ever saw," was the reply, "was when a fifty cent piece rolled under the seat of a street car and seven different women claimed it."—Exchange.

Shrewd Woman.

"I am encouraging my husband to buy an automobile."

"They cost an awful lot."

"That's just it. If he pays $2,500 for the kind he wants he won't be able to preach economy to me for quite awhile."—Boston Transport.

Snubbing Science.

"I hear old Smudge's doctors have given him up."

"Yes; he is getting well in the natural way."—Baltimore American.

She's a Believer.

"Do you believe in heredity?"

"I certainly do. All my children got all their bad traits from their father's side."—Detroit Free Press.

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