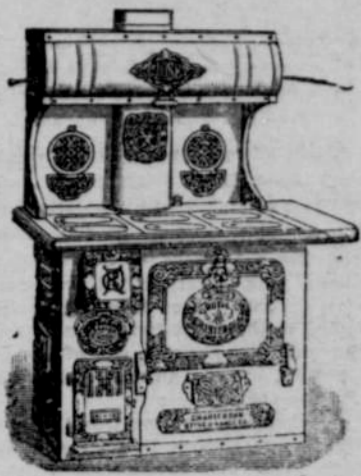


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**PLAY WITH DEATH**

Men Who Are Reckless In Handling High Explosives.

STORIES BY HUDSON MAXIM.

**The Accident by Which the Inventor's Left Hand Was Blown Off—John Bender's Contempt For Dynamite—Mixing Fire and Nitroglycerin.**

"It is practically impossible," writes Hudson Maxim in Adventure, "to make the ordinary laboring man appreciate the necessity of care in the safe handling of explosives, and the life of the careful man is always endangered by the actions of the careless one."

"After I had sold the works at Maxim and had invented motorite I needed a place in which to make the material and hired a branch of the works there for that purpose. It was winter. My wife had accompanied me as a precautionary measure. She was sitting in the laboratory to keep warm, near a big barrel stove charged with bituminous coal.

"On entering the laboratory for something my wife asked me what was in those two tin pails sitting near the stove. She said that she had a suspicion it might be nitroglycerin, and she informed me that one of my men had just been in stirring the fire and that the sparks flew out in all directions, some of them lighting in the buckets to be quenched on top of the oily liquid.

"'Horrors!' I said. 'It is nitroglycerin!' 'I called the man who had placed it there and told him to take it away. As it was necessary to keep the material from freezing he took it into the boiler house near by. A little later on, going into the boiler house, I saw one of the men stirring the fire while the other was standing with his coattails outstretched in either hand, forming a shield to keep the sparks from flying into the nitroglycerin.

"In the manufacture of high explosives and in experimenting with them a little absentmindedness, a very slight lack of exact caution, a seemingly insignificant inadvertence for a moment, may cost one a limb or his life. The accident that cost me my left hand is a case in point.

"On the day preceding that accident I had had a gold cap put on a tooth. In consequence the tooth ached throughout the night and kept me awake a greater part of the time. In the morning I rose early and went down to my factory at Maxim, N. J. In order to test the dryness of some fulminate compound I took a little piece of it, about the size of an English penny, broke off a small particle, placed it on a stand outside the laboratory and, lighting a match, touched it off.

"Owing to my loss of sleep the night before my mind was not so alert as usual, and I forgot to lay aside the remaining piece of fulminate compound, but instead held it in my left hand. A spark from the ignited piece of fulminate compound entered my left hand between my fingers, lighting the piece there, with the result that my hand was blown off to the wrist.

"Once when entering my storage magazine at Maxim, in which were several carloads of dynamite along with 37,000 pounds of nitrocellulose, I saw John Bender, one of my employees, calmly but emphatically opening a case of dynamite with a hammer and a chisel. I promptly discharged him.

"Not long afterward the innkeeper at Farmingdale called on me to buy some dynamite and said he had engaged Bender to blow the stumps out of his meadow lot. I told him Bender was courting death for himself and everybody around when handling dynamite, but Boniface still wanted Bender to do the work.

"'Well,' said I, 'the dynamite you want is 16 cents a pound, but if John Bender does not succeed in blowing himself up and killing himself with the dynamite you can have it for nothing. On the other hand, if he does blow himself up you must pay for the dynamite.'

"A few days later there was so.e hitch in Bender's exceptional luck. A particularly refractory old stump had resisted a couple of Bender's dynamic attacks. The failure to dislodge the stump Bender took as a personal affront because it reflected upon his skill as a stump blaster.

"'Next time,' said he, 'something is going to happen.' He placed about twenty pounds of dynamite under the deep rooted veteran, touched it off, and several things happened in very quick succession. The huge stump lot got its hold on earth and proceeded to hunt Bender.

"It was a level race, but the stump won. Striking Bender on the north quarter, it stove in four ribs, dislocated several joints and damaged him in several other respects and particulars. Boniface came to settle for the dynamite.

"'Sixteen cents a pound,' I said. 'Bender hasn't a chance in a hundred. Wait till the doctors are through with him.' 'What do you say to a compromise,' suggested Boniface, 'of 8 cents a pound? For, really, I do not believe that Bender is more than half dead.' And the account was settled on that basis."

Kind words are the brightest of home flowers. They make a paradise of the humblest home.

**ORIGIN OF AN EXPRESSION.**

"If This Court Knows Herself, and She Thinks She Do."

We frequently hear the expression, "If the court knows itself, and it thinks it does," but few persons are aware of the origin thereof.

