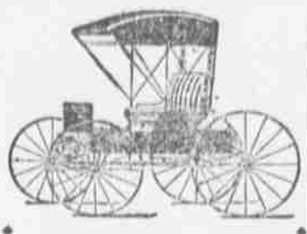


A Modern Disease.

Anxious Mother—Tell me, doctor, is it a dangerous disease.

Physician—I fear it is. He has breakfastfooditis in an advanced stage."—Judge.

A Possible Obstacle.

Clara—Of course you will be at church Easter morning?"

Alice—Yes, unless the cook wants to go.—Detroit Free Press.

Very Convenient.

Little Willie was playing with the kitten when he discovered her claws for the first time. Turning to his mother, he exclaimed:

"Oh, mamma, hasn't kittie got a handy pincushion?"—Little Chronicle.

At the Oculist's.

"Can I see Dr. Spinks, the oculist?"

"I'm sure I don't know. If you can, you have no need of his services and he won't care to see you. If you can't, why, step right in."—Chicago News.

Thought It Might Be.

Mrs. Newrocks—I'm determined that Cynthia's debut shall pass off with great eclat.

Mr. Newrocks—What's eclat, Maria—expense?—Puck.

Too Curious.

"There is never any uncertainty where I stand," said the pompous speaker at the ward meeting. "I'm a stalwart."

Whereupon the little man with a squeaky voice half rose and putting his hand to his ear, inquired: "What kind of a wart?"—Kansas City Journal.

Safe Bullets for Duelists.

A harmless bullet, made of a shell of chalk, has been invented by a Parisian physician, and it will no doubt be extensively used by French duelists. When it strikes a person it merely marks the spot without doing the least injury. With a mask over the face, men can practice revolver shooting at each other just as they now practice fencing.

Summing Up.

Patience—Yes, Bob Brief, the able counselor, proposed to me last night in true legal style.

Patrice—And that smacking noise we heard later?

"Oh, he was just summing up."—Yonkers Statesman.

Uncle Reuben Says:

Laziness am next to wickedness, but we should remember jest de same dat it's de strenuous mewl whe breaks 13 wuth of harness while tryin' to start a 50-cent load.—Detroit Free Press.

His Time.

Mrs. Jollyman—John, you don't seem to be in a hurry to get to the office this morning.

Mr. Jollyman—No, and I'm not obliged to be, either. My time is my own, madam.

Mrs. Jollyman—I guess that's so, John. I know it's your time you give when you come home from the club, for it never agrees with the clock by several hours.—Boston Courier.

Gems from the Coast.

The current number of the Pacific Unitarian contains the following gleams from a recent examination in the San Francisco schools:

"Define fathom and form a sentence with it."

"A fathom is six feet. A fly has fathom."

"Define species."

"Species is kind. A boy must be species to his mother."

Willing to Try.

"For the first year of our married life, dear," said the young man who was poor, but had prospects, "we shall have to live principally on love."

"Well, people can live on spoon victuals, can't they, George?" she said, snuggling closer to him.

QUEER STORIES

Glaciers are the largest bodies of crystalline structure known.

England was first divided into shires during the seventh century, A. D.

Of the 5,000,000 farms in the United States, 3,000,000 produce corn. The average cost of growing an acre of corn in America is $5.

The most valuable medal in existence is the Blake victory medal, struck in 1883. It is of gold, oval in shape, and its original cost was $1,500.

Wax is not gathered from flowers nor from any other source, but is a natural secretion of the bees and is only produced by them during heavy honey flows.

Umbrella bearers are shown in ancient sculptures at Persepolis, where a king is depicted in royal state attended by a fly flapper and an umbrella man. In Persia the umbrella is still an appendage of royalty.

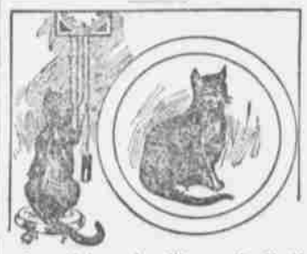
Probably the oldest team of horses in the world is owned by a farmer in Kansas. The combined age of the two is 70 years, one being 37 and the other 33 years of age. The horses were reared on the farm where they still live. Notwithstanding their extreme age they are still doing farm work, looking well, and taking three meals a day.

