

WINNING A BRIDE.

Mark Twain's Wooing of Lovely Olivia Langdon.

NOT HELPED BY HIS FRIENDS.

They Seemed to Agree That He Would Make About the Worst Husband on Record, but Miss Langdon's Father Took a Different View.

In Harper's Magazine Albert Bigelow Paine, the authorized biographer of Mark Twain, tells how the great humorist first met Olivia Langdon, who afterward became his wife.

"At the old St. Nicholas hotel, which stood on the west side of Broadway between Spring and Broome streets, there were stopping at this time Jervis Langdon, a wealthy coal dealer and mine owner of Elmira; his son Charles and his daughter, Olivia, whose picture face Samuel Clemens had first seen in the bay of Smyrna one September day.

"The best horsehide obtainable is used for covers. The pieces are cut by hand and dampened and stretched. The ball is put into clamps and the cover sewed on with cotton thread, which has a greater frictional strength than linen or silk.

"There was only a provisional engagement at first. Jervis Langdon suggested, and Samuel Clemens agreed with him, that it was proper to know something of his past as well as of his present before the official parental sanction should be given.

"Clemens was in Jacksonville, Ill., at the end of March, 1869, and in a letter to his publisher states that he will be in Elmira two days later and asks that proofs of the book be sent there.

"They don't appear to have been very enthusiastic from your manner."

"Well, yes; some of them were."

"I suppose I may ask what particular form their emotion took?"

"Oh, yes; yes, they agree unanimously that you are a brilliant, able man, a man with a future, and that you would make about the worst husband on record."

"The applicant for favor had a forlorn look."

"There's nothing very evasive about that," he said.

"There was a period of reflective silence. It was probably no more than a few seconds, but it seemed longer."

"Haven't you any other friend that you suggest?" Langdon said.

"Apparently none whose testimony would be valuable."

"Jervis Langdon held out his hand. 'You have at least one,' he said. 'I believe in you. I know you better than they do.'"

"And so came the crown of happiness. The engagement of Samuel Langhorne Clemens and Olivia Lewis Langdon was ratified next day, Feb. 2, 1869."

A Fortune in His Legs. During the reign of Queen Elizabeth an English gentleman of wealth named Corbet, of a distinguished family near Shrewsbury, bet that his leg was the handsomest in the country or kingdom, and staked estates worth \$400,000 on the subject.

The Milky Way. "Grandpa," said the small boy from the city, pointing to a wayside plant, "what is that?"

"That's milkweed," was the reply. "Oh, I know," exclaimed the little fellow. "That's what you feed to the cows so they will give milk."—Chicago News.

Fine Teachers. Fond Mother—Willie, where did you learn to swear like that? Young Hopeful—Pa's shaving, uncle's golf, grandpa's auto and your parrot.—Lila.

Charm strikes the sight, but merit wins the soul.—Page.

MAKING A BASEBALL.

The Winding Process is Done in Secret in a Locked Room.

In the center of the standard baseball, as used by the professional players, there is a globe of compressed cork covered with rubber. This globe is about an inch in diameter and around it are wound a few layers of coarse twine. It is then sent to the winding room, where machines first wind on thick four ply blue yarn.

Many different workers have to do with the winding of the ball. Each workman tests it for size and weight before he passes it along. The machines insure tight and even winding and there are different machines for different sizes of yarn. These machines are operated in secret in a locked room.

When the ball has been wound to the proper size with blue and white yarn and has been dipped in the solution, it is wound finally with smaller yarn. Thus the firm, rough center is overlaid with finer and finer material until at last it is smooth and perfect, ready for the cover.

The best horsehide obtainable is used for covers. The pieces are cut by hand and dampened and stretched. The ball is put into clamps and the cover sewed on with cotton thread, which has a greater frictional strength than linen or silk.

A ball weighs five ounces and is nine inches in circumference. In the course of manufacture it is weighed and measured five times.—Harper's Weekly.

NEW YORK'S FIRST CHURCH.

And the Earliest Religious Services on Manhattan Island.

The first religious service on Manhattan Island was held in 1623. This resulted in the organization of a church, the services of which were held in the upper story of a mill which ground the grain of the colonists.

The first minister was Jonas Michellius and the first elder Peter Minuit, director general of New Netherland. The first church building on Manhattan Island was situated on Pearl street, between Whitehall and Broad streets, facing the East river.

William Kieth, director general of the West India company, caused to be erected a church outside of Fort Amsterdam, which contained three long, narrow windows on each side, fitted with small panes of glass set in lead, on which were burned the coats of arms of the chief parishioners.

