

A LONDON DINNER.

The Scene is Elegant and Impressive, but, Oh, So Sad!

"A German" thus writes the London Mail: A dinner is in progress at a first class hotel. Elegant toilets, splendid surroundings—and an absence of sound! Slowly, stiffly, like automatons, the dining ladies and gentlemen proceed with their meal. The scene is undoubtedly very impressive, but, oh, so sad! Amid the sparkle of jewels and silver and crystal and porcelain, amid a scene that fairly invites, begs, cries for a bright smile, a low, rippling laugh or at least that deep, animated hum that makes itself otherwise noticed wherever there is a large gathering, the diners sit as in expectation of the judgment day. Sometimes somebody does speak—one word or two. The lips hardly part. The other nods his head in terrible earnest. Then silence reigns supreme again.

A friend who had been in England once related a story, the point of which I have never fully appreciated until now. Like myself, the first time he had entered a dining room in London he looked around in surprise. Finally toward the end of the meal he called the waiter. "Tell me, please," he asked, "does anybody ever laugh here?"

"Well," replied the waiter, "I am sorry to say that we have had some complaints, but not often, sir—not often."

THE LOADED GUN.

A Most Dangerous Thing to Have Around the Home.

The loaded pistol in the home is an object of danger, wherever it may be placed. To be of any use in an emergency it must be within easy reach. If it is within easy reach it may figure in a homicide or a suicide. The suddenly awakened person may kill a member of the household by mistake. A child may find it and explode it. If it is not within easy reach it might as well be in a shop downtown as far as resisting burglars or serving a useful purpose is concerned. If it is put away as a curiosity it should always be unloaded. If the weapon is a relic of the past, a specimen of an ancient form of gunmaking, it is just as interesting with its chambers empty as with them filled.

Of course pistols may be put away loaded with the full intention of having them safely fired or unloaded later and then forgotten. This is a matter that cannot be neglected without danger. The loaded gun is a menace to life as long as it remains loaded and within reach. Even at the bottom of a trunk it is possible cause of trouble. It behooves everybody to make sure that there are none of these hidden weapons on the premises, to be found by rummaging children or suddenly disclosed in the course of housecleaning or changes.—Washington Star.

Fines in Germany.

The German workman who the other day was fined in a London police court probably considered that he had a genuine grievance when he complained that, in addition to the fine, his compulsory attendance at the court had lost him a day's pay. For they do these things better—at any rate, from the delinquents' point of view—in the fatherland. For what may be described as a trivial offense the worker is not compelled to attend the court, and the amount of the fine is collected from him at his house by a policeman. In the event of a more serious though still comparatively venial breach of the law, punishable by a short term of imprisonment, justice is satisfied if he works off the time by installments Sundays and holidays.—London Chronicle.

Quick Repairs.

Slam has electricity, says the Calcutta Times, and the thoughtful manufacturers of it have provided to the best of their ability for every conceivable accident. For instance, when the lights go out the remedy is to follow the directions in this notice:

Bangkok. Sir—For the case that your electric light should fail we beg to send you inclosed a postcard, which please send us at once when you find your light out. The company will then send you another postcard. Yours truly,
MANAGER SIAM ELECTRICITY COMPANY, LIMITED.

George Meredith.

The legend that in his early days the late George Meredith was so poor that he invested all his funds in a sack of oatmeal, subsisting thereon while he wrote "Evan Harrington," is denied by Mr. J. A. Hammerton in his book "George Meredith in Anecdote and Criticism." One part of that picturesque if baseless story was to the effect that the novelist was not able to buy fuel and was accustomed to carry the bag of oatmeal across the rooms to keep himself warm.

No Harm Done.

"We've been having a regular clearance at home," explained Mr. X. at the office, "throwing all sorts of old things away. I put one of my wedding presents on the fire this morning." "Did you really?" asked a horrified colleague. "What was it?" "A copper kettle," replied X.—London Mail.

Progression.

"But sometimes it's right to tell a white lie, isn't it?" "Perhaps. But I notice that when a man gets that idea once it isn't long till he becomes color blind."—Cleveland Leader.

If we had no failings ourselves we should not take so much pleasure in finding out those of others.—Hæthfoucaud.

PICKPOCKETS.

The Manner in Which the "Dips" Do Their Thieving Work.

As a usual thing the pickpockets vary their methods to suit circumstances. Only the lower grade dips work in pairs. These are the variety who operate on street cars, elevated station platforms and similar places where they will find crowds of pushing people and at the same time have opportunity to escape if detected. One of the pair shoulders a victim roughly makes a "getaway." Arrests are frequent, but convictions are rare, because the man captured seldom has the loot.

