

LEST WE FORGET.

A Critic Reminds Us How Our People Have Bussed Progress.

We of this big republic complacently affirm the glory of our national achievements and are not without temptation to acclaim them as proof of superior craft and judgment.

But herein do we forget that we are on record as having cast our vote against every move that has contributed to the present century's development.

We raised our voices in contemptuous protest against the first projected railroads. Had the locomotive waited its signal from the people it would not yet have started.

When the electric telegraph was shown to us we brushed it aside as a toy and laughed its inventor to scorn when he offered to sell us his rights for a few thousand dollars.

We put into jail an impostor the first man who brought anthracite coal to market. We broke to pieces Howe's sewing machine as an invention calculated to ruin the working classes, and we did the same thing to the harvester and the binder. We scorned the typewriter as a plaything.

We gathered together in mass meetings of indignation at the first proposal to install electric trolley lines, and when Dr. Bell told us he had invented an instrument by means of which we might talk to one another across the town we responded with accustomed ridicule, and only the reckless among us contributed its being.—Atlantic Monthly.

HUMAN DISSECTION.

Surgery and the Anatomists in the Olden Days.

For a long time Alexandria was the only medical center of the world, and the physician Galen, born about 130 A. D., had to journey from Rome to the African city even to see a skeleton. He sent his students to the German battlefields to dissect the bodies of the national enemies, while he himself used apes as most resembling human beings. Human dissection was revived in Bologna in the fourteenth century, where Madonna Manzollina later was professor of anatomy, undoubtedly one of the first women doctors, if not the very first. Leonardo da Vinci, painter of "The Last Supper," was a great anatomist, but dissection had fallen into disuse when Vesalious finally revived it about the middle of the sixteenth century.

Even in comparatively modern times anatomists have been the object of attacks by the populace. In 1765 Dr. John Shippen of Philadelphia was mobbed as a grave robber. Doctors' riots in New York occurred twenty-three years later and were due to the belief that the medical students robbed graves continually. It was the lack of opportunity to obtain subjects regularly that led to the practice of grave robbing and originated what Dr. Keene calls "a set of the lowest possible villains—the resurrectionists."—New York World.

Do You Help Others?

It has been tritely said that for every one who stands alone there are twelve to lean against him. How is it with you? Are you one of those against whom others lean for help and encouragement, or are you leaning against some one and drawing your inspiration and courage from him? It depends entirely on yourself whether you take a positive attitude in your work or whether your negative characteristics shall dominate. It is much easier to go through life making as little effort as possible, but it is a poor way if we are going to make life yield even a small modicum of what it holds for us. If you are working earnestly and hoping for success there is only one way to attain it, and that is through your positive characteristics.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Julius Caesar.

Caesar was assassinated March 15, 44 B. C., and was at the time of his death fifty-six years old. It is not alone as a military genius that his fame endures. By almost common consent he was the most remarkable all round man of antiquity—masterful, great not only as general, but as writer, statesman and administrator. In addition to these high accomplishments he was a great mathematician, philologist, architect and jurist. His conversational powers were extraordinary, and from all accounts he was in his manner one of the most attractive of men.

Henry of Navarre and the Rod.

Henry IV. of France was a firm believer in the adage, "Spare the rod and spoil the child." In a letter to the governess of his son he wrote in October, 1607: "Madame—I have to complain that you have not informed me of having flogged my son. I desire and request that you will flog him whenever he is disobedient or otherwise troublesome, knowing as I do that nothing will do him more good. I speak from experience, as at his age I was frequently birched."—Paris Gaulois.

Just Made It.

Farmer Giles (who has just cashed a check)—I don't think this money's right. The Cashier—Would you mind counting it again, sir? I think you'll find it correct. Farmer Giles (having done so)—Yes, but you be careful, young man; it's only just right.—London Sketch.

The Happy Medium.

Squire's Daughter—By the way, do you spell your name with a large or a small N. Mrs. McNabe? Villager—Oh, middlin' large, miss.—London M. A. P.

