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L. W. CHARLES

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Men and Tears.

Men have always taken a kind of perverse pride in their comparative immunity from tears, as though a peculiarity due to a physical cause were a self-made virtue and the proof of a strong mind. But there is pathos in this deprivation, for they cannot get the relief of tears when poignant thoughts and feelings from "the depth of some divine despair" rise from the heart in their crisis of suffering and sorrow.—Wilkinson Sherren in T. P.'s London Weekly.

Misinterpreted.

Lord Macaulay passing one day through the Seven Dials bought a handful of baillads from some street folks who were bawling out their contents to a gaping audience. Proceeding on his way home he was astonished to find himself followed by half a score of urchins, their faces beaming with expectation. "Now then, my lads, what is it?" said he. "Oh, that's a good 'un," replied one of the boys, "after we've come all this way."

"But what are you waiting for?" said the historian, astonished at the lad's familiarity.

"Waiting for? Why, ain't you going to sing, gov'ner?"—Life.

Meanings of Dyke.

"Dyke" has even more divergent meanings than ditch in Lincolnshire and bank in Holland. In Scotland it means a low wall or fence of turf or un-mortared stones, and in some parts of northern England a "dyke" is a hedge. Yet there are other northern districts where it is a pond. Originally, in English at any rate, "dyke" or "dike" and "ditch" both meant what ditch still means to us, but as the digging out of a ditch necessarily involves the raising of a mound with the dug-out earth the words came to signify ditch and mound together and eventually in some cases the mound alone.—London Standard.

When a Tornado Comes.

It is instinctive to shut up a house tight against an approaching storm but this is the worst possible course, for the gyrating tornado brings with it an area of relative vacuum and when it passes a tightly closed house the house is in danger of being burst asunder by the pressure of the confined air. The safe course is to throw everything wide open and then make for the cellar.

A Curious Epitaph.

The following epitaph is copied from a tomb in the vicinity of Port Royal Jamaica: "Here lieth the body of Louis Caidy, Esq., a native of Montpelier, in France, which country he left on account of the revocation. He was swallowed up by the earthquake which occurred at that place in 1692 but by the great providence of God was, by a second shock, flung into the sea, where he continued swimming until rescued by a boat and lived forty years afterward."

Rocks That Float in Water.

A geologist who is well up in his business can name a dozen or twenty different specimens of rocks and minerals that have less specific gravity than water and which will, if tossed into that element, float on the surface. Hubellite is one of the best known representatives of that class. The common pumice stone is another example. The rock with the very least specific gravity known is damari, a substance found in an extinct volcano in Damara land. Its atomic weight is .5, or exact ly one-half that of hydrogen.

OPPORTUNITY.

Opportunity has all her hair on her forehead, but when she has passed you cannot call her back. She has no tuft whereby you can lay hold on her, for she is bald on the back part of her head and never returns.—Francis Rabelais.

Seasick Fish.

Fish become ill and die from seasickness when carried long distances upon the ocean, says Popular Mechanics Magazine. For that reason many rare and interesting specimens captured in tropical countries cannot be brought alive to northern points for public inspection. In a recent shipment of 400 fish from Key West to New York more than 100 died on the way and the remainder arrived in a condition that required heroic treatment to save their lives. According to this it may be presumed that the agony endured by humans when the ship begins to pitch and roll is as nothing compared with the same sufferings of tank inclosed fish. As a precaution the fish are fed practically nothing for at least one day before being taken on board. The galvanized iron tanks in which the fish are carried contain from ten to fifty gallons of sea water kept at a constant temperature of about 60 degrees by steam from the ship's boilers during the trip.

Very Scientific Punishment.

Here is a charming description of corporal punishment as given in American schools and prisons. It is taken from one of the leading newspapers of Italy and will astonish some people here as much as it probably astonished the Italian readers:

"The most incorrigible persons are led with eyes bandaged and hands shackled to a bath in which there is a little water. They are stripped and made to lie down in the bathtub. In the water is a wire leading from one pole of an electric battery. Another wire leading from the other pole is placed in contact with a sponge which is applied to the bare body of the prisoner. Each time it touches him he receives an electric shock that feels exactly as if he were being whipped."

"The punished youth, being unable to see whence the blows come, suffers all the more and is soon under subjection."—New York World.

A Legal Comedy.

The conservatism of the law as it is practiced in Philadelphia received an illustration recently in the loud summons by the clerk of the court to William Penn, Richard Penn and John Penn to appear in court in order that a certain title to land of which they were the original granters could be cleared of an encumbrance.

No one suggested to his honor, the president judge of common pleas No. 4, that William Penn had been dead 200 years, and his sons Richard and John nearly as long. There was no need of such a suggestion. Every one within hearing of the clerk's voice knew that it was a vain show and an empty form that was proceeding before their eyes. Through the idle crying of the names of men two centuries dead the demands of the law were satisfied and a title was cleared.—Case and Comment.