Not but that the higher grade dips work in such places. The difference is that they work in groups and choose times when prosperous passengers will be in the majority. During the fashionable shopping hours and after the theaters at night are considered harvest times. One method is to block the exit as the intended victims are about to alight and in the jumble make the "touch." Provided the victim discovers his loss within a minute he is too late, because the car or train has sped on.

Last winter a trio of dips worked a clever method in Chicago. Garbing themselves in evening clothes, they mingled in fashionable crowds in big cafes, theater exits and railroad stations. One of the party was always hopelessly drunk, and the others, apparently acting the part of Samaritans, were hard put trying to keep him on his feet. With all their care, however, he would stumble occasionally and fall into groups of ladies and gentlemen. Invariably the sober companions had apologized and taken their charge away before any one discovered the loss of valuables.—Bohemian Magazine.

BUSINESS BASEBALL.

The Advent of Gate Receipts in the National Game.

The professional baseball player, as such, was unknown before the civil war. One finds, indeed, signs in the newspapers of the period that our "sporting men" drew no very sharp line between the amateur and the occasional professional. That perhaps was only natural. Athletics were a new thing to us. We had yet to learn the dangers and the finer ethics of sport. For example, the first convention of amateur clubs, held in 1859, felt called upon to pass a rule against paying players. There was no money in the game as yet, only glory, but certain rich nonplaying members of the fashionable clubs had begun to lure stars from other clubs by offers of money or "jobs."

The foundation stone of professional baseball, however, was laid when the Atlantics, the Eckfords, the Mutuals and the other crack teams of Brooklyn began playing on the old Union grounds. This arena was a fenced basin used in winter as a skating rink. In 1862 the owners decided to make it continuously profitable by turning it into a summer baseball park. Experimentally they charged a regular ten cent fee at the gate. They found that spectators were willing to pay even when they raised the price to 25 cents. Half of these fees went to the ground owners and half to the clubs. So came the appetite for gate receipts, and "business" had entered the game.—Collier's Weekly.

Knew the Prospect.

Mr. Honeyman looked hopefully at the pleasant, rosy faced Norwegian girl with whom the manager of the employment bureau had accorded him an interview. "Can you wash and iron?" he asked.

"Yaas, I do dose," responded the cheerful Minna.

"And can you wait on the table—mean will you—and answer the doorbell?" Mr. Honeyman faltered. "My wife is quite determined on those points."

"Yaas, I do dose," and Minna continued to beam benevolently.

"And you can cook, of course," said Mr. Honeyman.

"Yaas," said Minna for the third time. "I do dat fine ven you keep her busy so she do not help me."—Youth's Companion.

Mexico City's Pawnshop.

The Monte de Piedad of Mexico City is an old and peculiar institution. Being a government establishment, it corresponds in scope and object to similar national pawnshops, such as the Mont de Piete in Paris or the K. K. Versamt in Vienna, but it is conducted on different business principles than those of the European institutions. Monte de Piedad was established in 1776 by Don Pedro Romero de Tierros, count of Regia, a wealthy de Tierros, with the approval of the mine owner, which at a later period took the business over itself.—Argonaut.

A Bright Idea.

"Hogann's cow bruk into the strawberry patch this mornin', sorr, an' it's bivy damages we sh'uld git from him."

"It's no use, Patrick. He'll be sure to swear it was somebody else's cow."

"The devil a bit, sorr. He can't. Oi shut the baste in there fur tridence."—Judge.

Crushed.

Colonial Fame (Impressively)—My ancestors came over in the Mayflower. Daughter of the Revolution—Hampshire! If my ancestors were immigrants I wouldn't brag of it.—Pathfinder.

Magnificence cannot be cheap, for what is cheap cannot be magnificent.—Johnson.

MEN OF ACTION.

Served as an Illustration For the Professor's Lecture.

"How did you like Professor Newman?" one of the summer residents of Willowby asked Mr. Hiram Gale. "I saw his name on the list of lecturers in your last winter's course."

Mr. Gale stroked his chin reflectively.

"Well, some thought he was kind of stiff in his speech at first, but I tell ye what happened:

"He got kind o' worked up telling us what 'men of action' meant, what the government of these United States was doing in Alaska, the Philippines, an' so on, an' he stepped a mite too nigh the edge o' the platform an' lost his balance. But as he begun to fall Sam Hobart an' Pick Willis, that were in the front seat, stood up an' ketched him, one by each arm, an' brought him up stammer. He bulged out at the knees for a minute, but nothin' to speak of.

"An'," says Pick to him, 'The last word you spoke was "omnivorous," an' mebbe before you mount again you'll give us some kind of a hint what it means."