This building was erected in the meadow of Mrs. Dominie Drius and fronted on a lane, now called Exchange place. In those days, however, it was known as "Garden alley." A large bowl of solid silver for baptismal services was made by the silver workers in Holland. In the belfry was the bell which had been removed from the old church in the fort.—Westchester County Magazine.

Mark Twain's Question.

Mark Twain when visiting Melbourne was the guest of the mayor on a picnic trip down the river Yarra, a stream renowned for its crookedness and for the odor from its banks. On account of the many turns in the river numerous signs reading "Dead Slow" are placed at the turnings to warn ship captains to slacken speed, and these attracted Twain's attention.

Radium's Wonderful Power.

Suppose that the energy of a ton of radium could be utilized in thirty years, instead of being evolved at its invariable slow rate of 1,700 years for half disintegration, it would suffice to propel a ship of 15,000 tons, with engines of 15,000 horsepower, at the rate of fifteen knots an hour for thirty years—practically the lifetime of the ship. To do this actually requires 1,500,000 tons of coal.—Sir William Ramsay.

A Household Hint.

Young Wife (sobbing)—George treated me awful mean. He—he promised to give me a machine for my birthday, and it—it—came home today. Her Mother—Then what are you crying about? Young Wife—It's a—it's a washing machine.—Baltimore American.

Getting Squared.

The Doctor—Hark! Whence those cries of agony? The Lawyer—They come from the office of the dentist. Last week the chiropodist operated on the dentist, agreeing to take his bill out in trade, and now the dentist is taking it out.—Satire.

A Good Tonic.

Have you noticed what a tonic a good laugh is? The next time you are angry instead of frowning make yourself smile, then laugh. You'll feel better.—

On the Street.

Mrs. Spruce—That man you just nodded to looks familiar. Do you see him often? Mrs. Walnut—Not very; he's my husband.—Philadelphia Record.

A DUEL IN BALLOONS.

Curious Aerial Battle Fought by Two Frenchmen in 1808.

In this day of the development in aeronautics it may be interesting to recall the first duel that was ever fought in the air. It took place in 1808 and, as might have been expected, occurred in France. M. de Grandpre and M. le Pique had a quarrel arising out of jealousy concerning a lady engaged in the Imperial Opera.

They agreed to fight a duel to settle their respective claims, and in order that the heat of angry passion should not interfere with the polished elegance of the proceeding they postponed the duel for a month, the lady agreeing to bestow her smiles on the survivor. The duellists were to fight in the air.

Two balloons were constructed exactly alike. On the day of the duel De Grandpre and his second entered the car of one balloon, Le Pique and his second the other. This was in the garden of the Tuilleries, amid a big crowd of spectators. The men were to fire, not at each other, but at each other's balloon, in order to bring them down by the escape of gas. As pistols would hardly have served for this purpose, each aeronaut took a blunderbuss in his car.

At a given signal the ropes holding the balloons were cut, and up they went into the air. The wind was nearly moderate and kept the balloons in their respective positions, about eighty yards apart. When about half a mile up in the air the preconcerted signal for firing was given. M. le Pique fired, but missed. M. de Grandpre fired and sent a ball through Le Pique's balloon. The balloon collapsed, the car descended with frightful rapidity, and Le Pique and his second were dashed to pieces.

De Grandpre continued his ascent and terminated his aerial voyage at a distance of seven leagues from Paris. History does not state whether he was rewarded by the hand of the lady for whose sake the duel had been fought.—New York Herald.

SPOKE HIS OWN DOOM.

In Spite of His Caution an Innocent Remark Condemned Him.

The father of Gueau de Reverseaux had been a distinguished lawyer, and through his influence he held important offices under the government. When the revolution began he gave up his office at La Rochelle and retired to Chartres.

From the time that the revolution began Gueau de Reverseaux devoted his attention exclusively to preserving his own safety. He wrote no letters. He would receive no visitors. He saw no visitors and paid no visits. He spoke to no person and allowed no one to come near him. It would have been impossible to be more prudent than he was.

However, he wanted some sheds built on his farm near Chartres and ventured to consult a carpenter. The carpenter told him that he could not undertake the work immediately, as Gueau de Reverseaux wished, because most of his workmen were drafted to join the army at once.

Gueau de Reverseaux replied: "The workmen need not go. They can send substitutes."

This remark was heard by the workmen, but only the first phrase made any impression on them. They reported everywhere that M. Gueau de Reverseaux, who must be good authority, had said that they need not go. The news went to headquarters that Gueau de Reverseaux declared that the drafted workmen need not obey the government. This was considered to be a conspiracy, and he was condemned to death and executed.

Who He Was.

A traveler saw a woman take a man by the collar, yank him up the steps into a railroad car, jam him down into a seat, pile up a valise and two big brown baskets with loose covers and long handles at his feet and say: "Now, sit there until I help Mary Jane on the car, and don't move till I come back."

