

THE COMING DAY.

A better day is coming, girls. Just wait a little longer. Its morning breeze now sweeps the trees, its light is growing stronger. The car of progress rushes on. Fresh epics of conquest bringing. And on the plains of life The birds of hope are singing.

Illustrious Stammerers. Esop, Virgil and Demosthenes are generally known to have been stammerers, but how many others suffering from the like infirmity occupy an honorable place in the historical gallery?

The first of these whom we can recall is the prophet Moses. He, according to tradition, was a stammerer whose powers of speech were so limited that his brother Aaron always accompanied him, being specially commissioned to speak in his name and stead.

"I am not eloquent," protested Moses, "neither heretofore nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant, but I am of slow speech and of a slow tongue."

Claudius Michael II, emperor of the east; Mohammed-el-Rasser, king of Spain during the Moorish domination, and Eric, king of Sweden, stammered pitifully.

Among the 18 rulers of the name of Louis who have reigned in France, we find only one, Louis le Begue, although he was by no means the only French sovereign who stammered.—New York Journal.

Antiquity of Chess and Checkers. Chess has been attributed to Palamedes, who flourished 850 years B. C.; also to the Hindus. Some authorities consider checkers a very ancient game also—in fact, the origin of checkers and chess may be identical.

Strut, however, considers checkers a "modern invention." Mr. Mallet published in 1668 a treatise on the subject of draughts, and the game is known to have been played in Europe at least a century before. The Romans had a game called latrunculi, which was very similar in character to checkers, the pieces moving diagonally, capturing by leaping over and obtaining superior power upon arriving safely at the thirder side of the board. The board, however, consisted of but 16 squares.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

His First Lion on Her Affections. He—Will you be mine? She—Certainly not. What a question!

He—Then of course you will return the gold watch and chain? She—You never gave me a watch and chain or anything else. My friend, Mr. Lillyville, gave them to me.

He—Yes, but he got them at my store, and as he never intended to pay for them of course it is the same as though I gave them to you.

She—H'm! So it is. But this is sudden.—Boston Transcript.

Not Natural. "That clock," said the man who was looking through the senate chamber, "don't call out the hour no way, does it?"

"No," replied the guide. "Whose property is it?" "Why, it belongs to the Union." "To which?" "To the Union." "And don't strike! No, siree. Ye can't fool me."—Washington Star.

There are 16 counties in Pennsylvania and New York of the same name. They are Alleghany, Clinton, Columbia, Delaware, Erie, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, Jefferson, Monroe, Montgomery, Sullivan, Warren, Washington, Wayne and Wyoming.

There is said to be but one British house remaining where the old feudal custom is observed of guests and servants all dining together on Christmas night, and the dance afterward being led by the hostess with the gamekeeper.

Among ancient and medieval sovereigns the universal custom was to give a list of the various countries over which the monarch ruled, or was supposed to rule, and the relation he bore to each.

Actresses are compelled to paint their faces before they go on the stage, or the lights would give them the appearance of ghosts.

The title prince is from a Latin word signifying leader and dates from the early Roman emperors.

A Canadian Story.

A country town of a Sunday afternoon in Canada is the quietest of existing things. Everything in it seems lifeless. Not a sound is heard from any side. One's own cough startles one in the very streets. Two cows slowly wend their way homeward. An overripe apple falls heavily in an unkept front garden. Even these signs of semilife are a relief. Rows of youths, all dressed in somber black, and all smoking cigars fearfully, if not wonderfully, made, lean against the walls of the inn at the corner or stand in silent knots about the horse gnawed "hitching post."

Enter the inn. It is chilly, and in the common room which serves many purposes a battered stove, lacking two-thirds of its mica, radiates a dry and suffocating heat. On deal chairs, mostly tipped up, sit the youths, but just now lounging without. They say nothing, only sit and smoke and spit—how they spit! They themselves are probably all unconscious of the incessant salivary shrapneling, but I—I sit in terror, like a nervous woman dreading the pistol shots on the stage. Soon church bells begin to clang. None heeds them, nor are they over inviting. One is cracked, they are not in harmony, and they seem to be ringing a race, in which the hindmost is to win.

In the space of about an hour, however, the youths begin to move, as if with the feeling that at last will come a small relief from the awful emui which they cannot express. Church is coming out.—Blackwood's Magazine.

