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SELECTIONS

BLAINE AND THE "HORICUS."

The Fatality of the Sixty-third Year Once More Demonstrated.

"Today would have been Mr. Blaine's sixty-third birthday. He was superstitious in regard to seven and believed that if he should outlive the completion of his ninth seven years he would recover. He did not. This language is copied from an editorial in the Iowa State Register of Jan. 31, which closes without giving reasons for Mr. Blaine's "superstition," if superstition it may be called. It has been known since time out of memory that certain years in the lives of all men are of peculiar importance—years that are liable to singular vicissitudes in the health and fortunes of the highest as well as the lowest of our race.

Where or how this strange belief (it is not a "superstition," for it has been proved time and again that the end of each 7-year period is exceptionally fatal) originated is unknown, but it is supposed to be founded on the teachings of Pythagoras, who built up a regular system of religion (?) based on the squares and circles of the seven. In the encyclopedia you will find reference to the belief under the heading, "Climacteric Year," but none of those in my library gives any account of the origin, antiquity or development of the idea. A letter written by Augustus Cæsar refers to the prevalence of the belief even in his time. He says, "All the years of a man's life that are multiples of seven—1, 7, 14, 21, 28, 35, 42, 49, 56, 63, etc.—are crises that should not be lightly overlooked, especially the ninth seven, 63, which is the grand climacteric."

Some philosophers, those of an astrological turn of mind in particular, have called the sixty-third year "Horicus," because of a Roman notion that it was very fatal to great men. The sole cause of the "grand climacteric" being more fatal than the other multiples of seven is supposed to revert to the fact that it is a combination of seven and nine, both of which are mythical and sacred numbers.

In this connection it may be remarked that all nations attach signal importance to the seven and all multiples of that number. Thus at 14, twice seven, the male and female are supposed to have arrived at puberty; at 21, three sevens, the male becomes "of age," while many writers, Aristotle in particular, fix 35, five sevens, as the climax of bodily vigor, and 49 as the year of maximum mental activity. At the age of 63, when man is nine times seven years of age, according to the very best statisticians in the world (leaving "superstition" entirely out of the question), the most trivial diseases are likely to cause death, even in what is considered the most robust of men. Ten sevens—70—has long been ascribed as the limit of man's earthly career.—St. Louis Republic.

The Referendum in Ireland.

There is a phrase that conveys a vague but painful impression of alarm to the minds of a large number of excellent Englishmen—"Americanizing politics." The general idea is a lot of common people having the right to do things which cannot be foreseen and interfering with comfortable and therefore safe and respectable conditions. But the new administration has gone a step further in this direction than we Americans had thought of going. It has proposed to introduce in Ireland what is known as the referendum, adapted from the practice of the Swiss confederation.

The home rule bill provides that in the case of a disagreement between the upper and lower houses of the Irish legislature which cannot be settled by conference the question shall be referred to the popular vote. This is of course a logical development of the English system under which a ministry, defeated on an important vote, appeals to the country, but the new process is much more simple and direct and may be much more sweeping.—Harper's Weekly.

General Butler's Home Memories.

A well known Boston gentleman told the following experience he had with General Butler not long since: The gentleman found among his miscellaneous papers an old bill of the Tremont theater advertising the performance which proved to be the last appearance on the stage of Mrs. Butler. This bill he thought the general might be pleased to peruse, so he took it to him. He met General Butler descending the stairs from the courtroom, and after saluting him produced the programme, explaining its meaning. General Butler took the document and read it carefully and slowly from the first word to the last. As he turned to the donor to thank him for so kindly thinking of him in this connection, the giver said that he saw tears gently issuing from the general's eyes as he said to him: "I thank you much for giving this bill to me. I would not now part with it for \$5,000."—Boston Journal.

Drawbacks to Legal Equality.

Verily, with the assumption of their rights women renounce their privileges. In one of the western states the wife is liable to be sued for the expenses of the family as the husband is in this state. A wife has been held liable for the payment of the family butcher bill when the husband ordered it and in another case the wife has been held jointly responsible with the husband for a debt incurred in the purchase of a carriage which both used.

These are phases of the perfect equality between men and women not so greatly to be desired above the existing state of affairs. When a woman becomes responsible for a husband's debts as the lord of the household is now held for his lady's obligations, the privilege of voting for mayor and president will scarcely recompense for the responsibility of the new dispensation.—New York Sun.

PHYSIOGNOMY.

Oblique eyes are unfavorable. They show cunning and deceit. Irregular teeth generally indicate lack of culture and refinement.

If the forehead be shorter than the nose, the sign is of stupidity. Very tightly closed lips are usually found in secretive characters.

An oblique mouth is a bad sign. It indicates a crooked character. Freckles, like red hair, are an indication of an ardent temperament.

