

NEW YORK FUNERALS

DUTY WHICH MOST PEOPLE SEEK TO SHRINK FROM.

Congregations at Church Services on Such Occasions Are Generally Small—Home Obsequies Are Preferred.

New Yorkers do not go to funerals when they can avoid it. A full church at a funeral service is a great compliment to anybody who leaves New York for the other world. It is an indication that he was either very rich or very popular. It is not always safe in this city to count on a large attendance at the funeral of even a celebrity, states the Sun.

New Yorkers are too busy with the affairs of this life or too indifferent to attend to duties of this kind. So well recognized is the disinclination to go to funerals that the attendance of only a handful of persons at a church funeral service is not a cause for chagrin to the family of the deceased. They all know that New Yorkers do not go to funerals if they can avoid it.

Strangers who come to New York are more impressed by the importance of the sexton at a funeral than by anything else, says the small attendance. Most sextons here are also undertakers, and when parishioners die the funeral preparations are usually handed over to them.

Who has not observed their officious and hasty trips up and down the aisles of the church before the service begins, their solicitude over the order in which the family are to enter and the state of excitement, bordering almost on panic, in which they arrange the departure from the church? The sexton has his share of enjoyment at every funeral, whether the congregation be large or small, and he is the only person about a New York funeral who really does go to his work in any but an uninterested way. He seems much concerned. The congregation stares about with considerable indifference.

Last summer a New Yorker, who at one time had large wealth and was always in possession of a high social position, died. Eleven persons attended his funeral. To be sure, he was buried on a day that separated two holidays. Many of his friends were near enough to the city to come in if they wanted to.

A member of several large city clubs, a rich man in a small way, in life a New Yorker, was buried last fall in the presence of a handful of persons in a church to which he had belonged for 20 years. He had a large family connection, but they were away or sick or too little interested to come to his funeral. So a man whose acquaintance would have kept him bowing constantly in the Fifth Avenue church parade had fewer persons at his funeral than he would have greeted on one clear morning.

The little groups that gather at the church door are sometimes too shy to enter the vast church and scatter themselves through it, making an occasional head here and there. They wait for friends to give them courage.

In the same way the funeral party waits for mourners that never come until, finally, the officious sexton, with a look of disappointment that more persons are not to see his splendid arrangements, starts the mourners up the aisle.

ELECTRIC STREET LIGHTING

Cleveland's Experiment with Twelve Lamps of Two Thousand Candle Power.

The first instance of public street lighting in this country was in the public square of Cleveland, a little park of about ten acres. In April, 1873, 12 lamps of the ordinary so-called 2,000 candle power were installed in the park on high ornamental poles, writes Charles F. Brush, in "The Arc-Light," in Century.

While we were putting up the poles and line circuit, a great deal of interest was manifested by the public, and on the evening when the lights were formally started the park was crowded with people. Many evidently expected a blinding glare of light, as they had provided themselves with colored spectacles or smoked glass. Of course there was at first a general feeling of disappointment in this respect, although everyone was willing to admit that he could read with ease in any part of the square. After a few weeks, however, when the novelty had worn off, and the people had tired of staring at the lamps, the general verdict was highly favorable to the new light.

As the public square lights were required to burn all night, this necessitated putting fresh carbons in each lamp sometime during the night, because a single set would not last until morning. But the nightly trimming of the lamps required an extra man and added materially to the cost of lighting. To meet this difficulty, I devised the "double-carbon" lamp, which afterward grew in general use for all-night lighting, and became famous through much patent litigation.

Savings of Nations.
In a table covering different countries, France ranks seventh among saving nations, following Denmark, Switzerland, Belgium, Sweden, Norway and Germany. Another table, dealing with the average per capita of population, puts France tenth, or behind Denmark, Switzerland, Germany, Norway, Australia, Belgium, the United States, Austria and Sweden.

Tall Enough.
Tallmanne—What was the governor talking to you about this morning?
Shortfellow—He told me he didn't want me any longer.
"Then you got mad and left, I suppose?"
"Not much. I told him I was glad he didn't, as I'd stopped growing several years ago. Then he ordered me to go in and tell the cashier to give me a dollar more a week."—Stray Stories.

Champion Beer Drinkers.
The German, after all, is not the champion beer drinker. That honor rests with the Britisher, who drinks three gallons a year more than the Teuton. On the other hand, the Frenchman eats nearly twice as much bread as the Teuton.

The Diamond Cure.

The latest news from Paris, is that they have discovered a diamond cure for consumption. If you fear consumption or pneumonia, it will, however, be best for you to take that great remedy mentioned by W. T. McGee, of Vanleer, Tenn. "I had a cough, for fourteen years. Nothing helped me, until I took Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds, which gave instant relief, and effected a permanent." Unequalled quick cure for Throat and Lung Troubles. At City Drug Store; price 50c and \$1, guaranteed. Trial bottle free.

Gowns and the Law.

The women in America who are permitted to wear frocks with trains as long as they like will be astonished to learn that in Germany a trailing gown is tabooed. An American lady was accused in one of the parks in a German city by a policeman, who bade her hold up her gown, inasmuch as the trailing damaged the gravel and also, he added, did the gown no good. She demurred, pointing out that, in her opinion, the damage to the gown was of little consequence. At once the policeman produced a formidable looking book, in which in equally formidable looking German it was stated that to let a dress drag on the pathway was an offense against the law.—Washington Star.

