

NOT MERELY IDLING

WHEREIN WRITER RESEMBLED MAN ON BUOY.

Stuck in the Usual Run of Ideas—The Story of the Man Who Was Stuck Fast to the Buoy—That writer, said a publisher, referring to an author who seemed to be idling away his time, "is in reality trying hard to work, to get his ideas flowing, but he is stuck."

"He said to me himself that he resembled a man who made a bet one summer day at the shore that he would swim out a mile and a half to a certain buoy. The bet was accepted, and the man stripped and plunged in. His friend retired to the hotel to watch his progress from the window."

"From the window with a fieldglass the friend saw the swimmer reach the buoy in due course, draw himself up out of the water and sit down comfortably, with his legs dangling over. So far so good. Evidently he was resting well pleased with his feat."

"Some minutes passed, and the swimmer had not moved. The watcher returned to his book. But every now and then he looked up, and still the swimmer sat in the same position on the buoy."

"An hour, two hours went by. Still the swimmer remained. A white, slim figure seen against the oncoming dark, he sat on the buoy's edge. His feet dangled in the sea. He seemed to be musing."

"Finally it began to grow quite dark, and, thoroughly alarmed at last, the watcher got a boat and a couple of barges and rowed out to his friend."

"Out there the mystery was soon explained. The man was stuck fast to the buoy, which had been freshly tarred that morning."

MEN OF EARLIER AGES.

Were They the Mental Peers of the Men of Today?

The general idea that our enormous advances in science and command over nature serve as demonstrations of our mental superiority to the men of earlier ages is totally unfounded. The evidence of history and of the earliest monuments alike goes to indicate that our intellectual and moral nature has not advanced in any perceptible degree. In the second place, we find that the supposed great mental inferiority of savages is equally unfounded. The more they are sympathetically studied the more they are found to resemble ourselves in their inherent intellectual powers.

Even the so long despised Australian savages, although the lowest in material progress, yet show by their complex language, their social regulations and often by an innate nobility of character indications of a very similar inner nature to our own. If they possess fewer philosophers and moralists, they are also free from so large a proportion of unbalanced minds—idiots and lunatics—as we possess. On the other hand, we find in the higher Pacific types men who, though savages as regards material progress, are yet generally admitted to be physically, intellectually and morally our equals, if not our superiors. * * * Thirdly, we have no proof whatever that even the men of the stone age were mentally or morally inferior to ourselves.—Alfred Russel Wallace in Fortnightly Review.

A Curious Grace.

The most curious form, or, rather, expression, of grace after meat which I have ever come across was that customary at Clifford's Inn, one of the vanished inns of chancery. The society consisted of two distinct bodies, the principal and the Kentish tables, each body having its own table. At the conclusion of the dinner the chairman of the Kentish mess, first bowing to the principal of the inn, took from the hands of the servant some small rolls or loaves of bread and, without saying a word, dashed them several times on the table, after which they were taken away. Solemn silence reigned only by the thumps prevailed during this curious substitute for a verbal grace.—Cor. London Chronicle.

Instinct and Reason.

Instinct is the generic term for all those faculties of mind which lead to the performance of actions that are adaptive in character, but pursued without necessary knowledge of the relation between the means employed and the ends attained. Reason refers to those actions that are adaptive in character and that are pursued with knowledge of the relation between the means employed and the ends aimed at. Such is the technical statement of the difference between instinct and reason, but the real, basic difference between the two faculties is unknown and probably unknowable.—New York American.

Thackeray's Pink Bonnets.

Thackeray was fond of putting pink bonnets on such of his lady characters as were to be specially fascinating. The eternal Becky wore one, the mousy Amelia wore one on her wedding tour (very probably on her second one also), and the dashing Betrix also set off her beauty by this means.—Exchange.

Awful Effects.

"Acrid Ike—Dey say dat steady drip-ple' of water'll wear away a stone. Dreamy Pete—Jes' t'ink, den, wot'd happen if a man's stomach by pourin' ginastals inter it.—Bohemian.

Quite Useful.

"She has a very useful husband." "How do you make that out?" "He can always suggest something that he wants for dinner."—Detroit Free Press.

