AN ECCENTRIC BUTCHER.

His Bills Were Queer, and So Were

His Eating and Praying. In 1729 there died at Romford, in Essex, England, a well known butcher of that town named Wilson. Mr. Wilson, it appears, was notable for his integrity in business and for the gentieness of his manners-two qualities which, perhaps, would scarcely have entitled him to the notice of posterity had he not also exhibited a remarkable addiction to psalmody, extraordinary proficiency in penmanship and a highly peculiar manner of eating his din-

Such butcher's bills as he sent to his ed by a different color of ink.

He was a great friend to the church, bread were all she set before him. observing all its ordinances and a trithe congregation went home to their my little farm." refreshment and rest, between morn-Prayer and singing appropriate psalms | woman. until he had performed these favorite devotions in every pew in the church.

He had a large appetite and seemed determined that all Romford should man, drenched with rain, demanded know it; for, instead of sifting down shelter. quietly to dinner in his back parlor, he would usually sally forth into the street with a leg or shoulder of lamb In one hand, a large knife in the other, a small loaf of bread in his pocket and a handful of salt in the bend of the arm which carried the joint; and thus equipped would perambulate the town, enting as he went, until he had consumed the whole of this very substantial meal.-Chambers' Journal.

WRIGGLING SIGNS.

In Electrical Designs.

A great many electric signs are of the moving type. Walk down most They sat down opposite each other. its own proper motion through space. any city street after dark and you and one had already commenced cut- Some authorities have calculated its American Magazine. will see many illuminated signs of ting the bread with his dagger when novel and interesting design. Here a a third blow was struck at the door. few stars move more slowly than this, long red and blue snake seems to be Again a young nobleman entered- others much more rapidly. Arcturus wiggling from the street to the top of |-again a Henry. The meeting was | maintains a speed of not less than 100 a building. On the other side a wheel most singular, is rapidly revolving, below it yellow theater sign which suddenly flashes sword by his side. The third Henry ies are slow compared with the mointo view, only to disappear after an smiled. interval long enough to read it.

It is quite puzzling to the ordinary your supper, then?" said he. pedestrian to explain the wonderful light effects. It is apparent that the "rightly belongs to the first comer." light is obtained from electricity, but this is about all that is understood. In "belongs of right to him who knows such signs as where a snake seems to words that spell themselves letter by letter and in all other similar signs the effect is produced by a mechanical device called a "flasher," which lights the finy electric sign lamps in the or der required to produce the effect. This flasher is driven by a tiny motor.

The flasher is made up of a number of fingers, and each finger drops in its turn upon a metal plate that is electrically connected with a certain letter or series of letters, or, in the case of the snake or rat chasers, with certain and in this way the snake can be speeded around its course very swiftsign in which one letter is illuminated simpler device, but in all cases the un-

Some of the coffee sold roasted and ground causes complaint. Most of it can be improved a little. Trouble seems to be that it is not roasted enough and needs another touch of fire. You know the less it is roasted the more it weighs. Put a couple of tablespoonfuls in a seamless agate the stove, gas or blue flame and the mischief. shake it while it gets another scant parching, never letting it get hot enough to smoke or scorch. Set it aside till it gets cold and then pour on the water and finish up in the regular way.-New York Press.

Didn't Hit Him.

John Wesley had a reputation for cheerfulness. In his journal he writes: "I preached in Haiifax to a civil. senseless congregation. Three or four gentlemen put me in mind of the honest man at London who was so gay and unconcerned while Dr. Sherlock was preaching concerning the day of judgment. One asked, 'Do you not hear what the doctor says? He answered, 'Yes, but I am not of his

His Early Promise.

"Does my boy," inquired the parent, "seem to have a natural bent in any one direction?"

'Yes, sir," said the teacher. "He gives every indication of being a captain of industry some day. He gets the other boys to do all his work for him."-Chicago Tribune.

Just Our Luck.

Williams - This is a queer world. Walker - Right you are. A man's shoes will often get untied, but never just as he is ready to take them off .-

THE FOUR HENRYS

One of the Most Dramatic of the Legends of France.

A MEETING AND A WARNING.

The Dire Prediction That Was Hurled at Them After a Duel In the Dark and the Way the Fateful Prophecy Became a Matter of History.

