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The Social Breakfast.

A London newspaper wonders why we no longer invite people to breakfast. The reason is to be found in the state of mind that usually possesses the free and independent citizen at that hour in the morning, a state of mind that makes him unbearable to himself and to every one who comes near him. Presumably it was not ever so, for invitations to breakfast were once common enough, and not so long ago either. Mr. Gladstone used to have guests to breakfast every Thursday morning as recently as 1884, and it was thought sufficient to supply tea and coffee, eggs, bread and butter and perhaps some cold meat. But the really solid breakfast had come into fashion long before then, and it is said that the English learned the fashion from the Scotch. Motley, when he was ambassador to England, found that the substantial breakfast was grievously opposed to the simpler customs of his own country. He says, "When I reflected that all these people would lunch at 2 and dine at 3 I bowed my head in humiliation, and the fork dropped from my nerveless grasp."—Argonaut.

Big Clocks.

The big clock of the Metropolitan tower at Madison square, New York, is by long odds the costliest and most elaborate public timepiece ever constructed and is the only great clock in the world operated wholly by electricity without the touch of human hands. Some of its other wonders are its size, being the largest four dial tower clock and the third largest clock of any size in the world, and its altitude, which is the highest of any clock in the world. It has also the biggest and heaviest striking bell.

The other three largest clocks are the one face dial of the Colgate factory in Jersey City, which is forty feet across, the next in size of mammoth public chronometers being the dial at St. Bombard's, in the old city of Malines, in Belgium, which is thirty-nine feet across. St. Peter's of Zurich, Switzerland, has a dial face twenty-nine feet, and then in order comes the Metropolitan tower clock, which is twenty-six feet six inches in diameter.

The Origin of the "Marseillaise."

In the reign of terror under Feron and Barrae, when hundreds of victims were carried by the guillotine and the people rose against the aristocracy, was born the hymn of France, composed by Rouget de l'Isle. He was an officer of engineers and at a banquet was asked to compose a war song. He wrote it in his room that night before going to bed, and the next morning his hostess, the wife of the mayor of Strasburg, tried it on a piano, and in the afternoon the orchestra of the theater played it in the square of Strasburg, where it created

much excitement and gathered many volunteers. Rouget called it a song for the Army of the Rhine, but subsequently it was sung by a regiment of volunteers, mostly assassins, who marched out of Marseilles to Paris, where it was appropriated by the capital and called the "Hymne des Marseillais." But Joseph Rouget, the author, died in poverty.—Deshler Welch in Harper's Magazine.

Westminster Hall.

Westminster hall, England's old hall of the king's justice, is one of the world's notable historical shrines. Built four centuries before Columbus sailed for America, burned, restored, remodeled, it has seen more history in the making than perhaps any other building west of Rome. Here some of the early parliaments met, and here the second Edward was expelled from his throne. Here Richard II. was deposed, Charles I. condemned and Cromwell hailed as lord protector, whose head, if the legend is authentic, was afterward exposed from one of the hall's pinnacles. Westminster hall was the scene of the trial of Warren Hastings. In its sentence of death was pronounced on William Wallace, Sir Thomas More, Somerset, Essex, Strafford and Guy Fawkes.—New York World.

Tried to Fly.

John Milton in "Britann to the Conquest" says that the youth King Harold, last of the Saxons, strangely aspiring, had made and fitted wings to his hands and feet. With these, on the top of a tower, spread out to gather the air, he flew more than a furlong; but the wind being too high, he came fluttering to the ground, maiming all his limbs, yet so conceited was he of his art that the cause of his fall was attributed to the want of a tail, as birds have, which he forgot to make.

His Recommendation.

Tom—Hello, Bill! I hear you have a position with my friends Skinner & Co.? Bill—Oh, yes; I have a position as collector there. Tom—That's first rate. Who recommended you? Bill—Oh, nobody. I told them that I once collected an account from you, and they instantly gave me the place.

Firmness of Purpose.

Firmness of purpose is one of the most necessary elements of character and one of the best instruments of success. Without it genius wastes its efforts in a maze of inconsistencies.

A Guess at It.

Teacher (of class in grammar)—What do you understand by "parts of speech"? Tommy—It's—It's when a man stutters.—Chicago Tribune.

The Bulletin—\$1.50 a year.

Hit Him Coming and Going.

An attorney went to a livery stable and hired a team for two or three hours and at the end of that time, in a state of absent-mindedness, left the team at another livery stable, where it remained eight days. At stable No. 1 there was no worry about the team. They knew the attorney was perfectly good for the pay. They knew that if he kept the team a month the bill would be paid promptly on presentation. They presumed that he knew what he was about and concluded it was his business and not theirs. At stable No. 2 there was equal freedom from anxiety. The attorney came there, left the team and went away, saying nothing. They put the horse into a stall and "choked it down" on the office slate, knowing him to be a business man who paid cash. Discovery came at last, and the lawyer was presented with two bills, one for eight days' hire and the other for eight days' keep. He paid both bills promptly, but it cured him of being absent-minded for nearly a whole month.