A Much Sought After Contributor. "It used to be," remarked a successful business man, with some literary taste and learning, "that I wrote imaginative articles for the leading magazines of the country."

"When you were young, I suppose," commented his companion. "Yes, much younger than I am now."

"Were they accepted?" "Never, but I presume with age and larger experience and riper knowledge one's style and matter improves, and the work he does is far more meritorious."

His companion showed an interest not before observable. "You don't mean," he asked, "that you send anything to them now that is acceptable?"

"Oh, yes," he replied promptly. "There isn't a magazine in the country that isn't glad to print my articles now, and some of them even solicit them. I have something in some of them every month."

"I have never noticed them" (more surprised than ever). "Are they signed?" "Yes, by the firm's name. You will find them in the advertising pages."—London Million.

Sacred Cats. The ancient Egyptians worshipped the goddess Seneh, a creature with a human body and a cat's head. Seneh's shrine was at the once famous city of Bubastis. Hither an average of 700,000 devotees resorted annually, each district delegation taking all the dead cats which had "quitted the sphere of action" in their respective localities during the year. These dead cats, all of which were carefully wrapped and embalmed, were buried at the celebrated "cat cemetery" on the plains of Zakazik, that being the place where the image of Seneh was set up. One of the greatest curiosities of present day Egypt is the catacombs, where the remains of these countless thousands of cats are to be seen, each wrapped in linen and sealed up in a red earthenware jar.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

An Unsatisfactory Service. "What is this, please?" queried a dejected boarder as he cautiously, with the tip of his knife, turned over a sorry remnant of fowl on his plate.

"That," replied the landlady laughingly, "is duck—redhead duck, Mr. Gibson—and let me add it is considered a great delicacy here. I suppose you were not familiar with it when you resided at Sawpits."

"Oh, I knew it was duck, madam, but I couldn't tell the color of its head. It's difficult to determine one's extremity from another, and I have nothing but the webbed feet of the beast here."—New York Herald.

Rhymes for Timbuctoo. Timbuctoo is chiefly interesting as the subject of verses submitted for a prize offered many years ago by Punch for rhymes to that curious name. One of the verses was:

If I were a missionary, I would eat a missionary, skin and bones and hymnbook too.

Another, with a more perfect rhyme, ran thus:

As I was hunting on the plains, All on the plains of Timbuctoo, A buck was all I got for my pains, And he was a slim buck too.

—Philadelphia Ledger.

Honolulu. It is said that Honolulu was the first community in the world to make practical use of the telephone. Modern science advances very slowly in Honolulu generally, but when that community heard of the telephone it adopted it as one man. The people still eat raw fish and use their fingers in carrying it to the mouths, but they use more telephones in proportion to population than New York does.—Chicago Tribune.

INTELLECT AND STATURE.

Criminals and Lunatics Have Less Than Average Height and Weight. The influence of different occupations on adults, of town and country life, of intellectual and physical exercises and of athletics is well brought out by anthropometric inquiry. Measurements extending over 27 successive years have been made at the school of the Society of Friends at York. Friends are largely a commercial and therefore a town dwelling class, and yet there is a slight improvement shown in stature and a very decided improvement shown in weight in later years. The beneficial action of the factory acts, of higher wages, cheaper and better food and clothing and improved sanitary surroundings of the working classes in recent years, is brought out by the measurements.

On the other hand, observations show that school life under favorable conditions imparts the physical development of children, and this is most marked in charity schools. Measurements made at the Duke of York's school at Chelsea show that the children who are the sons of soldiers, and therefore of a class selected for physical fitness, were until recently very inferior in stature and weight to boys of their own class living in their own homes. A similar falling off has prevailed at the Blue Coat school among boys belonging to a higher class of society in consequence of bad sanitary arrangements and probable faults in the feeding and discipline of the inmates. The average stature of boys of different classes of the community varies between the best nurtured boys in our public schools and the worst nurtured class in our industrial schools to the extent of about seven inches in boys of the age of 14 years.

