

# THE DURHAM CHRONICLE

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## A Noteworthy Race.

The population of St. Kilda, the most westerly of the inhabited Scottish isles, is a unique one in many respects. The people are the most lonely in the United Kingdom, there being very little communication with the mainland and sometimes not for months at a stretch. Socially the islanders are practically a commune. If the head of a household is injured or loses his life among the rocks, his widow and family share in the proceeds of their labor as if he were there to take part in it. If family illness prevents any one joining in the day's work, he is asked to stay at home, and his interests will not be lost sight of. All questions, complaints, etc., are determined by their mode, or local parliament, whose judgment is final. Early morning conferences usually determine the day's tasks.

St. Kildians are a most industrious and active as well as a religious people, and on the island at any rate the vexed problem of church attendance has been solved. Every man, woman and child capable of leaving the household goes regularly to church, and only some serious disability will keep any person at home.—Scottish American.

## Influence of Children.

Childhood in its weakness is often a strength that resists the strain of all the passions, and that holds even when deep hatred exerts its power to drive asunder.

"If it were not for the child, I would not live with you another day," I heard an angry husband say to his wife, when righteous indignation drove him nearly to distraction.

That was quite a number of years ago, and now they have two more children to strengthen the bond between them. This little episode of domestic infelicity was recalled by some statistics that recently emanated from Berlin and which speak volumes.

These statistics have been carefully gathered from the divorce courts, and show that out of 1,000 divorces 540 were granted where there were no children, 214 where there was one child, 139 where there were two children, 60 where there were three children, 25 where there were four children, 12 where there were five children and 10 where there were six children.

## He Wasn't Too Deaf.

Deafness is largely a matter of habit, says a writer in the New York Press. I know men who cannot hear you two feet away, though you bawl at them, yet at the distance of a block they will grasp your faintest whisper. Some are deaf for convenience, some for fraud, some for hypocrisy. Beware of the deaf man. One of the noted deaf men was old Matt Griffin, long ago an assemblyman from Griffin's Corners, Delaware county, N. Y. By courtesy deaf members receive front seats in the assembly, while others usually draw lots. When old Matt was excused from drawing a fellow member hotly protested. "But the old man is as deaf as a post," said the house leader. "Deaf!" exclaimed the protestant. "Matt Griffin deaf! Why, bless your honest soul, he could hear a ten cent shinpilaster rattle in a bag of feathers!"

## The First Iron Ship.

The first iron ship has more reputed birthplaces than Homer, according to Chambers' Journal. Both the Clyde and the Mersey claim pre-eminence in this respect. Sir E. J. Robinson of Edinburgh designed an iron vessel in 1816, which was not launched till three years later, and it is said that an iron boat was worked on the Severn even as far back as 1787. Steel was not used in the construction of merchant ships' hulls until 1850. Old salts were not alone in their belief that wood was meant by Providence to float, but iron to go to the bottom. A naval constructor of some repute once said: "Don't talk to me of iron ships. They are contrary to nature." Now none but small craft are built of wood in England.

## The Poor Dog.

A Parisian clothes dealer kicked a dog out of his shop. The dog shot out with some rapidity and knocked over a woman with a jug of milk. The woman broke the jug and upset an elderly gentleman, and the jug cut both of them. At that moment a cyclist arrived and was thrown off his machine by the prostrate figures, and simultaneously a cart came up and smashed the bicycle. The magistrate blandly advised the entire squad to proceed against the dog, and they are now looking for it.—London Globe.

## Plenty on Hand.

"You would get along a great deal better if you didn't get so excited," said the calm man to his irascible friend. "Can't you learn to keep your temper?" "Keep my temper! Well, I like that!" retorted the other. "I'd have you understand that I keep more temper in one day than you have in your possession during a whole year!"

## It Wasn't All in Him.

"Johnny," said his mother severely, "some one has taken a big piece of gingerbread out of the pantry." Johnny blushed guiltily. "Oh, Johnny!" she exclaimed, "I didn't think it was in you." "It ain't all," replied Johnny; "part of it's in Elsie."

## Two Problems.

"Dorothy always begins a novel in the middle." "What's that for?" "Why, then she has two problems to be excited over, how the story will end and how it began."

