

Bill Nye Writes to Edwin Booth.
LITTLE MAMMOTH EATING HOUSE,
VALERIAN (D., Nov. 10, 1888.)
FRIEND BOOTH: I learn with some surprise that through a misunderstanding between your manager and myself you are billed for Cleveland on the same evening with Mr. Riley and myself.
In order to give the people of Cleveland an opportunity to witness two of America's greatest tragedians without inconvenience, I have decided to change my own date, so as to avoid any annoyance by dividing the audience. Sentiment in Cleveland, I find, is about equally divided on the question of dramatic and tragic interpretation between you and I. Some like your style of melancholy best, while those who have used mine say they would have no other. So I think it would be better to give each and all an opportunity to judge fairly and impartially between us.
I believe that while your stage address is the perfection of masterly interpretation, it is not entered into so thoroughly and participated in by the audience as mine is. I am introducing this winter a style of sad that is becoming quite popular and brings tears to eyes unused to weep.
Everywhere I go I hear you very highly spoken of, however. I think you are giving general satisfaction wherever you go. I will try to go and hear you at Cleveland. I have read the play before so it will not be new to me, but I would enjoy going very much and my presence might induce others to go. It does not matter much where I sit. You can put me wherever you think I would attract the most attention.
After the performance is over I will come back on the stage and congratulate you.
Hoping that you are well, and that the awkward conflict of our dates may be satisfactorily adjusted so that your pecuniary loss will be merely nominal, I remain yours with kind regards.
BILL NYE.

Just Like a Man.
Mr. Simble Simon Jones takes the box from the messenger, and opens it. "Pretty thing to send a \$20 hat home in that shape, all punched in at the top, and the sides all bent! It's well my wife didn't see it!" Then he deliberately seats himself and proceeds to straighten it out and make it "presentable." This done, he gives it to the girl to take to Mrs. Jones.

THE HAT IN THE BOX
"Upon my word, and sure 'n' I lib, missus, dat's do berry way he gibbed it to me to gib to yer, dis yer minute."

Omaha.
Mr. Winks—Great Scott! There comes Jinks. He has a bill against me. Tell him I am out. Mrs. Winks—Well, I'll tell him you have just gone down town to pay a bill. Mr. Winks—No, no. He'll know you're lying then. Tell him something he can believe. Mrs. Winks—Well, I'll tell him you're on another spree, dear.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?
Little Nellie—What does your papa do? Little Dot—My papa is a horse doctor. L. N.—I guess I better not play with you; I'm afraid you don't belong in our set. L. D.—Why, what does your papa do? L. N.—My papa is a veterinary surgeon.

THE NEEDS OF A MODERN ACTRESS.
Great Actress—I see the heroine of your play star's as a street beggar. Author—Yes, but—G. A.—It is an excellent play throughout, and I will appear in it; but you must make a change in the first part. A.—Certainly, anything you wish. G. A.—Well, put in a few lines to explain that the diamonds I wear while begging are heir looms, and that the dress is a present from Worth.—Omaha World.

His Appetite.
"Papa has got his appetite back again, hasn't he, mamma?" asked a Leavitt street 5-year-old the other day.
"I'm afraid not, my child," replied the good mother. "He didn't eat anything to-day. But why do you ask?"
"Cause I heard him tell Mr. Brown that he came home home fuller'n a goat last night. I didn't know it!"
"Run along into the next room like a good little girl. I think I hear your papa coming now and mamma wishes to speak to him."—Detroit Free Press.

Took Him at His Word.
"Seems rather small, though I reckon you ort ter know more bout it 'n me."
"Two schuuls!" by gracious, man, de coat's peeg enough for two like you."
"Two like me! Vag plaver'n' rascal, what yer tryin' ter pa'm off on me—a coat that's too big for me! Never had me out a coat that fits me, or I'll eat yer up!" Dy' heart!"—Harper's Weekly.

Kindred Souls.
"Can you give me a penny to buy a night's lodging and breakfast with?" he said. "I've got."
"Can't do it. I haven't a cent in my pocket."
"Well," said the tramp, "I know how to sympathize with you. I used to be an artist myself once."—New York Sun.