A fact of rather peculiar nature has also been brought to light by anthropometry—namely, that girls from 11 to 14 years are taller and heavier than boys of corresponding ages. The average height of Scotch agricultural laborers (Galloway) is 5 feet 10.5 inches; fellows of the Royal society, 5 feet 9.76 inches; athletes, 5 feet 8.34 inches; lunatics, 5 feet 5.70 inches; criminals, 5 feet 5.60 inches; Herefordshire laborers, 5 feet 5.35 inches and idiots and imbeciles 5 feet 4.84 inches. When compared with the general population, lunatics show a deficiency of nearly two inches in stature and 10 pounds in weight, while criminals are two inches shorter and 18 pounds lighter, besides showing a marked deficiency of physical as well as mental stamina.—Newcastle (England) Chronicle.

A Nest Building Fish. One of the queerest denizens of the deep, and one which could very properly be called an ichthyological wonder, is the gouramis, the famous nest building fish of the oriental seas. These fish are very plentiful in the waters of Cochinchina, Java, Sumatra and Borneo. At the breeding they pair off like birds, and selecting a favorable spot in shallow water among aquatic plants and grasses build large spherical nests of floating weeds and plaster them over with mud. The broad, flat fins used in this last operation are attached to the abdomen and are wholly different from anything in the fin line known to naturalists. The full grown female gouramis is 6 feet long and weighs 110 pounds. The eggs of this queer fish, which are deposited in the mud plastered nest, number from 800 to 1,000.—St. Louis Republic.

A Shrewd Preacher. A preacher advocating the support of a charitable object prefaced the circulation of the boxes with this address:

"From the great sympathy I have witnessed in your countenances, there is only one thing I am afraid of—that some of you may feel inclined to give too much. Now, it is my duty to inform you that justice should always be a prior virtue to generosity, therefore I wish to have it thoroughly understood that no person will think of putting anything into the box who cannot pay his debts."

The result was an overflowing collection.—London Tit-Bits.

Jack Tar and His Money. Sailors are almost the only class of workmen who have considerable sums of money to spend on payday. A jolly tar was buying a watch. The price was \$40. Jack bought the watch without any higgling and carelessly threw down a \$20 bill. The jeweler pointed out the deficiency.

"Oh!" was the remark. "I didn't know I had that. I'm so much in." And he fished another bill out of a greasy wallet and threw it on the showcase. It was a \$50 bill.—Jewelers' Circular.

Method in His Madness. Mrs. Wickwire—What is the use of standing there and calling the store names! That won't make the fire burn any better.

Mr. Wickwire—I thought that maybe if I could insult the blamed thing it would get hot about it.—Indianapolis Journal.

Sponge Cake. "Do you call this sponge cake? Why, it's as hard as can be."

"Yes, mum. That's the way a sponge is before it's wet. Soak it in your tea, mum."—London Punch.

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HUNTER AND GAME FROZEN. The Sturgeon, Discovery of a Man and a Bear in a Block of Ice. James Smithers, an English resident of Haliburton, Ont., while out hunting with a party of visitors from the old country recently, met with a singular adventure, which also led to as singular a discovery. A band of moose, the first seen that far south for many years, had been driven down by the scouts of the expedition, and it was while in full chase of these that the others swept on, leaving Smithers to follow. Wishing to overtake them as quickly as possible, he took a short cut across the country and was astonished all at once to find himself sinking. He fell about six feet, but owing to the descent of the loose earth with him sustained no injury. He was amazed to find the bottom of the pit composed of solid ice of a brackish taste and evidently of untold age.

Walking about the pit Smithers made out an object protruding from the icy foundation, and with his short hunting ax cut away the surrounding material until he saw that the object was a human hand holding a spear. Further excavation revealed the entire figure of a man clad in furs and perfectly preserved by his cold bed. Near at hand were also the remains of a deer, which the hunter had doubtless lost his life in pursuing to this treacherous spot. The frozen man was an Indian of noble build and wore a chief's amulet about his neck. That he died of cold was plainly to be seen by his expression, which was the placid one of persons who die thus. The skin of his face and hands was drawn and like parchment, but that protected by his clothing was firm and natural, as if death had come within the hour. When found by his friends, Smithers was trying to reenter the corpse in order to preserve it, but the action of the air had already begun, and the body soon wasted away in rapid dissolution.

It is impossible to say how long it had lain buried in the natural ice-house—perhaps before Henry Hudson sailed the bay to the east; perhaps when Christianity was dawning on earth or the pyramids in course of construction.—Chicago Herald.

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