

Afraid to Wear Their Jewels.

A curious fact concerning the festivities over the coronation of the czar is the enormous impetus given to the manufacture of paste gems. Russians, it appears, even of rank and status, are prone to the weakness known as kleptomania, and wise women prepared for possible loss by substituting sham jewels for real. A pageant and display such as has been described must inevitably call for the wearing of such gems as are seldom seen. It is rather amusing to learn that much of the splendor is pretense and that, too, because the grand dames do not dare trust their treasures in a crush, even though the crowd be composed of their own kind. Among the Muscovites, however, the sin is said to be held a trifling one, and the story is told that one lady of high rank was caught appropriating her cousin's emeralds, and that the victim declined to prosecute, merely saying: "Poor Sophie! It is a very painful and nervous disorder."—New York Journal.

A Speaking Gown.

A well-known club woman the other day went to her dressmaker to order a gown. The woman asked at once: "Shall you wear it to the club meetings?" The reply was in the affirmative. "And to make speeches in?" was the next question. Again she said yes. "Then I must have it trimmed accordingly," said the dressmaker. "It will be eyed closely and for long periods of time at once by women at leisure to observe. Such a gown must be absolutely perfect."

An English Slap at the Dutch.

The Boers are no doubt puffed up with their constant good luck when resisting British attacks, but they must be well aware that they have nothing to gain by war and that their position just as it is one of the most fortunate in history. At least, we can recall no other republic in which every man was for his wants well off, in which all taxes were paid by foreign immigrants and foreign toll and in which the whole community, without ever submitting to a conscription or entering a barrack, had acquired a high military reputation. We cannot believe that these advantages will be willfully thrown away and do not see wherein, if peace is maintained for the next ten years, Great Britain will suffer except from a few taunts, and what do taunts matter to a people with our history?

If it amuses Dirck Cloete to consider John Bull cowardly or soft, let him consider it; he will reconsider that opinion before the end arrives. England is not in a hurry if the capitalists are. She survived Napoleon and she will survive Krueger, not to mention the very memory that there ever was a Dutchman between the Zambesi and the Cape. What proportion of all those who can read now know that New York was once a possession and a settlement of the Dutch?—The Spectator.

Legend of the Opal.

There is an ancient legend that says a woman's living heart was once imprisoned in a milk-white stone, and the throbbing of its passion and its pain shone through the half-opaque surface, and made it dart and flash, and flutter with flame color, and rose and violet and golden tints. Sometimes it beat high with hope, and the surface was radiant with light; frequently sorrow oppressed it, and its rays were fainter and less glowing. There seems no more beautiful or more fitting association for the lovely opal to have. It almost has life in its center, and no matter how small the stone if it be of pure origin the colors are as perfect and as varying as in larger specimens.

Or Send Them to Blind Asylum.

"I think," said the statesman who didn't have any great hopes, anyway, "that it would be a good plan to make these here campaign buttons of mine with eyes to 'em, so that if the demand is smaller than the supply I kin sell 'em to some overhauls factory or something of that kind."—Indianapolis Journal.

If the armies of Europe should march at an eight-mile gait, five abreast, fifteen inches apart, it would require nine and one-half days for them to pass a given point.

Lively French Town.

The record for quickly increasing population, as shown by the recent census, says a Paris correspondent, certainly belongs to Roubaix. In 1800 the population of this town was 8,302; at the taking of the last census it was 114,917, of which 53,075 were Belgians. Of this increase 61,600 were immigrants, while the remaining 53,075 were due to the excess of births over deaths. There is certainly no other town in France where the population has increased so rapidly. The rate of increase is ten times that of the rest of France and three times that of Paris.

Youngest School Teacher.

The youngest school teacher in the United States is 11 years old. At the examination he secured a first-grade certificate and finished his papers before many of the older teachers. His name is Marion Glasgow, and of course he lives in Ohio.

No Wonder It's a Craze.

The silver question, as it is understood in some parts of Kentucky, is graphically illustrated by a letter which one of the statesmen at the capitol received from a correspondent in that state. It appears from this epistolary evidence that a controversy was being waged between a sound-money man and a silver champion. The gold man thought he had the best of the argument. He asked his adversary why he thought that the free coinage of silver would make times better.

"Simply because it would put more money in circulation," said the white-metal crank.

"But how will it put more money in circulation?" demanded the gold man.

"How?" asked the silver man, with a smile of contempt at his opponent. "How? Why, you blamed fool, if you can take one gold dollar to the treasury and get sixteen dollars for it, won't that increase the circulation?"—Pittsburg Dispatch.

It Was Too Bad.

Walter Savage Landor, though he often handled his fellow-men somewhat roughly, hated to see an old tree felled and even shrank from plucking a rose. One morning he collared his man cook and flung him out of the window. Then, suddenly remembering on what "bed" in the garden the man would fall, the flower-loving Landor exclaimed: "Good heavens! I forgot the poor violets!"

Repeating Rifles.

The king of Denmark's "sort of new invented guns, which being but once charged will discharge many times, one after another," in 1657, would seem to have had rivals about the same period. Pepys twice refers to such. On July 3, 1662, when "at the Dolphin with the officers of the ordnance, after dinner was brought to Sir, W. Compton a gun to discharge seven times, the best of all devices that ever I saw and very serviceable, and not a bawble, for it is much approved of, and many thereof made." And on March 4, 1663-4, he mentioned "a new fashion gun to shoot often, one after another."—Notes and Queries.

The Baseball Pitcher.

The famous base ball pitcher had walked the floor with the youngest of his family for an hour or so. "Mary," said he, "if the manager saw me now, I bet I'd get soaked with a fine."

"Why?" asked the wife, sleepily. "I don't seem to have any control of the bawl at all, I don't."

Fore-sight.

"I think," said the statesman, who didn't have any great hopes any way, "that it would be a good plan to make these here campaign buttons of mine with eyes to 'em so that if the demand is smaller than the supply, I kin sell 'em to some overalls factory or something of the kind."

In That Day.

Shade of the Period—"In your day, as I understand it, there was no glorious death except in battle." Shade of Achilles—"That is substantially correct. They did not operate for appendicitis then."—Detroit Tribune.

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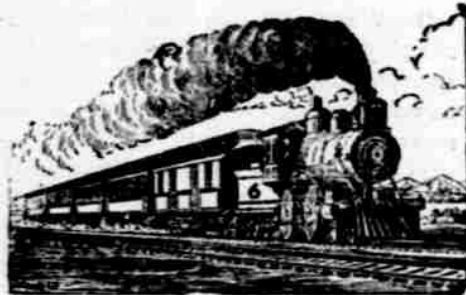
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