

**ALASKAN GOLD.**  
A million years in the smelting pots  
Of the great earth's furnace core,  
It bubbled and boiled as the old gods  
Toiled  
Before it was time to pour.  
A million years in the giant molds  
Of granite and mica-schist  
It cooled and lay in the self-same way  
That into their hearts it hissed.  
A million years, and the clouds of steam  
Were rivers and lakes and seas;  
And the mastodon to his grave had gone  
In the coal that once was trees.  
When the Master Molder raised his  
hand,  
He shattered the gray rock mold  
And sprinkled its core from shore to  
shore,  
And the dust that fell was gold,  
—Youth's Companion.

**In the Mirror.**

THE soft lights of the quiet restaurant brought rest to Boynton's tired nerves; he picked up the menu with a sigh of content. "This isn't half bad," he mused, ruminating his eyes down the card, "though it savors uncommonly of poolroom bulletins; combination one; combination two—well, with a smile at the conceit, 'reckon I'll play combination seven—lamb chop, griddle cake, lyonnais potatoes—a hungry fellow can't lose much on that—sure. Hello!" his glance falling suddenly on a large Japanese screen, partially hiding one corner of the room, "there's an orchestra, too; hope they are on a par with the rest of the appointments. By jove! they're girls."

In the mirror by the end of the screen a face had arisen, a laughing girlish face, and its owner, tucking a fat brown violin under her arm, and blissfully unconscious of Boynton's eager scrutiny, proceeded with much graceful posing and sundry deft and skillful jobs of a long, black-headed pin to adjust a huge picture hat upon her small and shapely head.

Evidently she of the merry countenance was trying it on, for she turned presently as if inviting an opinion from some unseen companion—and at that moment she caught the reflection of Boynton's admiring eyes staring at her in the mirror.

The smile vanished, giving place to surprise, annoyance and swiftly growing resentment; but the look of utter chagrin that flashed over Boynton's face as he realized that he had been guilty of a rudeness was clearly too much for the young lady's sense of humor, for after a brief struggle, the stern lines at the corner of her lips melted into the suspicion of a smile; with a quick glance—half fun, half defiance—she suddenly thrust out her tongue, and with a saucy courtesy at the reflection of the discomfited Boynton—she disappeared.

"Well, if she isn't a peach," thought Mark, gazing ruefully at the empty mirror, while a curious thrill tingled along his nerves. "What stunning hair she has. I wish I knew who she was; somehow she seems different from any girl I ever—" He dropped his knife and fork in astonishment, doubting his ears.

From behind the screen came the rattling notes of a familiar rag-time air, "Why don't you get a lady of your own?" remarked the violin, sarcastically. Mark grinned in spite of himself.

"I'll get even for that, young lady," he remarked, "or my name isn't Mark Boynton—I am going to find out who you are."

During the remainder of his lunch Mark racked his brain to little purpose, but as he stepped up to pay his check an inspiration came to him "Eureka! he ejaculated.



If possible use only filtered rain water in making a solution and you will be surprised at the much better results you will obtain.

Try rubbing around the edge of the plate, say one-sixteenth of an inch deep, with a piece of wax candle to prevent frilling.

Those who find difficulty in using a brush for spotting pinholes in negatives or prints, should try an ordinary wooden toothpick sharpened to a needle point.

To dry plates in a hurry after fixing and washing, lay the plate in alcohol and let it remain two minutes. Rest plate on one corner when taking it out. It will dry in a few moments. Be sure, however, that it is thoroughly washed before putting in the alcohol.

An English amateur, who stands among the recognized leaders, has this to say on hand camera pictures that is interesting: "Under-exposed and over-developed" is the true verdict which should be pronounced on perhaps three out of every four hand camera negatives. The error of over-development is to a large extent due to the widespread but very misleading notion, viz., that prolonged development will bring out the details. To put this fine, crusted, old delusion in other words, it is equivalent to saying that prolonged development compensates for, or is equivalent to, exposure. The hungry school boy is sometimes told that the thickness of the bread compensates for the thinness of the butter, a maxim which sounds all right, but is not easy to swallow."

All amateurs ought to do their own developing. It is really the most interesting feature of picture taking. Any one with intelligence enough to go in when it rains can snap a shutter and then take the plates or film to a professional to develop. That is not learning anything, and moreover it is expensive. Do your own work. Get intimate

the Auburn hair? she said presently, "that's Edith Sinclair; haven't you met her yet? She's a Conservatory pupil."

"My brother, Mark," said Miss Boynton, "Miss Sinclair."

A tide of red surged over Miss Sinclair's perfect face as her eye met Mark's. "You!" she exclaimed, with a horrified little gasp, "the man who—"

"Exactly," responded Mark, "the man who thought he had hired you to play here to-night—and hadn't!"

