

Fighting Dangerous Slides In The Panama Canal Ditch



Photos by American Press Association.

DANGEROUS slides at various points in the Panama canal are continually delaying the work. At Culebra cut recent slides have been particularly annoying to the engineers, who hope to send the first boat through the canal this year. Thousands of tons of earth, rock and debris have tumbled down into the cut, burying huge steam shovels and dirt cars. The pictures show how the attack is made on the debris after the spill. Steam shovels set up the earth fast, as shown in the top picture and steam drills fasten themselves upon the mass of rock for the purpose of blasting, as seen in the bottom illustration.

SLEEVELESS COATS.

An Innovation of Famous French Artist.

MODEL IN ZIGZAG.

This Unevenly Woven Cloth a Spring Novelty.



COAT TO ACCOMPANY TAILORED GOWN.

The sleeveless coat, the third piece of a tailored toilet in an innovation recently sent over from the other side by a famous French dressmaker. The first model to reach this country is here pictured, the material, a beautiful quality of English mohair, is in a deep leaf green.



IN CLOTH AND EMBROIDERY.

One of the heavy crapes, a material called zigzag, is used in the development of this dress, which displays many new features.

About the House. Pork and Apples.—It is generally conceded that apples are an ideal accompaniment to roast pork. Instead of serving apple sauce or apple jelly with it try roasting some apples in the pan with the meat.

A Novel Scrubbing Brush for Woodwork.—A small whisk is found at times to be a help in the washing of woodwork. It will reach into crevices and corners better than scrubbing brushes of the usual shape.

A Good Use For Asbestos.—A good sized piece of asbestos placed on the ironing board under the layer of paper used for pressing iron will prevent many a mishap. There will not be the slightest danger of the iron burning through to the sheeting beneath.

When Washing Glass Tumblers.—Glass tumblers will not be so likely to break if they are slipped into the hot dishwasher sideways so that it comes into contact with both the inner and outer surface of the glass at the same time. They will not then crack from unequal expansion.

A Cheap Marine Telescope. Make an oblong narrow box out of four pieces of quarter inch board about two feet long by sixteen inches wide, and fit a piece of clear, clean glass across one end, held in place by brass headed tacks driven into the wood and overlapping the glass. Fill all the cracks with sealing wax to keep out the light. Then plunge the glass and two or three inches into the water and look through the open end. This simple marine telescope is made on the principle of the more elaborate glasses through which to look at the famous pyramids under the sea near the Channel Islands.—Christian Herald.

THE LITERARY RIVALS.

A Series-Comic Scene Between Victor Hugo and the Two Dumas.

It is perhaps only natural that Mr. A. F. Davidson, the latest biographer of Victor Hugo, annoyed by the extravagant eulogies of the poet that his predecessors had written, should lay a good deal of stress on the great Frenchman's faults and failings. Of these the chief was undoubtedly vanity. Victor Hugo was inordinately vain—in a moment with a superb assurance that almost dignified vanity itself, at another with an uneasy jealousy at another petty and absurd.

Some years ago in a review of the work of the two Dumas, father and son, an anecdote was related that well illustrates this trait. Both of the Dumas, Victor Hugo and several others were chatting together when a foreign gentleman was presented, who made an excellent impression on every one until the moment of his departure. As he bowed in taking leave he addressed himself to the most celebrated members of the group and assured them of his pride and satisfaction in having met "the greatest poet, the greatest romancer and the greatest dramatist of France."

"A little unthanking of our friend to address his parting compliment entirely to me, was it not?" remarked Victor Hugo complacently.

The others looked at each other, and he caught the look.

"The dramatist—that was you, then, you think, Dumas?" he inquired of Dumas the younger in an ominous voice. Then a thought even more appalling occurred to him, and without waiting for a reply he turned to Dumas the elder.

"The romancer, monsieur—the romancer! Do I understand you to suppose that by 'the greatest romancer' it was you who was designated? Reply, monsieur!" he demanded. His brow was thunderous, and the company held their breath, but the elder Dumas, who never found himself at a loss, answered with an easy laugh:

"But certainly it was I, and the dramatist was my son. How should it be otherwise? You did not invite the gentleman to dine, and I did. You are not a cook—a good cook, a veritable prince among cooking amateurs—and I am! His compliments, such as they are, are for us, his prospective hosts. But they are only payment in advance for the salads marseillaise of peppers stuffed with minced crab meat which I have promised to prepare for him and which I invite you to share also."

The great and only Hugo shrugged a tolerantly contemptuous shoulder.

"No! I have had enough of the society of this gentleman who speaks from the stomach, not the head," he stated grandly. "You may appreciate it, Dumas, but I do not. It is true—I am not a cook."

Chinese Water Pans. Every one knows that oil heaters should have a pan of water placed on top to supply necessary moisture to the atmosphere. In Chinese shops very pretty brass pans may be found that are exactly suited to this purpose.

They are flat bottomed, have straight sides and are without protruding handles, so that they are not easily tipped over. Most pans used for this purpose are inartistic, but these oriental ones are an ornament. They come in various sizes. Those of a suitable size for a radiator or small heating stove sell for about 40 cents. They are decorated with the imperial dragon about whose grotesque claws are intertwined the Chinese characters which represent the words "long life" and "happiness."

Now that the dragon has been shorn of his imperial dignity and will probably disappear as a decoration sooner or later, admirers of oriental art are clinging to treasures engraved with his portrait because he represents a period.

Pompadour Slippers. The glory of the pompadour slipper lies in the elaboration of its buckle. Shoes are sold without any decoration at all, the intention being to regard the buckle as a personal ornament belonging to the jewel box and changeable from one pair of shoes to another.