When the woman reached the door the traveler said to her: "Is that man your husband?" "Naw!" roared the woman. "He's my daughter's husband, and she hasn't spirit enough to say her soul is her own."

Wouldn't Work Nowadays.

The Egyptians had a very remarkable ordinance to prevent persons from borrowing imprudently. An Egyptian was not permitted to borrow without giving to his creditors in pledge the body of his father. It was deemed both an impiety and an infamy not to redeem so sacred a pledge. A person who died without discharging that duty was deprived of the customary honors paid to the dead.

Not in the Contract.

"Have you anything to say for yourself?" "Not unless I can get a rebate from my lawyer, judge; I have paid him good money to talk for me, and I won't do his work for nothing."—New York Press.

When Women Vote.

Fair Suffragette—Isn't she a fright! Why does she do it? Her Chum—Principle. She swore she wouldn't wear a rat or a corset until Mame Smith is elected president.—Puck.

A Mistake.

Landlord—You owe me now for four months' rent, and the first three months you paid so promptly. Tenant—Yes, I know. I shouldn't have done it.—Boston Transcript.

EARTHQUAKES.

Causes That Conspire to Rend the Earth's Crust Asunder.

Until recently all earthquake shocks were attributed to volcanic manifestations. But often the earth is agitated in regions where there are no volcanoes. Hence the belief has arisen that earthquakes may arise independently of volcanic action. Very often, again, when volcanoes are in eruption there are no earthquakes.

Subterranean cave-ins are often the cause of earthquakes. They are the consequences of the action of subterranean water. When water runs through limestone it carves out grottoes and terraces or galleries. When in its underground run it comes in contact with gypsum or rock salt it dissolves these substances, and thus vacuums are formed in the depths of the earth. When the water has worn the earth thin the earth gives way, and the subterranean cave-in shakes the regions above it. In well worked coal mines great hollows are made which produce similar results.

The layers forming the solid envelope of the earth are neither homogeneous nor regularly distributed. Limestone hits granite, and relatively recent rocks overlie ancient masses. Limestone and schist lie together like folded cloth. Layers of the same age are separated by abrupt gaps and breaks by the debris cast out on either side.

The crust of the earth has been compared to marquetry composed of many parts which must have been joined, broken and joined again many times. Its component parts are unstable; their movements are still in progress; they shift, and possibly their sudden shifting causes the upper crust to tremble.

The best evidence in favor of this explanation is that the great earthquakes have devastated countries where the geological layers show traces of caves and alps. In Japan an earthquake raised the ground about twenty-one feet, and the rise ran for a distance of 112 kilometers. An earthquake in Alaska occurring in 1899 raised the coast for a long distance. Earthquakes are limited to two zones. One embraces Himalaya, Asia Minor, the coasts of the Adriatic, Italy, the Alps, the Pyrenees, Algeria, Andalusia and southern Portugal; the other zone comprises the two coasts of the Pacific ocean. The majority of earthquakes have been produced in the first zone.—Harper's Weekly.

Barthold's Egotism.

An old friend of Mme. Stenbell's husband was Barthold, the sculptor of the colossal "Liberty Enlightening the World." Although a man of keen intellect and much originality of thought, Barthold's egotism was as colossal as his statue. Once Mme. Stenbell met him at the "institut." He wore the green uniform and sword of a member, and his breast glittered with orders. "You see this little thing here?" he said. "There are but three Europeans who have the right to wear it—one emperor, one king and myself. I don't attach the slightest importance to it." Of the statue in New York harbor he said, "The Americans believe that it is Liberty that illuminates the world, but in reality it is my genius."—Bookman.

Scared and Knew It.

A soldier under his first fire was charging with the rest of his regiment up the heights of Vicksburg, but so scared he looked like a ghost. A comrade next to him was unafraid and even smiled at the torrents of grape shot that swept the ranks. The comrade, noticing his friend's plight, turned to him and said with a sneer: "Coward!"

"Coward!" retorted the frightened soldier. "Old man, if you were one-tenth as scared as I am you'd have broken ranks and run long ago."—Kansas City Journal.

The One He Caught.

One day many years ago the telephone in the office of the chief of police rang. Chief Speers answered. The call was from a new policeman on the Union avenue beat. He said: "A man has been robbed down here, and I've got one of them."

"Which one have you?" asked the chief.

The reply came back, "The man that was robbed!"—Argonaut.

Solid Ivory.

"Yes," confessed Mr. Dorkins, "it serves me right. I engaged the man to move our goods, and I forgot to ask him how much he was going to charge me for the job. If ever I do such a thing again, Maria, you can have my head for a football."

