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Balloons of Peculiarities.
 Hobson thinks a tall one hurts our people every day. Jimpton says, with solemnity, "We do not conserve our hay." Junket holds that banners gray—Smooth, round boys with whiskers curled—Slyly take our wealth away. Isn't this a queer old world?
 Plimpton fears that lawyers tie knots in justice when they may. Tiltit rises to decry Bench and jurist and their sway. Piker feels that statesmen pay heed to Mammon's flags unfurled. And from grossly purpose stray. Isn't this a queer old world?
 Tipton swears that men who die All in paradise shall stay. Twinkle finds that truths supply None with reason to be gay. Tingly thinks we ought to lay Parsons who have always lurled. Erlinstone threats in dire array. Isn't this a queer old world?

L'ENVOI.
 Friend, what is your hobby, pray?
 By such things our thoughts are whirled.
 Take my word for it, I say,
 "Isn't this a queer old world?"
 —Chicago News.

System.
 Colonel G. is a fine commander, but not a musician. He sent for the chief musician of his regiment band one day and delivered this scathing criticism: "I notice a lack of uniformity about the band which must be regulated. Yesterday morning they were out on parade and the largest man in the band was playing a little bit of an instrument—flute or something of the kind—and you had the big drum played by a small man. That sort of a thing doesn't look well and must be attended to. I want the small men to play small instruments, and the big men to play the big instruments. And another thing—I want the trombone players to slide their instruments in and out in unison. It annoys me to see them all out of step with their hands."—New York American.

The Span of Life.
 Doc Wiley he says ninety-three Can be attained by you and me; That we can climb all over time By doing certain things. If, butts and ends, one understands, Must be achieved, for age demands The light of heart which takes a part In follies, fads and flings.
 But does he say in artless way One gains these years in Gotham gay? If that's the shot, then life lacks not The joys for which man cries. For here, you see, years ninety-three Mean full four hundred, you'll agree. We crowd and push with such a rush That time just multiplies.
 Here's argument for who is bent On city life: 'Tis not intent To help purify the crimping coil Nor modern methods knife, But to obtain a noted gain. Of years, albeit ones of pain. Here one may squeeze years in with ease And thuswise add to life.
 —New York Tribune.

Repeating the Performance.
 When Uncle Ben brought a box of candy for little Beth he wanted to surprise her with it. "I think somebody wants you in the next room, Elizabeth," he said. While the little girl was out of the room Uncle Ben placed the candy on a chair where she would be sure to see it when she returned. "Oh, goodie!" cried the delighted little miss when she espied the candy. "Where did it come from?" "It must have come there while you were out of the room," said Uncle Ben. "You stay right here, uncle," enthusiastically exclaimed Beth. "I'm going out of the room again!"—Youngstown Telegram.

On Marriage.
 Tell me not in mournful accents Marriage is an empty dream And the soul is dead that's married And men are not what they seem.
 Life is real, life is earnest, Single blessedness a fib. Dust thou art, to dust returneth, Has been spoken of the rib.
 Not enjoyment and not sorrow Is our destined end or way. We must live that each tomorrow Brings us nearer marriage day.
 In the world's broad field of battle, In the bivouac of life, Be not like dumb driven cattle; Be a heroine, a wife.
 Let us then be up and doing, With our hearts on triumph set. Still conjuring, still pursuing, Till we all a husband get.
 —Portland Oregonian.

A Fair Exchange.
 "People say you've been sheriff too long, Jim."
 "I expect I have. They also say you oughter step down and let somebody else be postmaster."
 "I admit I've been postmaster long enough."
 "Well, after this term s'pose we exchange places."—Pittsburgh Post.

Always With Us.
 I sing my rune about the prune. To praise it is no treason. This festive fruit tries hard to suit And always is in season.
 The melon goes, and I suppose That higher than a steepie Would praise research for pear and peach. They are not for poor people.
 I hanker not for apricot Or plum, and for good reason. I have that boon, the festive prune, Which always is in season.
 —Kansas City Journal.

Good Retort.
 Foozler on the Links (who has already lost two balls in the long grass as the result of some atrociously bad shots, is now vainly searching for No. 3 and is not in the sweetest of tempers, to long suffering caddie)—Thought you'd come out to look after the ball! Caddie (with some head)—Aye! As I thought you'd come out to play golf!
 —New York Journal.

Pet Colors For Flags.
 Has it ever struck you which color is most often seen in the flags of the world? Probably it hasn't, because there are not many people who can recognize more than half a dozen flags at the outside. Well, the most popular color is red, which is found in the standards of no fewer than nineteen countries out of twenty-five. Practically every one of the European states, together with Mexico, Venezuela, Chile and Cuba, boasts the color red in their national flags. Blue is found in the emblems of the United States, Russia, France, Great Britain, Holland, Ecuador, Sweden, Chile, Portugal, Venezuela and Cuba. Black is not at all popular, being found only in the cases of Germany, Belgium and China, while Germany is noticeable for having black and white together. Nine countries boast of a flag partly yellow—viz, Austria, Spain, Belgium, Brazil, Persia, Sweden, Egypt, China and Venezuela. To Ecuador belongs the distinction of having a standard nearer white than any other country.—New York Post.