THE ELECTROSCOPE.

Instrument by Which the Presence of Electricity is Detected.

The electroscope is an instrument for the detection of electricity. It depends for its action on the principle that bodies charged with like electricity repel, while those charged with unlike electricity attract each other. The ordinary pith ball suspended on a silk thread is the simplest form of the instrument.

The most common type of electroscope is that devised by Bennett in 1787 and known as the gold leaf electroscope. It consists of two strips of gold leaf or thin aluminum foil suspended from the lower extremity of a conductor within a glass bottle or jar. The upper end of the conductor terminates in a ball or a plate in case the instrument is to be used as a condensing electroscope. If a body charged with positive electricity is brought near the knob of the electroscope the negative electricity will be attracted to the knob and the positive repelled to the leaves, which diverge. If now the finger is touched to the knob the positive electricity is drawn off and the leaves collapse, while the negative electricity is held bound. Removing the charged body, the leaves will diverge again, charged with negative electricity. In this case the instrument can be used to determine the nature of a charge of a body brought near it, as with a positive charge the leaves will collapse and with a negative charge spread farther apart.—Exchange.

A STUDY IN FIGURES.

Calculations Necessary to Produce the Nautical Almanac.

It may safely be said that no one outside the publishing office has read the entire Nautical Almanac from beginning to end, but each figure of the printed almanac is in the office examined twice and read three times.

The total number of figures exceeds a million; but, great as that number is, it is trifling compared with the number of figures employed in the calculations, as the almanac figures represent "bare" results only. The moon, for instance, requires for its calculation more than a million and a half of figures, and similarly with other branches of the work, such as the sun, the planets, etc. Contrary to the general opinion, practically every figure in the book is fresh from year to year.

The tables from which nearly all the work is calculated have been originally constructed from the labors of the astronomical observer, and to a large extent from the observations of the sun, moon and planets made at the Royal observatory, Greenwich. Telescopes and other astronomical appliances are conspicuously absent, as the work of the staff is purely mathematical and not observational.—London Telegraph.

A Legend of Mount Omi.

Mount Omi, on the border between western China and Tibet, has the longest staircase in the world. On top of the mountain there stands a Buddhist temple, around which gather some of the holiest traditions of that religion and which is made a Mecca to the Chinese. To facilitate the ascent of its slippery sides some 20,000 steps have been cut in the mountain, forming a single flight, up which the pilgrim toils. Because of its inaccessible few Europeans have ever visited the spot, but a number of travelers have ascended the stairway and are positive that it is no legendary myth. There is a legend that in earlier times the pilgrim was forced to ascend the mountain without artificial aids until the monks conceived the plan of requiring every pilgrim who would gain especial benefit of his journey to cut a single step.

Some Consolation.

He was a frugal Scot and when the collection plate came round dropped in a florin in mistake for the humble copper. Speedily discovering his mistake, however, he stepped softly down the aisle and requested the organist to give him back the coin, which request was politely but firmly refused. A shade of disappointment flitted over the northerner's face as he walked slowly back to his pew.

"Aweel," he said, "it's a loss, but there's some sma' consolation in reflectin' it's a bad one. It might have got me into trouble anywhere else."—London Telegraph.

Dickens and His Wife.

Commenting on the unhappy relations between Dickens and his wife, Goldwin Smith wrote in one of his last papers: "It was a common case. Dickens had married at a low level, and his wife had not risen with him; otherwise there was no fault on her side. The matrimonial history of writers of works of imagination has often been unhappy. Their imagination turns the woman into an angel, and then they find that she is a woman."

Two is Company.

"Have you ever loved before?" asked the coy maid.

"Yes," yawned the worldly young man, "but never before a chaperon, two small brothers and a pet bulldog."

And then she suggested a trip down the old road to see the stars.—Chicago News.

A Sugar Coated Pill.

"How did you persuade your daughter to learn kitchen work?"

"By calling it domestic science."—Pittsburg Post.

The way of the world is to make laws, but follow customs.—Montaigne.