A generous confession discards slander.—French Proverb.

LAUGHTER ANALYZED.

The Observations of a Man With a Sensitive Ear.

"Of course you have heard," said the man with a sensitive ear, "a laugh that jarred. I don't mean," he continued, "so much a laugh at an inopportune time—I imagine we have all heard such laughs—as a laugh the quality of which is unpleasant. There is something contagious in laughter of the right kind, even though you may be the object of it. It bubbles from the well of good humor. There is no hidden thought, or 'arrière-pensée,' as the French say, behind it. It is the essence of frankness; it is spontaneous and whole-souled, and it cleanses the system of the laughter and, too, of the hearer, like a spiritual bath."

"But there are other kinds of laughter. The sneering laugh is perhaps the most familiar. Then there is a quiet laugh, a sibilant, secretive sort of laugh that is quite as certain to mean mischief. Another laugh, disagreeable in its nature, is the high pitched, nervous chinchination that comes either from embarrassment or is a mere vocal habit. The worst laugh of all, however, to my mind, is that mirthless sound provoked by the distress or embarrassment of others, and it rasps naturally most of all the object calling it forth. A person laughed at and hurt never forgets the experience."

HUMAN LOVE.

The One Joyous Impulse That Rules the Whole Wide World.

There lives somewhere in the depths of every human heart the divine spark that we call love. It is the voice of the universe shimmering in its narrow cell to be awakened by a whisper or to cry out in dear desire and hear the echoing answer from another soul. Without it life would be a pale, relentless episode. Without its quickening force no temples would be reared by human hands, yet hovels wherein it dwells become more glorious than palaces. Ambition, fame and fortune are its slaves. It chains the mind in sweet imprisonment, makes credulity a guardian queen and lifts suspicion to repose.

"No censorship of right or wrong can light the way of love. It walks in pathways all its own. It laughs at reason and dispels despair. It is the hissing word of children, the puzzle of philosophers, the talisman of rulers. It is the first and last of life—murmured at the cradle, cherished at the grave. It is the rainbow after tears, the cure for every sorrow, the one joyous impulse that rules the whole wide world."—Wade Mounfort in Era Magazine.

The Instinct of Design.

When a Japanese cannot mold the shape of an object, when he cannot reach it by a design, when, in fact, he has no control over his creation at all, but it is placed in his hands as it is, finished, says the author of "Kake-mono," he will still contrive to add beauty to it merely by arrangement.

"I first noticed this on board the steamer going out," says Mr. Edwards, "where the Japanese boy arranged the extra blanket on the berth in a new design each day. He folded it into half leaves and chrysanthemum, into half opened fans and half shut buds. He had one wonderful arrangement which, being patriotic, was more often repeated than the rest. The blankets of the steamship company had at top and bottom two wavy red lines on a white ground. By some wonderful twist of his fingers the boy would fold that blanket into the rising sun, with the four red lines coming out of it like blood red rays. He did it so perfectly that I recognized the flag of Japan the moment I saw it."—Youth's Companion.

Resigned Too Soon.

One Missouri lieutenant governor resigned the governorship because he resigned too soon. When Frederick Bates was elected governor, there was chosen for lieutenant governor on the same ticket, Benjamin H. Rives of Howard county. Mr. Rives held office a few months and resigned. Shortly after his resignation Governor Bates died, and there being no lieutenant governor the succession fell to the president of the state senate, Abraham J. Williams of Boone county, who served for some six months as governor of Missouri. Governor Williams was a preacher, a shoemaker and had one wooden leg.—Kansas City Star.

Isolated Greece.

Greece is an isolated country of 25,941 square miles that supports a population of some 2,500,000 people. It has no railroads, connection with any other country, and, being cut off from the rest of Europe by the mountains of Turkish Macedonia on the north, all commerce is by sea. The principal ports are Piræus (the port for Athens), Patras and Volos on the mainland and the island ports of Syra and Corfu. The Greeks probably number all told 8,000,000, of whom about 4,000,000 are in Turkey.

Well Tested.

"It seems to me that I have heard most of the ideas advanced in your speech before."

"That," said Senator Sorghum, "merely goes to show that they are good ideas, which will stand wear and tear."