The individual who gave birth to it was a Pike county Missourian named Blackburn, who flourished in the west many years ago. Blackburn ran away from home when he was a mere boy and sought his fortune in the west, where he grew to manhood as an Indian fighter, hunter, trapper and mountain guide. Although not an educated man, he was possessed of great acumen, to which was united a keen wit. When gold was discovered in California, Blackburn was one of the first to proceed thither. The miners as a sort of joke elected him alcalde, an office that combined the duties of mayor and justice of the peace. The first case coming before the new alcalde was that of a gambler who while drunk had ridden his horse over a young Mexican woman. She was seriously injured.

The trial took place in the largest cabin in the neighborhood. The gambler, who was rich, had retained able counsel to defend him. Alcaldé Blackburn called the young woman to the witness stand. She told a straightforward, honest story. When she had finished the alcalde peremptorily ended the trial. The attorney for the defendant protested vigorously, but the alcalde disposed of his protest thus: "If this court knows herself, and she thinks she do, I fine you \$500 damages and assess upon you the cost of putting this young woman in good condition."

When asked what he meant by "good condition" the alcalde replied that the gambler must pay the doctor's bills and all other costs of the young woman's sickness.—Exchange.

**MOZART'S UNTIMELY END.**

Sad Finish of the Career of the Great Musical Genius.

Late hours, unwearied vigils, everlasting labor, the effects of chills, damp and exposure, in the hard life he led—a life alternating between brilliant passages and the most loathsome drudgery, between rosy anticipations of fortune and inevitable and eternal disappointments—had their effects on the vigorous constitution of Mozart. His lamp of life burnt out untimely. While still a young man—only thirty-five years old—he fell into ill health, the symptoms of which were a fitful, restless nervousness, a craving for inordinate excitement and a rapid decay of the physical stamina of his constitution.

Unfortunately for him, in the absence of any strong influence at home which might keep him in the path of duty, he was tempted to seek recreation abroad and fell into the company of a dissipated set of men, haunters of the theaters and taverns of Vienna, the chief spirit of whom was one Schikaneder, a low, coarse man of neither refinement nor talent. In company with this crew the glorious genius, whose critical state of health demanded the utmost care and attention from loving hands, flitted night after night from tavern to tavern in Vienna, deluding himself with vice under the idea that he was gathering the secret spirit of brotherhood for use in his opera, "The Magic Flute," on which he at that time was engaged.—Rowbotham's "Private Life of Great Composers."

**Teeth in Their Stomachs.**

Whatever it may be that the lobster and the crab, rapacious, never dainty, are eating they always see something else that they want and can't wait until they have masticated the first before attacking the second. But they don't give up the first, not by any manner of means. Nature, humoring this rapacious bent, has fitted the lobster and the crab with teeth in their stomachs, and they swallow their half masticated food and finish the chewing process with their stomachs while they seize and chew the other thing that has attracted them. Lobsters and crabs have no teeth in their mouths. They chew with their claws what they have time to and hand the unfinished job down to their stomachs to do the rest of the chewing.

**Dollar Bills From All Over.**

"That dollar silver certificate you have there has been gathered together from all over the world," said the bank cashier. "Part of the paper fiber is linen rag from the orient. 'The silk comes from Italy or China. The blue ink is made from German or Canadian cobalt. The black ink is made from Niagara Falls acetylene gas smoke, and most of the green ink is green color mixed in white zinc sulphide made in Germany. 'When the treasury seal is printed in red the color comes from Central America.'—New York Sun.

**No Apology Necessary.**

"I congratulate you most heartily," said the nearsighted guest at the wedding, "on this happy—oh, I beg your pardon! I thought I was speaking to the bridegroom."

"That's all right," the other man replied. "I accept your congratulations. I am the father of the bride."—Chicago Tribune.

**Very Lucky.**

"I don't get what I deserve for my jokes," smiled the humorist.

"You're lucky," sympathized his friend.—Toledo Blade.

When a man falls back on oaths he declares himself out of arguments.

**THE GOLD WAS THERE.**

But Mark Twain Missed It by Just One Pail of Water.

With Steve Gillis, a printer of whom he was fond, Mark Twain went up into Calaveras county, to a cabin on Jackass hill, where Steve's brother Jim, a lovable, picturesque character (the "Truthful James" of Bret Harte), owned mining claims. Mark decided to spend his vacation in pocket mining and soon added that science to his store of knowledge. It was a halcyon, happy three months that he lingered there. One day with Jim Gillis he was following the specks of gold that led to a pocket somewhere up the hill when a chill, dreary rain set in. Jim was washing and Clemens was carrying water. The "color" became better as they ascended, and Gillis, possessed with the mining passion, would have gone on regardless of the rain. Clemens, however, protested and declared that each pail of water was his last. Finally he said in his deliberate, drawing fashion:

"Jim, I won't carry any more water. This work is too disagreeable. Let's go to the house and wait till it clears up."

Gillis had just taken out a pan of earth.

"Bring one more pail, Sam," he pleaded.

"I won't do it, Jim! Not a drop! Not if I know there was a million dollars in that pan!"

They left the pan standing there and went over to Angel's camp, which was nearer than their own cabin. The rain kept on, and they sat around the grocery and barroom smoking and telling stories to pass the time.