The council of the Cherokee Nation has decided to erect a monument to mark the grave of George Lowrey, who played an important part in the affairs of the nation from 1790 to 1850, or thereabouts. Lowrey served as captain of horse under Andrew Jackson throughout the war of 1812, and he and his Cherokees fought for the government in subsequent Indian wars.

Frank M. Chapman believes concerning the migration of birds that migration began in the South, rather than the North, as the tropical region was the place where the primitive birds and their reptilian ancestors originated and developed. In his opinion there was crowding near the center of the food supply, which resulted in some of the primitive creatures seeking sustenance at the edges of their zone of existence. These venturesome ones probably died before the primitive birds could fly, but as flying became more and more natural they were able to migrate farther and farther with safety, so that they were able to easily find a nesting-place, to which they annually repaired, and could later return to their normal zone.

There are now estimated to be about 120,000,000 stars in the visible heavens, but the ratio of fainter ones is not what might be expected were the universe unlimited, so that, after all, the universe may have really definite limits. This is a question that we would like to have some evidence wherewith to found a definite belief. Then, are there other universes far larger than our own? We have the barest hint that there are. A single star in the heavens of the Southern hemisphere, the "runaway star," is moving with a velocity of 200 miles a second. This is a greater speed than all the attractions of all the known stars could give it, and the question is, is there a larger universe which is drawing it away from us? This is a question for the new century to study.

CAT THAT WINDS THE CLOCK REGULARLY.



Forgetful people will envy the North Dakota farmer who is the proud possessor of a cat that knows how to wind a clock. Tabby never forgets. She is regularity itself. When the appointed time for clock winding draws near she seats herself on a rug in front of it and watches until the hands announce the proper season. Then she stretches herself and climbs up until she reaches the weight. This she drags down and the clock is wound up for another twenty-four hours.

Facts About Senators.

The Congressional Directory prepared for the special session of the Senate shows that the law is the prevailing profession of the members of the upper house of Congress. For the first time in several years all of the States in the Union are represented in the Senate and three-fourths of the members are lawyers.

Of the balance, one is a civil engineer, two are doctors, three are newspaper men and the others are bankers, miners, business men and politicians. The average age is found to be 56, with Senator Pettus of Alabama the oldest (82), and Bailey of Texas the youngest (40). Senator Pettus is a survivor of the Mexican War, while twenty-five members fought in the Civil War. Of college graduates there are fifty-five and seven of the members are foreign born. Kearns of Utah, Millard of Nebraska and Gallinger of New Hampshire were born in Canada and Nelson of Minnesota was born in Norway. Senator Patterson of Colorado is Irish, Jones of Nevada English and Wetmore of Rhode Island was born in England of American parents, residing there at the time. Twenty-eight Senators were born within the borders of the States they represent.

Excitement.

"Anything important going on at the theaters?"

"I should say so. The plays aren't so very interesting, but the controversy among managers as to who shall have control of the box-office receipts is becoming very exciting."—Washington Star.

The record yield of timber from one tree is 80,000 feet, from a redwood 20 feet in diameter, cut last year in California.

If some pieces of art work were not antique, they would be ugly.

ABRAM'S STEERS.

Good Animals, but He Had Not Stated What They Cost Him.

They were all gathered around the stove in the deacon's store when Abram Howland entered, and was greeted with inquisitive nods and glances. Abram was a man of affairs, and in his cattle-buying expeditions sometimes traveled far. This brushing up against the world, says a writer in the Boston Herald, gave him an air of shrewd ability, and his neighbors were evidently anxious to hear of his latest purchase.

"That was a fine pair of steers I saw ye toting up the road t'day, Ab'm," suggested the deacon.

"Fine a pair as I ever picked up," Abram Howland replied, easily. "Well matched, I s'pose ye noticed?" he continued.

"Should say's much," replied the deacon, admiringly. "How much did they set ye back, I wonder?"

This was what everybody wanted to know, and the audience turned interestedly for Abram's reply.

"Oh, I got 'em back here quite a piece. That nigh one, he come off old man Tolles' place, up Goshen way. He's a pretty good match but not quite so good's t'other one. He come from—"

"What did ye pay fur 'em?" repeated the deacon, raising his voice slightly. Abram kept on in his established monotone. Apparently he had not heard the deacon's question.