"It would be a good deal more profitable, John," said Mrs. Dorkins, "to cut it up into billiard balls."—Chicago Tribune.

Preached into Generosity.

A preacher pawned his watch and the following Sunday preached four hours because he had no timepiece. At the conclusion of the sermon there was a special collection raised and sent to the pawnbroker.—New Orleans Picayune.

Corrected.

Gentleman (engaging groom)—Are you married? Groom—No, sir, I was thrown again a barbed wire fence and got my face scratched.—London Tatler.

Three Proofs.

Teacher—Willie, give three proofs that the world actually is round. Willie—The book says so, you say so, and ma says so.—Puck.

One day judgeth another, and the next judgeth all.—Stow.

POTTED GHOSTS.

An African Tribe's Method of Driving Away Sickness.

One of the most curious and interesting of African tribes are the Banyoro, or cow people, of Uganda, who are powerful clansmen and whose wealth, religion and health are all connected with cows. It is degrading for any member of the tribe to dig, so milk and flesh are their staple food. Their bravery is very great. The only beast they fear is the leopard. Their chief weapon is a long stick, and armed with this, they go out to meet a lion that is trying to get at their precious cattle and drive him away by the simple process of thrashing him.

Though they are brave, they are inveterate thieves and very subtle in their methods of carrying out their thefts and concealing their guilt by lies. Indeed, one of their favorite mottoes is, "Keep a grave face even though you laugh behind your hand."

When sickness comes to these people they believe that it is one of their enemies, the ghosts, that is attacking them, so they proceed to capture him. Ghosts like hot cooked meat, so meat is cooked in a large pot near the dwelling where the ghost is at work. As soon as the savor of the food reaches the dwelling the evil spirit greedily enters the pot and is at once sealed up. This potted ghost is then taken away from the village and buried, the spot being marked by a ghost shrine.

The position of rest for these people is a half sitting posture, and when they are holding a council they will remain in this posture as long as ten hours. When they die it is in this resting position that they are buried. If it should be the king who dies his successor is generally selected by the drastic process of civil war.

PLUCK OF A DEER.

A Big Buck That Was More Than a Match For a Cougar.

It seems to be generally assumed that wild animals of different species keep the peace, but now and then the experience of some woodsman strikingly disproves this peaceful view of forest life.

Two sportsmen made a trip to the Kettle river region, in the state of Washington, and in the course of the shooting witnessed a rare occurrence. They had been on the trail of a large buck for some time and, as it chanced, came in sight of him at the very moment when a cougar launched himself upon the buck from the limb of a tree. The cougar landed squarely on the buck's shoulders, almost throwing him to the ground.

The buck quickly recovered and, throwing back his head, drove two prongs of his antlers into the cougar's body and with a swing forward threw him to the ground. Leaping backward, he then waited with lowered head for a second attack.

With a yell of rage and pain the cougar sprang upon him. He might as well have leaped against an array of bayonets, for he was caught on the buck's antlers and hurled several feet into the air. The instant he struck the ground the buck was upon him, striking savagely with his forefeet, which cut like knife blades, and driving his antlers again and again into his body.

Finally they separated, and the cougar crawled forward for the final struggle. The deer was wounded, but still in excellent fighting trim. The hunters interfered. One of them walked up to the cougar and shot it through the heart.—Exchange.

Sea Level and Tides at Panama.

The average sea level of the Pacific ocean and the Caribbean sea, at opposite sides of the Isthmus of Panama, is the same. This is the mean or average levels of the two waters during all days of the year. But there is a great difference in tides. The Caribbean tides are faint, rarely exceeding two feet, while the tides in the Pacific at Panama are not pacific, for they at times rise ten feet and sink ten feet below normal undisturbed sea level. Without tide locks, currents would alternately rush in the canal from south to north entering, and from north to south escaping.—New York American.

A Political Pointer.

"A president has to eat a good deal these times." "What do you mean?" "The chief executive has to attend a great many banquets and the like." "Seems so. What about it?" "I was just thinking that the next president ought to recognize the growing importance of this social side of the job and appoint an addition to the cabinet in the shape of a toastmaster general."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Young America.

"You may be president some day, my boy," said the patronizing old gentleman.

"Great Scott!" replied the sadly flippant youth. "You're not trying to pick dark horses that far ahead, are you?"—Washington Star.

Knows Better Now.

Teacher—Tommy, you should have known better than to fight with that Williams boy. Tommy—I know, ma'am, but I thought I could lick him.—Hearth and Home.

Real Progress.

"How is father getting on with his riding lessons?" "Very well. We children are allowed to watch him now."—Fliegende Blätter.

The safest way of not being very miserable is not to expect to be very happy.—Schopenhauer.

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