Of all the French historical legends customers had never been seen before there is none more dramatic than that and have never been seen since. They pertaining to "the four Henrya." The were all exquisitely written by his tradition is that on a wintry night as own hand, but the top line would be. the rain fell in torrents an old woman perhaps, in German text, the second in | who passed in the country for a witch Roman letters, simulating the finest and who inhabited a miserable cabin print; beef would be in one Byle of in the forest of St. Germain was writing, mutton in another, lamb in a aroused by a loud knocking at her third, while each of these kinds of door. She opened it and saw a cavameat would be still further distinguish-lier, who requested hospitality. A scrap of cheese and a morsel of black

"I have nothing more," said she. the more. Every Sunday he entertain- "See, here is all that tithes, taxes, subed the congregation with a solo, sing-sidies and other extortions have left ing the psaims by himself until the me to offer distressed travelers, beminister came into the desk. And on sides which my neighbors call me a every fast day, while all the rest of witch and rob me of the produce of

""Tis a cruel situation," said the ing and evening service, he never young man, "and were I king of quitted the church, but went about France I would suppress the taxes." from pew to pew repeating the Lord's "God hears you," answered the old

> The cavaller was about to commence his repast when a fresh knock at the door restrained him. Again a gentle-

"Is that you, Henry?" said the one.

"It is, Henry," replied the other. The old woman discovered from their conversation that they belonged to a numerous hunting party led by King Charles IX, and that they had

been dispersed by a storm. "My good woman," said the second comer, "have you naught else to offer

"Nothing," was the reply, "Well, then," said the other, "we

must divide it " fusal; but, observing the resolute eye How the Movable Effect is Obtained and baughty bearing of the second, he

replied in a tone of chagrin;

"Let us divide it, then."

The first Henry endeavored to hide smoke is issuing in clouds from a huge the bread and cheese. The second re- in the same brief time. brown clear. There is also a large placed it on the table and set his

"What! Will you spare me none of

"The supper," said the first Henry. "The supper," said the second Henry. best how to defend it."

The third Henry colored and said baughtily, "Perhaps it rather belongs to him who knows best how to win it." At these words the first Henry drew his dagger, the two others their swords. They had scarce made a few passes when a fourth blow was heard

fourth Henry appeared. At the sight of the naked swords the last comer drew his own and, taking the weakest side, fought vigorous-

at the door. The portal opened. A

The old woman, frightened, hid herself, and it was well that she did, for bulbs. The flasher is driven rapidly, the swords dashed to pieces everything that came in their way. The tamp fell, was extinguished, and all ly. Where the only effect desired is a four fought in the dark. The noise of the swords lasted for some time. at a time the flasher becomes a much but gradually died away. Then the old woman crept out of her hiding derlying principle is the same.-New place, relit the lamp and beheld the four combatants stretched on the floor. She examined them. Fatigue had overpowered them more than loss of blood, They rose up one after another, ashamed of what they had done. "Come," said one: "let us now sup with

good humor and without quarreling." But on looking for the supper they perceived it lying on the floor, soiled with their feet and stained with blood,

The old woman, sitting in a corner, quart stewpan or cup and set it on fixed her dark eyes on the authors of

ner" demanded the first Henry.

The second Henry barshly commanded her to reveal them. The two oth-

ers laughed outright.

With outstretched arms the old woman replied: "As you all four have the world erected by white men to a been united in this cabin, you will all negro. This is the statue of Falucho, be reunited in one and the same des- a negro soldier who refused to baul tiny. As you have trodden underfoot down the Argentine flag at the bidding and solled with blood the bread of hos- of the Spanish soldiery during the first pitality, you will trample underfoot and Argentine revolution and was shot soil with blood the power of which you down by the Spanish. will partake. As you have impoverished and devastated this dwelling, you will devastate and impoverish France. As you have all four been wounded in | tlonary?" asked the student. the dark, you will all perish by treason and a violent death."