INCURABLE.

Some Interference Wireless Operators Cannot Overcome.

Few are the steamer passengers who fall to visit the wireless office aboard ship to watch the operation of the instruments and to question the operator. Needless to say, the technical understanding of the well meaning visitors is a variable quantity. The operator must listen to wondering explanations, original suggestions for the improvement of the service, discourses on the relations between wireless telegraphy and spiritualism and other doubtful topics with uniform courtesy. At times, however, the strain is too great. It was a lady passenger with an eye for details who came to the wireless room and looked wonderingly in.

"Oh, here's the wireless! May I come in? Isn't it wonderful to think of sending those—those waves—you call them waves, don't you? How fascinating to work at this! Are those jars filled with water?"

"Those are condenser jars, madam, quite empty."

"Really? I don't believe I could ever understand it. That coil of wire looks like a birdcage."

"That is the inductance helix."

"What are those things over your ears?"

"The receiving telephones."

"Then you have telephone connection too. One can hardly keep up with the times these days. What does that coil do?"

"That is the receiving tuner and interference preventer."

"Wonderful! Does it keep out all interference?"

"Not all," replied the operator wearily. "Some kinds of interference can't be tuned out; we just have to stand it."—Youth's Companion.

EIGHT CENTS A DAY.

Workers' Pay in England When Board Was a Shilling a Week.

There was a time when a workman in England received 8 cents a day as an ordinary wage, when skilled artisans commanded 12 cents a day and when women worked in the field at such tasks as reaping straw, hoeing, planting beans and washing sheep for 2 cents a day, and a wise student of the subject has expressed the opinion that the British workman of that day was better off than he has ever been since then.

That sounds paradoxical. But the explanation is this: The workman who sold his services for 8 cents a day could buy good beef or mutton for 1½ cents a pound. Wheat cost him on the average only 18 cents a bushel. He could get board for 12 to 16 cents a week. The pay he would receive for fifteen weeks' services would suffice to purchase a supply of suitable food-stuffs, according to the standard of his time (consisting of wheat, malt and oatmeal), to maintain his family for an entire year.

Under these circumstances 8 cents a day—increased to 12 cents in harvest time—was a fair wage, and "times were good" for the average workman.—McClure's Magazine.

Opera in Dumb Show.

The late Clara Novello in her reminiscences tells how Malibran once appeared in "Sonnambula" without uttering a note. She had taken cold and was prevented from singing at the last moment, though crowds of early comers already filled the house. "On the manager telling her, in despair, that, besides loss of money, these disappointed people would be dangerous she said, 'I can't speak above my breath; I should have to do it in dumb show!' Bunn at once caught at this outburst as if seriously meant and on his knees begged her to try this, and she, fired by the novelty, did so. The grateful public raved in praise of this surprising tour de force, and the sensation it made filled the papers."

Bathing Machines.

Somebody has inquired why "bathing machines," the comfortable privacy of which for ocean bathing has never attracted bathers in this country, are called machines, remarking that there is nothing of a machine about them except the horse which draws them to the beach. The answer has been found in the new Oxford Dictionary. It appears that a "machine" was originally a "structure of any kind, material or immaterial," and has nothing to do with machinery, a later word. Ships were called machines, and it would have been proper to speak of a pulpit as a machine.—Argonaut.

Laughter and Death.

He can be said to have won the game of life who at the last can laugh. That final speech of O. Henry, the short story writer, was finer than any story he ever wrote. Just as he was dying he turned to the doctor and said: "Pull up the curtain, doc. I'm afraid to go home in the dark." The speech had in it wide courage and a sense of values. One forgives the royal Charles much frivolity for the sake of his dying speech, "Gentlemen, I fear I'm an unconscionable time a-dying."—Harper's.

A Complicated Case.

"Of course, doctor, German measles are seldom serious?"

"I never met but one fatal case."

"Fatal?"

"Yes. It was a Frenchman, and when he discovered it was German measles that he had mortification set in."

Philosophy is nothing but discretion.—Selden.

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