A Reversal.

"What will happen when women rule?"

"Among other things, I presume father-in-law jokes will come into style."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Censure or praise cannot affect a man who knows himself correct.—Baltimore American.

The Ontario government may remove the embargo on the export of hemlock bark to the United States. The king has presented his authorized portrait to the Ontario Jockey Club.

A HAPPY DRUMMER.

He Won the Applause of the Eccentric Hans von Bulow.

Hans von Bulow, the famous leader and composer, was one of the most eccentric members of a profession wherein eccentricity is common. It is related that one day, while walking the streets of Vienna, Bulow came upon a regimental band on its way to the castle. Immediately he ran to the middle of the street and joined the small boys about the drummer. Following the band, he kept bowing to the surprised drummer, applauding him at almost every beat.

"That is rhythmic! Excellent! That's the way I like to hear it!" he continued to ejaculate, to the surprise of all and to the great delight of the small boys.

Persons in the street began to recognize the famous pianist and joined the procession, so that the band had one of the largest audiences to which it had ever played.

Bulow listened attentively to the end of the last piece and then made a deep bow before the drummer and his instrument.

"Thank you," he said. "That was refreshing! That puts my nerves in good condition again!"

It is said that when the drummer learned who his strange admirer was he was the proudest man in the regiment.

TESTING HIS TONGUE.

The Unhappy Experience of a Young Married Woman.

A young married woman in Brooklyn suspected that her husband was indulging in wine. She determined, however, to say nothing till she had confirmed her suspicions. In conversation with her bosom friend she said she would give anything to discover the truth. The friend mentioned that a man even slightly intoxicated cannot pronounce words of length. This gave the young wife an idea, which she proceeded to put into execution.

When the young woman met again, the suspicious wife announced that the worst had been ascertained. She burst into tears and took from her hand bag a paper, which she handed to her friend.

"I gave him this," she sobbed. The friend read from the list the following words: "Philoprogenitiveness, disproportionableness, pseudonestia, phthisis, parochialism, hypochondriasis, photochrom, syncretogamatic."

"And," added the unhappy wife, with a fresh sob, "the wretch missed nearly all of them!"

In a French Chateau In Winter.

It is not all bliss to be invited to a French chateau in midwinter, no matter how distinguished the host or how romantic and artistic the domicile. At least it isn't for the steam heated Bostonian, who is used to the luxury of summer warmth. A visitor to a distinctly lovely abode near Fontainebleau says he put in twenty-four hours of physical anguish there and simply came away wondering how his hosts endured the arctic temperature of the rooms. "If I meant to live in foreign lands," says this shivering person, "I would go through the chilling process which inures human flesh and blood in winter. What do these people do to render the blood in their veins to course like fire and not like an eternal furnace?" That's a question Americans abroad might well like to have answered.

Heat of the Sun.

It has been computed that the temperature of the surface of the sun would be expressed by 18,000 degrees of Fahrenheit's thermometer, or between eighty and ninety times the temperature of boiling water. This is about five times the highest temperature that man is able to produce by artificial means. The light given off from the surface of the sun is reckoned as being 6,900 times more intense than that of the molten metal in a Bessemer converter, though that is of an almost blinding brilliancy. If we compare it with oxyhydrogen flame, the sun sheds a light equal to 146 times the intensity of the lime-light.

Children's Favorite Toys.

A hundred and thirty-two schoolboys of Paris and seventy-two girls were invited to describe their preferences in the way of toys. Among the former thirty-one voted for a railway train, twenty-three for tin soldiers, ten for steam engines, nine for building bricks and eight for toy typewriters and mechanical horses. Forty girls—a solid majority—declared without hesitation that a doll was superior to any other implement of recreation. The super-child seems, happily, a long way off.—Fall Mail Gazette.

Napoleon as a Reader.

Napoleon was a reader—persistent, canorous, indefatigable. By the camp fire and in his traveling carriage, in his temporary staff office or his own bedroom his favorite volumes were ever kept within easy reach.

Now and Then.

She—You love me, then? He—I love you now. She—Ah, well, I suppose if a woman can get a man to love her now and then she should be contented?—Fair Journal.

