

# Brevities

## THE HALL OF FAME.

The only presidents named William were the first Harrison and McKinley. William Winter, New York's famous dramatic critic, recently celebrated his seventy-second birthday. William Waldorf Astor has given \$5,000 to assist the British school at Athens in carrying on its excavations in Laconia, Greece.

President H. L. Miller of the Chicago and Eastern Illinois railroad has started a 200 acre farm for producing turkeys and guinea pigs near Barrington, a suburb of Chicago.

Stuyvesant Fish says, out of his wide experience, it is harder for a man having \$250,000 a year income to come down to \$50,000 a year than it is for the \$15 a week man to come down to \$10.

M. Rhuu, the French minister of agriculture, has made James B. MacLaughlin of Columbus, O., a commander of the order of Merite Agricole. Mr. MacLaughlin is an importer of French hoes.

A persistent rumor that President and Mrs. Roosevelt will visit England next year is current in American circles abroad. It is said that he will stay six months in London with his family and will study the organization of the navy and the management of the dockyards.

Miss Elizabeth S. Colton of Easthampton, Mass., speaks more languages than any woman in the world. She has just returned from the east, where she has spent a long time in the study of oriental languages. Miss Colton knows forty languages sufficiently well to read them.

Sergeant Major Robert Elliot of the English army, now in his eighty-second year, has been awarded the Royal Victorian medal for the longest continuous service of any man ever in the military service of Great Britain. Major Elliot's service extends as far back as January, 1842.

When Mrs. Scott Duran of Chicago found that she had sunk \$20,000 in her model dairy and was not likely to get anything out of it, she decided to personally conduct it for awhile and await the result. She put on a white dress and apron and went to work, playing dairymaid with a purpose, and now she has one of the most profitable dairies in her part of the country.

## Flower and Tree.

It is said that the first weeping willow in England was planted by Alexander Pope, the poet.

Wild olive trees last centuries in Turkey, and there are some for which fully 1,000 years are claimed.

The vine attains a great age, continuing fruitful for at least 400 years. It is supposed to be equal to the oak as regards longevity.

The leaf of the cocoon tree is nearly thirty feet long. A single leaf of the parasol magnolia of Ceylon affords shade for fifteen or twenty persons.

There are in London a number of great houses doing a worldwide business in orchids alone. Most of the plants come from Brazil. In the botanical gardens of Rio de Janeiro there are over 6,000 varieties of orchids.

## Fly Catches.

Catcher Jack Warner of the Washington Americans has purchased a half interest in the Galveston club of the Texas league.

The former grand major league pitcher, Charley Nichols, is pitching good ball for the Pueblo club of the Western league.

Pittsburg has unearthed a great thrower in Outfielder Owen Wilson. He ranks with Cobb and Coombs in the speed and accuracy of his pegging.

Jimmy McAleer's infield is the fastest he has had since he managed the St. Louis Americans. Ferris and Williams are playing the best ball of their careers.

## English Etchings.

The delivery of London's milk requires 4,500 horses.

Five hundred fires are caused annually in London by lamp accidents.

In keeping the accounts at the Bank of England over fifty ledgers are filled daily.

A firm of Southport builders recently failed because they erected houses on the site of an old haunted mansion, and no tenant would live there.

In London tipping has become a public scourge. In a west end restaurant if you pay \$4 for your dinner and do not leave a fifth of that sum as a tip you are looked upon as a skindipt.

## Pith and Point.

We all get fooled in time. The largest part of some people is the withbone. You cannot afford to have things given to you.

Every man who works at all works too hard to fool his money away. Never tell a friend anything that would not look well in print with your name signed to it.

The fact that you had lots of good times when you were young is a poor umbrella to protect you from the storms when you are old.—*Atchison Globe.*

## PLAYS AND PLAYERS.

Valeska Surratt received an offer to play for a year in the London music halls.

Anna Held thinks she would be successful in London with "The Parisian Model."

It is said that "Peter Pan" has succeeded in completely puzzling the gay and clever Parisians.

