

Superstition of a Speculator.  
"It's very curious," remarked a spectator, "the other day, what a strong influence little things exert over some men. Now, there is Charlie —, of the board of trade, one of the sharpest traders on the floor; a man who sells by the hundred thousand, and buys by the extravagant quantity. I know for a fact the four years past he has made it a rule to sell short at wheat every spring, and sell big, too. But he never changes from the board to the bull side until he sees a certain little bush out on the west side burst into bloom. The very first day he sees a flower on that particular bush he goes onto the floor and sells right and left, and keeps it up. This he has done so regularly for some years past that it is a common remark on 'change' at these times that 'Charlie's lilac bush is in bloom.' What is more curious, too, is that he hasn't made a mistake for years past. He is a perfect mascot for him. No, I won't tell you where the bush is, and he passes by it every day on his way down town. Lots of the boys have tried to find out where it is located, but there are hundreds of lilac bushes along the street, and he isn't fool enough to give it away."

"And I know of another queer case, too," continued the speculator.

"My typewriter, a woman of about 40 years of age, has some particular thing she watches on her way down town in the morning, and as a curious matter of fact, that woman will walk into the office, sit down at her desk, write out a prediction of the course of the day's markets, and then put it away. It comes true, too—that's the curious part of it." She will not tell me how she does it, but for weeks she has changed the typewriter's erratic course accurately. Do I ever trade on her prediction? Well, not often. You know, I don't believe in those things. But it's mighty curious, to say the least, isn't it?"

—Chicago Herald.

Grit as Well as Pluck.

It is remarkable that we should have grit as well as pluck—a power to endure, resist, take the blows and still persist and press forward. Pluck is the quality of not backing out. Now, we do not expect every one to have both grit and pluck; but every one ought to have one or the other; and so the community, or the society, or, as we have a habit of saying, the commonwealth, shall have both. I am inclined to think that, personally, I am decidedly lacking in pluck. I am a timid coward. I have the pluck simply to own up to my pimpernelness. When you set before me a new enterprise, I am always afraid to embark in it. But once in, I have grit. I can stick to a job of work; and when I fight I always intend to win. But I wish I were also plucky. Do not, however, depreciate what we have!

I admire pluck, and don't know whether I admire grit or not. I have a little friend who is a little over four feet tall, and he has a little head and little features, but he bristles up at a touch, or a word, or an infringement of his rights. If he fancies a slight, in a moment he snarls and jumps, and shows he isn't afraid of all comers. So he is not. He is brimful of pluck. But he lacks grit. He pitches in and then sneaks out. Of two generals you will be sure to find one good at an assault, the other good at a siege. Sometimes one is most shameful, sometimes the other.—Manrice, M. D., in *Globe-Democrat*.

The Pension Commissioner's Troubles.

One woman in the best faith addresses the commissioner and asks that he see that the school house in her neighborhood be established in the center of the district. Another informs him that her husband has long been absent. She has wandered over the face of the country in search of him and she would now like to have him take up the search. Many such cases occur.

Letters containing souvenirs dear to the senders, but utterly valueless to any one else, are received; letters of advice detailing whole pension schemes to be substituted for the present system of laws; letters of extravagant commendation, of censure, of anger of contempt, of wrath, of unmitigated hostility; letters of insane writers threatening vileness and violence; letters excused by the granting of pensions and asking benisons upon the heads of all concerned; letters of bitter reproach for pensions denied, calling down the wrath of God on men upon whom who have been trying to do their simple duty—all these and multitudes of others, fantastic, sober, rational and wild, pour by the hundreds and thousands into the mail of the bureau; and from the charity and patience which forbears to respond, and the sense of duty which compels the neglect of idle inquiries, arise many of the complaints and denunciations of the office for its alleged neglect.—Pension Commissioner's Report.

The Wells of Andalucia.

In Andalucia the norias or Moorish wells are sure to catch your eye. They are worth examining by the curious in such matters; the construction is very simple, but they do effective work. A broad wheel is turned round by an old mule, who is past other work, and attached to this wheel are earthen jars, as large as barrels, which are filled with water and come up full, then as they turn over they empty their contents into a reservoir, whence a trough or aqueduct of some simple kind provides for household use, conveys the rest of the water into the fruit or vegetable garden, and irrigates it by means of channels dug in rows in the earth. For drinking purposes the water is generally caught from the jars, for the Spaniards, though they like their fish "high" and their oil and bacon rancid, are very particular about the quality of their water, and are willing to buy it from the carriers who often fetch it from long distances if that near at hand has an evil reputation.—Cor. San Francisco Chronicle.

A Failure for Bismarck.

