

As Englishman Sees

Our American Humor

In his book of stories and anecdotes, "Tell Me Another," Lord Aberdeen, a former governor general of Canada, devotes a chapter to "Samples of American Humor."

"It is well recognized that the typical humor of America is usually of the dry quality," he says, disavowing any connection between his assertion and a certain amendment to the Constitution.

As a shining example of American dry humor, he offers this:

A stranger who happened to be in one of the New England states, being doubtful about his exact whereabouts, asked some one whom he met:

"Can you tell me how far it is to Hartford?"

"Well, the way you are now going it's about 24,000 miles; but if you turn around and go the other way it's about a mile and a half," was the answer.

Another characteristic of American humor, declares Lord Aberdeen, is a sort of subtlety, which suggests an inference, not always too obvious, but which creates amusement even before or without analysis. A "perfect specimen" of this particular type of humor is furnished by a conversation overheard between two men.

"Do you play golf?" asked the one.

"No; but I can't give it up," answered the other.

21 Years Ago

January 3, 1908

The relatives and invited guests of the members of Dolph Lodge, A. F. & A. M., to the number of about 150 gathered at their hall on last Friday evening, Dec. 27, and enjoyed witnessing their impressive installation ceremonies, in which the following officers were installed for the ensuing term, Wm. Chamberlain acting as installing officer: A. B. McEwen, Worshipful Master; A. M. Johnson, senior Warden; D. G. McKenzie, Junior Warden; Byron Hawks, Junior Deacon, Edward Foster, Senior Deacon; B. D. Clemons, Treasurer; Edward Koontz, Secretary; Dr. L. Dell, Tyler.

One of the most pleasant and thoroughly successful functions of the season was planned and carried out Tuesday evening, New Year's eve, by Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Foss and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kershaw. The rooms of the Commercial club, were tastefully decorated in green and white, streamers of these colors draping windows, ceiling and walls. Tables were prepared for 28, and the game was progressive whist.

The family of Bern Bannister have nearly all been afflicted this week with measles, and Mrs. Bannister herself is in a critical condition, the disease attacking her in the throat.

Mr. and Mrs. Otis Whiteman, Miss Eva Rider and her brother, Mr. Will Rider, attended the New Year's ball at Weston Wednesday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Will M. Peterson and son Raley, were in town Saturday from Pendleton, guests at the E. A. Dudgey home.

Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Peebler were visiting in the city the first of the week, and were accompanied to their home in Pendleton by Mrs. Hugh Taylor.

Mrs. A. Shick has been at the farm this week, where she has been attending Lorain, the little son of Arthur Shick, who has been ill for several weeks with an affection of the throat.

Mrs. Frank Gagnon, who recently returned from an extended visit to friends in the east was taken violently ill last night and Dr. Sharp was summoned. Mrs. Gagnon had swallowed a small piece of oyster shell, and it was some time before she could gain relief.

H. N. Payne, for several months telegraph operator at the O. R. & N. office in this city, accompanied by his wife, left for Los Angeles last Friday. His successor is Mr. A. G. Gilliland, an employe of the company who has been in charge of the office at Hilgard for some time.

A. B. McEwen, the hardware merchant, has purchased the Peebler & Chamberlain stock of agricultural implements, vehicles, etc. Mr. McEwen takes possession at once, inventory of the stock now being under way.

Mrs. H. H. Hill has again been the lucky recipient of a prize given by a Boston, Mass., school for art needlework. Mrs. Hill has twice before received premiums from there on her work, and once at the Walla Walla fair. This time it is a knitted silk baby sack. Mrs. Hill receives the cash prize, and her piece of work back also.

Balzac's Odd Opinion of Own Character

Honore de Balzac's own estimate of himself is to be found in a letter he wrote to the Duchess d'Abantes. The letter is included in the memoirs of a mysterious contemporary of the author collected and published in Paris recently by Charles Leger.