TACTICS OF THE GUN.
A Lecture at the War College on Modern Naval Weapons.
Lieutenant John F. Meigs delivered a lecture at the Naval War College on "The Tactics of the Gun." "The three naval weapons," said he, "as usually recognized, are the gun, ram and torpedo. The attempt is often made to arrange them in order of their importance, but it seems that this can hardly be done with any degree of satisfaction to one's self, for their relative importance or usefulness must depend upon numerous circumstances which we can not foresee or predict. The relative importance of her guns, torpedoes and ram to a particular ship depend upon the class of work she is called upon to perform. In the attack upon forts her guns are her most useful weapons, while many officers think that the ram skillfully handled will play the most important part in future fleet action. The question which naval officers have to decide when for an assigned displacement and cost they are called upon to lay down the general features of ships—to decide how much weight and space they will allot to each weapon—is even a more difficult one. If the Atlanta, being armed with guns, torpedoes and a ram, meets the inflexible, her guns would be almost useless, and she must have recourse to either her torpedo or ram if she undertakes the unequal fight. With either of her supposed adversaries and in that which she is more handy she is her superior. Indeed, the consideration of the function of the ram and locomotive torpedo leads not unnaturally to the thought that they may be destined to do away with the heavy and costly ironclads which are now the battle-ships of all navies. These weapons are great levelers and put it in the power of quickly built and inexpensive craft to sink and destroy the largest and nominally most powerful ironclads in the world.
If it be granted that we want some ships carrying numerous guns we ought to settle on a standard gun for them; and further, the gun must not be too heavy. The gift of prophecy is a rare one, but the indications at present seem to be in favor of a calibre of about five inches, and there can be no doubt that the installation of such calibre can be greatly improved by causing it to approach that of the Hotchkiss rapid-fire guns. Has not the reduction in the number of guns and their massing gone too far? There are now ships of over ten thousand tons displacement, carrying millions of dollars, occupying years to build and carrying only four guns in a contracted space. These guns may be silenced, perhaps permanently, by a couple of shots. The ships themselves are nearly as vulnerable to the attack of the ram or torpedo as are any of our old wooden craft, and we can not expect to get many hits unless in very exceptional favorable circumstances with so few guns. These ponderous vessels, with their great draught, their small coal and ammunition endurance, their few guns, and their vulnerability to the ram and torpedo, are a delusion. In the contest which has been going on for years between guns and armor, the guns have always been a little ahead. That this is still the case is evident from the abandonment of the endeavor to armor all of the vital parts of ships. The rapid-fire guns which have been introduced in the last few years and which now constitute a considerable part of the offensive power of all men-of-war, have put a new face upon the armor question."—Newport Jor. N. Y. Tribune.

HISTORIC GROUND.
Famous Fort William Henry, at the South Terminus of Lake George.
It is historic ground that has been traversed. Here are the ruins of Fort William Henry, at the southern terminus of Lake George, the stronghold being described in its best days as "a square building of pine logs, covered with sand, flanked by four bastions and surrounded by a ditch." Montcalm in 1756 with 6,000 French and 2,000 Indians (Iriquois, or Five Nations), destroyed the fort, the English and colonists losing 1,500 men in a massacre by the treacherous Indians after the conditional surrender. Two years before the fort had been attacked by Vaudreuil with 1,500 French and Indians, when the whole neighborhood was laid waste and many sloop and batteries burned. In the same year, 1755, in the immediate neighborhood three sharp engagements took place on one day, September 8, between forces aggregating 1,400 French and Indians and 1,200 Americans and English, the casualties being respectively 400 and 300. The French retreated, a backward movement that was on'y to end four years later in the British conquest of Quebec and all Canada. And here, at this narrow pass in Lake Champlain, rise the well preserved walls of old Fort Ticonderoga, similarly associated with colonial as with Revolutionary history. One midsummer day in 1758, Abercrombie, with 15,000 colonists and British, sailed over Lake George in 1,000 boats to capture the stronghold, but failed ignominiously, the death of Lord Howe, the idol of the army, in the first skirmish, throwing a cloud over the arbor of the troops that Abercrombie's dilatory tactics could not remove. The following year the brilliant Amherst, with a large force and the generalship in miniature of a Grant, moved swiftly upon the fort and captured not only it but Crown Point itself, far to the north, thus finally terminating the French power on this chain of lakes, where it had been established for a third of a century in Revolutionary days Ticonderoga again loomed to the front, and the story of its capture by that greatest popular hero of the times, Ethan Allen, and his Green Mountain boys, in the gray of the morning of May 10, 1775, stealing up from the waterside through the wicket gate, has been fittingly celebrated in all histories.—Cor. Chicago Inter Ocean.

