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THE OLD VIOLIN.

A Rapid Change of Base by the Man
Who Owned It.

Money talks just as loudly in the realm of music as anywhere else. The despised violin, which merely is an incumbrance when it is thought to be worth not more than \$10, becomes the chief ornament of the household when an expert says it is worth not less than \$1,000. In Chicago there is a business man who owns a violin. He inherited it from his father, who was a musician. The business man does not play. One of his friends is a lover of violin music. That friend often had told the business man the violin was a good one and that he ought to treasure it. The business man regarded the advice as that of an enthusiast. One day the argument became so warm the friend insisted that the question be settled at once by carrying the instrument to a professor of music who is admittedly an authority on violins.

"Why, I wouldn't carry that violin through the street for anything," the business man said. "My friends would think I had gone mad in my old age."

"I'll carry it," his friend said quickly. "I'm not ashamed to carry a violin anywhere. Come along."

They went. The professor was at home. The back and the belly, the neck and the bridge, the tailpiece and the sounding post all passed beneath his critical eye. "It looks all right," the professor said. From the case he drew the bow and ran the hair several times across the cake of rosin. Then, striking A on a nearby piano, he proceeded to tune the instrument which for so many years had been held in so light esteem by its owner. After the violin was in tune he tested it, string by string, chord by chord, and harmonic by harmonic, in all positions. Then he began to play. The fullness, the richness and sweetness of the tone appealed even to the matter of fact business man.

"It is a genuine old Italian instrument, and I'll give you \$1,000 for it," the professor said. The business man gasped.

"I'll tell you frankly, it is worth more than that, but that is all I can afford to pay," the professor continued.

"I can't think of selling it," the business man replied, with a halt in his speech. "You see, it came to me from my father. It is an heirloom. I thank you, however, for the test you have made and the good opinion you have expressed."

The two men started away from the home of the professor, the business man carrying the violin.

"Let me take it," his musical friend said. "You might meet some one you know."

"I'll carry it," the business man retorted. "I don't care how many friends I meet. And, besides, you might drop it." — Chicago Inter Ocean.

Nelson's Only Defeat.

Nelson, like all the greatest commanders on sea or land, made his mistakes and his failures, but there is only one instance on record of his having been actually defeated in a direct attack. This occurred at Santa Cruz, in the Canary islands, on July 24, 1797. The place was very strongly fortified, and Nelson, in the face of a fire of fifty guns from the batteries, attempted to storm the town by boats. The attempt was frustrated by the strength of the mole and the non-appearance of a land force which should have co-operated. A hundred and fifty men were killed and a hundred wounded on the British side, and Nelson lost his right arm. Two flags were also captured, and these are still kept in the Cathedral of Santa Cruz.

Why Teakwood Is Durable.

The teak, which has passed into proverb as the best material for shipbuilding, is superior to all other woods from the fact that it contains an essential oil which prevents spikes and nails driven into it from rusting. This property is not possessed by any other wood in the world and furnishes an explanation of the fact that ships built of teak are practically indestructible. Some have been known to last for 150 years, and when broken up their beams were as sound as when first put together.

What Weeping Means.

Tears are the result of a nervous storm in the central nervous system, under which there is such a change in the vascular terminals of the tear secreting glands that the excretion of water from the glands is profuse. Some excretion is always in progress in order that the surface of the eye may be laved and cleared of foreign matters which may come in contact with it, the controlling center is at a distance.

THE BAZZAZAZ BALK.

Kilroy's Throw to First Base While
Looking at Home Plate.

"Players of the present day are prone to scoff at the tales of the prowess of Matty Kilroy, better known as 'Bazzazaz,' a left handed pitcher, who performed marvels," writes Hugh S. Fullerton in the American Magazine. "Most modern pitchers declare that under present conditions Kilroy would have been a failure. The little left hander, after years of triumph, retired because his arm was hopelessly worn out. In spite of that fact Tom Burns, when he assumed charge of the Chicago club in 1898, resurrected Kilroy, whose arm was so weak, according to his own admissions, he 'couldn't break a pane of glass at fifty feet.' Yet for one season, and part of another he pitched against the strongest clubs and beat them regularly.

"Kilroy's success was due almost entirely to his 'bazzazaz' balk, which he evolved by persistent training. He was the only pitcher who ever balked without balking, if such a thing is possible. In the first four innings of the first game he pitched against Baltimore after Burns resurrected him nine men reached first base. He caught six of them off the base, and, although two umpires watched every move he made, they declared that under the rules he did not balk.

"Kilroy explained to me after his permanent retirement his system of training by which he acquired the 'bazzazaz' balk."

"I see the old soup bone was ready for the undertaker," he said, 'so I goes to work on the balk. I always had a good balk motion, but wanted a better one. I spent half the winter in the side yard at home with a chalk mark on the wall for first base and another on the fence for the home plate. I practiced morning and afternoon, making from 250 to 400 throws a day with my wrist and forearm trying to hit the first-base line while looking at the other one and without moving either my feet or body. By practicing I got so I could shoot the ball faster to first base with wrist and forearm than I could pitch it to the plate with a full swing. That's all there was to it. Just look straight at the plate, pull your hands up against your breast, raise your left one to the level of your ear, then drive the ball to first without looking until after it starts, and you've got him. The umpire can't see whether you look before you throw or not.'