The Coffee Cup in Persia.

The expression "to give a cup of coffee" has in Persia a somewhat ominous significance. This is due to the fact that the coffee cup is one recognized medium for conveying poison. Some years ago the governor of Aspadana, having long been at daggers drawn with the chief of a powerful mountain tribe, determined in this way to put an end to all trouble. He professed to entertain a great degree of friendship and esteem for the chieftain and invited him to visit him at his palace. The chief unsuspectingly came, accompanied by his two young sons. For a week they were royally entertained. But at last one morning when the chief came into his host's presence he was coldly received, and an attendant soon stepped forward with a single cup of coffee in his hand, which he offered to the guest. The latter could not fail to understand that he was doomed. Preferring, however, steel to poison, he declined the cup and was thereupon, at a signal from his host, stabbed to death.

Salad of the Shoes.

Freshmen have troubles the world over. The "concerts," as they are called at the famous Ecole Polytechnique in Paris, are subjected to an amusing initiation called the salad of shoes. The freshmen report some days before the upper class men so that they can receive their uniforms and become familiar with the routine of the school. The first morning after their tormentors return the freshmen are aroused by a demand that they throw their shoes out of the windows into the courtyard. The shoes are gathered into a heap, and, kneeling in a big circle around this, the fresh-

men are obliged to go through some ridiculous gymnastic movements at the command of their superiors. When the study bell rings they have but a minute to appear in the class room, and it is a strenuous minute around that pile of shoes.

LEE HELPED HIM.

The Old Soldier That Asked For and Received Assistance.

General Robert E. Lee was sitting on the veranda of his Lexington home one afternoon engaged in conversation with some friends when a man, ill clothed and covered with dust, appeared at the gate and timidly beckoned to the general.

Apologizing to his friends, Lee rose at once and went to the gate. Very soon his purse appeared, and he was seen to give the man some money.

His friends, knowing the extent of his charity in any case of suffering, real or apparent, looked on with some impatience, for they knew how slender his means were then and how many calls of the same kind came to him.

"General, who was that?" one of them ventured when he had returned to his place.

"One of our boys in trouble," was the half smiling answer, for the general knew the remonstrance which his friend was longing to make.

"What regiment and company did he belong to?" persisted the friend, anxious, if possible, to unearth the suspected fraud.

"Oh, he—he fought on the other side," was General Lee's calm answer.

Chinese Business Honesty.

With due respect for others, the Chinaman is perhaps the most honorable and upright business man in the world today. His business principles are founded entirely upon honesty, and he adheres to the policy with the insistence of a leech. The chase after dollars stops if he has to resort to low tricks to get them. Of course a little thing like telling a falsehood occasionally does not bother him so much, but when it comes to plotting and scheming to defraud some one the task becomes distasteful. The equal of the Japanese in initiative and foresight, he is much their superior when integrity is concerned. A Japanese does not think twice before deciding to get the best of you. He calculates that you are liable to change your mind or get out of reach if he indulges in a little mental debate as to the propriety of cheating you.—Bookkeeper.

Outdone.

"He doted on Alice and would have married her but for her mother."
"Ah! Her mother?"
"Yes; her mother was still more attractive."

Something Wrong.

An Australian auctioneer who was reputed to have more education than professional ability was endeavoring to sell some cattle to an audience of farm hands. "Gentlemen," he began, "I have a particularly nice lot of heifers and bullocks, and I may say that the heifers predominate."

He was interrupted by a very agricultural voice from the crowd. "I thort there was something wrong with 'em," it said, "or you wouldn't have to sell 'em."

A Timely Trip.

Little Brother (who has just been given some candy)—If I were you I shouldn't take aiter yachting this afternoon.

Ardent Suitor—Why do you say that, Tommy?

"Well, I heard her tell mother this morning that she feared she'd have to throw you over.—Lippincott's.

Finding Him Out.

Indignant Constituent—This is the fourth time I have called to see the senator by appointment and found him out every time. Private Secretary (of eminent statesman)—Oh, well, I would not make a fuss about that. According to what the papers say, everybody is finding him out.—Chicago Tribune.

Own Up.

A man should never be ashamed to own he has been in the wrong, which is but saying, in other words, that he is wiser today than he was yesterday.—Pope.

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Missed Fire. Putton-Ayres—I am caviare to the general, you know. Miss Innocent—Oh, are you really? My brother is in the military too.—Boston Transcript.

Grief is crowned with consolation.—Shakespeare.

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