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A WOMAN'S LOGIC.

It Helped Her Out When the Customs Officials Bothered Her.

On one of the recently arriving transatlantic steamers was a young woman whose extreme economy had not permitted any lavish expenditure abroad. But she had repeatedly referred with commendable pride to the material for two silk dresses she had purchased at a bargain which she was bringing home for her mother and sister. Even the suggestion of one sympathetic listener that she would have to pay duty produced merely a temporary restraint.

Finally when the liner approached New York and the custom house officer received the somewhat plain woman at the cabin table her fellow passengers were curious. Being asked the usual questions about dutiable property, she replied stoutly and defiantly that she had the material for two silk dresses.

"Are they for yourself?" the inspector wanted to know.

"No, they are not," she declared. "I am bringing them home for presents."

"Then since they are not for your own use I shall be compelled to charge you duty," and he figured out for her the required amount.

Taking the pencil from his hand, she figured for a moment and then said: "Well, I declare! That has made those dresses cost me so much that I simply can't afford to give them away now. I'm just going to keep them for myself; that's what I'll do!"—New York Tribune.

LET THE YAWN COME.

A Good One Is a Splendid Thing For the Whole Body.

A good, wide, open mouthed yawn is a splendid thing for the whole body. A yawn is nature's demand for rest. Some people think they only yawn because they are sleepy, but this is not so. You yawn because you are tired. You may be sleepy also, but that is not the real cause of your yawning. You are sleepy because you are tired, and you yawn because you are tired.

Whenever you feel like yawning just yawn. Don't try to suppress it because you think it is impolite to yawn. Put your hand over your mouth if you want to, but let the yawn come. And if you are where you can stretch at the same time that you yawn just stretch and yawn. This is nature's way of stretching and relaxing the muscles.

Don't be afraid to open your mouth wide and yawn and stretch whenever you feel like it. Indeed, if you are very tired, but do not feel like yawning, there is nothing that will rest you so quickly as to sit on a straight back chair and, lifting your feet from the floor, push them out in front of you as

far as possible, stretch the arms, put the head back, open the mouth wide and make yourself yawn.

Those tense nerves will relax, the contracted muscles will stretch and the whole body will be rested. Do this two or three times when you are tired and see what it will do for you.

First English Horse Races.

Chester possesses plausible claims to be the birthplace of the British turf. It was one William Lester, who about 1600, "being mayor of Chester, did cause three silver bells to be made of good value to be run for upon the Roodee Dee." This seems the earliest definite establishment of a horse race. From the nature of the prize was derived the proverb, "To bear the bell," though the bells in this case existed long before the "ring." Our ancestors being more easily satisfied in the matter of amusement than their degenerate descendants, there was apparently only one contest. The "Chester cup," which has been substituted for the "best bell," is now worth £2,500, to say nothing of Cheshire cheeses for the three placed horses.—Westminster Gazette.

Had a Mare Trifle.

A doctor calling on a patient who had been very ill, but was now convalescent, said to the latter's wife:

"You must be careful in regard to his diet for a few days."

"Yes, I know that," was the reply.

"He has just had his dinner, and I didn't give him anything but a cup of coffee and two or three warm biscuits, and a piece of pie and a couple of doughnuts and one slice of bread with gooseberry preserves on it. I have just been telling him he couldn't have anything very substantial right away until his stomach was sturdier."—New York Tribune.

Pretty Much Alone.

In a rather rabid discussion in parliament a member of doubtful ability and power twitted Disraeli for having deserted his camp.

"I did not know that the honorable gentleman had a camp," Disraeli replied in a tone of mock surprise. "I have always looked upon him as the solitary sentinel of a deserted fortress."

No Chance For Leniency.

"Can't you be merciful and love me a little?" he pleaded as they sat in their steamer chairs.

"I can't show you any mercy at all," she whispered. "This isn't the quarter-deck."—St. Louis Star.

The Skeptic.

"Pa, what does 'skeptical' mean?" "Well—or—did you ever see a man taking in the washing for fear of rain in spite of the weather prediction 'fair'?"—Buffalo Express.

THE ALBATROSS.