The upper part of the countenance is the seat of thought, labor and resolution; the lower half indicates action.

A forehead which in the upper part projects and in the lower sinks in toward the eye shows mental weakness.

Foreheads wrinkled in the upper part, while the lower half is smooth, generally indicate dullness and stupidity.

Noses with wrinkles on the sides, which never entirely disappear, generally belong to money getting natures.

Heavy, shaggy, overhanging eyebrows, with lower forehead prominent, show great powers of reasoning from premise to conclusion. Darwin had such brows.

When the lower half of the countenance, measuring from the nose downward, is divided by the mouth into two equal parts, seen in profile, the indication is of stupidity.

A perfectly formed face should be divided into three equal parts; from the roots of the hair to the root of the nose, thence to the tip, and from the tip of the nose to the tip of the chin.

Persons whose temples are fuller above the eyes than below, whose heads enlarge above the ears, are usually more gifted with musical taste than those with contrary characteristics.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

PERSONAL GOSSIP.

Senator Davis is a bookworm and bibliomaniac. He is collecting works about Napoleon.

Lady Castel Stuart, who claimed to be the last direct descendant of the royal Stuarts, died at Rome recently.

The daughter of Colonel Elliott of the United States engineer corps is said to have a phenomenally accurate knowledge of the technicalities of engineering.

Mrs. Louie McLendon Gordon is president of a literary club in Atlanta and has written letters of travel to the press. She is actively engaged in charitable work, organized and private.

Sir Harry Verney of Northumberland is one of the oldest wearers of a title in England. He was 86 years old when Victoria was crowned. His second wife was a sister of Florence Nightingale, who makes her home with him.

One of the rising men in the ranks of deaf mute instructors is Walter B. Peet of the New York state institution. He is the well known coach of the Columbia college crew. Mr. Peet is 30 years old and is an authority on deaf mute and rowing matters.

Samuel E. Adams, who died in Cleveland at the age of 75 years, was one of the best criminal lawyers in Ohio in his prime. As a cross examiner he was almost without an equal in that state. His varied learning and his generosity were also notable traits.

Li Hung Chung, viceroy of China, is one of the most important people in the world, although his name is so little known over here. He is first and last a patriot, and his watchword is China and her treasures and commerce for the Chinese. He has never sought popularity; neither is he afraid of opposition.

TURF TOPICS.

Blue Bull, the famous old sire, had one eye knocked out and a knee broken from the kick of a mule.

The grand circuit for 1893 has nine members, New York and Detroit having been added to the list this year.

A German inventor has added to the harness a line which instantly closes the blinders in front, so that fractions animals cannot see at all.

Seventeen pacers have beaten 2:10, and it is strange that but one of this number is a mare, while of the nine trotters that have beaten 2:10 five of them are mares.

The two fastest trotters are Nancy Hanks, 2:04, and Stamboul, 2:07. But there are seven pacers having records between these, and most of them race records.

At no time in the history of the American turf has the pacer been so prominent as now. Several farms in the United States are engaged in breeding him exclusively.

Kentucky Union (3), 2:18, showed great grief recently when a jolt of the car in which she was traveling threw out a small terrier of which she had made a companion and friend.

This year Chicago will have one of the grandest race meetings ever held. The Northwestern Association of Trotting and Racing Horse Breeders will give a \$100,000 meeting at Washington park Sept. 4 to 18.

THE LATEST WHIMS.

New saltcellars are heart shaped. Combination services for convenience at 5 o'clock teas and late impromptu suppers are useful.

The Man Who Knew Blaine.

The man who knew Blaine is out in force these days. He is as proud as the father of a pair of twins.

He is seen in all public places. He will take you in a corner, after he has shaken hands, and in a sorrowful tone of voice will say: "So Blaine is gone? Too bad, too bad. It is the greatest calamity that has befallen our diplomatic service since the death of Mr. Clay."

"Yes, yes," you say, by way of assent. "Let me see," says the man who knew Blaine, quizzically closing an eye as though it was a task to remember. "Let me see, I was at the hotel at dinner one day, and who should sit next to me but Mr. Blaine."

"Is that so?" "Well, I guess. Mr. Blaine held quite a conversation with me. He said to me—oh, I shall never forget his words—he said to me—he said—"

"What did he say?" "He asked me to pass the butter."—New York Herald.

Awkward Things to Forget.



Your purse, after you have asked your "best girl" and her mother out to dine.—Scribner's Magazine.

He Knew the Story. "Supposing," said an upholsterer dealer to a candidate for a vacant position, "that a lady came in and asked you if you had any chenille curtains, what would you say?"