Score one failure for Bismarck. The establishment of colonies, apropos of which he displayed such enthusiasm a few years ago, and for which he has nearly sacrificed a war with Spain, is known to be a utter failure. Prince Bismarck's purpose was to divert the stream of emigrants from the United States to some land or lands where they would continue to be German in speech, tastes and habits, instead of becoming speedily unrecognized as of German origin. This he proposed to do by means of his "agricultural colonies" in Africa and his "plantation colonies" in the South Pacific Islands. For all the money expended in the effort not a kreutzer has been received in profit, and the colony craze is to be abandoned.—Once a Week.

The man who does every thing "on his own hook" is likely to get caught one of these days.—Lowell Citizen.

—It isn't true that a mother can not see a fault in her own baby. She can, but she won't.—Journal of Education.

Malaria is a malady that a doctor says you have got when he doesn't know what's the matter with you.—Puck.

The voice of conscience is so delicate that it is easy to stifle it, but it is also so clear that it is impossible to mistake it.—*Marie de Staél*.

—It is the man who can not write who makes his mark in this world. But life is full of crosses to him; it fails to sign his name often.—Boston Courier.

#### THE NAMES OF JEWS.

Why Come Have Chosen Gentile Surnames  
English Forms—Changes.

Lord Coleridge touched upon an interesting theme the other day when he inquired of certain Jewish witnesses how it was that they had adopted the names of Mordant and Saville in lieu of their native patronymics of Moses and Samuel. It is not quite correct to say that Jews over change their original names. In the synagogues they bear throughout their lives the Hebrew names—in the traditional Oriental form of So-and-so, son of So-and-so—given to them shortly after their birth. The instability of the names by which they are known to the public has not been heard much of the last few years, but the public has not heard much of the plucky little doctor for the last few years, but not long ago he turned up in Chicago, bright and chipper, a splendid specimen of a man in perfect health, and with a roundness of form indicative rather of the bon vivant than of a man who eats only two meals a day in summer and only one in winter.

"How have you been keeping yourself," asked a reporter, after friendly greetings had been exchanged.

"I have just returned from New Mexico, where I have been for nearly four years, pursuing certain investigations of a scientific nature. I am much interested in the subject of suspended animation or counterfeit death. I am convinced that a far greater percentage of people are buried alive than even those who have ever given the matter much thought."

"In my world is the dead buried with such criminal haste, I may say, as in the United States. I have been looking into this subject more closely for the last twenty-five years, and the evidence I have accumulated is startling. I tell you, it is murder, horrible murder, and it is high time some agitation was started for the purpose of securing needed legislation on the subject of the burial of the dead."

—The MOVEMENT IN EUROPE.

"The principle of life is so subtle," continued the doctor, "that man with all his science knows nothing about it; and it is equally as subtle against the awful crime of burying alive. The public has no love for the Hebrew Abrahams, the Egyptian Moses, and the English Mordants, we have the Greek Alexander and Margolies, the Latin Marcus, and the Arabic Mocatta. Those derived from medieval house signs are Rothschild, Adler, Ganz, Schiff, Strauss, Silberkron, etc. Some of the occupation names are interesting. Rophe is Hebrew for physician, and Rapoport is a corruption of Rophe d'Orporto; Jaffon is Hebrew for money changer, and Mocatta is Arabic for mason.

More strictly Anglo-Jewish are the natural assimilations of Hebrew and Jewish names to English forms. Thus, Coleman is a corruption of Kalman, the Greek translation of the Hebrew Shem Tob (Good Name). Bonny is derived, through Bodli, from a Latin translation of Yom Tob (Good Day). Phillips comes from the Hebrew Uri or Meier, both meaning "light," through the Greek equivalent Phobos and its German-Polish diminutive Phielub. Seville is a more natural corruption of Samuel than is generally imagined, seeing that in Germany the Scriptural name has been shortened into Saevel, and in England we have the authority of Mr. Weller, senior, to spell it with a "w."

Freeman is from the German Friedmann, a translation and apocope of Shalom ben Menasseh. Haymen is derived through Haim (life). Jessel is from Ezechiel, the Hebrew pronunciation of Eze-kid. Yates is from Goetz, an abbreviation of Gottschild, and is at the same time a corruption of Eliehun. Among single changes are Cowan—Cohen; Lewin—Levi, Victor—Avigord, Archet—Asher, Joseph—Solomon. Curious instances of misdirected translations are afforded by the names Marchant and Chapman, both of which are Anglicizations of the German Kaufmann or Handelmann. Originally, however, neither of these names means "merchandize," among the Teutonic Jews. Kaufmann is a corruption of Koppelman, of which the first two syllables are a German diminutive of Jacob, and the third an abbreviation of Menachem, the whole being a contraction of Jacob ben Menachem. Handelmann has a similar history, being derived from Elchanon ben Menachem, through Handl, a recognized German diminutive of Eliehun. In the same way Seligman is a contraction of Selig ben Menachem, and Felberman a corrupted contraction of Phobus (Uri) ben Menachem.