Miss Sinclair laughed. "You took me for Barbara Sturm, didn't you?" she said. "I guessed as much when she told me a gentleman had engaged her that evening. Miss Sturm had an engagement and couldn't find a substitute, so for a lark I got leave from the 'Con' and took her place—but aren't you going to play whist?"

"I don't know," said Mark, in mock despair, "I haven't any partner—I never had a 'Lady of my own,' you know," audaciously.

The red flashed back into Miss Sinclair's cheek, but she looked straight into Mark's earnest eyes. "Wouldn't I do?" she answered, saucily, "for a partner?"—Indianapolis Sun.

**FRENCH FADS.**  
One Seems Altogether Without Reason Another Is Reverse.  
The women of Paris are just now engaged in rivalry in regard to who shall own the prettiest fox cub. Every society woman has one, with the result that the little creatures are valued at from \$20 to \$25. When they become too large to handle they are sent to the country and are there set free on the great estates of the rich. Fox cubs are very clever and very playful, but they never bite and hence are only temporarily safe house companions.

**THEY HEARD JENNY LIND.**  
She Sang Three Times for the Boys of a St. Louis School.  
It is years since Jenny Lind died, and many more years since her voice was heard in America. Yet so great was her gift and so sunny and lovable her character that every memory of her is pleasant, even to-day. C. H. Wyman recalls an incident which is interesting in itself, and also characteristic of the great Swedish singer.

In 1849 my father, Prof. Edward Wyman, had erected in St. Louis a building intended mainly to accommodate his "English and Classical High School." The enrollment of the school numbered upward of four hundred. The fourth floor was devoted to classrooms, the third floor being the auditorium or assembly room for the whole school, where each boy had his desk and chair.

In the arrangement of the building the second floor had been fitted up as a public hall, which my father "let" for respectable entertainments. It was for some years the most desirable, if not the only, hall for such purposes in the city. Between the school auditorium above and the public hall below, that is, through the floor of the former and in the ceiling of the latter, a large opening or ventilator had been constructed. This opening was properly screened from below, but the ventilator was put in use by raising two large trap doors in the floor of the school room above. Of course it was ordinarily used only at night and during the progress of entertainments in the public hall below.

When Jenny Lind came to St. Louis my father's hall was engaged for her concert. As elsewhere, the prices for admission to hear her were high, and many were disappointed. In school one day my father electrified his pupils by asking them if they would like to hear Jenny Lind. Of course they would.

"Well," he informed them, "then I shall expect you to be on your best behavior. She will sing for you in a very few minutes, and perfect quiet must be maintained until you get further orders."

In the meantime Jenny Lind—all unconscious of the school—had reached the building and entered the public hall below, either for a rehearsal or to try the acoustic properties of the room previous to the concert in the evening. My father quietly raised the trap doors in the floor of the school room, and in a few moments from below up through the ventilator came the sweet notes of that wonderful voice.

The boys drank in the music with delight and in perfect silence. When they ceased, upon signal from my father, thousands of applause from the boys went down through the ventilator. This was immediately followed by a glorious school song, ending with a whistling chorus.

When the echoes of this had passed away, up through the ventilator came the faint clapping of a pair of hands which we knew to be Jenny Lind's, and then came another sweet aria, or some song that took the boys by storm. They gave her another chorus, and again she returned the compliment. And so, after "three times three," the trap doors were closed.

**PLAYING FOR HIS LIFE.**  
Fiddler Tried the Effect of Music on Two Big Snakes.  
There have been many tales in which the charming of snakes by music is the leading incident, and every one who has visited a circus has seen a snake charmer at work. But the circus snake has been deprived of its fangs. "Zabab Crandall, a fiddler of the name of Mousquetiere de la Route, Casimir was as nervous over the reception of his soup as a dramatic author or a composer on a first night. He had his reward when the marquis sent for him, and before the assembled guests pressed him to his bosom and exclaimed: "Casimir, it is not a soup; it is a great work, a masterpiece."

**A Cripple Creek Incident.**  
He was just in from the East, and the pattern of his trousers were such that even the dogs regarded him with suspicion. He was walking ahead of a fair girl, his Cripple Creek cousin, and as they climbed the hill he caught his breath and held it with an effort. The beautiful girl behind him was the first to speak. She had been debating whether to call him down for walking in front of her or leave a bowlder against his shoulder blade. Finally she took another course and got him. "This light air don't agree with you," she observed, sweetly.