The new man smiled a ghastly smile. Imagining the scene and drawing a long breath, he started in. "Yes, ma'am," says he, "we keep chenille curtains. This way, please. Here's something rather handsome. You don't like the pattern, eh? Something in smaller? Ah, yes. This way, please. Brighter? Ah, yes, ma'am. This way, please. There you are. A doorway. I see, and with a little red in it."

"As I understand you, then, you wish a small figure chenille with a little red in it. How's that—\$3.50? Too high? Something cheaper, eh? With a dado and wide as possible. Something for about \$4.50?"

"As I understand you, then, you wish a small figure chenille bright with a bit of red in it—\$4.50 chenille curtain, wide and with a dado? That's as near as I can come to it. Not enough individuality, eh? How's this one? Not sufficiently forceful in its pensiveness, eh? Something to harmonize with a sage green rug that your dog lies on and combine with the flare from an open grate—something moody and thoughtful, eh? Something suggestive of repose?"

"As I understand you, then, you wish a small figure, bright with a bit of red, \$4.50 chenille curtain, for a doorway, wide and with a dado, with a beery, sleepy, don't-wake-me-up-till-morning sort of a style about it, to harmonize with a pug nosed pup and a conflagration? Let us start all over again, ma'am."

And the candidate got the job.—Up-holsterer.

Proper Wifely Pride.—Neighbor (making a call)—I often wish my husband took as much interest in what's going on as your does. When I want to find out anything, I have to hunt up the papers and read it myself.

Mrs. Nextdoor—Yes, Alfred's always well posted. I do believe he knows the politics of every man in this ward, and how much he's worth, and where he came from, and all about him. You'll excuse me for about five minutes. Mrs. Walkabout, won't you? I've got to go out and split some kindling and bring in a few buckets of coal.—Chicago Tribune.

His Address. An Englishman, a temperance lecturer, was invited to speak on total abstinence. Being nobody in particular, he was placed last on the list of speakers. The chairman also introduced several speakers whose names were not on the list, and the audience were tired out when he said, "Mr. Bailey will now give us his address."

"My address," said Mr. Bailey, rising, "is 45 Longborough park, Brixton road, and I wish you all good night."—Youth's Companion.

What He Meant. One of the neighbors' little boys was going to a fancy dress party last night in the guise of a medieval lord of high degree. In the afternoon he came running in next door with the announcement: "Oh, Miss S—, you oughter see the things I'm going to wear to the party tonight! There's a doublet, an hose, an a big hat with a feather in, an a gold chain, an a cloak lined with vermin!" He probably meant ermine.—New York Tribune.

Boycotting a Parson. A Leeds gossip writes: "An amusing story comes from 'Aberdeen awa', where the minister of a certain kirk has incurred the displeasure of his congregation by wearing scarlet socks in church. He has been remonstrated with on the vanity of such bright colors, but remains immovable, and his congregation are in the meantime severely boycotting him until he relinquishes the red hose."—London Tit-Bits.

Might Be Worse. Crummer—Why, you have a cold, haven't you? Gilleland—Sh-h-h! Don't tell anybody. De cold ish bad enough widout gettin curs for it! Ker-choo! ker-choo! at ker-choo!—Truth.

An American Comedy Probably. Mr. Firstnight—Is everything full already? Haven't you even one seat for me? Cashier—Don't be troubled. If you will wait till the second act, there will be plenty of room.—Texas Sitings.

The Girl That Fleeced Him.

An artist whose bachelor apartments are a dream of beauty, to which, in view of his super-sensitive taste, his friends tremble to add aught, confided to a friend that the gift which delighted him most came from his washerwoman. He found nothing save a positive offense from a man who had been cradled in loveliness, surrounded by all that refines, and with an income of \$250,000 a year upon which to draw. Yet his present to the small, delicate featured painter—who could no more wear a silk hat than could a baby—was a yellow leather hatbox lined with vivid red.

The washerwoman, who was English, had had the good fortune to live near the Dickens family in Tavistock square, and the good wit to attend an auction of their family effects prior to a moving. Thus she secured a little china ring stand that had stood on the novelist's desk and held his multifarious rings while he wrote. Of course the artistic home had no greater treasure than this inexpensive offering.—Chicago Times.

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At last a medical work that tells the causes, describes the effects, points the remedy. This is scientifically the most valuable, artistically the most beautiful, medical book that has appeared for years. 96 pages, every page bearing its own illustration in tint. Some of the subjects treated are Nervous Debility, Impotence, Sterility, Development of Testicles, and the Epididymus, These Intending Marriage, etc. Every man who would know the Grand Truths, the Plain Facts, the Old Secrets and New Discoveries of Medical Science as applied to Nervous Debility, should study this book. It will be sent free under seal, while the edition lasts. If convenient enclose ten cents to pay postage alone. Address the publishers, ERIC MEDICAL CO., BUFFALO, N. Y.

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