These four Henrys were the four heroes of the league-two as its chiefs and two as its enemies-Henry of the subject."-Washington Star. Conde, poisoned at St. Jean d'Angely by his wife; Henry of Guise, assassinated at Blois by the Forty-five; Henry of Valois (Henry III.), assassinated by Jacques Clement at St. Cloud; Henry of Bourbon (Henry IV.), assassinated at Paris by Ravaillac.-New York

Press. Nothing is politically right which is

morally wrong .- O'Connell.

DEATH BY FALLING.

Pain and Fear Seem to Have No Place In the Ordeal.

It is difficult to imagine a more hor rible accident than falling with an airship, yet in the opinion of a German psychologist. Fritz Kahn, death resulting from such a fall is not exceptionally painful, says the New York Evening Post. He argues that it is likely to be met in a state of in difference or eved an agreeable baif conscious condition of mind. He wit nessed the fall of Helm-a fall which lasted a number of seconds, as the airship fluttered to and fro like a piece of paper before the final descent The distance was about eighty yards On recovering consciousness after sev erai days Heim remembered only the ascent. Everything between that and his awakening in the hospital was a

Mountain climbers have had similar experiences. A French geologist who fell over a precipice attests that he swooned and never knew what happened. Whymper, on the other hand, mained fully conscious when he fell on the Matterhorn. Bounding from rock to rock, he calculated the intervals between the shocks, wondered how long he could stand it, felt no pain and came to the conclusion that death through a fall must be one of the least disagreeable ways of ending one's life. A boy of eight who fell twenty-two yards declared that his only thought was that he might lose his new pocketknife.

At a meeting of the Swiss Alpine club the geologist Heim described his feelings during a fall. His first thought was that now he would be unable to deliver the address be had promised; then he thought of the effect on his family of the news of his death. He wanted to take off his spectacles to save his eyes from being damaged by broken glass. Various scenes from his past life flitted across is consciousness in rapid succession. There was no fear, no pain, but rather an agreeable state of mind, like that which is brought on by soft music.

RADIUM RAYS.

The first Henry gave signs of re. Their Velocity the Highest Known Speed of Matter In Motion.

The earth travels in its orbit round the sun nineteen miles a second. The speed at twelve miles a second. A miles a second, and the star called "Groombridge 1830" travels 150 miles

But the speeds of the heavenly bodtions of the tiniest known particles of matter. The sun would seem to stand still could we compare its velocity with that of the radium "rays." These radiations are produced by successive explosions of tiny groups of the tiny atoms of radium. The "alpha rays," being themselves infinitesimal fragnts of matter, are thrown out with a velocity of perhaps 12,000 miles a second. The "beta rays" travel still

in the emanations of this wonderful radium we find the highest known speed of matter in motion. At 12,000 miles a second it would take little more than two seconds for a particle of matter to travel all the way round the earth. Look at your watch and note the duration of two seconds; then imagine that in a chariot drawn by "alpha rays" you have been round the world. There is hardly time in two seconds for you to think the journey

The highest measured speed, how ever, is not the speed of matter, but the speed of that etheric vibration which we call light. And light travels at the rate of 186,000 miles a second.-Youth's Companion.

"The Thunderer."

It was the mud flinging of an earlier mode of travel than the motorbus that gave the London Times its nickname of "The Thunderer." Two ladies at Kew had been splashed by an unmannerly horseman passing them too closely, and the Times came out with a strong leader alleging the offender to have been the Duke of Cumberland. In due course it was found that the horseman was not the duke, and in a "Why do you look at us in that man- further article by way of apology the Times used the words "We thundered "I see your destinies written in your out." an expression that so tickled the foreheads," answered the injured wo public that the name of "Thunderer" was bestowed on the paper forthwith.

A Notable Statue.

In the beautiful city of Buenos Aires is perhaps the only statue in

The Last Word. "What's the first word in the dic "The article 'a,' of course," replied

Mr. Growcher. 'And what's the last word?" "Ask my wife. She's an expert on

His Chief Anxiety.

Defendant's Wife-Don't worry, dear. The judge's charge was certainly in four favor. Defendant (moodily)-1 know that. It's the lawyer's charge

No life is so strong and complete but it yearns for the smile of a friend .-Wallace Bruce.

that I'm thinking about - Boston Tran-

PLUCKY PITCHING.

Vedder Sitton's Feat That Landed a Championship Pennant.