**SUPPOSE WE SMILE.**  
A Landmark.  
Citizen—Yes, I'll be glad to run out and see you sometime. What's your number?  
Suburban—Why—er—the houses in Scamphurst are not numbered yet.  
Citizen—Well, how will I find you?  
Suburban—Turn to the left from the station, and walk down the road until you come to the second big puddle. My house is directly opposite—Philadelphia Press.

**MUMOROUS PARAGRAPHS FROM THE COMIC PAPERS.**  
Pleasant Incidents Occurring the World Over—Sayings that are Cheerful to Old or Young—Funny Selections that Everybody Will Enjoy.  
"John," she said, "do you think you can afford a new gown for me?"  
He looked at her sharply.  
"Have you ordered it?" he asked.  
"Yes."  
"Then," he said, with a sigh of resignation, "I can afford it."—Chicago Post.

**A Guarantee and a Promise.**  
"Do you guarantee this goods not to fade?"  
"Absolutely! And if it does we will sell you new goods to match the changed color."—Indianapolis News.

**Prominent People.**  
Bella—But why did you refuse him if you loved him?  
Dora—Well, you see, he said he couldn't live without me, and it aroused my curiosity.—Puck.

**Two Harry Calls.**  
Little Freddie—Please, Mr. Druggist, papa wants a bottle of liniment, and mamma wants a bottle of china cement, right away.  
Druggist—All right. What's wrong?  
Freddie—Mamma hit papa with the sugar bowl.—Baltimore American.

**His Experience.**  
His Friend—And you can't get moneyed men to consider the matter?  
The Promoter—No. Money talks, but I've found it a mighty poor listener.—Puck.

**Drew the Line at the Hole.**  
They were admiring the rattlesnake in the zoo, and had been informed that it was much in need of live rats.  
"Will he swallow a rat whole?" questioned one.  
"No," growled the keeper, "we have to take 'em out of the holes first."—Stray Stories.

**Distinction Defined.**  
May—Do you think one should marry for love or for money?  
Chaperon—My dear, love is an excuse for marriage, but money is a justification.—Stray Stories.

**Easily Pleased.**  
"Daughter, is your husband amiable?"  
"Well, ma, he's just exactly like pa; when he gets his own way about everything he's just perfectly lovely."—Helene Welt.

**Incompetent.**  
She (at the railroad station)—Is this the bureau of information?  
Clerk—Yes, miss.  
She—Well, can you tell me where I can buy pink corded silk cut on the bias?  
Clerk—I cannot.  
She—Well, do you know where Marie Smith lives? I've lost her address. I think her father is in the pickle business.  
Clerk—I don't know.  
She—Well, what do you know? I'll have you reported to the president of the road—this very day, so there!

**PROVED HE WAS AN EXPERT.**  
Cyclist—You must be an expert rider by this time?  
Pedal—Well, I rather fancy I am. Knocked a man down at the crossing to-day.  
Cyclist—Well? I don't see the point.  
Pedal—Don't you? If I hadn't been an expert rider I should have lost my nerve and dismounted.—Stray Stories.

**Not Collateral.**  
She—Why do people borrow trouble so much?  
He—O, because they never have to put up any security, I suppose.

**Ridiculous.**  
Cholly—She called me a crank.  
Miss Peppery—The idea! That's ridiculous. A crank is usually a person with one idea.—Philadelphia Press.

**Life Not One Grand Sweet Song.**  
Parson—Why, John, what are you doing there?  
John—It's too wet to work, zur.  
Parson—Well, if it's too wet to work, why don't you go home?  
John—Well, my old 'oman, she do 'law so!—Punch.

**His Task Well Done.**  
"That missionary," remarked the king of the Cannon Ball Islands as he polished off the last rib, "is what I would call a finished scholar."