"He did get them. Probably he made 20,000 practice throws at the chalk mark, but he perfected the motion that enabled him to pitch two years after his arm was 'dead.'"

The Parsees.

The Parsees are sun worshippers, and it is an interesting sight to see throngs of them on the shore of the bay as the sun rises, apparently from the sea, performing the simple rites of their religion, the fluttering robes showing their fine figures to the best advantage as the day begins. Their religious practices are simple in the extreme, consisting mainly in strict dietary rules and personal cleanliness. The rigid observance of sanitary laws produces the natural result of perfect health among the adults—large families of active, healthy children and immense numbers of old men, gray bearded, white haired, but erect and princely in their gait and attitude despite the naturally enervating character of the tropical climate.

His Gentle Request.

According to Harper's, there is a lad of ten living in a town where the schoolmasters still employ the rod in order that the child may not be spoiled who found himself liable to that form of chastisement at the hands of the teacher.

As the youngster approached the principal the fierce aspect of the latter's countenance, together with the sight of the upraised cane, quite undid him, and he began to blubber.

Then, innocently and doubtless with some vague recollection of a visit to the dentist, he stammered: "Please sir, may I—may I take gas?"

The Deathwatch.

A popular belief is that the sound produced by a little insect known as a "deathwatch" portends the death of some relative or friend. That the noise made by this little creature resembles the ticking of a watch is undisputed, but that it in anywise foretells the dissolution of a human being is absurd. Observation has established the fact that these little insects infest decaying timber and posts and that the peculiar noise is caused by them in gnawing and boring through the rotten wood fibers in quest of food.

HIS SYSTEM.

The Old Married Man Imparted It to
His Nephew.

The man who had been married twenty years had the calm expression of one lifted above the ordinary troubles of life as he listened to the plaint of his nephew, John. "She's been home with her folks more'n two weeks now," John complained. "We haven't been married but two years, and this is the third visit she's made. I'm willing to have her go, but I want she should come home at the end of a fortnight. But if I write and beg of her to hurry she'll more'n likely stay a few days longer yet, just to show her independence."

"M'm! Did you ever know your Aunt Mary to stay away longer'n we expected while you lived with us?" asked his uncle.

"No," said John. "She usually came home a day sooner than she'd promised, I remember."

"M'm!" said his uncle. "Just so. Well, that was the result of my system. She's never known it, but I'll tell you, as you seem to be in straits."

"Four or five days before time for her to come home I'd send a kind of a test piece to her. Sometimes 'twould be a remark asking her if she'd heard the news about one or another. Sometimes 'twould be the news column, chopped off right in the most interesting place. Sometimes I'd refer to a letter I'd had and not say what 'twas about. There's a lot of such things coming handy when you look for 'em."

"Well, soon as she could get a return mail to me she'd ask about the thing and tell me to be sure and write more particulars next day. And some way or other next day was always so busy I'd just have time for a note or maybe a postal, saying, 'All well; no news.' And next day I wouldn't have time to write even that much."

"'Twas always the day after that she came home; yes, sir, the morning of the day after."

"Now, there's a chance for variety in my system. You've got to study the subject of the experiment, so to speak, and adapt the system, but you'll find it'll work every time 'less the girl you've got is different from any I ever saw." — Youth's Companion.

Making Them All One.

An elderly minister is fond of telling of a "break" he once made at a double wedding of two sisters. It was arranged that the two couples should be married with one ceremony, the two brides responding at the same time and the two bridegrooms doing the same. There had not been a previous rehearsal, as the minister had come a long distance and had reached the church but a few minutes before the time for the ceremony.

All went well until it came time for the minister to say, "And now I pronounce you man and wife."

It suddenly became obvious to the minister that the usual formula would not do in the case of two men and two wives, and he could not think of any way of making "man" and "wife" plural in the sentence. In his desperation and confusion he lifted his hands and said solemnly:

"And now I pronounce you, one and all, husband and wife!"

Mark Twain's First Earnings.

Mark Twain was once asked by a friend if he remembered the first money he had ever earned.

"Yes," answered Mr. Clemens, puffing meditatively on his cigar, "I have a distinct recollection of it. When I was a youngster I attended school at a place where the use of the birch rod was not an unusual event. It was against the rules to mark the desks in any manner, the penalty being a fine of \$5 or public chastisement. Happening to violate the rule on one occasion, I was offered the alternative. I told my father, and, as he seemed to think it would be too bad for me to be publicly punished, he gave me the \$5. At that period of my existence \$5 was a large sum, while a whipping was of little consequence, and so"—here Mr. Clemens reflectively knocked the ashes from his cigar—"well," he finally added, "that was how I earned my first \$5."

The Cat Went Back.

Mr. Penn—They say the streets in Boston are frightfully crooked.

Mr. Hubb—They are. Why, do you know, when I first went there I could hardly find my way around.

"That must be embarrassing?"

"It is. The first week I was there I wanted to get rid of an old cat we had, and my wife got me to take it to the river a mile away."

"And you lost the cat all right?"

"Lost nothing! I never would have found my way home if I hadn't followed the cat!" — Yonkers Statesman.

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