Fortune smiles on the few. To the majority she gives the laugh.

Necessity is the argument of tyrants. It is the creed of slaves.—Pitt.

## BEING A GOOD FELLOW.

It is a Losing Game in the Long Run For Most Men.

Any sensible young man ought to know that he can't be up late nights abusing his stomach and be in full possession of his faculties for business the next day, and he ought to know also that a man must be clear headed and in full possession of his faculties to hold his own in the keen competition of life. Your "good fellow" is popular for the time being, but when his money is gone and he has lost his job and is on his uppers the "good fellow" business doesn't get him anything. It's "poor fellow" then—another good man gone wrong, and "the boys" are ready to hail another "good fellow" who has the price.

We don't mean by this to say that "the boys" are mercenary. They don't altogether pass up a "good fellow" when he goes broke, but it isn't the same. They say he hit the booze too hard and couldn't stand the pace. They feel sorry for him, but he is out of it. His good fellowship doesn't excuse him even in the eyes of his friends for having thrown away his opportunity.

The young man who gets the sleep his system needs, is temperate in his habits, lives within his means and shows up for work in the morning with a clear eye and active brain—that's the man business men are looking for. They want employees whom they can trust. Having worked hard and laid by a competence, they want to throw some of the burdens off, and they won't throw them off on the employee who is too much of a "good fellow."

Cut it out, boys. There's nothing in it. There's a whole lot of nonsense in that "good fellow" business. You can't fool the public very long by living beyond your means and keeping up appearances. There must be a showdown some time or other, and that means a loss of self respect and many bitter experiences. Many a bright and promising business man has failed because he tried to travel in too swift a class, whereas had he lived within his means he might have become a highly successful merchant.

The world doesn't give up its treasures easily. It isn't in the cards for all of us to be millionaires, and mighty few of the "good fellows" get into that class. It's better to earn your way first and go hunting for good times when you have reached the point where you can spare both the time and the money. Then possibly you'll have more sense and have a different notion about what a good time is.

## An Enemy of Panics.

There is one enemy for which the pansy lover must watch like a lynx, and that is a little green worm that seems made on purpose to devour panics. Where he comes from or why he should exist at all is a mystery. But if you find your little plants stop growing and see the leaves perforated with small holes and your blossoms gnawed behold, your enemy is there. Eternal vigilance alone will save you. Your face must be brought to the surface of the ground. Kneel and turn up every leaf. Doubtless you will find the small green monster curled up and hiding, sucking out all the juices of the plant and so becoming exactly its color, which makes him so difficult to find, and if not checked he will utterly destroy it. He will devour it in a few days.

## The Boy.

A boy is an odd piece of furniture, but he is the ground and chief ingredient of the man. Delude not yourself with the belief that the boy is not all he pretends to be, for he is a great deal more. He is an incomprehensible fellow to any one but another boy, and because he will presently grow into the awkward between hay and grass period that separates boyhood from manhood, and to a lumbering idiot then, don't signify that he is an idiot now. He never is. But his chrysalis state fetters him and makes him seem like one sometimes.

## He Succeeded.

A man arrested for murder bribed an Irishman on the jury with £200 to hang out for a verdict of manslaughter. The jury were out a long time and finally came in with a verdict of manslaughter. The man rushed up to the Irish juror and said: "I'm obliged to you, my friend. Did you have a hard time?" "Yes," said the Irishman; "an awful time. The other eleven wanted to acquit yer."—London Answers.

## The Last Dueling Clergymen.

"When did clergymen cease to fight duels?" is a startling inquiry in Notes and Queries. It will be news to many of us that they were ever fond of that exhilarating pastime. But, as a matter of fact, the Rev. Mr. A. J. B. fought a duel with Lloyd Pelany, Esq., and killed him in Hyde park in 1782. He was convicted of manslaughter and fined 1 shilling plus six months in Newgate.

## His Usual Preference.

"What kind of meat have you this morning, Larry?" asked the board of trade operator. "Well, sir," said the butcher, "I've got some fine bear steak and some beef that's just bully!" "H'mph! Give me some lamb!"