Very Considerate.

He—Did you tell your father, darling? She—I told him I was engaged, dear, but not to whom. He is not well, and I thought I would break it to him gradually.—Life.

In the long run the best way to make money backing horses is to drive a cart on a dump.

A Pittsburg girl masquerading in man's clothes, was mistaken by a mob for a negro wife-murderer and nearly lynched.

The Erie canal will be opened for navigation about May 1st.

EAT ORANGES

IF YOU WANT TO KEEP WELL.

Careful tests have proved beyond question that orange juice has clearly defined medicinal virtues. Those who suffer with indigestion—are compelled "to diet"—and that after eating oranges regularly for breakfast there is no distress, no palpitation. Where there was a tendency towards constipation, the eating of oranges regulated the bowels.

In skin troubles, those who began the morning meal with an orange were noticeably improved. There is, however, a quicker way to get better results. This is to take one or two "Fruit-a-lives" tablets at bedtime in addition to the juice of an orange before breakfast the next morning. "Fruit-a-lives" are the juices of oranges, apples, figs and prunes, in which the medicinal action is many times intensified by the special way of combining them. Valuable tonics are then added.

Take the juice of an orange before breakfast—take "Fruit-a-lives" at night—and you will quickly be rid of indigestion, Stomach Troubles, Constipation and Biliousness. "Fruit-a-lives" are sold by all dealers at 50c a box—6 for \$2.50. Sent on receipt of price by "Fruit-a-lives," Limited, Ottawa.

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Synopsis of Canadian Northwest HOMESTEAD REGULATIONS.

Any one numbered section of Dominion Lands in Manitoba or the North-West Provinces, excepting 3 and 26, not reserved, may be homesteaded by any person over 18 years of age, to the extent of one-quarter section, of 160 acres, more or less.

Application for homestead—entry must be made in person by the applicant at a Dominion Lands Agency or Sub-agency, entry by proxy may, however, be made at a Sub-agency on certain conditions by the father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister of an intending homesteader.

An application for entry or cancellation made personally at any sub-agent's office may be wired to the Agent by the Sub-agent, at the expense of the applicant, and if the land applied for is vacant on receipt of the telegram such application is to have priority and the land will be held until the necessary papers to complete the transaction are received by mail.

In a case of "persecution" or fraud the applicant will forfeit all priority of claim or if entry has been granted it will be annulled cancelled.

An application for cancellation must be made in person. The applicant must be a legal homesteader, and only one application for cancellation will be received from an individual until that application has been disposed of.

Where an entry is cancelled subsequent to institution of cancellation proceedings, the applicant for cancellation will be entitled to prior right of entry.

Applicant for cancellation must state in what particulars the homesteader is in default.

A homesteader whose entry is not the subject of cancellation proceedings may subject to the approval of Department officials, in favor of father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister if eligible, but to no one else, on filing declaration of abandonment.

DUTIES—A settler is required to perform the duties under one of the following lists:

- (1) At least six months' residence upon and cultivation of the land in each year during the term of three years.
- (2) A homesteader may, if he so desires, perform the required residence duties by living on farming land owned solely by him, not less than eighty (80) acres in extent, in the vicinity of his homestead. Joint ownership in land will not meet this requirement.
- (3) If the father (or mother, if the father is deceased) of a homesteader has permanent residence on farming land owned solely by him, not less than eighty (80) acres in extent, in the vicinity of the homestead, or upon a homestead entered for by him in the vicinity, such homesteader may perform his own residence duties by living with the father (or mother).
- (4) The term "vicinity" is the two preceding paragraphs is defined as meaning not more than nine miles in diameter exclusive of the width of road allowances crossed.
- (5) A homesteader intending to perform his residence duties in accordance with the above while living with parents or on farming land owned by himself must notify the Agent for the district of such intention.

Before making application for patent the settler must give six months' notice by writing to the Commissioner of Dominion Lands at Ottawa, of his intention to do so.

SYNOPSIS OF CANADIAN NORTH-WEST MINING REGULATIONS.

COAL—Coal mining rights may be leased for a period of twenty-one years at an annual rental of \$1 per acre. Not

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