

A SONG OF CHOICE.

When up the valleys Spring Comes laughing lovingly, And gold and tawny wing Make melody.

MRS. SHERIDAN'S BIRTHPLACE.



Ravages of time and the demand for improvement continues to destroy such that is of historical interest, and one of the buildings soon to be torn down is the birthplace of Mrs. Phil Sheridan, in old Albuquerque, New Mexico.

IN THE OIL COUNTRY.

"BRINGING IN" A GUSHER NEAR BEAUMONT, TEXAS.

Tales of the Great Room When Fortunes Were Made in a Day—The Initial Discovery of Oil and the Development of the Oil Industry.

The chase of oil is almost as fascinating as the chase of gold. And, in the main it is nearly, if not quite, as profitable.

Some of the concerns having least merit advertising the most. A good share of these companies were swindles, pure and simple.

"Bringing in" a Well.

The two engravings accompanying this article were made from snapshots



photographs taken at the "bringing in" of a gusher at Beaumont. After the drill had been sent through the quicksand and the cap rock, the flinty substance which is the roof of the cavern in which the oil has long been stored, it was known that success had crowned the efforts of the drillers after just a year of labor.

The advance of any wonderful boom, whether in gold or anything else, is always attended with marvelous stories of individual strikes and consequent enormous profits.

When the oil excitement was at its height in Beaumont, the influx of people was so great that trains were daily run between that city and Houston, a distance of a hundred miles, so that people could obtain hotel accommodations.

AN INTERRUPTED LUNCHEON.

Roll Call Necessitates Senators Leaving Their Guest and Oysters. Senator Hoar gave a luncheon at the capitol, at which the guest of honor was Earl de Grey, the British economist.

Monkeys as Coin Testers.

It is said that the great ape of Siam is in great request among the Siamese merchants as cashiers in their counting houses. Vast quantities of base coins are known to be in circulation in Siam, and no living human being can discriminate between the good and bad coinage with as much accuracy as these apes.

Highest Balloon Attitude.

Dr. Bensen and Dr. Spring, of the Berlin Meteorological Institute, have reached in a balloon ascent the highest altitude on record. They first went up to the height of 30,000 feet, losing consciousness for brief intervals.

A Smasher.

"Did you hear that Cholly's automobile had broken the record?" asked Mr. Perkins.

How Ancestors Come in Handy.

"They are always bragging about their ancestors."

Butterflies in America.

No less than 180 species of butterflies are found in Mexico and Central America.

been known in the Caucasus mountains and the Russian oil fields are world famous. The first mention of oil in the United States was made by a Franciscan missionary who found it in Allegany County, N. Y., before 1632.

From Pennsylvania, the oil excitement extended westward until hundreds of wells had been sunk east of the Mississippi river in any and all places where for any reason the discovery of oil might be expected.

The Pacific coast oil fields were first worked in 1865, though the early wells were improperly located and failed to produce oil in paying quantities.

Tests for Petroleum.

The tests of kerosene, the common burning fluid which is the most important product of petroleum, are made for the purpose of ascertaining at what temperature it will take fire and also to find what proportion of naphtha, if any, is held in the oil.

HOW TO JUDGE A DIAMOND.

"No," said the dealer, "you don't need to be an expert in order to tell a good diamond from a poor one. You need only to have common sense and good eyes and a magnifying glass.

What Makes Great Successes.

It took me some time to learn, but I did learn, that the supremely great managers, such as you have these days, never do any work themselves worth speaking about; their point is to make others work while they think.

Work of Watch Wheels.

The main wheel of a watch makes 1,400 revolutions a year, the central wheel 8,700, the third wheel 70,080, the fourth 525,000, and the scape-wheel 4,731,800.

Trees for Westminster Abbey.

Officials of Westminster Abbey charge fees aggregating over \$2,000 when a memorial is placed in the abbey.

When we see a boy reading a novel in the middle of the day, and smoking a cigarette, somehow we don't like him.

The Vatican now has an installation of electric lights which cost \$45,000.



Customer—This steak is the toughest thing I've ever had here, waiter. Waiter (confidentially)—Then you ain't tried our roast chicken, sir.—Tit-Bits.

The Old Lady (in a railway carriage)—I object to smoking! The Navy—Quite right, mum. It's a bad habit for ladies of your time of life.—Tit-Bits.

