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FAMOUS "WITS" OF HISTORY

By MARK STUYVESANT.

One Time Robert Peel Had to Silence His Anger.

In England, as perhaps you know, policemen are called "Bobbies," and sometimes "Peelers," as they were years ago in this country, but few, perhaps, know the reason for these nicknames. They were given the names because Sir Robert Peel saw that ordinary pedestrians in London had little protection from passing ruffians who might harass or rob them unhindered. In consequence, he established a band of policemen, and the people nicknamed them after the first and the second names of their originator.

When the death of Wordsworth caused a vacancy in the post of poet laureate of England, Peel was premier. He was at a loss who to appoint in Wordsworth's place, so he asked Lord Milne to tell him who, in his

you don't say look down."

But not the most amusing thing which Peel was the central figure, came as flashes of his wit. Soon after he had established his band of policemen, Peel went with some friends to Alexandra Park to witness a balloon ascension, and found that—contrary to the new regulations—a man was doing the three-card trick. Peel was very angry, and drawing himself up to his full height, he said: "I thought this old swindle was extinct. However," he winked at his friends, "as we have come across it, I shall expose the rascal."

They pushed their way through the crowd, and as soon as he had watched the card manipulator a while, Peel turned to his friends and said: "The poor man is a sad bungler. He can't do the trick at all."



Peel's Friend Hastened to Lead Him away.

judgment, was best fitted for the appointment. "Beyond all question, Tennyson," was Milne's reply. "I am ashamed," Peel declared, "to say that, busy as I have been with public affairs, I have never read a line of Tennyson's. Send me two or three of his poems that I may be enabled to form an opinion."

"Locksley Hall" and "Ulysses" were the poems Milne chose for Peel to read. Peel read them both, and with unusual warmth expressed his admiration for them, bestowing his highest praise on "Ulysses." Without hesitation, then, Peel appointed Tennyson to the laureateship which he so ably filled until his death.

Once when Peel was present at a meeting of the trustees of the British Museum there occurred an instance of the flashes of wit which sometimes enlivened Peel's conversation. Some one noticed the expensive purchases of pictures made by a certain young man, observing:

"What would his grandfather, the bishop, say if he could now look up?" "I observe," Peel said slyly, "that

the card man, and while no money was being bet, Peel tried his luck in spotting the court card. He contrived to indicate it at almost every trial. Peel's friend grew tired watching, so he said he would walk slowly on. Half an hour passed, and Peel didn't appear, so his friend—one of whom was Lady Dorothy Neville, who tells the story, returned to search for him.

They found Peel still near the card-sharp, but now in a furious rage, all his money lost.

"I ought to convict you," Peel was exclaiming. "I am magistrate, and you, sir—you are a rogue, a thief and a vagabond."

Needless to say, Peel's friends hastened to lead him away. Although the card-sharp had violated the law, and Peel could have sent him to prison, the notoriety would have been bad for Peel, or Peel—seeing that there was no money down—had taken advantage of what he thought was "a good thing," and had bet all his money, finding to his sorrow that it was in reality a very bad thing, after all.

Three Minute Journeys

Where Geese Are Shod Before They March to Market.

By TEMPLE MANNING Those of us who have followed the fate of the Russian people since the debacle due to the world war, at various times have run across the name of the city of Vilna. Perhaps we have come to think of this city and of Warsaw, not far from Vilna, as Russian distances go, as places from which emanate only stories more or less terrible. But Vilna, in the minds of many geese breeders, is celebrated for a far different reason.

In Vilna and among its environs, a large number of very fine geese are, or used to be, raised. These geese are in themselves not remarkable, save as fine specimens of their various breeds. What is interesting about them is the way they are transported, or rather are compelled to transport themselves to market.

The goose market, or, perhaps, we should say the geese fair, is held at Warsaw. As we have said, the distance between Vilna and Warsaw is not great as distances in Russia go, but it is a very long way when one considers the method the geese are

compelled to adopt to reach the place. They must walk the entire distance.

Through the years that the Vilna



Through the Tar.

geese have been walked to Warsaw, their owners discovered that the geese lost weight on the walk, and arrived at their destination with sore feet, which reduced their value. So some clever goose fancier hit upon the scheme of having his geese shod. They arrived at Warsaw in such good condition, and fetched so satisfactory a price, that their owners decided to follow the first breeder's scheme.

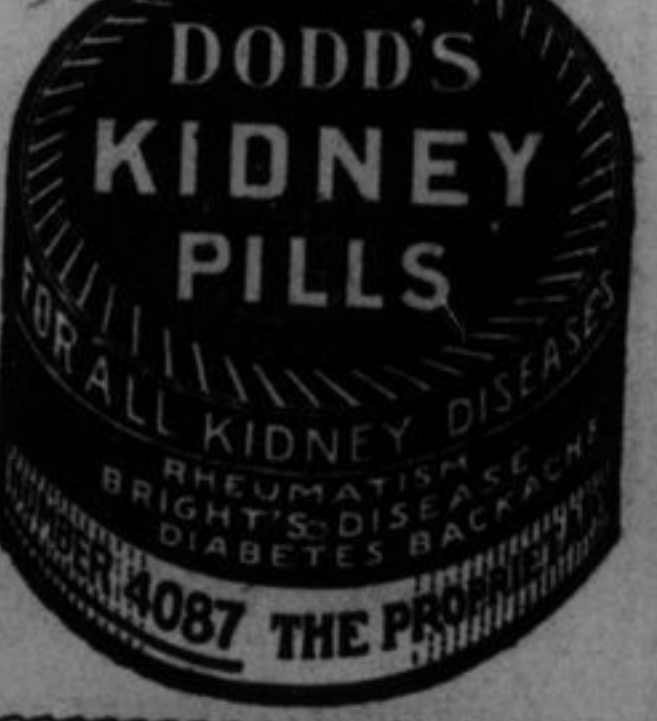
The Vilna geese are now all shod before they are led on the long walk to Warsaw. But if you imagine these geese are shod as horses are, you're mistaken. The method of shoeing Vilna geese is simple. Just before the long march is begun a large pool of tar is spread, so the geese can be driven through it. Each goose must walk so that his feet are coated with the tar. Then they are driven through a space of sand. The sand sticks to the tar, and each goose is well-shod for his long walk, as he leaves the town.

Charge Father with Murder. St. John, N.B., Feb. 8.—The department of justice is now investigating reports of shocking cruelty on the part of a man named Nolan, of Avondale, towards his daughter, Elizabeth, a child of nine years of age. It is alleged that the father deliberately inflicted such terrible hardships on the young girl that she died. The charge, which is being heard by Judge Morris, is that he "did feloniously, and of malice aforethought, kill and murder his daughter."

An element of pathos is added to the sordid tragedy of the story in that the little girl died on the road to the graveyard while she was going to visit her mother's grave.

Why do authors imagine that detective stories and stories of adventure have to have a love yarn strung through them to make them tiresome?

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