Louis Harrison and Louis Cassavant have been engaged for the company to support Grace Van Studdiford.

"The Call of the North" is the title of the new play in which Robert Ejeson will star the coming season. The play is by George Broadhurst.

Marie Tempest was one of the guests at an entertainment given in London by Mrs. Martin, the aunt of the Countess of Craven, in the latter's honor.

William F. Carroll has been engaged for a character part in the play in which Louis Mann is to star. Mr. Carroll is the author of "Muldoon's Picnic."

## Short Stories.

Streets running north and south have the best health records.

A firm in Vienna has put an advertisement in one of the papers there for an "unscrupulous commercial agent."

Troy (N. Y.) women, conducting a "tag day" for charity, had to deduct \$6.40 from the receipts because of counterfeit coin.

A fish peddler at Rockland, Me., found a pearl in a fresh water clam the other day which is as large as a marble. He sold it for over \$1,000.

A New York veterinary hospital not only is equipped with an operating table for horses, but also has a sun parlor on the roof, where patients may recuperate.

Thieves in Memphis, looting the saloon of W. A. Woods, found a big bear inside as guardian, which they quelled by feeding him with sugar while they robbed the place.

## Home Helps.

To stodge chickens hold them over a saucer of burning alcohol. It does not leave soot on the flesh.

When too ill to raise the head it is easier to drink from a narrow tipped pitcher or a child's china teapot than to use a tube.

Grease stains on leather may be removed by carefully applying benzine or perfectly pure turpentine. Wash the spots over afterward with well beaten white of an egg or a good leather reviver.

Do not throw away the old tablecloths. When too much worn to use on the table cut into convenient size, put narrow hem on sides and one inch hem on ends and see what nice, soft towels they will make.

## Church Work.

The famous Camden church at Cambridge, England, a structure designed by Ruskin, has been reopened.

A \$40,000 loan has been negotiated by the Broad Street Presbyterian church of Columbus, O., to meet improvement expenses.

The Baraca society, which now has over 300,000 members all over the world, hopes to build a \$50,000 temple in Syracuse, where its founder, Marshall A. Hudson, resides.

The Dunker denomination, which has reached its bicentennial with nearly all its old forms intact, is now meeting with a desire on the part of the younger members for such innovation as organs in the churches and a staff of paid ministers.

## Remorse.

The insomnia of the soul. Regret tattooed into memory. Ghosts of evil deeds haunting a life. Living under the lash of conscience. A life thrown into eclipse by an act. Conscience turning state's evidence. An agony of sorrow at the grave of a wrong.

The knell "Too late!" ringing through the soul. Standing prisoner, self confessed, before the bar of conscience. Memory's revenge for irreparable wrong.—*William George Jordan in New York Tribune.*

## The Old Testament.

There are 39 books. There are 929 chapters. There are 23,214 verses. There are 592,439 words. There are 2,728,100 letters.

The middle is Proverbs. The middle chapter is Job 29. The word "and" occurs 35,452 times. The word "Jehovah" occurs 6,855 times.

The shortest verse is I Chronicles, chapter 1, verse 25.

The twenty-first verse of the seventh chapter of Ezra contains all the letters of the alphabet.

## Flippant Flings.

Russian game statistics show that the peasants killed 25,000,000 squirrels last year, but missed the czar.—*Louisville Courier-Journal.*

Once in awhile it comes with a great shock to a girl to find out that a man never notices the difference between a forty-nine cent shirt waist and one that cost \$27.85.—*Indianapolis News.*

An ambitious person proposes to suppress all needless noises in New York. But in Washington they will still get \$7,000 a year and be occasionally recognized by the presiding officer.—*Louisville Courier-Journal.*

## GERMANY'S END.

An Old Prophecy Gives the Empire Only Five Years More.

Five years more and the German empire will come to an end. So at least says a prophecy made in the thirteenth century by a monk named Hermann, who lived in the monastery of Lehnin.

He wrote a work in Latin concerning the future destiny of Germany for many centuries. The work is styled the "Vaticinium Lehninense," and it is in verses after the manner of the sibylline books.

