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A CUNNING WAGER.

It Looked Like a Sure Loser, but Was Really Easy Money.

There was a queer bet, one that seemed somewhat foolhardy, made by a politician a few weeks before the election in 1906, when it was apparent that McKinley would sweep the country.

He had been approached by a man who offered to make a "sure" bet. "I'll tell you what I'll do," the politician replied. "I'll bet you \$50 that I can write down the names of thirty states that McKinley will carry."

The man snipped up the bet eagerly, and the politician wrote the list of names and gave them to a friend to keep, sealed, until the day after election.

"Now," he said, "just to show you how big a catch McKinley has, I will bet you \$500 that I can name ten additional states that he will carry."

The man who took the first bet jumped at the second chance, feeling certain that forty states would not go Republican.

When the election was over and the votes counted the envelopes were opened. In the list of thirty states the politician had named all the solid south and the doubtful states. He lost \$50. But in the list of ten he named states that did not go Democratic in twenty years until the election of 1912.—Louisville Times.

LAI D THE SPECTER.

The Story of a Ghost With a Troubled Conscience.

The following well authenticated ghostly happening is recorded in Jessie Adelaide Middleton's "The Grey Ghost Book."

A lady had taken a furnished house in Suffolk, England, from a widow who had lately lost her son. One day she was sitting in the drawing room when the figure of a boy of about thirteen walked across the room, halted opposite a table on which was some china and began to weep bitterly. When she got up and hastened toward the boy to comfort him he at once vanished. As the same thing occurred repeatedly, the lady wrote to the owner of the house, seeking for some explanation. This was her answer:

"Will you kindly search the table with the china ornaments on it, and if you find sixpence in any of them put it into the poor bag in church? I gave him sixpence to put in the bag the last Sunday he went to church, and instead of putting it in he kept it to spend. He told me about it before he died, but I did not know where he had hidden it."

The tenant searched and found the sixpence in a little china jug. She put it into the poor bag—and was never again visited by the apparition.

"Paying Through the Nose."

"Paying through the nose" is to be indirectly swindled in a transaction or to pay an exorbitant price for a thing in consideration of long credit. A variant is "to be bored through the nose," "bored" here having the meaning of cheated, deceived.

At this instant he bore me with some trick, "Henry VIII," it is said. One that hath gulled you, that hath bored you, etc.—"Life of T. Cromwell," 1662, II, p. 168.

And Howell in his "Instruction For Foreign Travel" (1650), page 69, "had known divers Dutch gentlemen grossly gull'd by this cheat (the selling of forged manuscripts to young travelers in Italy), and some English bord' also through the nose this way by paying excessive prices for them."—London Notes and Queries.

Coughing in Lieu of Oratory.

A singular fashion which prevailed among the preachers of Cromwell's time was that of coughing or hemming in the middle of a sentence in order to attract the attention of the congregation. The necessity of continually attracting the attention of the listeners could not have argued well for the brilliancy of the sermons. Some authorities say that the preachers coughed merely as an ornament to speech. At any rate, when the sermons were printed, as many of them were, the coughs and hems were always indicated on the margin of the page.—St. Louis Republic.

Strange Bequests.

In his will Stephen Swain of the parish of St. Olave, Southwark, gave to John Abbott and Mary, his wife, sixpence each "to buy for each of them a halter for fear the sheriffs should not be provided," and John Aylett Stow left the sum of 5 guineas for the purchase of the picture of a viper biting the hand of his rescuer to be presented to an eminent K. C. as a reminder of "his ingratitude and insolence."—London Mail.

Altogether Different.

"After all, life is a good deal like Wall street."

"In what way?"

"It is all a gamble, you know."

"But that doesn't make it like Wall street. In life almost every one has a chance."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Two Phases.

"I detest that Mrs. Jones. She always tells what all her clothes cost."

"Well, I detest Mrs. Brown. She never will tell what she pays for anything."—Detroit Free Press.

A Pinner's Club Epigram.

An epigram from Sir Arthur Pinero: "Indian clubs are good for the liver. London clubs are not."—London Standard.

The father's virtue is the child's best inheritance.—Chinese Proverb.

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COOS COUNTY STATISTICS

BIRTHS - DEATHS, JANUARY

Thirteen Births and Eight Deaths Were Reported to Dr. Walter Culin, County Health Officer.

According to the statistics of Dr. Walter Culin, health officer, the month of January did not see the usual number of happy dads in Coos County, the birthrate falling to a low figure, as will be seen below.

- #### BIRTHS
- Jan. 1.—To the wife of Burns Long, Myrtle Point, a daughter.
 - 5.—To the wife of Albert J. Hagemeister, Marshfield, a son.
 - 6.—To the wife of Dennis McCarthy, Marshfield, a daughter.
 - 7.—To the wife of Jas. D. Roberts, Marshfield, a son.
 - 7.—To the wife of Wm. Ramsey, Myrtle Point, a son.
 - 12.—To the wife of J. S. Clinton, Lee, a son.
 - 16.—To the wife of Henry P. Belloni, Coquille, a daughter.
 - 17.—To the wife of C. R. Peck, Marshfield, a daughter.
 - 24.—To the wife of John S. Chambers, Marshfield, a daughter.
 - 27.—To the wife of Adolph Crook, Marshfield, a son.
 - 28.—To the wife of Siles Clark, Lee, a daughter.
 - 29.—To the wife of Walter C. Smith, Coaledo, a daughter.
 - 30.—To the wife of Forest I. Delard, Coquille, a son.

