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**Odd Contradictions in Famous German Writer**

Made insensible by contradictory contradictions in character, Heinrich Heine is remembered for his poems, called "I am a tragedy—I am a comedy." Though he was probably the greatest German poet of his century, the author of "The Lorelei" was constantly appalled by the vastness of his own mind and sought a firmer footing on other paths of expression. When he could curb his poetry he was a splendid journalist.

While he hated despotism he was an ardent admirer of Napoleon. As a critic his laughter still is remembered for its hilarity at sentimentalism; yet he was such a sentimentalist that his spurious love for his cousin gave exquisite wings to many a poem. He wrote history without method, and philosophy with no crystallized philosophy of his own. The capricious quality that pervades all his writings lurks in even his tenderest poems. He shifts from intense passion to careless mockery.

His life, until his invalidism, was one agony of being jerked from poetry to materialism and back again. Yet when he was made helpless, by paralysis this strange man of contradictions, who had been impatient and irritable in health, showed an extraordinary endurance and cheerfulness in the long years he spent on what he termed his "mattress grave." He died in 1856 and lies buried in Paris.—Kansas City Star.

**Odd Form of "Prayer" Brought Needed Rain**

Desperate after a month of drought in what was supposed to be the rainy season, the peasants in Changshien recently dressed up two men like fish and marched them down the street, pouring water on them all the way. This is a new method of praying for rain.

It worked, too. For that night Peiking and neighboring towns were drenched in a frightful storm. Nothing like it is ever seen in New York. A peculiar sort of lightning, flashing continuously here and there and everywhere, and thunder keeping up a constant "put-putting" sound feature the storm. Lakes came into existence everywhere. The storm seems somehow symbolic of the approach of threatening nationalist troops.

Strangely, the Peikings prayed for rain in earnest, too. In White Cloud temple, outside Hsiapien temple, and at Hsiizu Pailou, coolies, old men, and priests burned incense, and bowed incessantly. They followed the ancient rain-praying rites.

But the inhabitants of Changshien are believed to have found a new method of rain praying in the fish parade. People in Peiking had not heard of it before.—Brooklyn Eagle.

**Animals' Color Sense**

The colorful world of green, grass and trees, red mud, brownish-gray mice and yellow dogs is all just gray to cats, according to Prof. F. M. Gregg of Nebraska Wesleyan university, who experimented with the color scheme of night-seeing animals. Dogs and raccoons also lack color perception, he finds. In his experiments the animals were taught to recognize various color combinations. They learned that when certain colors were shown, they could come up and expect to be fed. When shades of gray corresponding in brightness to the different colors were substituted for the brilliant rainbow hues, the animals apparently noted no change in the dinner signals. The dog, a fox terrier, was quickest to learn, the cat next, and the raccoon the slowest of all.

**Vital Part of Tree**

The stem of a tree, also called trunk and bole, is the main axis extending from the roots to the crown, or to the tip in case of an unbranched stem. Tree stems range from long to short, straight to crooked, and from erect to prostrate. An examination of a cross-section of a stem will show bark, wood, and pith, says the American Tree association. In the central part of the stem is the pith. About it is the wood, which in many trees can be divided into the darker heartwood and the lighter sapwood. Between the wood and the bark is a thin layer known as the cambium. This is the most vital part of a tree, for it is here that all new wood and bark are made up.

**Death to Mosquitoes**

Efforts to find a poison that will kill the mosquito larvae and not harm fish have been successful in France. Heretofore all poison designed to spread over breeding places of mosquitoes has been harmful to other life, but the new compound will not only spare the fish, but will be harmless to aquatic plants or warm-blooded animals. It is claimed. It is a formaldehyde compound that can be applied with sand.

Governor Peay of Tennessee Dies.  
Nashville, Tenn.—Governor Austin Peay, chief executive of this state since 1923, died in his home here.

**Vine Planted Before Revolution Bears Fruit**

The granddaddy of all American grapevines, some growing although it was planted several years before the Revolutionary war, is described by George Shaffer in an article in Liberty.

"When Father Junipero Serra planted a sprig of grapevine at San Gabriel mission in 1771," the writer points out, "he planted not only the first grapevine in California, but also the roots of a vast industry. The benedictine missionaries could hardly be expected to know that from that little shoot of grapevine would sprout an industry worth \$250,000,000 with employment for 100,000 persons."

Father Serra's original vine still grows," the writer continues. "In the yard of an old inn at San Gabriel the patriarch of grapevines stands just where the old monk—now 143 years old—planted it. It is said to be the largest grapevine in the world. Eight feet in circumference, its gnarled and twisted trunk flings long, withering arms over a trellis that covers an acre. A ton of grapes is its annual yield. The benches and tables of more convivial times still recall the custom of country folk to gather and sip their wine under its shade."