"You know that Swede, the one that took up the old Haskins farm, all run down to wreck and up to brush? Well, he had t'other one. I see by my eye there wa'n't an ounce difference in their hefts, so I made a dicker t' get 'em both. Glad ye all like 'em."

"Yes, but how much did they tax ye fur 'em?" shouted the deacon. And 'Bije Stiles added, "Bet ye, now, the Swede taxed ye more'n Tolles did, if truth was known."

"I didn't consider that any defect," replied Abram, gayly. "A star more or less don't make any difference, and that's as nigh alike as ye can expect t' pick 'em up, fur apart's them was."

The deacon got down to Abram's ear and shouted, "Abram, I asked ye what ye paid for the pair?"

"Well, the Swede's hair may be a little finer, but what of it?" demanded Abram.

"I never see him deaf like this before," apologized the deacon. "Abram, what—did—ye—pay—for—the steers?"

"Oh, they are yearlings all right. I got their pedigree down fine. And I cal'late that if I don't dispose of 'em for driving, I can fat 'em up good for market. Now Western beef's getting so high we Eastern fellers can work in a fat critter once in a while without losing anything."

By a simultaneous movement the gathering forced Abram's attention from the high joint of stovepipe where his eye had been fixed, and shouted at him in desperate unison:

"What did them steers cost ye?"

"Did I hear ye ask what they cost?" queried Abram, with a twinkle in his eye. "Now I can't ricollect just this minute whether I told anybody yet what they cost. No, I don't think I have. But I'll think it over, and if I remember telling anybody I'll come back an' let ye know who it was." And so saying, Abram struggled to his feet and stalked out.

The Happy Microbe.

I'd like to be a microbe,
And with the microbes play,
Without a task to fret me
Through all the livelong day.

I'd like to give up striving
To make ends meet, and fare
Wherever fancy led me,
Without a worldly care.

I'd like the independence
To freely come and go,
As does the happy microbe,
With none to say me no.

The microbe serves no master,
He never has to sigh
O'er chances that escaped him
Or joys he let go by.

His loving wife ne'er dopes him
Because his feet get wet;
He needn't go in springtime
To look for homes "To Let."

At night his mate ne'er greets him
By running out to say:
"I hope you've had your dinner,
For Hannah quit to-day."

His baby never tumbles
Out of its little bed,
Or crawls beneath the table
To bump its little head.

House cleaning has no terrors
That he must ever face;
He never is besmirched by
A relative's disgrace.

Oh, happy, happy microbe,
Without a task or care,
I wonder if you envy
Some smaller mite somewhere?
—Chicago Record-Herald.

Valuable Railroad Track.

The most valuable piece of railroad track in the country lies in the yards at St. Louis. The Iron Mountain and the Missouri Pacific are Gould properties, but at only one point are they connected, and that is by a stretch of track less than two miles long. When Jay Gould died he willed this little track to his daughter Helen, and she owns every rail and spike in it. The transfer charges between the two roads over this track pay her $25,000 a year. Miss Gould does not have to keep up the track, furnish cars, men or anything else. All that is done by the roads using the track, and they must also keep the track in repair. It is said to be the best piece of paying track in the world.

In Argentina.

Machinery has been ordered for the Argentine Republic to turn out 250 tons a week of "Molascuit," the new cattle food made from molasses and sugar-cane fiber.

In the old days of barbarism, men were divided into factions, as at present. When two factions disagreed they collected their spears, and bows and arrows, and went to war. In these civilized times, the members of different factions "talk about" each other, and invent all sorts of improbable stories. Half the charges against humanity are pure fiction.

Sidelights on History.

Yeast—When did the custom originate of putting the music in the rear of the troops during a battle?

Crimsonbeak—Why the Scotch started it.

"Indeed?"

"Yes; they used the bagpipes, you know, and a fellow would rather run into the very face of the enemy than go back where that music was.—Yonkers Statesman.

His One Distinction.

"What makes that little cad of a Tommy Tuffnut limp so?"

"He only does it when he wants to show off. He says there's a place on his leg where John L. Sullivan kicked him once when he got in his way."

Nature's Provision.

Doctors tell us that the skull is so constructed that it can expand without causing death; a provision of nature for people who get their heads swelled.—Atchison Globe.

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