

LURING AN AUDIENCE.

Just a Little Twist in a Shakespeare Title Did the Trick.

There was once a traveling theatrical company, so the tale of venerable age and long improbable veracity goes, that was booked to play in a town a melodrama considered as suitable to the prospective audience. By accident the necessary scenery and costumes were sent ahead to the next stopping place, which was the capital of the state, where a Shakespearean play was to be presented at the governor's special request, and the costumes and accessories for the Shakespeare performance were the ones that arrived. There was no time to right the mistake, but there was time to rush a new set of posters advertising the new play.

"Come one, come all!" they invited the public. "Do not miss the opportunity of a lifetime! The great comic, historic, romantic, emotional drama 'As You Like It, or the Wrestler's Sweetheart' as triumphantly performed before the queen of England at the Globe theater, London, with the distinguished author in the cast!"

Naturally the public inferred that this interesting performance had taken place before Queen Victoria during the last London season rather than in the presence of good Queen Bess some 300 years before. Naturally also the gymnastic suggestions of the ingenious subtitle were not lost upon them. They turned out in force. The town attended almost to a man. They did not think much of the melancholy Jaques, but they would have endured him another seven ages for the sake of Rosalind!—Youth's Companion.

A FLOATING FORTUNE.

The Right Kind of Whale Is Heavily Freighted With Wealth.

First let us dispel the popular idea that a whale is a fish. It is not a fish, but an animal. It feeds its young with milk. And even though it lives in the water it can be drowned. A fish extracts oxygen from the water and takes it through its gills. But the whale has to rise to the surface and get a supply of oxygen from the air. When it does this it spouts water to make room for air, and the fishermen say, "There she blows!"

A whale has a large, flat tail, about eighteen feet across. Every fish has an upright tail. That is because fish need their tails only to act as rudders. But a whale, when he needs oxygen, has to beat down the water and get to the surface in bounds. That's the reason his tail is flat.

The baleen, or whalebone whale, carries all the whalebone in his mouth. It hangs down from his upper jaw in a vast network. He eats the smallest sort of jellyfish, etc. Having no teeth, he swims right into a shoal of things that form his food, and the network of whalebone acts as a huge fishing net. Whalebone is worth \$10,000 a ton, and one whale may carry one and a half tons of it. Besides whalebone, we get tons of oil from the whale. It is used for ointments and very fine candles. And from a certain species of whale we get ambergris, which is worth from \$10 to \$30 an ounce. The whale is a floating fortune.—Milwaukee Sentinel.

Her Business.

Patience—Don't you think she knows her business? Patrice—Well, if it's knowing everybody else's she does.—Yonkers Statesman.

Pretty Small.

Hewitt—What sort of a fellow is he? Jewett—Well, he will never have to say to his conscience, "How you have grown!"—Judge.

THE CANARY ISLANDS.

In Ancient Days They Were Thought to Form the Real Heaven.

You know, of course, that the Canary islands are northwest of Africa and that they belong to Spain. You may happen to remember, too, that three very interesting things have been given to the world by that group of islands—Canary wine, the Canary dance and the lovely little yellow song bird that has a place in so many homes. To be sure, they are the Canary islands, because that is where canary birds come from.

But hold! The horse is behind the cart. The birds got their name from the place of their nativity, and the group of islands took its name from the largest and most important member, Gran Canaria island. Curiously enough, the name means "big dog" instead of "little bird."

There was a time when these islands were of far more interest and importance than they are now, a time when they called forth a special government edict. It was the senate of Carthage that passed a law forbidding the citizens to make those islands the objective point of their summer vacation.

From time immemorial the world had believed that somewhere beyond the pillars of Hercules there was a group of islands so beautiful, so replete with everything to make men and women happy, that they constituted the real heaven. They were called "Islands of the Blest." When the Carthaginian fleet returned from its first expedition to the Canary islands there was danger that all the population of Carthage would emigrate to that realm of song birds and tempered sunshine; hence the edict.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Knife Duels In Mexico.

A duel between cattle herders on the Mexican plains is about as savage and deadly a manner of fighting as one could possibly imagine. Each opponent extends his left arm, and a third party who has been selected to act as referee binds their wrists together with a thong of rawhide. He then places a knife in the right hand of each, and the fight is on. Needless to say, it does not last long. Every stab may be calculated upon to do damage, and it often happens that both duelists receive fatal wounds. Yet, in spite of the severe rules of the game, there are men who become experts and terrorize a whole neighborhood. They pride themselves on being able to strike so quickly and so surely that they can kill an opponent with the first blow and get away unscathed.—Exchange.

F. R. BEALS

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