"I comprise in my five feet and two inches," Balzac declared, "all possible incoherencies and contrasts, and those who regard me as vain, prodigal, stubborn, frivolous, without continuity of ideas, a coxcomb, idler, lacking application, reflection or persistence, talkative, tactless, unmannerly, impolite, crotchety, of uneven humor, will be just as right as those who might call me economical, modest, courageous, tenacious, energetic, unstudied, a hard worker, persistent, taciturn, subtle and tactful, polite, always cheerful. The one who deems me a poltroon will not be more wrong than he who says I am extremely brave, that I am learned or ignorant, full of talent or inept. Nothing surprises me any longer about myself. I end by believing that I am only an instrument played upon by circumstances.—Detroit News.

Open Mind Requisite of Proper Judgment

Your judgment is no better than your information, is a good statement to memorize. It is certain that to acquire judgment, one must investigate a subject from different angles. The first information may only tell part of the truth. One may discover that he has been misinformed or so slightly informed that it is a poor foundation on which to form an opinion.

If you only read what you already know, you learn nothing. Some do not want to read something new or read the other side of a question on which they have narrow but profound convictions. They stop the paper that dares discuss views with which they cannot agree or understand. They condemn the preacher or the teacher who taxes their minds with new ideas.

The way to acquire knowledge is to keep an open mind so that different angles of thought may present themselves for your information. That is the basis of sound judgment.—Successful Farming.

Renting System Old

We find no exact records of the first rent paid. It is said that when the Germans conquered parts of Gaul, the land was parceled out to chiefs, lieutenants and private soldiers. In return the holders of the lands promised military service when needed. Some of the land was given to favorites who were allowed to pay in money instead of service, and the system was established. Rent was certainly known in the days that Rome flourished, there being Latin names for rent under long leasehold tenure; rent of a farm; ground rent; rent of state lands, and the annual rent payable for the right to the perpetual enjoyment of anything built on the surface of the land—Washington Star.

Myth About Monkeys

It is often stated that monkeys sometimes cross streams by means of "monkey bridges." We doubt, says the Pathfinder Magazine, whether anybody has positive knowledge of monkeys forming a bridge by taking hold of each other in order to cross a stream. Monkeys do, however, hang on to one another from time to time and sometimes one will seize and climb up the tail of another. One will even sometimes draw another up.

Dr. William M. Mann, director of the National Zoological park, believes the story about monkeys making a bridge was suggested by the maneuvers of the spider monkeys of South America.

Expression Long in Use

Thousands of years ago the Egyptians spoke of their dead as those who had "gone west." The abode of the dead was believed by them to be in the west, the land of the setting sun. Similar beliefs were held by other peoples, among them some American Indian tribes, who believed that the "happy hunting ground" was in the west and who therefore frequently put their dead on scaffolds facing that direction. Whether the modern term "to go west" has any etymological connection with these old beliefs is unknown.

Leisurely Spaniards

In Spain there are many bullock carts on the road. They travel slowly along the highways. Auto salesmen, visiting that country, see a fine chance for sales. But it isn't so easy to make the sale. Slung beneath the high vehicle is a hammock. In this the driver can sleep peacefully while the bullock plods along the road. In time he gets there, and he finds it soon enough. Perhaps the dwellers in what we call less progressive countries are right in resisting the appeal of speed.

Development of Watch

Out of the experiment with "Nuremberg eggs," as the first watches were called, evolved various devices for keeping time, but it was not until the Eighteenth century that the watch as we know it today was designed. Thomas Tompion, who died in 1713, invented the first dead-beat escapement for watches. George Graham improved on the principle, and Pierre le Roy managed to overcome the gain or loss of time caused by the contraction or expansion of the mainspring.

Now On a Cash Basis Prices Are Talking

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Peas, Old Price 20c.....	New Price 15c
Peas, Old Price 25c.....	New Price 20c
STRING BEANS	
String Beans, Old Price 20c.....	New Price 15c
String Beans, Old Price 25c.....	New Price 20c
String Beans, Old Price 30c.....	New Price 25c
String Beans, Old Price 35c.....	New Price 30c
SYRUP	
Liberty Bell Syrup, Old Price 1/2 gal. 1.15.....	New Price 85c
Liberty Bell Syrup, Old Price 1 gal. 2.25.....	New Price 1.65
Tea Garden Syrup, Old Price 1/2 gal. 95c.....	New Price 80c
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