

ROUGH'S NOTE.

Paper Treasured by the Duke's Heirs. A paper that carries one very atmosphere of a battle in the world's long the historical treasure-house. On the pages lines scribbled in pen- ink were written by the Duke at the close of the at Blenheim.

THEY BORED HIM.

And They Came Mighty Near Boring Him Again With Lead. The dread of boredom is strongly characteristic of the present age, but few hate it with such intensity as the artist who lived in Paris in the days of the commune and of whom C. E. Halle speaks in his "Notes of a Painter's Life."

THE FOG BUOY.

A Safeguard to Fleets of Warships in Thick Weather. Probably the greatest menace to the safety of navigation at sea is the fog. Modern steamships are seldom endangered by the most severe weather, but when the impenetrable envelope of mist incloses a ship she is exposed to the most terrible of perils, a collision at sea.

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A POET AT WORK.

The Bumping May Have Helped Wordsworth Out a Bit. To see a poem in the making, the uninitiated are apt to think, should prove an interesting sight. Unfortunately they will probably be disappointed if the description, quoted by the Rev. H. D. Rawnsley in "Literary Associations of the English Lakes," of Wordsworth at work is to be credited.

AN ANCIENT CUSTOM.

Wassailing of Apple Trees Still Observed in Parts of England. What is the wassailing of apple trees? This is an old custom, fast dying out, but still observed in parts of Somerset and Devon. At Wootton-Basset, near Minehead, the ceremony takes place on old Twelfth eve.

France Has Run the Gamut.

No other modern nation has undergone changes more frequent, more radical, more sudden, bloody and dramatic. In forms of government France has boxed the compass—has been feudal, monarchial, imperial, republican and revolutionary. She has sounded the depths of royal absolutism and of communistic anarchy; has made and unmade constitutions in the pathetic effort to get one that would fit; has known a military despotism which flung the women to marry and bear children in order that Napoleon might be continuously supplied with troops; has known an absolute monarchy where a graceful manner was more effective at court than a head well filled with sense and has known a government of the rabble under which there was an insurrection against property and death sentences passed against citizens for the sin of wearing aristocratic names and clean shirts.—From "The Story of France," by Thomas E. Watson.

The Point of View.

The world in which a man lives shapes itself chiefly by the way in which he looks at it, and so it proves different to different men. To one it is barren, dull and superficial; to another, rich, interesting and full of meaning. On hearing of the interesting events which have happened in the course of a man's experience many people will wish that similar things had happened in their lives, too, completely forgetting that they should be curious rather of the mental aptitude which lent these events the significance they possess when he describes them. To a man of genius they were interesting adventures, but to the dull perceptions of an ordinary individual they would have been stale, everyday occurrences.—Schoepenhauer.

A Tinge of Suspicion.

That speaker always starts off," said Farmer Cornstossel, "by telling what the country needs." "Naturally and properly." "I s'pose so. Only I notice that when a man goes out of his way to tell me what I need it's always something in his particular line of goods."—Washington Star.

Hard Work.

"Why did you tell me you were working your way through college?" "I am." "But nobody seems to know about it." "Certainly not; my work consists of getting money from dad."—Buffalo Express.

Her Weekly Allowance.

"Freda—So you have a weekly allowance from your father? Hilda: Yes; he allows me to have a gentleman caller two nights a week.—Lippincott's.

The Porcupine.

Mother Nature surely must have set out to make "something different" the day she invented the porcupine. Here was an animal with a pathetically mild disposition, without cunning or courage and almost as slow and clumsy as a turtle. It would have been absurd to give him weapons of defense; he would never have the energy to attack anything, so he was given a coat of mail in which he might walk abroad among his enemies and yet be as safe as though he were behind a wall of steel. His upper parts, from his nose to the tip of his thick, muscular tail, are covered with a mass of sharp pointed quills intermixed with coarse hair. Each quill is provided with a number of minute barbs pointing backward, so that when it is once inserted in the flesh of any animal the mere movement of the muscles will cause it to work deeper and deeper.—Suburban Life.

Her Artistic Instinct.

The girl was a dainty thing in pink, evidently a stranger in Boston. The fellow had Harvard written all over him. They were standing in the delivery room of the public library, and he was explaining to her the decorations by Edwin Abbey which illustrate the legend of the Holy Grail. As he talked he glanced occasionally at his fair listener and seemed pleased to find her apparently lost in rapture. Finally, when his stock of knowledge was exhausted, he exclaimed: "Why, I never before knew that you were so interested in art!" For a moment longer she continued to gaze at the painting; then, with a tremulous sigh, she turned to him with: "I have been wondering how many pieces it would make if cut up into one of those picture puzzles."—Harper's Magazine.

Old Age of Oysters.

Oysters grow only during summer, and especially during long, warm summers at that, and are scarcely big enough for the mouth before the third year. It is easy after looking over a bunch of shells to tell how old an oyster is. A summer hump and the winter sink come across the shell every year, but after the seventh or tenth year full growth comes; then by looking at the sinks between the humps it is hard to tell anything more about Miss Oyster's age. Oysters easily live to be twenty years old.—New York Press.

A New One on Him.

It was after the stone laying ceremony, and a wire was sent to the builder with the news, "Stone laid with great eclat." The builder, smothering an awful oath, muttered, "Another new foreign cement" and flung the message from him in passionate disgust.—London Globe.

Labor bids us of three great evils—irksomness, vice and poverty.—Vittoria.

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