

CHOICE MISCELLANY

Why He Was Tired. A man alighted from a train, and after walking laboriously up the short flight of stairs which led to the waiting room, stopping a few times on the way to rest, he looked round for a place to sit down. His wan, thin face, heavy eyes and general appearance of weakness and dejection attracted attention, and a kind old gentleman accosted the stranger and asked if he could be of any assistance.

Lazy Mexican Laborers. There is no more independent person in the world than the Mexican laborer, says an American who has capital invested in that country. Especially is this true of the peon of the tropics. It would seem that he works for Americans who have big plantations to develop more as a matter of accommodation than from necessity.

Rich Los Angeles. The increase in the city assessment for this year as compared with last year approximates \$2,000,000. The total figure after all the pruning by the board of equalization is about \$285,000,000. The aggregate of deductions by the board is unexpectedly small, being less than \$7,000,000.

Dr. Auer's Latest Discovery. Dr. Auer of Welsbach, the inventor of the incandescent mantle, has just discovered in the metal wolfram a much superior filament to that of carbon used in the type of electric incandescent lamp now in vogue.

New French Art Treasure. With the new territories in Siam, France has acquired a magnificent collection of monuments to add to those already possessed in Cambodia and Annam. Among this crowd of edifices attesting the splendor of the ancient civilization of Indo-China the temples of Angkor take their place, like the Parthenon, Luxor and the Tajmahal, among the architectural marvels of the world.

Scotland's Ship Canal. An old plan for a ship canal across the narrowest part of Scotland has been revived and is being pushed by business interests of Edinburgh and Glasgow. Glasgow has one plan for cutting the canal at a cost of \$40,000,000. Edinburgh has another, which is estimated to call for an expenditure of \$85,000,000.

King Edward and Tipping. In his own houses the king has thoughtfully tried to do away as far as possible—it is impossible to do away with it entirely—with tipping, which in the last years has grown to such an outrageous extent that all but rich men find it a tax to accept invitations at country houses.

BELIEVE IN DREAMS?

If Yes, What Would You Do in a Case Similar to This? If you should dream that a man with whom you were acquainted killed his wife, if you vividly saw him plunge a dagger into her heart in your vision, would you tell the wife of your premonition of a tragedy?

Some time afterward while attending a reception the woman was introduced to a young lady and her fiancé. She recognized the characters of her vision. Later the young couple to whom she had been introduced were married. To her dismay, the woman learned they had leased the very house where she had experienced the harrowing dream.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

As a matter of fact there are no very big fish in small puddles. You can usually find a pin almost anywhere but in the pincushion. A fool is the greatest nuisance in this world. And there are quite a few of them.

Absentminded 'Gators. An old colored man who is devoutly religious returned to Brooklyn recently from a trip to Florida, his birthplace, and told his employer about a narrow escape he had had from an alligator. Knowing of the religious zeal of the darky, the employer sought to test his faith.

Simplicity's Saving Grace. "I like simplicity," said the statesman. "Simplicity saves us a lot of trouble too." "Two men met in front of the Blank hotel the other day and fell into a political argument. They were ordinary, everyday sort of men, but one of them had an extraordinary flow of polysyllabic language.

Quaker Smokes. "Tobacco," said a tobaccoist, "is one of many herbs that are smoked. In the orient, for instance, bhong or cannabis, a drug that gives one the desire to caress people's feet, goes into loads of pipes. Some savages smoke the leaves of the wild potato and the wild tomato. These bitter leaves are narcotic. They throw you into a pleasant stupor. Pursued in, though, they bring insanity. Some of the Swiss guides smoke 'mountain tobacco,' a weed that grows only at great heights. This stuff produces an intoxication akin to alcohol's. Our Indians, when hard up, smoke holly and sumac leaves and the silvery leaves of 'Indian tobacco,' which every boy has chewed."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

An Author's Journal. Sold one poem. (Molly has just come in to say the coal's out.) The Monthly Review paid me \$3 for two sonnets. (Jane says the gas bill is \$6.) Have just written an article on "How To Live on One Dollar a Day." (Molly says she has got to have \$2 every day this week.)—Atlanta Constitution.

Raising Babies by Chart. We set machines in the form of dials and governors raise our children under printed directions tacked upon the walls. And some mothers are proud of the completeness of their thralldom to these charts—actually proud because their babies are "scheduled" youngsters. One day I was shown such a chart—a businesslike, austere product of some pseudo scientist's brain and printers' ink. "Isn't it complete?" said the near mother. "Read it."

Interviewing a Chinaman. I remember one distinguished Chinese who gave the newspaper men a big surprise. We knew that he was a high officer and that he had come to this country on a mission of importance, but not one of us dreamed of getting from him more than a perfunctory interview through one of his interpreters.

Are Metals Alive? "Metals have life," said a metallurgist firmly—"not much life, but a little. And metals can be stimulated, depressed, poisoned. "Platinum wire, immersed in water, gives off an electric current that may easily be measured. If you put bicarbonate of soda in the water, the stimulated wire gives off a stronger current. Put in bromide of potassium, and the depressed wire gives off a weaker current. Finally, put in oxalic acid, and the poisoned wire gives off no current at all. It will never again give off any current. It is dead.

A Mollified Subject. Nollekens, the sculptor, was a man of pretty wit and of neat resource in compliment. He had at one time for a sitter a woman of great beauty, but of an extremely nervous and impatient temperament. During her sittings she would constantly change her position, and with each shift of posture her expression changed. At last the sculptor's patience gave way. "Madam," he cried, "of what avail is your beauty if you will not sit still till I have reflected it in my model?" The sitter smiled with gratified vanity and was as motionless as a lay figure during the remainder of her sittings.—St. Louis Republic.

"Strong Even in Death." There is a characteristic story of an American woman formerly well known in London that will bear repeating, says a writer in London Truth. The lady is said to have written the following letter to a royal personage: "Sir—My medical attendants have just informed me that I am in a hopeless condition. I should die happy did I know that you would be represented at my funeral. I inclose a check for \$1,000 to cover all expenses."

When He Got Sense. Husband—Have you still the letters I wrote you before we were married? Wife—Yes. Why? Husband—Bring them here. I want to burn them. I am just making my will, and I am afraid that if any of my relations see those letters after I am dead they will think I was of unsound mind.—Justice Blatter.

Easy, but Heavy. "I suppose it was hard work to follow my arguments," said the lawyer. "No," answered the judge; "it was easy to follow it, but it was difficult to keep awake until the destination was reached."

Disappointed. "Tommy, you've got a new little brother. Aren't you glad?" "A brother? I thought it would be a horse. Papa promised me one for such a long time."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds, adored by little statesmen and philosophers and divines.—Emerson.

OUR COIN MOTTO.

"In God We Trust" Suggested by a Maryland Farmer. To an honest, God fearing farmer of the state of Maryland is due the motto, "In God we trust," which appears on the coinage of the United States. In 1861, when Salmon P. Chase was secretary of the treasury, he wrote to him that as we claimed to be a Christian people we should make some suitable recognition of that fact on our coinage. The letter was referred to James Pollock, director of the mint, who discussed the matter in his report for 1862. Congress was apathetic, and Chase mentioned it to the lawmakers again in 1863.

Out of It. Tom—Why aren't you going in bathing today with Miss Haulton's party? Dick—Too cold. Tom—Nonsense! Why, this weather the water is just— Dick—You misunderstand me. She invited me not to.—Pick-Me-Up.

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