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PATIENCE, TALENT AND TACT Three Qualifications Essential for Success on the Stage. PRACTICAL ADVICE FROM WM. H. CRANE

(Copyright, 1888, by S. S. McCrory.) "Were I not so sure that I can play the leading lady parts in your pieces better than they are now presented," a young woman wrote me in Chicago, a week or two ago, "I would not offer you my services. I am living with a refined family as cook, and should you not agree with me as to my dramatic abilities, they would be glad to take me back into their service." If I erred in declining to permit this lady to substitute Shakespeare for Bacon—and eggs, I hope she will at least infuse into her culinary career the same patience, energy, talent and tact which would have been essential to her success on the stage. She is one of hundreds of her sex who honor me— I feel it to be an honor by asking my advice about life on the stage. Many a good cook is spoiled to make a bad actress, and the young men who persist in embarking on the theatrical sea after passing by the tannery or the ribbon counter, won't mind, I am sure, if I try to point out to others just where they are apt to make shipwreck. Thirty-five years of hard work in any profession ought to make a man's experience valuable to his fellows. There need be no suggestion of vanity in telling some of them where they may do good. The only thing I am vain of is hard work.

night out, studying every bit of business, every change of costume, thinking which role I should like to play best, when the stage manager told me Ben Holman was ill. The opera was "Sonnambula," an English version, and young Holman had been singing Alcindoro, the bass, a good comical part. "I can do it," I said, without a moment's hesitation. They all looked at me in astonishment, some in amusement. "Oh, please," said the elder Holman, "you'd have to be rehearsed and you'd have to learn the music. We've got to have somebody now."

"Well, I can do it now," I answered. "I don't want any rehearsal and I know the music." and kept right on trying to learn every part in every piece in their repertory, studying until toward morning, instead of skylarking after the performance was over. But all the time I realized that I would never make a musician. I didn't know the notes. I wanted to be an actor. So I left the Holmans and went to Crow's theater and played there in legitimate comedy. I didn't get but \$20 a week, but I was satisfied. I was learning something all the time and I was sitting up until 5 o'clock plenty of mornings studying the old English comedies, putting ice on my eyes to keep 'em open and begging away at my book so I could be perfect at rehearsal next day.

many years are they willing to study, on a small salary, with only expectations? Why, a short time ago a young man in my company offered to undertake the part of four parts. I reasoned with him and at last I got mad, thinking of my own experience, and I said to him: "My young friend, the last week I was with the Hooley Comedy company I played nine parts in four nights." That settled it. When I made up my mind to give up comic opera and to devote my life to comedy I realized that I was giving up a good deal of cash in hand for the sake of possible recompense. I was looking ahead to a prospect of excellence and deliberately throwing

NOT LUCK, BUT AMBITION AND WORK. A good many young men would take that extra \$60 and immediate popular favor. But I think it paid me not to do it. I was ambitious; and I am more ambitious now, today, than I was then. And after I was married my wife was more ambitious for me than I was for myself. "But I have already what I have achieved by work, sheer honest work that has never flagged and that will not as long as I am acting. I am determined people shall say I 'got it by luck.' It was work—and ambition—'Crane's luck,' said Joe Jefferson not long ago when somebody spoke of me in that connection, 'Crane's luck! Nonsense! It's Crane's work.' And that's just the reason why I am not ashamed to speak of it. I have never to my knowledge said 'I can play that part just as well as you and so.' But I have always played every part just as well, just as hard, as I possibly could and let the result take care of itself. And what's more, I am just as afraid of failure today as I ever was in my life, just as eager to guard against it. That's all my young friends. Once started on the stage, don't exercise a possible future for present cash. Don't try to star just because you have made a hit. Don't think about 'the glamor of the stage.' Don't expect anybody to make 'the opportunity of your life' ready to your hand. Study, study, study and wait your chance. Whether you should start or not depends largely on how anxious you are to work. Don't you think so? WILLIAM H. CRANE.