One of the most curious instances of an erroneous etymology is the name Jaffe, which figures among the landed gentry of county Down. It is the Hebrew word for "beautiful," and is a direct translation of the German "Schön." As a Jewish surname, however, Schor or Schen has no meaning. It is simply an acronym of the Hebrew Schlach (faithful messenger). These acronymic names are peculiarly Jewish, and many of them are found among English Jews. For example, Katz, which one of these days will perhaps be Anglicized into Cat, is derived from the initials of Kohen Tzedeck (priest of righteousness); Schatz, which in Hungary has actually been translated into Kinex, the Magyar for "treasure," is from Schlich Tzibor (messenger of the congregation); Babad is from Ben Ab Beth Din (Son of the President of the House of Judgment); Sack is from Sera Kadash (holly posterity), and when the name of a town beginning with s is added—as, for example, Sera Kadash Sacks (holly posterity of Speyer)—it becomes Saks or Sache, which has been frequently mistaken for an abbreviation of Sachsen (Saxony); Braun is from Ben Rabbi Moses; Braun (corrupted into Braun, and translated into Brown) from Ben Rabbi Nachman; Bard, from Ben Rabbi David; Bersal, from Ben Rabbi Solomon; the Levite, and Bril from Ben Rabbi Judah the Levite.

The exegetic names are also peculiarly Jewish. They consist of equivalents for Hebrew names, derived from collocations in Jacob's blessing furnish equivalents for Benjamin in Wolf, for Judah in Lion and for Naphtali in Hart-Fisher, an equivalent for Ephraim because it was foretold (Gen. xlviii, 19) that he should multiply exceedingly, and the fish is a symbol of fruitfulness. Hab also sometimes a substitute for Moses, because Pharaoh's daughter, in giving him his name, said (Exodus vi, 10): "For I drew him out of the water."

—St. James' Gazette.

—It isn't true that a mother can not see a fault in her own baby. She can, but she won't.—Journal of Education.

Malaria is a malady that a doctor says you have got when he doesn't know what's the matter with you.—Puck.

The voice of conscience is so delicate that it is easy to stifle it, but it is also so clear that it is impossible to mistake it.—*Marie de Staél*.

—He that loves not his wife and children breeds a lioness at home and broods a nest of sorrows, and blessing itself can not make him happy.—Jeremy Taylor.

#### DR. TANNER'S IDEAS.

HE TALKS OF PREMATURE BURIAL AND SUSPENDED ANIMATION.

The Dead in This Country Are Buried in Criminal Haste—The Subtile Principle of Life—The Doctor Convinced That Man Can Hibernate.

Eight years have gone since Dr. H. S. Tanner exhibited his wonderful feat of fasting forty days and nights in Clarendon Hall, in New York City. For sixteen days he touched neither water nor food. After the sixteenth day he began to drink water, and subsisted on this solely during the remaining twenty-four days of his fast. The public has not heard much of the plucky little doctor for the last few years, but not long ago he turned up in Chicago, bright and chipper, a splendid specimen of a man in perfect health, and with a roundness of form indicative rather of the bon vivant than of a man who eats only two meals a day in summer and only one in winter.

The man who says he will welcome death as a release from a life made up of sorrow, sends for four doctors when he has the colic.

Mr. Ridgway, of Smith's Cash Store, 415 Front St., S. F., Cal., will buy Christmas Gifts suitable for your children, your wife, your husband, your man's sister or brother, or anyone else.

Give particulars; do not delay.

Self-possession in a woman is well enough for her, if she doesn't keep it too long.

**THE COMMON LOT.**

There is a time no voice can teach,

There is a time no power can break;

Sooner or later that time will arrive, that place

will make you realize, that chance must bind

yourself, that the time is ripe,

to let go of your fate, and thousands more

will follow you in following.

If the skin is yellow, the tongue turns pale;

If the nerves shake, if the heart fails,

If digestion or constipation bothers you at times,

If rheumatism or rheumatic fever attacks you,

If the kidneys are bad, the heart weak,

If the liver is bad, the bowels sluggish,

If the lungs are bad, the skin pale,

If the heart is bad, the pulse weak,

If the brain is bad, the head dizzy,

If the kidneys are bad, the eyes dim,

If the heart is bad, the skin pale,

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