**Being Daughters of Eve, young ladies are of course partial to twilight.**



**THE SUPERBIOUS BABY.**  
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An ounce of gold was worth fifteen ounces of silver in the year 1880. It would buy twenty-one ounces in 1900.  
The city of Portland, Me., has in its streets thirty thousand shade trees, some of which were planted more than half a century ago.  
The big gray kangaroo of Australia measures about seven feet from the tip of its nose to the end of its tail. It can run faster than a horse and clear thirty feet at a jump.  
A writer in the Cologne Gazette declares that servants in the United States do only half as much work, demand twice as much free time, and four times as much wages as servants in Germany.  
The danger of living in a house that harbors consumptives is illustrated by the fact that 6,573 patients officially examined by the German imperial board of health, 2,177, or 34.7 per cent, belonged to families that included other victims of tuberculosis.  
A traveler writes: "A lady to whom I was sitting next at dinner the other day told me she had a remedy for seasickness. She had been a very bad sailor, and even now if she does not practice her remedy she is sick; whereas when she does, she can negotiate comfortably a storm of four or five hours on the high seas. It is simple enough. As the vessel dips she draws in her breath; as it rises she expels it. The remedy seems to me worth knowing."  
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Pauline—How would you differentiate wit and humor?  
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**HISTORY OF GOLD SUPPLY.**  
Two Periods in the Past Compared to the Present One.  
There are only two periods in the history of the money metals that can be compared to the present, and to which we may look for any experimental light upon the subject. One of these was the period following the discovery of America and the exploitation of the treasures of Mexico and Peru, and the other the period following the discoveries in California and Australia.  
In the period of 150 years following the discovery of America the depreciation of the metals was about two-thirds of their value; that is, in 1650 a given amount of gold or silver bought only about one-third as much as in 1500. The result, naturally, was extreme confusion in affairs, great suffering among wage-earners, and embarrassment to all whose incomes were fixed in terms of money.  
The "poor laws" of Queen Elizabeth's time have been attributed to the distress caused by the rise of food without equivalent compensation to the wage-earning class. The quarrel of Charles I. with parliament was undoubtedly aggravated by the necessity for new taxes to overcome the declining value of the revenues; and some historians hold that it was the deadly money question, the issue of politicians in all ages, that cost him his life.  
Gold was discovered in California in 1848, and in Australia in 1851; and by 1852 these new fields were producing together over \$100,000,000 a year. The first sign of the influx of the new gold into Europe was seen in the holdings of the Bank of England. They went up from about \$40,000,000 in 1847 to \$110,000,000 in June, 1853. To get this idle money into use the bank reduced its regular rate of discount to 2 per cent; and the market rate, for a considerable time, was reported at 1 1/2 per cent. The belief that the new supplies of gold would effect a permanent reduction of the rate of interest was so general that Mr. Gladstone, then chancellor of the exchequer, proposed in parliament a scheme to refund the consols below 3 per cent and fixed the rate on exchequer bills at 1 1/2 per cent.—North American Review.

**QUEER STORIES.**  
It has been observed that, as a rule, single women live longer than single men.  
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**THE SUPERBIOUS BABY.**  
The Czar of Russia, with ninety million acres, is the biggest land owner in the world.  
Recent observations tend to indicate that the incubation period of malaria is about eighteen days.  
An ounce of gold was worth fifteen ounces of silver in the year 1880. It would buy twenty-one ounces in 1900.  
The city of Portland, Me., has in its streets thirty thousand shade trees, some of which were planted more than half a century ago.  
The big gray kangaroo of Australia measures about seven feet from the tip of its nose to the end of its tail. It can run faster than a horse and clear thirty feet at a jump.  
A writer in the Cologne Gazette declares that servants in the United States do only half as much work, demand twice as much free time, and four times as much wages as servants in Germany.  
The danger of living in a house that harbors consumptives is illustrated by the fact that 6,573 patients officially examined by the German imperial board of health, 2,177, or 34.7 per cent, belonged to families that included other victims of tuberculosis.  
A traveler writes: "A lady to whom I was sitting next at dinner the other day told me she had a remedy for seasickness. She had been a very bad sailor, and even now if she does not practice her remedy she is sick; whereas when she does, she can negotiate comfortably a storm of four or five hours on the high seas. It is simple enough. As the vessel dips she draws in her breath; as it rises she expels it. The remedy seems to me worth knowing."  
Many of the greatest men have had phenomenal memories, says a writer in Harper's. Caesar knew the names of thousands of soldiers in his legions. A modern man of science often has a prodigious memory for special terminology. Prof. Assa Gray could at once recall the names of something like twenty-five thousand plants. Prof. Theodore Gill can do the same for fishes. Our memory for mere words is itself much more extensive than is generally admitted. The average well-to-do child of two years of age has a vocabulary of some five hundred words, and its father may have the command of twenty thousand more.  
An Artistic Achievement.  
Ethel—Why, Aunt Emily, this is a lovely photograph of you! What were you thinking of to get such a charming expression?  
Aunt Emily—Well, when the photographer got me properly posed, he forgot himself and said: "Now, look stupid, please."  
A Matter of Effect.  
Pauline—How would you differentiate wit and humor?  
Emeline—Humor makes us laugh; wit makes us feel as if we were expected to laugh.  
Negroes and Whites.  
The census of 1900 shows that there are 13,197 negroes to every 100,000 whites, compared with 13,575 in 1890.  
Pine-Needle Factory.  
The Oregon pine-needle factory is said to be the only one outside of Germany.  
Weight and Height.  
A man should weigh twenty-six pounds for every foot of his height.  
Ever remark the number of men who have time to tell you they are worked to death, and haven't a moment to spare? They usually call it "burning the candle at both ends."  
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