Millionaires Who Began as Peddlers.
The death of two New York millionaires—Guggenheims and Vogel—who began their careers as peddlers is of interest. The opportunity is still there if the man is of the right sort to embrace it. Vogel's case was particularly interesting, because he was one of the numerous successful merchants who have "crossed the lowery," who have begun in a humble way on the East side and lived to occupy a skyscraper business house in the Broadway district.—N. Y. World.

In the Literary Line.

Penman—I'd like to put out as many books in a year as that man going along there does.
Wright—Author or publisher?
"Neither; book auctioneer."—Yonkers Statesman.

Bent Her Double.

"I knew no one, for four weeks, when I was sick with typhoid and kidney trouble," writes Mrs. Annie Hunter, of Pittsburg, Pa., "and when I got better, although I had one of the best doctors I could get, I was bent double, and had to rest my hands on my knees when I walked. From this terrible affliction I was rescued by Electric Bitters, which restored my health and strength, and now I can walk as straight as ever. They are simply wonderful." Guaranteed to cure stomach, liver at kidney disorders; at City Drug Store, price 50c.

A WONDERFUL INVENTION.

It is interesting to note that fortunes are frequently made by the invention of articles of minor importance. Many of the more popular devices are those designed to benefit people and meet popular conditions, and one of the most interesting of these that has ever been invented is the Dr. White Electric Comb, patented Jan. 1, '99. These wonderful Combs positively cure dandruff, hair falling out, sick and nervous headaches, and when used with Dr. White's Electric Hair Brush are positively guaranteed to make straight hair curly in 25 days time. Thousands of these electric combs have been sold in the various cities of the Union, and the demand is constantly increasing. Our agents are rapidly becoming rich selling these combs. They positively sell on sight. Send for sample. Men's size 35c, ladies' 50c—(half price while we are introducing them.) The Dr. White The Dr. White Electric Comb Co., Decatur, Ill.

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LINGO OF THE BALL FIELD.

The Breezy Language Used by Sporting Writers Finds a Vigorous Defender.

A captious eastern editor asks petulantly what the baseball writer of the Kansas City Journal means by the following:

"Tinker led off for the cubs and oozed. Evers slugged and cleared the left and went to third on Kling's solitaire to the same place. Kling purloined second. Pfeffer sauntered on four wide ones and the 'To Let' signs were pulled down from all the bases." In our mind's eye, says the Journal, we can picture this eastern editor as he is. Of course he wears whiskers, and they are probably red and cut Van Dyke. He parts his hair in the middle—if he has any hair—and wears big, round glasses. He was the pet of the family and spent his early youth in some nice, refined Boston nursery and never, never played "old-odd" in the alley with boys of his own age. He never climbed a telegraph pole to witness the home team "pedal the bags" for a winning game and could not have experienced the triumphant joy of chasing a foul ball outside the fence which, when garnered, entitled him to a seat on the bleachers.

As the years of his adolescence passed this editor always kept at his work during the long, sultry days of summer, and never longed for a breath of fresh air, the blood-stirring sight of the big green diamond and the privilege of "rooting" for the home team and hurling picturesque maledictions at the robber umpire. The editor was studious and carefully avoided sneaking out to the ball park on a Saturday afternoon and telling his confiding wife afterward that the season could not reach him at his office because his telephone was out of order. Oh, no. Our captious brother editor was a model. The result is that he has allowed the world to go by him. He sits in isolated ignorance of the greatest American institution—baseball.

The absolute poverty of written language to express human emotions was probably first exemplified when the paleolithic sporting writer with his stylus and his papyrus pad tried to describe the first coconut twirling game between the "Meastherium Mud Eaters" and the "Megalosaurus Giants." From that time to this the language of sport has always been in advance of the ages. It has outstripped the classicalists, who are bound by rote and rule. The baseball writer, with his sleeves rolled up and his trusty typewriter eating on a roll of paper, is a maker of language. His is nature's own method. He gets close to his readers because he is sublimely free from hampering grammatical form and his vocabulary is evolved as he goes along. It weaves itself from the wool of encircling smoke from his malodorous pipe, and as he gaily sails into the boundless realm of his red and green imagination he coyly picks the choicest idioms and flits from flower to flower in the glorious gardens of budding synonym and blooming metaphor.

The baseball writer writes for those who understand his linguistic vagaries and revel in the seeming confusion of his complex phraseology. He is the journalistic free lance who denies the right of precedent and rides roughshod over the stickler for literary finish. He knows his readers and they know him. When he says, "Tinker led off for the cubs and oozed," every legitimate, thirty-third degree "fan" grasps immediately the graphic picture thus painted. Let the baseball writer alone. In his very frenzied philology he contributes a vivid and refreshing contrast to the monotonous news paper and the wearying precision of the nice, round editorial sentences. And who also write for a living must confess to a sneaking admiration for his boldness, his originality and the easy familiarity of his style.

American Surgeon Most Inventive.
When Prof. Mikulez returned to Europe after his visit to the United States, he said: "The American surgeon is more inventive than the French and English operators. The time is past when we were the givers and the Americans the receivers. The American character has a fundamental feature—unlimited self-confidence, and the American believes he can do anything he wishes."

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