Natural! Enough: "Doesn't the soprano's voice sound metallic to you?" "Yes; but then, you know, there's money in it."—Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.

Mrs. Stubbs—But, John, how do you know that Welsh rabbit is going to disagree with you? Mr. Stubbs (soddy)—I—I have inside information.—Chicago News.

St. Peter—Well, sir, what have you to say about yourself? The New-comer—I regret to report— St. Peter—Why, it's Kitchener! Come right in, General.—Coast Seaman's Journal.

Appropriate: Shopper—But aren't these hose rather loud? Clerk—Yes, sir; they are intended only for persons whose feet are in the habit of going to sleep.—Chicago Daily News.

Visitor to the Prison—I suppose this life of yours in here is a continual torture? Convict—Oh, no, not so bad as that. We don't have visitors every day, you know.—Boston Transcript.

Just the Trouble: Newspaper Artist—Officer, this is outrageous! You know I was only sketching that parade. Policeman—That's what ol'm artistin' yez fer, young feller—fer drawin' a crowd.—Judge.

"Is he really such an expert stenographer?" "Expertness is no name for it. Why, just for practice he actually took down a church sewing circle discussion without missing a word."—Chicago Post.

That Black Eye: Friend—Hallo, Moke! Phwat's th' matter wid yer eye? Mike—Sure, it's in mourning. Friend—What for? Mike—Hooligan. 'Twas his that hit me, an' his funeral is to-morrow.—Judge.

His Style: Shopman—What style of hat do you wish, sir? Cholly—Ah! I am not particular about the style; something to suit my head, don't ye know. Shopman—Step this way and look at our soft felts.—Tit-Bits.

Little Pittman at the pantomime—Aa's come all the way fer Dor'm, and cannot see a haphorth of the stage. Big Woman—Hoots! Ye little foaks is aalls growlin'. Just keep yer eye on me, and laugh when I laugh.—Tit-Bits.

Philosophically Speaking: Little Elmer (who has an inquiring mind)—Papa, where do those pessimists that we are always reading about live? Professor Broadhead—On an island of egotism, in the midst of a sea of woe.—Smart Set.

Good News: Stage Manager—Mr. Heavy, you will take the part of Alonso. Mr. Heavy—I have never seen this play. Do you think I can please the audience in that part? Stage Manager—Immensely. You die in the first act.—Tit-Bits.

A Phenomenon of Sleep: He had come on her dozing in a hammock, and when she woke up she accused him of stealing a kiss. "Well," he said, "I will admit that the temptation was too strong to be resisted. I did steal one little kiss." "One!" she exclaimed, indignantly. "I counted eight before I woke up."—Household Words.

"Yes," said the old doctor, "you should try to have your own carriage, by all means. Because when you want to get to a patient quickly—" "Oh," interrupted the young M. D., "I don't think any patient who sent for me would be likely to die before I reached him." "No; he might recover before you got there."—Philadelphia Press.

Rev. Goodley—Do you think you observe the Sabbath as you should? Jiggaby—Well, I usually spend the day quietly at home. Rev. Goodley—Ah! but do you never go to church? Jiggaby—No. However, we have stained-glass windows in our library, and they afford a sort of church effect while I read my Sunday paper.—Philadelphia Record.

Mrs. Strongmind—As the editor of a great newspaper and a leader of public opinion, I hope you take some interest in the subject of the emancipation of woman. Great Editor (with enthusiasm)—Indeed, I do, madam. I have just this moment finished a two-column article filled with anathemas against tight lacing and heavy skirts.—New York Weekly.

First American—Have a good time abroad? Second American—Fine. I traveled incog. Went where I pleased, and escaped the vulgar curiosity of the gaping crowd. First American—Oh! How did you travel? Second American—Incognito, I said. I didn't let 'em know I was a rich American. Just pretended I wasn't anybody but an ordinary English lord.—New York Weekly.

A Great Success: The Medical Expert—I'm sure your baby shows what our modern methods will do. Did you follow my directions? Mother—Oh, yes. First I skimmed the milk and added two parts of hygienic water and two parts of your celebrated modifier. Then I carefully sterilized the whole. The Medical Expert—And then? Mother—I threw it out of the window and gave the baby the cream.—Life.

Majority Names.

In the latest issue of a London directory the Smiths head the poll with a large majority. They are responsible for about 1,500 entries. Jones comes second with 940, then follow Brown with 700 and Robinson with a bare 300.

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