

This is no holiday season for the sultan of Morocco.

The Hague tribunal is in for a scolding no matter how it may decide.

Alfred Austin's cold tea will serve nicely to wash down Rudyard Kipling's brandy.

John L. Sullivan says he is "broke but happy." Evidently somebody had the price.

If it is an old epigram worked over, the probability is that Tom Reed never said it.

It is only polite to look the other way when your vegetarian friend is pricing fat turkeys.

May Yohe, Strong as ever, is back home again. Let's cut that combination out from now on.

Advice to those about to eat candy sent to them through the mails: Wait till you find out who sent it.

Hello! The telephone man thinks he can fly. Many who have used his first invention have felt like doing so.

Queen Alexandra's hobby is clocks, and she possesses hundreds of them—not counting any on the royal stockings.

Sir William Hingston says there is danger in the surgeon's knife. We have for some time suspected as much.

It was a man by the name of B. Ware who introduced the anti-kissing bill in the Virginia legislature. He'll have to.

Dr. Lorenz, we fear, will return to Vienna with an impression that the United States is a nation of meddlesome gossipers.

There is consolation for all who are in trouble. For instance, a New York man who is out of work has just been blessed with twins.

The government has added four buffaloes to its small herd in Yellowstone park, and they cost considerably more than 11 cents apiece.

"Women speechless in electric cars," says a news item from New York. The account goes on to state that they were partly paralyzed. Shocking! Shocking!

Sullivan and Corbett acted as waiters at the Salvation Army Christmas dinner in Toledo. The best of order prevailed from beginning to end of the festivities.

The wisdom of J. Pierpont Morgan can no longer be doubted. He has just gone to considerable trouble and expense in order to settle a lawsuit out of court.

At a prize fight in Butte, Mont., a few nights ago the women who were present are reported to "have forgotten themselves and shouted." Why, how un ladylike!

There is considerable agitation in army circles just now over the color of stripe to be worn on trousers. And still men continue to talk about the vanity of woman!

The clerks, male and female, in one of Chicago's department stores are now designated by the management as "salespersons." Slowly but surely the line is being obliterated.

The meat question shows that when the consumer has once been started in the way of paying high prices it is hard for him to get others to let him break himself of the habit.

London chemists have conceived a new compound which they call carbonylthiocarbimidephenylbenzylthio-carbamide. It sounds like Dutch for automobile, and may in fact be almost as deadly.

The Marconi people say that they are able now to handle 1,000 words an hour across the ocean. That is good, but it will evidently be some time before they will be able to keep up with a sewing circle.

Prof. A. Graham Bell denies that he has invented a flying machine; he says that he has merely rigged a kite so that it will descend gently. The public may now rightly expect much from Mr. Bell.

"The world has less and less use," remarks the Nebraska State Journal, "for the young man who drinks whiskey." While the young man, if he drinks enough whiskey, has no use whatever for the world.

Carnegie denies the report that he is going to give his little daughter a \$2,500,000 house. He says he doesn't want the child to get a notion that she has "great expectations." Still, it will be a wonder if somebody doesn't tell her about it.

A man who had lived by begging, who had slept in ash barrels, and whose clothes were the cast-off garments of other people, died in Toronto the other day, leaving \$100,000 in cash. This proves conclusively that it can't be taken along.

THE BALL AT BIG SPRINGS.

By JAMES GARDNER SLATER.

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The boys from the X Y ranch had been busy for the falls' "round-up" at Abilene for months. They were now about ready to depart for their winter home. The cattle had been about herded in one bunch and were prepared for the long drive southward, where the grass was green the year round, and the winds not too severe to bring them discomfort. The yearlings, heifers and steers were corralled two miles away from the little town. At night, unless a storm seemed imminent, half of the crew would go into the railroad station and disport themselves by shooting out lights, riding horses into bar-rooms and the like. All of them ate at the Archer restaurant, not because the food was any better or cheaper than served by the Palace, but because Estelle McIntosh, a clear-eyed, straight-limbed girl of some twenty summers, slung the hash and shot the beans at her sun-tanned customers. She was of beautiful mold; her breast moved back and forth like the undulating waves of the sea; her arms were round at the shoulders and tapered down as gracefully as a sculptor's model. Her eyes were blue, she was wide-hipped, with a complexion like that of the underdown of a Georgia peach. She could play the guitar, do fancy work, and get along fairly well with the third reader. She could call cows and ride any broncho that ever pawed the earth.