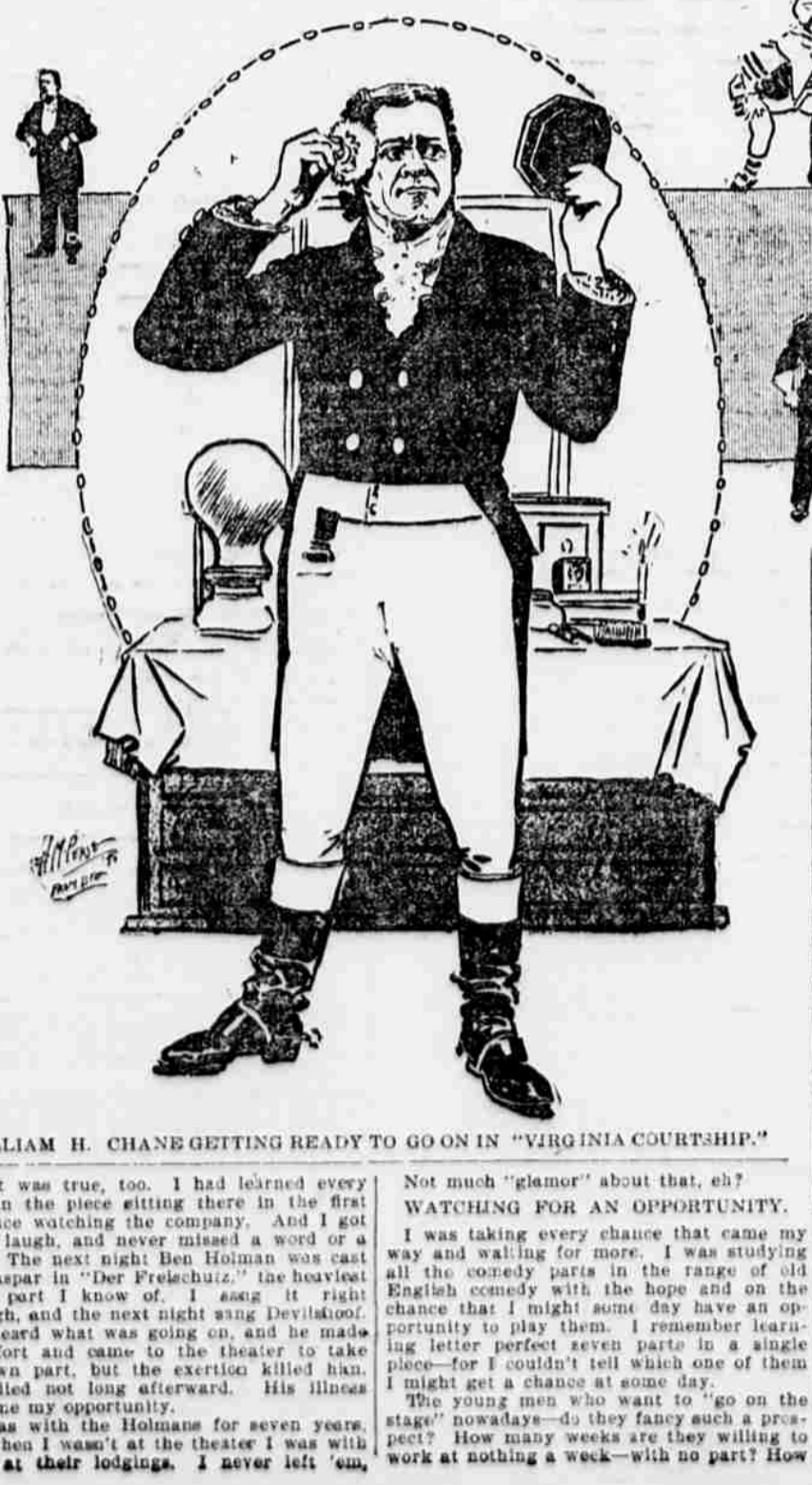
QUEER MESSAGES BY 'PHONE Some Peculiar Things Done by the Long Distance Wires. CHICAGO OPERA HEARD IN NEW YORK Westerners Who Pay Round Sums to Talk to Wives or Sweethearts—\$108 Paid to Hear a Baby's Coo.