When an Animal Chokes.

Few emergencies which arise on the farm are more easily dealt with than choking. In cases of this kind we have never known the white of an egg, when poured down the sufferer's throat to fail to give relief. To administer the egg quickly and surely it should be broken into a wide mouthed bottle. When such a bottle is not quickly available, however, any ordinary bottle can be used by using a funnel to get into it, and where a funnel is not at hand one can be made by rolling a piece of paper into the desired shape. When everything is ready the animal's head should be raised as high as possible, the bottle thrust far back in the throat and the contents emptied. The egg will immediately pass down and make the throat passage and the offending obstacle so smooth that it will pass on into the stomach.—Farm and Fireside.

She Didn't Like It.

Even unto honors, if they must carry them alone, children in America would not be born. A little girl who lives in my neighborhood came home from school in tears one day not long ago. Her father is a celebrated writer. The schoolteacher, happening to select one of his stories to read aloud to the class, mentioned the fact that the author of the story was the father of my small friend.

"But why are you crying about it, sweetheart?" her father asked. "Do you think it's such a bad story?"

"Oh, no," the little girl answered. "It is a good enough story. But none of the other children's fathers write stories! Why do you, daddy? It's so peculiar!"—From "The American Child."

Turning Away Wrath.

The garden gate was open, and a small boy paused to look at the daffodils within easy reach. He was just about to grab one when a bedroom window opened and an angry householder appeared. "These need tying up badly, sir," said the smart boy. "These big flowers are too heavy for their stems." There is no question that if that boy keeps out of prison he will get on.—Manchester Guardian.

Rivers Frozen Solid.

During several months of each year some of the great rivers of Siberia are frozen solid to the bottom, but the fishes imprisoned in the ice maintain their vitality and resume their active life when the ice melts in the spring.

Swedish Barber Shops.

In Sweden barber shops are as numerous as in the United States, and their owners take pride in keeping them neat and clean, but they are not as lavishly furnished as are most American shops.

Unexplored.

At least a quarter of the continent of Australia has never been explored. Its neighbor, New Guinea, the largest island in the world, is known only in small part, although it may be filled with undeveloped riches.

Jagielle University.

The University of Jagielle of Cracow, Poland, where Copernicus received his education, was founded in 1364 by the Polish king Kazimer the Great and endowed by a later Polish king, Jagielle, in 1400.

Leprosy.

Sir George Turner is reported to have said that, though leprosy is usually spread by contagion, most lepers are not nearly so dangerous to the public as a person suffering from consumption.

Very Judicious.

"They tell me he's a tightwad." "Not exactly that, but he's judicious in his expenditures. He's prompt about paying the carfare, and that puts it up to you to pay for lunch."—Pittsburgh Post.

Better Still.

"No woman knows how to drive a nail." "And what of that? Every woman knows how to drive a man any way she wants him to go."—Washington Herald.

It's Pretty Hard.

Teaching a calf to drink out of a pail is an elementary performance compared with some others. The most difficult feat is that of matching up a half worn coat with a new pair of trousers.—Philadelphia Ledger.

The Sea Greyhound.

The waters about Iceland abound with fish. Of one of these inhabitants of the water, called the dog-fish, a writer on the subject has this to say: "He is a long, cruel looking fellow and is the one fish the fishermen dread. He is the sea greyhound without legs, and no hyena is more crafty. His two eyes shine like light emeralds. In the center of his back is a bony protuberance, sharp as a razor and shaped like a reaper's sickle, and his mouth, like his cousin's, the shark, is beneath his body."

He Was No Flatterer.

The roll of "things that might have been said differently" has been swelled, according to Rev. E. J. Hardy's "How to Be Happy Though Civil," by a curate in England who on the occasion of his marriage, received a handsome present from his parishioners.

He began a speech of thanks in this way: "I will not call you ladies and gentlemen, for I know you too well for that."

Did the Best She Could.

"Hang it all, Helen, didn't you promise at the altar to love, honor and obey me?"

"Yes, dear."

"And didn't I positively forbid you to pay more than \$25 for a new hat?"

"Yes, dear; but I found I simply could not love or honor you if I obeyed you."—Fun.

The Servian Wall.

The Servian wall was the first inclosing wall of ancient Rome and named for Servius Tullius, who is supposed to have built it. It was built against the cliffs of five of the famous hills of Rome, crossing the valleys between them at the narrowest part and reinforced at its weakest points by embankments and ditches.

MORAL EXCELLENCE.

Moral excellence is man's highest glory. Men everywhere and in all ages have rendered it their homage, but never more so than in the present time. Nothing in this age can take the place of it or atone for the want of it.—Rev. Dr. A. A. Willis.

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