All the boys were in love with her. If she had any preference that could be perceived, it was for Calico Jake, whose tall figure was known to nearly every head of cattle between the Colorado and the Neuces. He could chew tobacco like a Cuban negro, cut the pigeon-wing, ride anything from a horned toad to a giraffe, and he had no more compunction when it became necessary, to kill a man than a mustang would have for kicking at the man who had hit him with a quirt. But Estelle, "Stell," as the boys called her, made no signs that she would be glad to jump over the broomstick with him.

Two weeks before the contemplated departure of the X Y outfit, nearly all the boys were in Archer's. The "Doc" was there also. He wore a staked and ridged shirt, tan shoes and toted a walking stick. He had but recently graduated from the medical school at El Paso, and settling at Abilene, where the men wore overalls and the women quite content with calicoes, he imagined himself about \$430 ahead of a National Bank. "Stell" had not liked him from the first, and she did not attempt to conceal her feelings. As the "Doc" started to go, he naively asked:

"S'pose you are going to be the queen of the ball up to Big Springs, next week?"

"I don't know ef that's any of your business," she replied, somewhat warmly. "Course you'll be there as king of the doodlebugs?" at which the cowboys ha, ha, haed until the "Doc" was out of hearing.

That night, while the stars looked down upon the boys who were now again in camp, Calico said to Buckeye: "Say, Buck, it'll be a long time afore we get to a ball where they'll have one of these here base villians or wiollins, or whatever you call 'em. S'pose we run up to Big Springs and shake our feet when the shindig comes off?"

Buckeye readily consented. Then the other boys were awakened and told of the scheme. Lots were to be drawn as to who should remain in camp while the others were away. That was satisfactory and the idea a good one. "But," spoke up 'Red' Parker, "whar the damnation is the money comin' from?"

That put the others to thinking. The next morning five cowboys were seen riding swiftly toward Abilene. Calico went into the Archer hotel and restaurant alone. After a few moments' conversation with "Stell," the boys galloped over the hill. An hour's ride took them to Pantana, a village composed of five saloons, a general merchandise establishment, a livery stable, fifty-five souls and 18,312 prairie dogs.

They stopped at the first place they reached, which was known as the

keeper, a recent importation from Chicago, having never seen men so loaded down with six-shooters, his hands trembled when he sat the bottle down. When the glasses had been filled and emptied, Calico suddenly looked out of the door, saw a prairie dog and blazed away at it so quickly that the barkeeper jumped three feet from the floor. The others rushed to the door only to see the dog writhing in the dust of the public road. Men came rushing from other establishments, at the sound of the shots, but seeing that there was nothing doing

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TURKEY WITH THREE BIG LEGS.

Bought by Boarding House Keeper, It Proved a Disappointment.

In a coop of turkeys received by a commission man yesterday was one which had three legs. The whole number are visible between the slats of the coop, the extra one standing at a slight angle from the two others, but perfect in form down to the toe nails.

The keeper of a small boarding house expressed a desire to purchase the turkey on account of the extra leg, and said he would like to have a whole coop of them, and would like to have four legs, if possible.

When asked why he desired so many legs on turkeys, he said he always liked the leg of a turkey, and he had three boarders, and when there was turkey for dinner he always asked them what part they preferred, and all three of them always wanted a drumstick.

Of course, only two of them could be suited, and he never got a drumstick. The last time all three of the boarders asked for a leg off one bird he lost his temper, and said he guessed they must think he was carving a centipede.

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TEMPTATION OF THE DEACON.

He Came Near Getting Into Trouble a Few Nights Ago.

"Eredren," said Deacon Snowball at the experience meeting, "I cum mighty neah backsliding las' Saturday night. De temptum cum ter me and put er wheat sack in ma han' and led ma sinful feet to'd Mistah Johnsing's tuhkey coop."

"Amen!" moaned some one in a back seat. "I done tried my bes' ter resist," went on the deacon, "but all de time mah conscience said 'stop' de temptah said 'Go on'; and so I kep' a gittin' c'osah all de time."

"Glory!" came from the back seats. "But, praise de Lawd, just when I's gwine ter climb de fence and malk foh de coop mah old hon' dog traik a 'possum in Mistah Johnsing's wood lot, an' de back-slide leabe me dat minnit."