The monk seems to have foretold the defeat at Jena and the constitution of the Germanic confederation in 1815. Unfortunately the prophetic Hermann foretells in plain language the downfall of the Hohenzollern dynasty, and William II. is destined to be the last of his race to sit on the imperial throne. The verses that foretell this are:

"Verse 93. Tandem sceptrum gerit qui stemmatis ultimis erit.

"Verse 94. Israel infandum sectus audeat mortis plandum."

(At last the scepter is in the hands of him who will be the last of the royal race. Israel attempts an execrable crime that death alone can expiate.)

In 1840 William I., king of Prussia, consulted a celebrated soothsayer who in answer to his queries told him that he would ascend the throne in 1849, that the German empire would be established in 1871, that he would die in 1888 and that the German empire would come to an end in 1913. The first three prophecies have been fulfilled to the very letter.—*New York Sun.*

Pole Discovery Must Be Proved. Over their lunch the fishermen, at ease in the bobbing boat, talked about Peary.

"Why doesn't he just lie about it—come back and say he's reached the north pole and let it go at that? It would save a lot of money."

"Yes, it would save money, but Peary must bring back proof."

"How can he bring back proof?"

"With his camera. It is like this. Only at the north pole would the shadow of a bullet suspended from a string describe in a day's time a perfect circle. Everywhere else the shadow would be elliptical. Well, Peary, if he ever gets to the pole, will hang up his bullet and photograph an arc of his circle. He won't photograph the whole thing, because at the north pole a full day is six months long. The arc, though, will tell the story to scientists. It will be the proof that no fake has been worked."—*New Orleans Times-Democrat.*

A Queen's Love of Animals. I love all animals, even spiders. They spin so cleverly and are such excellent mothers. Besides, they are musical. My friend the Swedish composer Hallstrom told me that for a long time he had two spiders which would let themselves down from the ceiling by long threads when he played and station themselves on the piano to hear the music. Of ants and bees I will not speak. One who does not love them is so stupid that I have nothing to say to him. Even wasps are not as black as they are painted. For snakes only I have no liking. They terrify me. But my aversion is doubtless due to the fact that I have not studied them enough. It seems to me impossible not to love an animal whose innocence and goodness one has accurately comprehended.—*Carmen Sylva in Century.*

A Noiseless Room. For many physical researchers a perfectly noiseless room is a desideratum. If such could be devised it would open out new possibilities of research. At the University of Utrecht the problem has been apparently successfully solved by the room designed by Zwaardemaker. The walls and ceiling of the room are eleven inches thick and are formed of eleven layers. The first consists of a feltlike material of horsehair known as trichopile. This is followed by a layer of porous stone isolated from the floor by sheet lead. An air space of about an inch is followed by wood and then a course of ground cork and sand. The final layer is of specially prepared ground cork known as korkstein.—*London Globe.*

Looking Into the Past. An old lady in New York, celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of her wedding, grew reminiscient. It was forty years ago, she said, since she had her first clothes wringer, and fluting machines came in about the same time. People then had one daguerreotype taken and put it in a frame. There were no egg beaters, no carpet sweepers, no faucets, no sewing machines, no street cars, electric lights and numerous other things now so common. The kitchen was full of tinware, and notwithstanding the fact that water had to be carried it must all be kept scoured. But one good thing of those old days, "bired girls," were paid only \$5 or at most \$7 per month.

Thought Mail Was White Man's Food. The Rev. Hiram Bingham, recently arrived here from Honolulu, is one of the most picturesque figures in the modern history of the south seas. His life has been devoted to work in and for the Gilbert Islands, which he first visited in 1857. When he first visited the Gilbert Islands the natives had no knowledge of writing and had never seen paper. The first mail that arrived for the missionaries was stolen by the native carrier to whom it was intrusted and distributed in particles to the other natives, who ate the scraps under the impression that they were some kind of white man's food.—*San Francisco Chronicle.*

To the King's Taste. We learn in "Leaves From the Journal of Sir George Smart" that when Sir George, who was chorister at the Chapel Royal, arranged the musical programme at the opening of the new London bridge in 1831 his chief attraction was a glee party.