Thrilling Balloon Experience.
 Probably no aeronauts have ever survived to tell such a thrilling story of their experiences as Messrs. Gialsher and Coxwell when, in 1802, they made their record ascent of seven miles. When the balloon had reached a height of 29,000 feet Mr. Gialsher records, "I dimly saw Mr. Coxwell in the ring and endeavored to speak, but could not, when in an instant intense black darkness came, and I suddenly became unconscious." Mr. Coxwell himself was on the point of succumbing to the intense cold. The hoar frost was all around the neck of the balloon, his hands were frozen and powerless, and as the balloon was still rising swiftly death seemed inevitable to both aeronauts. Mr. Coxwell despaired of opening the valve to release the gas. Insensibility was rapidly coming over him, and it was only "at the last gasp" that by a happy inspiration he seized the cord with his teeth and "dipped his head two or three times until the balloon took a decided turn downward."

Stale Styles For China.
 Men who have wondered what becomes of the large stocks of hats, caps and clothing that remain unsold at the close of each season in this country will be interested to learn that a considerable portion of such stock is disposed of in China, where the men are adopting the dress of their western brothers. The rising generation of Chinese is particularly keen for headgear worn in America, but the styles seen there are always those that were in vogue in this country the year before. Much of the men's apparel that fails to find a market in this country finds its way to the far east. In a walk through the streets of any Chinese city one sees derbies, fedoras and caps that bear American labels. Most of the caps are of British make because many of the tourists come from London, and in selecting a cap the native has no guide except the headgear he sees on foreigners.—New York Herald.

Bible Animals and Plants.
 Plants, animals and birds of the Bible have been made the subject of a special exhibition in the natural history department of the British museum. Among the striking bits of information contained in this work are the following: The common fowl is not mentioned in the Old Testament and was probably introduced into Palestine after the Roman conquest. The unicorn of the Old Testament was probably the Syrian aurochs, now extinct. That the behemoth was not the hippopotamus is believed probable because of the fact that there is no record of the latter animal in Syria or Palestine in historical times. The tares of the Bible were darnel grasses whose seeds are poisonous, the rose was probably the narcissus, while the lily was the poppy anemone.

The Danes.
 The Danes, or Northmen, first became prominent in European history in 783, when they began to ravage the north coast of France and southern shores of Great Britain. The darling of these warty seamen was remarkable, for in their small ships they even penetrated the Mediterranean and became terrors to the seaboard population of Italy, Sicily and Greece. The first king of Denmark is said to have been Skold, 60 B. C.

A Bonehead.
 Reggie (over on a visit)—Do you know, old chap, I think that vulgar fellow over there insulted me. American friend—You think so? What did he say? Reggie—Why, he suggested in a very rude manner that when I die I bequeath my head to a collar button factory.—Boston Transcript.

A Sad Condition.
 "Yes," said Bilddad, settling back comfortably in his chair. "I must confess that I've got about everything I want."
 "Poor chap!" said Dubbleigh sympathetically. "Not a thing left to look forward to, eh?"—Harper's Weekly.

Scientific.
 A scientific figure that the earth is shrinking about two inches a year. This may account for the anxiety of some people to possess it while it is of some size.—New Orleans Picayune.

A Well Mated Pair.
 Manager—I am looking for a man I can trust. Applicant—And I'm looking for a man who will trust me. We ought to get along fine.—Boston Transcript.

Leaders Who Changed Their Names.
 Jeremiah Jones Colbrath was the original name of Henry Wilson, who was elected vice president with Grant in 1872 and who had served long in house and senate. How would Grant and Colbrath have sounded as a campaign cry? Why Wilson made the change is not explained by his biographer.
 Grant had his name changed from Hiram Clysses. The representative who appointed him to West Point got the name Clysses Simpson, the latter being the maiden name of his mother. So Grant let it remain as the government had made him officially.
 Grover Cleveland was Stephen Grover, the late Whitelaw Reid was Jacob Whitelaw Reid, and Speaker Clark was christened James Beauchamp Clark. Former Senator Dick's full name is Charles William Frederick, but he dropped all but the Charles when he got in high politics. Woodrow Wilson was Thomas Woodrow Wilson.—Washington Post.