## Quite Another Thing.

"He was unable to meet his bills, I understand?" "Well, that's where you're wrong. He couldn't dodge them."

Leave your worries at home when you travel. You can get a fresh supply anywhere.

## Embarrassing.

A settlement worker, having been requested by anxious mothers to address the younger women of the settlement clubs on "heart interest" topics, decided to do so. She talked with the girls earnestly, urging upon them the deep and intrinsic sacredness of all love and marriage relations, the coarseness and vulgarity of indiscriminate flirtations, the great and growing need for high ideals, standards and action on the woman's part. Then, just as she took her seat, it occurred to her that she might have talked a little bit over the heads of her listeners, and she sprang to her feet with an added remark:

"Please believe that what I say is true, my dear friends," she exhorted earnestly, "and please don't think I don't understand my subject. I know what I'm talking about, girls—I really do."

Once more she took her seat, delighted with the air of general interest, and from the rear of the room came the question: "Please, Mrs. S., how many times have you been in love?"

## The Word "Jolly."

On the adoption of the word "jolly" into the English it had the meaning of beautiful, as it has among the French today. The English dramatist Beaumont of the sixteenth century speaks of our first mother as "the jolly Eve." In time, however, it came to mean hilarious, regardless of physical beauty. But this latter meaning is probably the right one after all, as the word doubtless comes from Yule (Yule), the pagan Christmas, so to speak, for he it is known that what we now observe as Christmas day was a heathen holiday called Yule, and the Yule festival was one of noisy demonstration.

Yule indeed means noise or outcry, praising in loud voice, chanting, singing, making outcry in honor of their god. From yule, then, to jolly the step is short and easy, both meaning revelry, rejoicing. Ours is a risen Lord, theirs the same. The words are identical. So, too, in large degree the Christmas jollities, praises and those of heathen Yule. Into such close relation do simple words sometimes connect the present with the past.

## A Chinese Joke.

In his book on "China and the Chinese" Dr. Giles gives a specimen of Chinese humor which, if the source were not known, might well be mistaken for American humor.

There is a Chinese story which tells how a very stingy man took a paltry sum of money to an artist—payment is always exacted in advance—and asked him to paint his portrait. The artist at once complied with the request, but when the portrait was finished nothing was visible save the back of the sitter's head.

"What does this mean?" cried the sitter indignantly. "Well," replied the artist, "I thought a man who paid so little as you paid wouldn't care to show his face."

## Great Natures.

Great natures are always generous. They are fountains not only of vitality, but of bestowal. However great the rewards they receive may be, these rewards are but a fraction of the worth of the service rendered, and no man ought to be satisfied, whatever his position or work, unless he can feel that he is giving far more than he is receiving, that a very large part of what he does is not returned in money, but in the practical side he must still be counted one of the benefactors of his kind because of the generosity of his bestowal.—Outlook.

## Peach Pits.

The statement has been made that prussic acid was made from peach stones. This is altogether a mistake, for, although under certain conditions a trace of the main principle of the deadly poison can be found in peach stones, there is not sufficient to produce the acid without other essential ingredients. Indeed, without the process of fermentation there is no evidence at all of prussic acid in the stones.—Exchange.

## Just the Place.

Irate Landlord (to couple who are taking a lovers' walk on his property)—Now, then, can't you read? Amorous Youth—Oh, yes, we can read. Irate Landlord—Then go to the end of this road and read the sign there. Amorous Youth—We have read it. It says, "Private," and that is just why we came down here.

## In the Sweet By and By.

"Professor," inquired the thoughtful member of the class, "don't you suppose there will come a time when all the coal and all the coal oil stored away in the earth will have become exhausted?" "Certainly," said the instructor. "What will we do then?" "We shall be playing harps, I hope."

## That Settled Him.

Husband—You're not economical. Wife—Well, if you don't call a woman an economical who saves her wedding dress for a possible second marriage I'd like to know what you think economy is!

All the World's a 'Potheary Shop. Sezzo—Rummer is not an author; he's a born chemist. Tizzo—Why? Sezzo—Every novel he writes becomes a drug on the market.

## A Big Difference.

Madge—Don't you think a girl should marry an economical man? Dolly—I suppose so, but it's just awful being engaged to one.

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