"Amen!" roared a brother in the rear. "An' 'fore I git up dat tree," continued the deacon, "de moon cum out from behind de clouds, and dar stood Mistah Johnsing behind dat coop, wif er shotgun in his han'."

"Um-m-m! Lawd!" from the elders' corner. "An' I call to Mistah Johnsing and ast him, 'Please, sah, won't he come an' shoot dat 'possum?' and dat he do; an' an' I want ter say dat dere was a mos' powerful big load ob shot in dat gun."

"Go on, bruddah!" "An' dat's why I say dat w'en de temptah cum ter us an' show us whar dere's er turkey coop we oughter rej'ice dat Providence done gib er houn' dawg and er 'possum appetite to de po'r brack man."

WAX MINES OF GALICIA.

One of the Most Curious Fields of Industry Imaginable.

Mineral wax—generally known as czerocite—has taken the place of beeswax in making candles, and is obtained from Utah and California, in America, and from Wales and Galicia and Roumania, in Europe. When found it is a dark, rich brown color, translucent in thin films, but when refined it resembles well-bleached beeswax.

The wax mines of eastern Galicia, which a syndicate of American capitalists leased, form one of the most curious fields of industry imaginable. They are at and around Boryslaw, which is also the center of the eastern oil district of that part of Austria.

The wax lies in beds, like clay, at depths of from 350 to 600 feet, and shafts are sunk to the beds. The Boryslaw wax field is only 50 acres in extent, and upon that 1,000 shafts were sunk. Six thousand men live and work on that tract. The owners of the deposits have made immense fortunes from the products, as it is very valuable, fetching fourpence a pound at the pits. The manifold uses to which paraffin has been adapted has given this Galician deposit a very wide utility. It is found in veins 16 inches thick, and is dug out with shovels, and then raised from the shaft with buckets and a windlass.

How a Woman Handles an "Ad."

A woman comes into a newspaper office, comments on the condition of the weather, removes her gloves, raises her veil, gets out her \$4 lace handkerchief, digs into her chatelaine bag and brings out a little scrap of paper, upon which is written a simple advertisement for a hired girl. She then inquires the price, which is 213 days in the year, asks for the best location possible, expresses a hope that she will get a good girl this time, puts her gloves back on, and, picking up her skirt, says: "Well, I guess that's all, and departs, leaving her handkerchief on the counter. When she trots her 10-year-old boy on the errand he dashes in, drops a quarter and a slip of paper on the counter, says, "Mom wants this in the paper," and is gone, after having slammed the door. But he has transacted the same business.—Atchison Globe.

Tired of Duplication.

A teacher in a national school, who had been much annoyed by truancy, has recently been stringent in enforcing the rule that her scholars, on their return to school after an absence, must bring her a note stating in full the cause of such absence, the note to be in the writing of a parent or guardian.

The following is a note brought by one of her pupils after two weeks' absence:

"Louisa was absent monday, please excuse her."

"Louisa was absent toosday, she had a sore throte."

"Louisa was absent wensday, she had a sore throte."

"Louisa was absent thursday, she had a sore throte."

"Louisa was absent friday, she had a sore throte."

"Read this over again for the next week."—Stray Stories.

The Nestor of Engineers.

Charles H. Haswell, whose "Engineers' and Mechanics' Pocket-book" is known to engineers all over the world, is in his ninety-fourth year, but a hale fellow yet. By way of accounting for his remarkable mental and physical condition he says: "I take a great deal of exercise. I never drink ice water or touch condiments and I use stimulants only in very moderate quantities. After a hard struggle I gave up smoking three years ago. It's for the heart, you know." At their convention in 1897 the Institute of Naval Architects of Great Britain gave Mr. Haswell the title he has worn ever since—"the Nestor of engineers."



"You Cash in Fer Me When You Git to Marlin. Something is to Happen in About a Week."

In the way of a man fight, returned to the doors. Meantime the barkeeper had counted out the proper change for Calico—\$4.40. "Come er runnin', boys, and look at this!" as he pointed to the silver in front of him. "I do reckon I wonder whar in thunder he thinks I come from. How much was it I give him, 'Red'?"

"Twenty? No. I didn't have nothing smallern' a fifty an' that's what I handed him, wasn't it, Buck?" "Why, sure it was," said Buck. "Well, the skunk! Shall we kill him here or drag him over to Lick Skillet and