**Jury Wanted Beer, Got It**

Soon after his appointment as medical director of an asylum, Sir James Crichton-Brown, the British physician, had to attend an inquest on a patient who had died of heart disease. The evidence was heard, he relates in his book of reminiscences, and the coroner, turning to the jury, composed mostly of laborers, said:

"Now, gentlemen, are you agreed on your verdict?"

The jurors talked among themselves for a few moments and then the foreman spoke up:

"We find as how the deceased died from natural causes, but," he went on, "the jury wish to add that as this is the first occasion on which they have met the new medical director, they hope as how he will stand the jury some beer."

With the coroner's sanction, he did.

**Seattle Customs Collector Will Dead**

General Gail Millard T. Hartson, collector of customs of Seattle and prominent in republican political circles in the state of Washington, died in a sanitarium here, where he had gone two weeks ago for rest and treatment following a general breakdown in health.

**Educational Essentials**

Rusklin says: "An educated man ought to know three things: First, where he is—that is to say, what kind of a world he has got into, how large it is, what kind of creatures live in it, and how; what it is made of, and what may be made of it. Secondly, where he is going—that is to say, what chances or reports there are of any other world besides this; and what seems to be the nature of the best world. Thirdly, what he had best do under the circumstances, what are the readiest means in his power of attaining happiness and diffusing it. The man who knows these things, and has his will so subdued that he is ready to do what he knows he ought, is an educated man; and the man who knows them, but is uneducated, although he could talk all the tongues of Babel."—New York Times.

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**Cotton Mather Gave Name to Yale College**

Cotton Mather would willingly have been president of his alma mater, Harvard, succeeding his father, but though there were opportunities, he never was elected, writes William E. Barton in the American Independent. He became dissatisfied with Harvard, and on January 2, 1717, he wrote in his diary:

"What shall I do for the welfare of the college at New Haven? I am inclined to write into a wealthy East India merchantman at London, who may be disposed in several accounts, to do for that college and colony."

Harvard's name is due to the Yale. A rich and childless man, saying:

"If what is forming at New Haven might bear the name of Yale college, it would be better than a name of such kind and duration. And your munificence might easily obtain for you such a title."

The money came, and the name was given to the college by Mather and it remains.

**Acted on Information**

Richard Mansfield walked into the Grand Central hotel at Oshkosh, Wis., says Felix Shay in "Elbert Hubbard of East Aurora." Behind him was a valet carrying two big grips. The tragedian took four steps from the door to the desk, and leaning over, in one of those half-confidential stage-voice asides that reach to the topmost gallery, said:

"Ah, have you music at meals?"

And the clerk adjusted the glittering glass, on his bosom, smiled serenely, and said:

"Oh, yes, surely so, yes, we have music at all meals."

And Mansfield turned to his valet, who was resting from labor with the heavy valises, and said:

"Oh, Oh, James! Look you to our valet! To our luggage!"

And four more strides took him to the door, and the actor and valet disappeared.

**When Trees Grow**

Many believe that trees grow from saplings when the leaves begin to come out in the spring. But when they start to show their autumn color. But this widespread belief is not correct, says the American Tree association. For instance, in the latitude of southern Pennsylvania, the native forest trees make 90 per cent of their height growth in 90 days of spring and early summer.

**FOOT BALL**

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**Settled All Chance of Getting Customer**

A young man of Indianapolis, in his early twenties, suffered a fell blow to his pride recently when he answered the doorbell at his home to find a young man making his way in the world by taking magazine subscriptions. The young salesman's unprepossessing appearance heralded his age at approximately sixteen or seventeen years and his faltering approach indicated no great amount of experience in the commercial world.

Smilingly brightly, he ventured: "Is your mother at home?"

"No,"

"Is she taking any of these magazines?" naming a few familiar names of magazines.

"I really don't know, but I don't think she is in the market for any more."

"With a weary 'Thank you,' he started away when a new hope lit up his face and he played his last card: "Y-y-you wouldn't care to take the Youth's Companion?"—Indianapolis News.

**An Oversight**

Sandy bought two tickets for a ball lot and won a \$1,500 car.

His friends rushed up to his house to congratulate him, but found him looking miserable as ever.

"Why, mon, what's the matter w' ye?" they asked.

"It's that second ticket. Why I ever bought it I canna imagine."—Laughter.

**Dark Rubber Lasting**

For rubber articles that are likely to be exposed to sunlight, rubber of the darkest color will stay "alive" the longest. Recent experiments in the rubber laboratory of the United States bureau of standards, reported by Popular Science Monthly, have demonstrated that the shade of rubber goods has much to do with their durability.

**Not a Chance**

No man under thirty is a match in intelligence for a woman of twenty.—American Magazine.

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