In the greatest fluish that ever eans and Nashville. Southern league outenders, had come to the wire neck and neck. On Sept. 19, 1908, they met in the final and decisive game of the cear upon exactly even terms. The entire tighting of the past five months had centered in that lone contest, five months packed into two hours of play. with the result to tell the story of the cear's success or failure. Manager Frank of New Orleans, unwilling to run any needless risk, selected the veteran Theodore Breitenstein of St. Louis and Cincinnati fame to battle for his people in the box. Manager Bernhard of Nashville, passing by his veterans, selected young Vedder Sitton. an ex-collegian, to face the \$10,000 wonder of another day.

For six innings so perfect was the defensive play of both nines that neither team was able to score. In the seventh inning Nashville scored one run, and in the play involved young Sitton slid headforemost into the plate and fell over unconscious from the blow received just above the eyes. With the situation as tightly drawn as it was, disaster looked to be imminent. Bernhard immediately rushed his entire remaining staff back of the clubicouse to be ready for the call, while two physicians worked above the unconscious Sitton. He came to life again just as the Nashville team was taking the field for the eighth inning with another in his

Staggering to his feet, Sitton insisted upon finishing the contest, and Bernhard, against his better judgment, gave way. The heavy batting end of very threshold, that "men at birth are the New Orleans team was up in order. With bandaged head, his face still white and drawn from the shock. in no condition to stand, still less to lead a desperate charge, Sitton electri, object just now, but sound and memfied the crowd by striking out two of orizing. the first three men that faced him. In the ninth he added two more victims to the list in bringing home the another exercise in "getting by heart." victory by the score of 1 to 0, winning after which in parts of the land the the pennant by the margin of one point. And then he collapsed. It was over two weeks before he recovered ber of characters named, no one of sufficiently to be up and about, and which is ever used twice. Still no exyet New Orleans batsmen relate that planation is vouchsafed. For all the in those last two innings he had shown sun itself, like all the other stars, has more "stuff" by a wide margin than with equal profit memorize a number at any other stage of the battle -

First American Letter Box.

A little more than a balf century ago the letter box was unknown. The inventor was Joseph William Briggs. nephew of a former governor of Massachusetts, who, as head clerk in the Cleveland postoffice studied the needs of patrons and after correspondence the four books and be capable of reelwith Postmaster General Dennison ing off "yards, rods, furlongs or miles" its of the plan and appointed Mr. wearisome work in sight now. by clamps to a lamppost that stood in our own on the Bible or Shakespeare. different cities had adopted the system. -National Magazine.

Where Miners Lose Their Nerve. Men accustomed to working mines cannot stand great beights. It is almost an invariable rule that a miner will get dizzy and uneasy if you take him to a high place, such as a monument or the top of a house, and will try to get back to earth as soon as possible. And yet he can stand underground on the edge of a 500 foot shaft, look down into the black abvas and never feel a tremor. He can climb up the face of a shaft, knowing that there is a straight drop of a thou-

Scanty Ammunition.

sand feet under him, and feel perfect-

ly at home. Popular Magazine.

Colonel Sark's regiment just prior to the battle of Bunker Hill was quartered at Milford, some four miles distant, and was destitute of ammunition. About 10 o'clock on the morning he received orders to march, however, each man received a gill cupful of powder, fifteen balls and one flint. As the muskets were of varying callber it was meessary to reduce the size of the balls for many of them .- Magazine of American History.

About the Size of It.

"Why is it." queried the youth. "that so many people fail to mind their own business?"

"There may be one of two reasons. or both," answered the home grown philosopher "They may have no mind or no business."-Philadelphia

The Forbidden. A sailor had just shown a lady over the ship. In thanking him she said:

"I am so sorry to see by the rules that tips are forbidden on your ship." "Bless you, ma'am," replied the sailor, "so were apples in the Garden of Eden."-1 ... ndon Telegraph,

Easier.

"If I buy you a seat in the Stock Exchange will you agree to go to work?" "I ain't erry for work, dad. Make it a seat in the senate."-Louisville Courier-Journal.

Art Versus Nature.

"How cann she to get such a sudden craze on to . . . it the beauty doctors?" "She wants to look like her photograph."-Houston Post.