Immediately after the glee party had sung "God Save the King" in the tent in which the king and queen were seated two unknown persons in costume a man and his wife, stepped forward and to Sir George's infinite disgust the man played "God Save the King" with his knuckles on his chin, accompanied by his wife's voice.

The king called Sir George to him and asked who they were. Sir George by that time knew the name of the performers and gave it, adding that he was sorry they had intruded without permission.

"Oh, no intrusion!" said the king. "It was charming. Tell them to perform again."

So Sir George had to tell the performers that their number was endorsed by royal command, and to their great delight and to the chagrin of Sir George they repeated it.

Not Abashed. "When I was young," said a lawyer, "my best client was a wealthy old lady noted for saying caustic things about her acquaintances. One morning, when I was staying at her house, she visited one of her neighbors, named Stamford, without stit.

"By way of changing the subject I proposed to read to her from a volume of lectures I had happened to bring with me. She assented. I started at random and when too late discovered that I was in the middle of a lecture on the government of the tongue.

"I was afraid she would think I had selected it to admonish her, yet I dared not stop for fear of seeming to make the offense more pointed. So on I read to the end, pretty sure that my reading would cost me a client worth two hundred a year to me. But when I ended she said:

"Thank you, Mr. —. It is an excellent lecture and would fit my neighbor Stamford to a T."

The Conference. "This is a grave matter," began the undertaker.

"Consequently we want more light thrown upon it," remarked the lamp manufacturer.

"I hope our views will all be in harmony with the occasion," put in the piano maker.

"No pipe dreams," admonished the plumber.

"I hope whatever is said none will take it ill," said the doctor.

"Then we'll all be good natured and not ask cross questions," supplemented the lawyer.

But it was the remark of the baker which broke up the meeting.

"What I want to know, first of all," he declared, "is who is expected to supply the dough?"—*Baltimore American.*

A Swift Bird. The Mexican road runner has only two short legs, but he can beat a horse, a hound and an electric carriage and give them a handicap start. Speed is not his only recommendation. He eats as he runs, or, rather, as the things run away with him. Snakes are the principal part of his diet, big and little. His crop is as elastic as his legs are swift, and when he wants to prepare for a long journey he coils up a rattler or two inside of his neck and sets out across the Mexican desert with a swiftness that makes it look like a bunch of dust on a record breaking tour around the world.

Carrot Pudding. One cupful of grated carrots, one cupful of grated potatoes, one cupful of sugar, one cupful of flour, one-half cupful of raisins and currants mixed, two teaspoonfuls of all kinds of spice mixed, one teaspoonful of soda, one teaspoonful of salt. Mix all together and steam for three hours. Grease a small pail and put the dough in it. Set the pail in a kettle of boiling water, keeping the water well up near the top of the pail. Cover kettle over so all the steam may be kept in as much as possible.—*Boston Post.*

Burning Wood. Wood crackles when it is ignited because the air expanded by heat forces its way through the pores of the wood with a crackling noise. Green wood makes less snapping than dry because the pores contain less air, being filled with sap and moisture, which extinguish the flame, whereas the pores of dry wood are filled with air, which supports combustion.

Posted Him. He (vainly)—See that sweet little girl in pink? I was engaged to her the whole of last summer. Stranger (eagerly)—Very glad to hear it. I am the lawyer she's commissioned to sue you for breach of promise.

Lusty. Shopkeeper—Is there anything else I can send you, sir? What would you say to a piece of this cheese? Customer—I wouldn't care to say anything to it. It might answer me back.

Snapped It Out. "Dear, am I the only woman you have ever loved?" "Yes, or ever will."

And it must have been the way I said it that made her mad.

Her Little Slip. Departing Guest—We've had a simply delightful time! Hostess—I'm so glad. At the same time I regret that the storm kept all our best people away.—*Brooklyn Life.*

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