"Considering the fact that millions of miles of wire and half the states of the country are included in our telephone system, and that we have something like 250,000 subscribers, it isn't strange that some peculiar things happen over the long distance lines," said the telephone man, as he leaned back in his chair after connecting Omaha and New York just to show how easy it is to talk across 1,000 miles. "The other day the papers printed a story of how a bank president in Minneapolis presided over a meeting of directors in Lowell, Mass.," he went on. "That was correct enough, but it wasn't such an unusual thing as one might infer from reading the accounts of it. It has become quite the regular thing for railroad and bank directors who can't get to the regular place of meeting to be connected with the meeting place by wire; by the use of a large transmitter he is able to hear everything that goes on and to take part in the proceedings almost as well as though he were on the spot. I know, too, that the distance 'phone has been used to close some of the largest commercial transactions that have taken place in this country during the last five years. "The use of the long distance telephone for great business affairs seems natural enough, for the high charges are trivial compared with the interests involved. But anybody who hasn't had a chance to learn from being in the business would be astonished at some of the messages that go over the wires and for which the senders pay up to \$100 a month. There is one instance in particular which is very interesting. I suppose the reason for this is that the telephone is still comparatively new to most people; they look upon it with something of wonder and like to experiment with it to see if it will do all that is claimed for it. "Here, for instance, is a case that we had last night and which is one of a kind that we get six days in every week. A Cincinnati man had come on to New York on business. He had evidently just left his train when he came to the phone and called up his Ohio home. There evidently wasn't any particular reason for it, except his desire to talk with his family. One after another the mother and five children came to the 'phone and exchanged a few sentences with the head of the house. In such long distance work, where the charges are high, it is customary for the operator to notify the user of the wire at the end of each five minutes of the time, so that there won't be any confusion about the cost at the end. In this case the conversation kept dragging out and the night manager, who had the wire, notified the man every five minutes, each time being met with the reply, 'I'll take five minutes more.' The Cincinnati man was determined that every one of his family should hear his voice and he didn't care how much it cost. Last of all the baby was brought into the 'phone, 'Hello, Papa,' and then the man settled his bill for \$108 without a murmur,

doubleless feeling well repaid in having listened to his baby's coo across that distance. SIZE OF THE CHARGE. "Of course that's an extreme case in the size of the charge, but in other respects it isn't an unusual thing, especially with westerners. It seems to me that about one in every ten men, whether they come from Chicago or some little cross roads town, rush off to the telephone the first thing when they get to New York, and call up the wife or sweetheart whom they have left behind at home. To the outsider their little home gossip or sweet nothings don't seem to amount to much, but I can assure you that the pleasure for those who are interested, so nobody else can object to it. "I remember a case more peculiar than that. The Chicago man in question happened while I was manager in the Chicago exchange. A man in the city had a fox terrier of which he was very proud, while the dog was as completely devoted to him. He had to go to some place in Michigan on business which kept him away for several days. As soon as he had gone the dog began to feel from a severe lack of love. He wouldn't eat, and lay about mooping until the man's wife was afraid the terrier would die before his master's return. One night he rang for a special quick connection and then listened to short speeches, songs and jokes from a dozen different parts of the country. There was a regular time schedule of sending for them, as his predecessors did, he steps to the phone with a 'Hello, Gary' or 'Is that you, Gage?' and thereby saves a lot of time. "Some little time ago some citizens of Montclair, N. J., anxious for some new form of entertainment, hit upon what they called a 'telephone symposium.' They arranged for special quick connections and then listened to short speeches, songs and jokes from a dozen different parts of the country. There was a regular time schedule of sending for them, as his predecessors did, he steps to the phone with a 'Hello, Gary' or 'Is that you, Gage?' and thereby saves a lot of time. "There have been various fiction stories written which involved proposals by telephone. I know of at least one instance in which such a thing actually occurred. The young man was so pleased that when it was over he told me all about it. He had been waiting a girl in an Ohio town, the name of which it isn't necessary to give here, and quarreled with her for some foolish reason and had come east, intending to forget her. He had been thinking about the matter over on the way, decided that he had been a fool, and when he heard that another fellow was after the girl made up his mind to try to win her. So he sent a message to the girl asking her to come to the telephone, but not giving his name. When he came to the office to keep the appointment he was told that the girl had never seen him, and that she was never so excited in the actual presence of his charmer. But he managed to get through the business of the evening and the result was so satisfactory that the first thing he wanted to know when he came out of the booth was how soon he could get a train back to the west. "We have a good many queer orders to fill, and they are becoming more numerous as the telephone comes into more general use. Last fall an opera singer heard of a flatiron under way with some New York managers. They didn't want to engage her, however, without first hearing her voice. She was singing in Chicago at the time and couldn't leave. The difficulty was adjusted by telephone. The managers came to my office and sang before a big transmitter in Chicago and her tones were heard with perfect clearness here in New York. The test was so satisfactory that she was engaged on the spot. "The newspapers printed accounts of our reproduction of Niagara's roar at the electrical exposition and of the sounds of the great sound money parade in Chicago last year, and, as I say, such orders are becoming more numerous. "IN FAVOR WITH POLITICIANS. "One class of men with whom the long-distance telephone is in high favor are the politicians. Perhaps it is because they prefer to trust to spoken words rather than to written ones, even where time is not a