The desire and longings of man are vast as eternity, and they point him to

SCHOOLS IN CHINA

nurked a minor league race New Or. They Have Curious and Strenuous Methods of Teaching.

AMAZING FEATS OF MEMORY.

For Years the Pupils Are Kept "Getting by Heart" Books of Which They Have No Understanding, After Which Comes the Explanation.

A Chinese schoolboy sets off one fine morning when seven or eight years old to enter on his instructional course. He makes the most profound obelsance to his teacher. His parents provide the table at which and the stool on which he sits. They also supply the "four precious articles," the ink slab, the ink cake, the pen or brush for writing and the paper.

He will have no need at first of the writing materials, all his time being employed in memorizing the books given him. Perhaps a dozen boys. each a class by himself, are busy on his entry. Each is shouting his task at the top of his voice, the teacher sitting at his table in all the somnoient wakefulness of a judge. No wrong pronunciation or intonation escapes his practiced ear, and correction is frequent.

It is a simple country house, with its earthen floor, its unglazed windows and its air of utter poverty. Our young hopeful, says the National Review, in due time is introduced to the "Trimetrical Classic" and the questionable statement, which forms its radically good," so set in classical form that he has no more idea of its meaning than if it were in Greek. It is not meaning, however, that is the

Then he will be introduced to the book of surnames, 400 in number, as "Thousand Character Classic" is set. This is a book consisting of the numlearning our youth is gaining be might of auction catalogues. He is given in varying order, according to the custom followed by his teacher, the four sacred books-the "Great Learning." also known as "The Door of Virtue;" the "Analects" of Confucius, the "Doctrine of the Mean" and the "Book of Men-

cius." As early as thirteen, it may be, he will have done the memory work of upon the subject took a train for of learning. Then enlightenment in Washington, bearing a pasteboard the form of explanation begins. Darkmodel of the letter box under his arm. ness is made visible, and education The postmaster general saw the mer. may be said to have begun. There is

Briggs as special agent to establish As if the books themselves were not the letter box and letter carrier sys of sufficient difficulty, there are endtem. The first letter box was attached less commentaries after the fashion of front of a Cleveland drug store, and The "Great Learning" provides illusnot a year had passed before fifty-two trations of virtue, aims at the constant renewal of good and so at the attainment of the highest excellence. Its ideal is a righteous government over a tranquil and happy people. The "Doctrine of the Mean" is more strictly individualistic. Correct conduct in every stage of life is its subject.

The chief competitive examinations are three in number. The first, for the Situsai, or B. A. degree, is held at the prefectural city; the second, the Ku-jen, or M. A., at the provincial capital, and the third, the Tsin-shi, or LL. D., at Peking. In one or other of these the clever youth whose career we are following may possibly find himself in a peculiar position as competitor with his own father or even his grandfather, who, with more perseverance than luck or brains, keeps "pegging away" year after year till success arrives-or death.

Many are the attempts at trickery, cribbing, bribery or whatever may bring the candidate sufficiently near the top to be one of the favored few who "pass," the percentage of these being fractionally small at times. To guard against fraud there are precautions such as could never have been suggested in the west.

Every candidate has his own little cell in which he works during the days of the examination. Not a few die under the ordeal. "Any essay is good which gives a man bis M. A.." says the proverb, and "If one comes out first on the dragon list there is a chance within ten years of being in the Phoenix pool," which being interpreted means that he who heads the M. A. list is likely by and by to become a Hanlin. So, indeed, it happens to our young hopeful now arrived at years of much discretion. He even becomes the Shuang Yuan of his year, the laureate or senior classic, as he might be named in the west.

Whereupon on his return to his native province he is received with the highest bonors from the highest people, the viceroy leading, and then a curious thing happens. Many of the people of the province having the same surname apply for the honor of being permitted to worship at the ancestral hall of the successful genius and accompany their appeals with valuable persuasives. They thus establish a claim to relationship with the amiable desire of having a friend at court. -New York Sun.

When a man is no longer anxious to do better than well he is done for .- R. R. Haydon.

Human life is more governed by fortune than by reason.-Hume.

BROUGHT HIS TOOTHBRUSH.