- #### DEATHS
- Jan. 7.—Harry J. Thompson, Myrtle Point, aged 50 years, 2 months and 15 days.
 - 13.—Lewis E. Erwin, Bandon, 35 years.
 - 23.—Stewart J. Miller, Coquille, aged 60 years, 3 months and 23 days.
 - 23.—Zelpha E. Neely, Coquille, 71 years, and 2 months.
 - 26.—Ellen Peperdine, Myrtle Point, aged 40 years and 28 days.
 - 27.—Fay Williams, Marshfield, aged 4 months and 23 days.
 - 28.—James Dolan, North Bend, age unknown.

Faces Serious Charges

The Portland Telegram says: W. C. Kurtson, formerly a grocer in the Albina district, is under arrest in Curry County on a warrant telegraphed to the authorities by Sheriff Word. He is charged with misconduct toward a number of young girls of the community in which his store was located. Recently Kurtson sold out his holdings and departed hastily on the steamer Breakwater, but the authorities traced him. Fred Withrow, a special agent for the District Attorney's office has gone to Curry county to get him. Deputy District Attorney Jones and Detective Lillis have secured incriminating statements from several girls.

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LOST BY AN EYELASH.

When James R. Keene Laid For Him a Big Bet on Besom.

Although James R. Keene was known as the nerviest of Wall street operators, he was anything but a betting man on the race tracks. He dearly loved to win valuable stakes, and he won nearly everything in this line except the classic English Derby. His horses rarely carried anything but an infinitesimal wager. Big wagers were few and far between with him.

One day when his Ben Brush colt Besom was making his racing debut at Sheepshead Mr. Keene visited the paddock in company with his trainer, Jimmy Rowe, and inspected the colt minutely. Keene was very fond of Noonday, the colt's dam, and he talked proudly of his expectations of Besom. The colt had worked exceptionally fast, and the race looked as sure as sure things can be regarded on a race track.

The result of the conference with Rowe was that Mr. Keene decided to make one of his rare large bets on Besom to win. The news of the Keene wager created almost a sensation in the ring, and the price against the colt went tumbling.

The race was run, and Besom lost by an eyelash. He went out with Berry Maid, and the two raced stride for stride like a team. When it was Besom's turn to stride his nose showed in front, and when it was Berry Maid's turn she showed a scant advantage. So it was all the way, Mr. Keene watching the contest through his field-glasses without a murmur. The crowd was on its toes. As they passed the judges it was Berry Maid's turn to stride. Then the apple of Mr. Keene's eye at the time lost the verdict, and the vice chairman of the Jockey club lost one of his few wagers on the turf.—New York World.

A PEEP AT IRELAND.

Where the Weather Plagues You Only to Fascinate You Later.

I must allow that it sometimes rains in Ireland, but Irish rain is not quite like other rain. It is, as a rule, softer than rain elsewhere, and if the truth has not to be told I like rain so long as one has not to say, "For the rain it raineth every day."

Irish weather is not so much capricious as coquetish. It likes to plague you, if but to prepare you to enjoy the more its sunny, melting mood. It will weep and wail all night, and, lo, the next morning Ireland is one sweet smile and seems to say: "Is it raining I was yesterday? Ah, then, I'll rain no more."

And the runnels leap and laugh, and the pastures and very stone walls glisten; the larks carol on their celestial journey; there is a pungent, healthy smell of drying peat; the mountains are all dimpled with the joy of life and sunshine; the lake lies perfectly still, content to reflect the overhanging face of heaven, and just won't your honor buy the sturdiest pair of homemade hose from a barefoot, bareheaded daughter of dethroned kings with eyes like dewdrops and a voice that would charm the coin out of the most churlish purse?

If on such mornings as these you do not lose your heart to Ireland it must be made of stern, unimpressionable stuff indeed.—Blackwood's Magazine.

Edible Flowers of Butter Trees.

By far the most remarkable of edible flowers is that culled from the butter tree of India. The blossoms of this singular tree are the chief means of subsistence with the Bills and other Indian hill tribes. An average tree yields from 200 to 250 pounds of pulpy, bell-shaped flowers that, when they drop off during March and April, the hot months of the Indian year, are eagerly gathered by the natives. They have when fresh a peculiar and luscious taste, but the fragrance of them is not pleasant and is best and most briefly described as "mousy." Usually they are cured in the sun, shrivel to one-fourth of their size and then resemble nothing so much as raisins. The natives prepare them for food by boiling or using them in sweetmeats.—Suburban Life Magazine.

The Potato.

Whoever may have introduced the potato into England, according to Dr. Dorman's "Table Traits," it was not known in North America in 1586, when Raleigh's colonists there are said to have sent it over to us. But the Spanish "batata," or sweet potato, from which the vegetable derives its name, was brought to Ireland many years before by Captain Hawkins from Santa Fe, in South America. This is probably the potato of Shakespeare's time. "Let the sky rain potatoes. I will remain here," cries Sir John Falstaff, embracing Mrs. Ford.—London Telegraph.

Knew What He Was Doing.

Tom—You spend altogether too much money on that girl. Don't you know girls always accept everything a man gives them and then marry the fellow who saves his money? Jack—Sure I do. That's the reason I'm blowing in mine.—Boston Transcript.

Her Ear For Music.

"What is that tune your daughter is playing?"

"Which daughter?" asked Mrs. Cumrox. "If it is the older girl it's Liszt's Hungarian rhapsody, and if it's the younger one it's exercise 27."—Washington Star.

The truest mark of being born with great qualities is being born without envy.—Rochefoucauld.

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