The Largest Sea Bird Having the Power of Flight.

The albatross, that wanderer of the seas so often referred to in prose and poem, is nevertheless a stranger to the average person and by some is even considered a myth. In Coleridge's "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" the albatross plays a leading part, and one sorrow for the poor bird, which, after following the ship for weeks, is pitilessly shot down by a mariner.

The albatross is the largest sea bird having the power of flight and is closely allied to the gull, petrel and Mother Carey's chicken. It has a tremendous stretch of wing, averaging from ten to twelve feet. The wings are, however, extremely narrow, being about nine inches in breadth. The body is about four feet in length, and the weight is from fifteen to eighteen pounds, a comparatively light weight when one considers the extreme length of wing. The albatross is possessed of a peculiarly long, oddly shaped bill, which gives it a strange appearance. The nostrils open from round, horizontal tubes on each side of the bill, but at its base.

This great bird is generally met with in southern seas, although it is occasionally seen on our Pacific coast. On the Atlantic side it is rarely found as far north as Tampa bay.

Its food consists of cuttlefish, jellyfish and scraps thrown from passing ships. It is a greedy bird and at times gorges itself to such an extent that it is unable to rise from the water.

Its power of flight is, however, the most remarkable thing about the albatross. It spends its life, with the exception of a few weeks given each year to nesting, entirely at sea and is on the wing practically all the time. Furthermore, it does not progress by flapping its wings, as most birds do, but seems to soar at will, rarely if ever giving a stroke of the wing, seeming to need no impetus.—St. Nicholas.

DANCING STARS.

The Twinklers Seem to Jump When Viewed Through a Telescope.

One of the most interesting things appearing in the telescope when that instrument is pointing heavenward is the appearance of jumping stars. Of course we can see stars twinkle without a telescope, but with a telescope they may be seen to jump and actually to dance. The cause is the same—mixing currents of light and heavy air causing refraction or bending of the rays of light coming from the star. We can see the same phenomenon by looking at a small object in a room through the air directly over a hot

radiator. The object seems to jump and dance as if playing hide and seek with itself.

This jumping in the telescope or twinkling to the naked eye has also been explained by what is called interference. If two sources of light are placed close to each other, then on a screen placed properly we can catch an alternate band of white and dark lines. Of course if the eye be placed at a dark line it can see neither source of light. The production of these dark lines is accomplished by different light waves reaching the screen in opposite phases so as to blot out or cancel the effect due to each. In like manner it can be shown that if the star has polychromatic light it can and has actually been observed to change color from this effect alone.

The best time to observe this effect of star dancing is on a cold, crisp night. The telescope should be pointed to a twinkling star as near the horizon as can be found, as to see a star on the horizon we have to look through much more atmosphere than to see one in the zenith, and there is consequently more chance for varied currents.—St. Louis Republic.

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The Early Circus.

Leaving out of count the great circuses of Rome and Antioch and coming down to something of modern times, the first circus in England was on a footpath known as Halfpenny Hatch, in the Waterloo road, London. There, in 1770, Astley's first performance was given, with the aid of a drum, two fifes and one clown. A charge of sixpence was made for the front standing places. There was no building and not even a tent, but merely a ring of ropes and stakes. Primitive as were the arrangements, Astley soon attracted good audiences and was able to add to his program conjuring, transparencies, vaulting and tumbling, with displays of fireworks. In course of time he was able to hire an inclosed ground and erected seats under a substantial roof. He called the place Astley's amphitheater riding house.

Foiled the King.

In one of Sir Richard Francis Burton's rare collections of ancient Arabian stories is a story of how the king went into the dark among his sleeping slaves and detected the man he was after by putting his head upon all their breasts and listening to the tumult of the heart. The king cut off a lock of the culprit's hair, so he could tell him next day. But what did the sly rascal do but sneak up and cut every other slave's hair. When all the slaves were mustered next day before the throne the king saw he was beaten by a master mind and said, "Don't dare do it again." The king ought to have tried the Chinese test by giving them dry rice grains to chew. In fright the saliva will not flow, and the culprit has to spit his rice out dry.—New York Press.



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