Of a less costly description there are lovely buckles of colored marquisette, the designs taking the form of Louis XV. bows in mock diamonds or pearls, bordered with tiny mock sapphires and rubies and centered with a large blister pearl. Buckles of paste are threaded on rosettes of chiffon, and elaborate mock diamond buttons, ringed round with imitation emeralds, adorn slippers of white and green shot broche.

Keeping Apples in Winter. To keep apples through the winter in a barrel bore holes in the bottom and sides of the barrel and store on a dry platform a foot or more high. Where only a few apples are available for storage a good plan is carefully to wrap them singly in paper. This will effectually protect them against any drying influence of the atmosphere. They may then be packed in layers, three or four deep, in shallow boxes or hamper and placed in the coolest available position in the house or out-building.

Oh, That Memory! A woman may say that she will forgive and forget, but she will never let you forget that she forgave.—Woman's Home Companion.

The Scholar. Dr. Evans, a witty member of the parliament at Melbourne, was an old man, and the other members jokingly spoke of him as belonging to the era of Queen Anne.

Once while making a speech he referred to Queen Anne and was greeted with cries of "Did you know her?" "What was she like?"

"Yes, sir," retorted the doctor, "I did know her. The scholar is contemporary with all time."

Going to an Expert. When the butcher answered the telephone the shrill voice of a little girl greeted him:

"Hello! Is this Mr. Wilson?" "Yes, Bessie," he answered kindly. "What can I do for you?"

"Oh, Mr. Wilson, please tell me where grandma's liver is! The folks are out and I've got to put a hot fennel on it, and I don't know where it is!"—Ladies' Home Journal.

CONCEALED PUNS.

James Russell Lowell Cleverly Hid One In a Review.

QUAINT HUMOR IN A SNEEZE.

The Story That is Told of the Witty Cleric, Sydney Smith, and the Wager He Won While in the Pulpit—A Buried Pun by Nathaniel Hawthorne.

Horace E. Scudder in some reminiscences of James Russell Lowell pointed out that the poet critic even in his soberest essays would sometimes hide away a jest for the delectation of specially discerning readers. Thus in a review of Richard Grant White's edition of Shakespeare, Lowell remarked incidentally:

"To every commentator who has wantonly tampered with the text or obscured it with his inky cloud of paraphrase we feel inclined to apply the quadrifid name of the brother of Agis, king of Sparta."

Professor Felton of Harvard, we are told, was the first to remember or discover that the name of Agis' brother was Eudamidas.

A more opaque mystification is contained in a passage in the first chapter of Nathaniel Hawthorne's "Our Old Home"—opaque only because he purposely seeks to conceal every clue to the fact that a pun is buried beneath the surface.

The chapter is headed "Consular Experiences." Speaking of the lights and shadows of the consul's office at Liverpool, where he was stationed during the presidency of Franklin Pierce, Hawthorne dwells with special pleasure on the visits of a young English friend, "a scholar and literary amateur, between whom and myself there sprang up an affectionate and, I trust, not transitory regard."

"This friend used to come and sit or stand by the Hawthorne fireside, 'with such kind endurance of the many rough republicanism wherewith I assailed him and such frank and amiable assertion of all sorts of English prejudices and mistakes, that I understood his countrymen infinitely the better for him and was almost prepared to love the intensest Englishman of them all for his sake. It would gratify my cherished remembrance of this dear friend if I could remind him without offending him, or letting the public know it, to introduce his name upon my page. Bright was the illumination of my dusky little apartment as often as he made his appearance there."

The casual reader never suspects that Hawthorne has deftly accomplished his purpose. It does not occur to him that Bright, the apparent adjective that so cunningly begins a sentence and therefore achieves the right to a capital initial, may be alternatively read as a proper noun.

Henry A. Bright was, in fact, Hawthorne's only intimate friend in Liverpool. He was a man of wealth and position in that town, a dilettante who had published for his own amusement a botanical manual, "The English Flower Garden." With Hawthorne he would frequently call upon the local bookseller, Henry Young, making use of a little nook in the rear of the shop to examine and discuss the recent publications. This came to be known as Hawthorne's corner.

There is a story told about Sydney Smith that represents him as carrying a concealed pun into the pulpit with him. The most familiar version is that when settled at his small living in Yorkshire, Sydney willingly assisted his brethren in that neighborhood in their clerical duties. On one occasion he dined with the incumbent on the preceding Saturday. The evening passed in great hilarity, the squire, Kershaw by name, being conspicuous by his loud enjoyment of the visitor's jokes.

"I am very glad that I have amused you," said Sydney Smith at parting, "but you must not laugh at my sermon tomorrow."

"I should hope I know the difference between here and a church," remarked the squire a little tartly perhaps.

"I'm not so sure of that." "I'll bet you a guinea on it." "Take you," said the divine.

Next day the preacher ascended the steps of the pulpit apparently suffering from a severe cold, with his handkerchief to his face, and at once sneezed out the name "Kershaw" several times in various intonations. This ingenious assumption of the readiness with which a man would recognize his own name in sounds unintelligible to the ears of others proved accurate. The poor squire burst into guffaw, to the scandal of the congregation. The minister after looking at him with stern reproach proceeded with his discourse and won the bet.

Another version makes the victim of Sydney's jest a certain Sir Archibald Macdonald, esquire to the Duke of Sussex. Sir Archibald said to the prelate, who was then a canon at St. Paul's cathedral:

"I will come some Sunday to hear you preach."

"If you do I shall name you from the pulpit," was the reply.

Undaunted by this threat, Sir Archibald went to St. Paul's. Sydney entered the pulpit, looked hard at the baronet and was seized with a wonderful fit of sneezing.

"Archie, Archie, Archie" was how it sounded in Sir Archibald's ears, and he could not help a sudden laugh of recognition.—William S. Walsh to Boston Post.

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