—The Boston Globe heads its divorce department "Cutting Hymen's Hair."

The Severn Tunnel.
The tunnel under the estuary of the River Severn, in England, on the line of the Great Western railway, which has occupied thirteen years in construction, has at last been successfully completed. It is one of the greatest engineering achievements of modern times. The length of the tunnel proper is about four miles. For upward of two miles it passes under the estuary of the Severn, and at high tide the water over it is about one hundred feet in depth. The tunnel line, with the cuts, is upward of seven miles in length. For more than four miles the tunnel is driven through hard pennant stone. It is twenty-six feet wide by twenty feet high, and is lined with vitrified brick. The cost is £2,000,000.—N. Y. Star.

HALLOWMAS EVE.
The Celebration of Halloween Instituted by the Ancient Druids.
Old superstitions die hard, and it will certainly be long before the festival of Halloween becomes as much a thing of the past as has practically become the Guy Fawkes celebration on the 5th of November. Long before the Christian faith made way among the untutored people of ancient Britain, the Druids had performed special rites on what is now known as Halloween Eve; fires were lit deep in remote forests, upon outlying spurs of hills, even upon the great plains that stretched between dense forests and partially cleared woodlands; mystic rites were performed, the help of the true God was implored, the machinations of evil powers were protested against. The earliest records bear witness to a universal belief that on this night the powers of darkness muster in great force, that all supernatural beings hold revel within the sphere of humanity, and that therefore it behooved all persons to be careful on this night of all nights, for any sin committed rendered the perpetrator liable to be brought under the influence of some evil spirit throughout the whole year thereafter. To this day any child born in Scotland on the eve of the 31st of October is supposed to be in possession of certain mysterious faculties, to hold—if not consciously, at least unconsciously in the midnight hours when the senses are obscured by sleep—communion with the supernatural world, and to be at all times a person whose actions, however eccentric, must be regarded charitably. Those who have read Sir Walter Scott's Monastery will remember that he has made use of this circumstance as space. "She's as flyte as a Halloween wean" is a phrase that may even yet be occasionally heard north of the Tweed, and in most of the popular accounts of wizards and uncanny folk the date of their births is generally set down as on the last day of October. When, later on, All-hallow Eve became a Christian observance, the old customs pertinent to its celebration did not pass into disuse; on the contrary, they became more and more deeply established, every here and there accumulating some new superstition, or annexing some old belief that had long lingered without direct association with any special day, season or locality. Bontiros are still lit on Halloween Eve, though perhaps only one or two here and there among the members of the innumerable village communities who thus celebrate the great event know that the practice is a remnant of paganism; indeed, it is surprising in the use of this as of many other popular customs, to find how few know any thing whatever of the significance of their celebrations. "We do as our fathers did before us," is sufficient to account for every thing. In Protestant countries the vigil of All-souls is no longer a religious observance, or, at any rate, is not so in Scotland, England or Germany. It may be said that Halloween, as we understand it, is only celebrated by the Teutonic and Celtic races; with the Latins it is merely a religious vigil, round its observance clinging few if any of those wild legends or superstitions that are so plentiful in Scandinavia, Scotland and Ireland. The nearest approach to the Northern solemnity, and even weirdness, is the Venetian *notte delle morti*, or night of the dead; but the religious ceremonies attendant thereon take place not on the 31st of October, but on the eve of All-souls Day, that is, the day following. It is in Scotland and Ireland that Halloween is kept in its entirety; in the former, curiously enough, more in the east, mid-country, and Lowlands than in the remoter Highlands districts; in other words more among the Scots proper than among the pure Celts. The best chronicle of Halloween Eve that exists is the well-known poem of Burns, containing as it does some record of the most generally practiced customs in connection with this really ancient vigil, but, considering the popularity of the subject, there is a wonderfully limited "Halloween" literature. The succeeding threefold chronicle may possibly, then, contain something novel as well as of interest to many readers. It may be that the time is not far distant when All-hallows Eve will lose its hold upon rural as completely as it has upon urban populations, when bonfires will be lit only by a few youngsters, when apples will cease to be ducked for, and when nuts will no longer be set ablaze amid the red-hot coals; but the writer, for one, believes that such a time is not yet at hand, and disbelieves that Halloween will disappear altogether as a festival. It is not only that there would be a revolution in the child-world if such sacrilegious disuse were to become the fashion, but that there are too many older children interested in the famous eve to allow its celebration to drop altogether yet awhile. At sea, in Canada, the States, Australia, even in India, wherever a true Scottish or Irish family is located, there is sure to be one voice raised in favor of the genial old custom. Its superstitious observances must undoubtedly pass away—have, indeed, to a great extent already become obsolete—but the good-fellowship, the laughter, the nut-roasting, the apple-ducking, the candle-singing ought long to be specially associated with the 31st of October.—Wm. Sharp, in Harper's Magazine.