"The professor looked from Pick to Sam an' back to Pick again, kind o' dazed, an' then he begun to laugh.

"You let me mount," he says, 'an' I'll see to it that the rest o' my talk is such you won't need a dictionary.' An' he kep' his promise.

"Yes, sir, he gave us a fine talk after that, an' he's comin' again. We had him to breakfast next mornin', and my wife said she wouldn't want to hear anybody talk more sensible or act more common an' friendly than he did. But there was a piece in the Sentinel next week referri' to Pick an' Sam as 'Willowby's men of action,' an' I reckon the name 'll stick to 'em long as they live."—Youth's Companion.

THEIR LAZY CLUB.

English Workmen Make Late Corners Pay For Tardiness.

In the engineering shops of a certain English firm the workmen of a year or two ago originated what they called the Lazy club. It was entirely their own idea, which for obvious reasons has received neither recognition nor financial support from the management, but has been the most excellent means of reducing the number of late comers.

Whenever a workman is more than five minutes after time he finds the gate locked, and he is not allowed to enter until the half hour is up.

This half hour is deducted from his wages, but in addition he has also to pay to the treasurer of the Lazy club about five cents for coming late.

If he is late more than once or so during a week everybody is aware of the fact, and the second or third time he makes his appearance after starting time he is greeted with a terrific combination of noises produced on any available material by his fellow workmen.

At certain periods the accumulated funds of the Lazy club are divided, not among those who have produced them, it should be noted, but among the entire staff equally. Thus the late workman is made to pay the early comers for his laziness.

The last distribution was just prior to a "bean feast," and funds accumulated during twelve months were distributed, amounting to over \$1.75 a head.—System.

A Pepper Duel.

A certain literary and diplomatic friend of ours once took part in a pepper duel at a foreign restaurant. He was provoked to the contention by the quantity of stimulating condiment that a stranger across the table indulged in. The stranger sprinkled an unconscionable quantity of red pepper upon his food and proceeded to devour it, to the wonder and admiration of onlookers. Thereupon with studied nonchalance the American swallowed an immense piece of chili pepper. Then the stranger added more red pepper, then the American another larger slice, covered with cayenne, and so on, till it seemed as if both would explode, while the other diners looked on aghast, the American finally winning out with a prodigious dose defying all emulation.—Century.

Dust a Thousand Feet Thick.

China has its "bad lands," all dust and dreariness, and its irrigation wheels, and its "soul appalling" Gobi desert, along whose southern boundary lies the Great wall. In some of these regions the famous yellow dust of China lies to a depth of 1,000 feet, and when the wind blows the whole landscape is obscured. Yet it is upon this dust that the fertility of northern China depends. The Chinese call it "ginger powder."—Harper's.

Very Rude.

"Going to call on your new neighbors next door?"

"Not I. They insulted me the day they moved in."

"As to how?"

"Asked me to occupy a sofa on the sidewalk; said they feared I couldn't get a good view from behind the blinds."—Pittsburg Post.

An Advantage.

Brown—Yes, I'm acquainted with your wife, old man. I knew her before you married her.

Smith—Ah, that's where you had the advantage of me—I didn't.—Life.

Nobody does anything well that they cannot help doing. Work is only well done when it is done with a will.—Ruskin.

Studebaker

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I am coming to Tillamook in about three weeks and will accept any place that will compare favorably with what I have to offer.

I hold the value of this place of \$5,500. Write or call on
ROLLIE W. WATSON,
Tillamook City, Oregon.

BEFORE SCHOOL

Have your eyes examined before starting to school. Do not be troubled with your eyes this winter. If you have your eyes properly fitted with a pair of glasses you will not be compelled to go home with a sick headache or be troubled with a headache at all.

Have your eyes examined before they become strained for close work and avoid future trouble. All work guaranteed satisfactory.

Dr. Henry C. Morris,

At Jenkins' Jewelry Store, Tillamook, Ore.

Watch Repairing Tip.

It's astonishing how many fine watches are ruined each year by being placed in the hands of poor and inexperienced workmen for repairs. A slight oversight on their part often causes an unnoticeable grinding and clicking that will wear out the best movement in a short time. Why run these chances? Leave your repairing in our hands and you will get all long experience and honesty can give.

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Nothing doing on Sun-days.

THE POET SAYS

"Beauty draws us by a single hair."

This seems like something of an exaggeration on the part of the poet, if at least does not apply to men. The man with a single hair would not draw worth a cent, unless as a curiosity.

People to look their best need hair, they need all they ever have. If the hair begins to go it is time to use

IMPERIAL HAIR TONIC.

This preparation saves hair. It stimulates the hair bulbs, cleans the scalp of dandruff or eruptions, and promotes new growth. Try it now.

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