But Saint-Saens, the Composer, Didn't

Shock Parisian Society. The Cri de Paris told the following story of Saint-Saens, the composer: A. rare visitor to Paris, be is on his visits much sought after as a social tion. One lady succeeded in persuading him to accept an invitation to dinner, promising to send to fetch him and also to deposit him at his door when he left, his only stipulation being that he should be allowed to make his adieus at 10 o'clock

The son of his hostess was dispatched in good time and found M. Saint-Saens in a velvet coat seated before his plano. He rose at ouce, however, and asked for ten minutes to dress, at the end of which he appeared, tying his white cravat. As he was shutting his door behind him he ejaculated:

"Good gracions! One minute more:

I have forgotten my toothbrush!" The young man, to his amazement. saw his guest dive into his dressing room and reappear with a toothbrush. which he put away in his breast pocket. On arriving home he told his mother, who in some uneastness informed her friends, and everybody was in wonderment as to what the great composer was going to do with his toothbrush.

Every eye was fixed on him throughout the dinner, watching him as he ate and drank and used his finger glass. In the drawing room Saint-Saens talk ed with the ladies and played any piece that was asked of him till 10 o'clock struck, when he bade farewell politely to the company.

The journey home was without incident, and when they reached his house M. Saint-Saens simply offered to shake hands and say good night. Curiosity was too strong, though, for the youth, who said:

"Excuse me. maiter, but I should so much like to know why you so particularly wanted to take your toothbrush with you."

"Oh, my young friend," replied Saint-Saens, "it is very simple! My lock is very stiff, and I always hurt my fingers in turning the key. So I now pass the handle of my toothbrush in the ring of the key and turn it easily. Volis."

THOROUGHLY WARMED.

An Old Time Schoolboy's Experience on a Bitterly Cold Day.

An old time gentleman of Newburyport, describing his school days in the opening years of the nineteenth century, has this to say of a wintry day:

"We found our inkstands all frozen up. These required to be thawed out. To do this there was a board held up by bricks over the stove on which the pewter inkstands were placed, but before the copy was written down the ink would be again frozen. Then the boy took his ink to the stove again and while it was thawing laid in a store of caloric for himself, standing by the stove, watching closely that the pewter should not meit.

"The clothes of the boys were made of corduroy, jacket and trousers in one. and nothing under but a shirt. These that when a boy retruned to his seat be was often compelled to carry his inkstand in his mouth, employing both hands to hold his trousers off from his knees, and with every precaution the skin was often mottled and scorched."

Another old time schoolboy in his later years recalled an even severer experience.

"I can remember," he recorded, "bow, crowding close to the stove to toast the shivers from my poor little body. I scorched a hole in my trousers in front and exclaimed aloud at the disaster, whereupon the master thrashed a hole into them behind, and when I went home to my mother she told me grimly it was well that things should match and that as my shirt was such an old one she was willing to risk fraying it on the back, and she reached for a strap and did!

"I was thoroughly warmed, and it was the coldest day of the year, but I regretted my shivers after all."-Youth's Companion.

Helpful Son-in-law. "So you asked my wife for our daughter's hand, did you?" said the

"I did, and she began to give me a piece of her mind about my persumption, and I"-"And you beat a retreat and came

to see me. Well, sir"-

"Oh, no! I didn't retreat. I argued it out with her, and before I left she had given me her consent. So I"-"You did? Bully for you! You can have the girl, and you can live right here with us. I want to study your

Little Pitcher.

system of defying my wife for a year

or so anyway."-Woman's World.

Lady Visitor-1 am coming to your mamma's company tomorrow. Tommy. Tommy-Well, you won't get a good supper. Tommy's Papa-Tommy, what do you mean, talking like that? Tommy-Well, you know, pa. you told ma you'd have to get some chicken feed for her old hen party tomorrow.-Baltimore American.

The Widow.

"I noticed as I came in," said the caller to her dear friend the widow. "that you have made a change in your servants. You have a white butler

"Yes," sighed the widow, "a white butler, but a negro cook. I go into half mourning this season."-Harper's.

Inherited It.

"What a matchmaker that woman s. to be sure!"

"Yes, but she comes by it honestly. I understand her father was a promoter."-Detroit Free Press.