consideration; perhaps it is because of the facilities which the telephone gives for keeping in constant touch with those that are occurring at distant places, but certain it is that the politicians are among our most liberal patrons. During the last presidential campaign Major McKinley kept constantly in touch with the republican headquarters both in New York and Chicago by means of the telephone, and he received the first official notice of his election in that way. When important bills are under consideration in Albany the telephone wires connecting that city with certain offices in New York are kept hot most of the time. They are changed regularly as under consideration in congress in the same way. President McKinley, by the way, is the first chief magistrate to make regular use of the telephone in the White House for communicating with his cabinet officers and congressional advisers. When he wants to speak to them, instead of sending for them, as his predecessors did, he steps to the phone with a 'Hello, Gary' or 'Is that you, Gage?' and thereby saves a lot of time. "Some little time ago some citizens of Montclair, N. J., anxious for some new form of entertainment, hit upon what they called a 'telephone symposium.' They arranged for special quick connections and then listened to short speeches, songs and jokes from a dozen different parts of the country. There was a regular time schedule of sending for them, as his predecessors did, he steps to the phone with a 'Hello, Gary' or 'Is that you, Gage?' and thereby saves a lot of time. "There have been various fiction stories written which involved proposals by telephone. I know of at least one instance in which such a thing actually occurred. The young man was so pleased that when it was over he told me all about it. He had been waiting a girl in an Ohio town, the name of which it isn't necessary to give here, and quarreled with her for some foolish reason and had come east, intending to forget her. He had been thinking about the matter over on the way, decided that he had been a fool, and when he heard that another fellow was after the girl made up his mind to try to win her. So he sent a message to the girl asking her to come to the telephone, but not giving his name. When he came to the office to keep the appointment he was told that the girl had never seen him, and that she was never so excited in the actual presence of his charmer. But he managed to get through the business of the evening and the result was so satisfactory that the first thing he wanted to know when he came out of the booth was how soon he could get a train back to the west. "We have a good many queer orders to fill, and they are becoming more numerous as the telephone comes into more general use. Last fall an opera singer heard of a flatiron under way with some New York managers. They didn't want to engage her, however, without first hearing her voice. She was singing in Chicago at the time and couldn't leave. The difficulty was adjusted by telephone. The managers came to my office and sang before a big transmitter in Chicago and her tones were heard with perfect clearness here in New York. The test was so satisfactory that she was engaged on the spot. "The newspapers printed accounts of our reproduction of Niagara's roar at the electrical exposition and of the sounds of the great sound money parade in Chicago last year, and, as I say, such orders are becoming more numerous. "IN FAVOR WITH POLITICIANS. "One class of men with whom the long-distance telephone is in high favor are the politicians. Perhaps it is because they prefer to trust to spoken words rather than to written ones, even where time is not a

THE OLD TIMERS. John P. Allaire, who was one of the party of Fulton's first steamboat, died in Baltimore Friday at the age of 83 years. William Earl Cooke of Boston, R. I., who has celebrated his 101st birthday, is said to be the oldest Methodist and oldest Free Mason in New England. Thomas Hobbs, now living in North Hampton, N. H., is one of the few persons who saw Marquis de Lafayette lay the cornerstone of Bunker Hill monument June 17, 1825. On Henrik Ibsen's 70th birthday, which will occur on March 20, a complete German edition of his works will be published at Berlin, in six volumes, under the editorship of Dr. Julius Elias. The Michigan chapter of the Daughters of the Revolution has just presented gold spoons to two real daughters of revolutionary soldiers, Mrs. Harriet Felton, aged 85, and Mrs. De Wolf Toll, aged 100. General John A. Burcham, a member of the Thirty-eighth congress and president of the court which tried Mrs. Surratt for conspiracy against the life of Abraham Lincoln, is now 82 years old and almost penniless. Mrs. Sallie Shiver of Georgia has 235 living children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She has seventy-five descendants dead, making a total of 310. She visits each of the survivors every two years and the event is always duly celebrated. A contemporary of Napoleon, against whom he fought in several battles, has just died in the Budapestina Comitat, in Hungary. The old man's name was Alexander Kubnyl and he had reached the remarkable age of 114 years. Among other engagements at which he was present was the struggle at Leipzig, in 1813. Charles L. Tiffany, the famous New York jeweler, has passed his 80th birthday. On arriving in Chicago in the morning he found his desk backed with flowers, from one bunch of which hung a cord bearing these words: "Hearty congratulations and best wishes from the 'boys,' meaning the employees. Among them is Charles F. Cook, who has been with Mr. Tiffany for over fifty years.



WILLIAM H. CRANE GETTING READY TO GO ON IN "VIRGINIA COURTSHIP."