Meanwhile the rain had washed away the top of the pan of earth left standing on the slope of Jackass hill and exposed a handful of nuggets—pure gold. Two strangers had come along and, observing it, had sat down to wait until the thirty day claim notice posted by Jim Gillis should expire. They did not mind the rain—not with that gold in sight—and the minute the thirty days were up they followed the lead a few pans farther and took out \$20,000 in all. It was a good pocket. Mark Twain missed it by one pail of water.—Chicago Post.

**INSURANCE MAPS.**

Mandy Guides For Underwriters In Fixing Premium Rates.

Many persons must have noticed when making application for fire insurance that it is the practice of the underwriter to examine certain maps before he will fix the rate of premium or accept a risk on the property offered. His lithographic surveys marked off in diagrams of red and yellow and other colors are always in evidence, sometimes bound securely in dozens of large volumes, on other occasions laid conveniently in piles of loose sheets for handy reference.

Few persons realize, however, that these maps contain all the information which the underwriter desires to know about the building he is asked to insure and that in most instances more matters are explained to him by a single glance than the applicant could make even though he be the owner of the property.

As a matter of fact the details set forth are most explicit. The map-maker has managed by colors, characters and signs to give a full description of the construction, equipment and occupation of the building, everything which over fifty years of this sort of surveying has proved to be of any possible interest to the insurance man. It is so complete, for instance, that an agent in New York city can readily form a good idea of the character of a risk situated in some town in Missouri or California, or vice versa, agents in towns in these western states can likewise tell the character of a risk in New York city.—Cassler's Magazine.

**Poising on Nothing.**

Away up in the air, far beyond the mountain tops, the great condors will hang poised as motionless as if perched on solid rock. True, their wings are outstretched, but even through glasses not the slightest motion is perceptible. They remain in this position for many minutes, sometimes for an hour, making a careful scrutiny of everything below them in their search for prey. Then, with a slight flitting of the wings, they flap slowly away, or, having found what they were seeking, dart like a bullet toward it. The eagle, hawk and other species have this same faculty of poisoning apparently on nothing.

**Banked Rails.**

In rounding a curve the tendency of the weight of a train is invariably to shift to the outside wheels. To counteract this tendency the outer rail of a curve is raised on a higher level than the inside, the elevation being in an exact proportion to the sharpness of the curve as determined by the principles of engineering. If both rails of a curved track were of exactly the same elevation a train would not dare round it at high speed.

**Tender Hearted Youth.**

Sympathetic Old Lady—You're kind hearted boys to help that poor fellow up. Here's a quarter for some candy.

Enthusiastic Small Boy (helping fat man worse for liquor)—Thanks, ma'am, but jest hang around a minute and watch th' fun when he falls ag'in. —New York Times.

**Comic Opera Milkmaids.**

"I thought I would introduce a real cow into my comic opera."

"How did it work?"

"Didn't work at all. The milkmaids frightened the cow."—Washington Herald.

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KILN DRY FLOORING, CEILING, RUSTIC AND FINISHED LUMBER.

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**FOLEY'S ORINO LAXATIVE**

for all stomach troubles—indigestion, dyspepsia, heartburn, gas in the stomach, bad breath, sick headache, torpid liver, biliousness and habitual constipation. Pleasant to take.

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We finish plate and bridge work for out-of-town patients in one day if desired. Painless extraction from when plates or bridge work is under way. Consultation free.

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They will cure your backache, strengthen your kidneys, correct urinary irregularities, build up the worn out tissues, and eliminate the excess uric acid that causes rheumatism. Prevent Bright's Disease and Diabetes, and restore health and strength. Refuse substitutes.

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Remember the Name.

Foley's Honey and Tar for all coughs and colds, for croup, bronchitis, hoarseness and for racking night coughs. No opiates. Refuse substitutes.—C. I. Clough.

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The valued family recipes for cough and cold cure, liniments, tonics and other remedies have as careful attention here as the most intricate prescriptions.

Our fresh, high grade drugs will help to make these remedies more effective than ever.

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OPPOSITE THE ALLEN HOUSE.

Corner Stillwell Ave. and First St. West, and both Phones.

SPECIALTY IN ALL KIND OF CAKES  
ALL KIND OF BREAD.

A piece of flannel dampened with Chamberlain's Liniment and bound on to the effected parts is superior to any plaster. When troubled with lame back or pains in the side or chest give it a trial and you are certain to be more than pleased with the prompt relief which it affords.—Sold by Lamar's Drug Store.

**MEASLES.**

After having the MEASLES have your eyes looked after, examined, before you try to do any close work with them. It will save you the trouble you MAY otherwise have, besides it will cost you nothing to find out the truth about them.

Measles very often leave your eyes in a very bad condition, half of the trouble with our eyes, or the eyes of the people is caused by MEASLES.

Don't risk your eyes when they can be saved as well as not.

**Dr. H. E. Morris,**  
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You awake with a mean, nasty taste in the mouth, which reminds you that your stomach is in a bad condition. It should also remind you that there is nothing so good for a disordered stomach as Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets.

They build up the system, assist nature to restore natural conditions, and are so gentle in their action that one hardly realizes a medicine was taken. Chamberlain's Tablets are sold everywhere. Price 25c.