The Year of the Sudden Change.
 One of the most remarkable stories of sudden cold weather is to be found in a famous biography of Abraham Lincoln. The year 1836, was long known as "the year of the sudden change." At noon on Dec. 20 of that year, after a warm, rainy morning, the temperature suddenly fell 40 degrees. A man riding into Springfield, Ill., for a marriage license found the raindrops dripping from his bridle and beard, changed "in a second" into jingling icicles. Geese and chickens were caught by their feet and wings and frozen to the wet ground. A drove of 1,000 hogs being driven to St. Louis rushed together for warmth and formed a huge pile. Those inside smothered, while those outside froze, and the ghastly pyramid remained on the prairie for months. Men caught on the prairie killed their horses, disemboweled them and crept into the cavity of their bodies to escape the murderous blizzard.

Trick of a Flash of Lightning.
 Lightning plays some peculiar tricks at times, but we have never heard anything to come up to the following, which the Melbourne Age properly labels "Extraordinary Incident."
 "A young man, while riding through the timber country at Willing during a recent storm, had a remarkable escape from death in peculiar circumstances. A large tree directly in front of him was struck by lightning and split in halves. The horse he was riding, becoming terrified, started to plunge and jumped through the gap between the halves of the tree. At that moment the halves came together with a snap like a rabbit trap and crushed off a length of the horse's tail, which can still be seen protruding from the tree. The young man received a severe shaking, but otherwise came through the ordeal safely."

His Special Treat.
 The vicar of an east end parish is telling a queer little story that illustrates the relations between husband and wife in that quarter of London. He was returning home late one night when he overtook a man who was violently abusing and ill using a woman. The poor woman was coming off very badly and she had already got a damaged eye when the clergyman went up and remonstrated with the man on his behavior. For a moment the blows and abuse were stayed, the man being too surprised at the interruption to continue. Then, to the astonishment of the peacekeeper, the ill used woman signed to him to go away. Wiping her eyes with her shawl, she informed him soothingly:
 "It's all right, sir. Let 'im be. I'm 'is wife, and it's 'is birthday!"—London Answers.

An Opening For an Angel.
 One of Oscar Hammerstein's scene painters came to him at the Hammerstein London Opera House one day when Hammerstein was in the midst of his difficulties and said:
 "Oh, Mr. Hammerstein, I have just painted a beautiful scene, a most exquisite scene."
 "What is it?" demanded Hammerstein.
 "It is a syrian dell—a most charming landscape!"
 "Bah!" shouted Hammerstein. "What do I want with a syrian dell? Paint me a banker! Paint me a banker!"—Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post.

On a Needle Point.
 Indirectly Pasteur solved the famous medieval problem. "How many angels can stand on the point of a needle?" Sir W. Crookes said that altering the word "angels" to "devils" he had found that of one of the deadliest diseases that had ever scourged mankind 500 of the maleficent microbes—veritable devils—could, without overcrowding, find place on the point of the finest needle.

Not Worthless.
 Patience—Why, her husband is absolutely worthless. Patrice—Oh, you shouldn't say that. You know it has been proved that a man weighing 150 pounds contains enough grease to make seventy-five candies and a pound of soap.—Yonkers Statesman.

A Real Hero.
 From boyhood every man wears in his heart the image of his ideal woman. Then he marries the substitute, sets her burnt biscuits and says nothing.—Florida Times-Union.

Simply Didn't Do It.
 Mother—Now, Willie, tell me the truth. You forgot to wash your face this morning, didn't you? Willie—No, mother, honest, I didn't forget.—Judge.

The greater part of an astronomer's time nowadays, says World's Work, is spent in studying photographs. He looks more through a microscope than through a telescope.

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The Ruling Passion.
 A young contractor in a Missouri town found himself after the war in dire financial straits. He owned a few pieces of property, all of which were mortgaged, the mortgage in each instance being held by an old man who lived with his one son, Brocky, in a tumble-down but that could not be rented to any one else. In the course of time the miser foreclosed, taking over all the contractor's property, which was valued in excess of the amounts loaned. The contractor began to pay rent on the house in which he lived. Three months after the foreclosure the miser lay dying. An urgent message reached the contractor, and he, supposing that the other, knowing his end to be near, wanted to make what restitution he could for the good of his soul, hurried down to the cabin. He found the old man in a rickety bed, covered with a tattered quilt and an old overcoat. The contractor bent his ear hopefully to the breath's lips. The miser drew a long breath, clutched the quilt in a skinny hand and whispered:
 "Pay your next month's rent to Brocky."—Kansas City Star.

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Bull Chasing In London.
 From the time of King John till 1859 Nov. 13 was known as bull running day in Stamford. A seventeenth century historian gives an interesting account of the observance.
 "The butchers provide the bull and place him overnight in a stable belonging to the alderman. The next morning proclamation is made by the bellman that each one shut up his shop door and gate and none under pain of imprisonment do any violence to strangers; none to have any iron upon their bull clubs or other staves, which they pursue the bull with. Which proclamation being made and the gates all shut up, the bull is turned out of the alderman's house, and then hive skivy, tagrag, men, women and children of all sorts and sizes, with all the dogs in the town running after him."
 At the close of the chase the animal was killed and its flesh sold at a nominal rate to the burghers.—London Spectator.

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