Signs of Disease.
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By our original system of diagnosis, we can treat many chronic diseases just as successfully without as with a personal consultation. While we are always glad to see our patients, and become acquainted with them, show them our institutions, and familiarize them with our system of treatment, yet we have not seen one person in five hundred whom we have cured. The perfect accuracy with which scientists are enabled to deduce the most minute particulars in the several departments, appears almost miraculous, if we view it in the light of the early ages. Take, for example, the electro-magnetic telegraph, the greatest invention of the age. Is it not a marvelous degree of accuracy which enables an operator to exactly locate a fracture in a submarine cable nearly three thousand miles long? Our venerable "clever of the weather" has become so perfectly familiar with the most wondrous elements of nature that he can accurately predict their movements. He can sit in Washington and foretell what the weather will be in New York as well as in London several hundred miles did not intervene between him and the places named. And so in all departments of modern science, what is required is the knowledge of certain principles, and the ability to deduce accurate conclusions regardless of distance. So, also, in medical science, diseases have certain unmistakable signs, or symptoms, and by reason of this fact, we have been enabled to originate and perfect a system of determining, with the greatest accuracy, the nature of chronic disease, and personally examining our patients.

COMMON SENSE AS APPLIED TO MEDICINE.
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By thorough organization, and subdividing the practice of medicine and surgery in this institution, every invalid is treated by a specialist—one who devotes his undivided attention to the particular class of diseases to which the case belongs. The advantage of this arrangement must be obvious. Medical science offers a vast field for investigation, and no physician can, within the brief limits of a life-time, achieve the highest degree of success in the treatment of every malady incident to humanity.

OUR FIELD OF SUCCESS.
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CAUTION.
BRIGHT'S DISEASE, DIABETES, and kindred maladies, have been very largely treated, and cured, by thousands of cases which had been pronounced hopeless, or determined, by chemical analysis, and by other means, without a personal examination of patients, who can, generally, be successfully treated at their homes. The study and practice of chemical analysis and microscopic examination of the urine in our consultation, reference to correct diagnosis, in which our institution long ago became famous, has naturally led to a very extensive practice in diseases of the urinary organs, although possessing the only safe and successful course is to carefully determine the disease and its progress in each case, by a chemical and microscopic examination of the urine, and then adapt our medicines to the exact stage of the disease and condition of our patient.

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