

## WIT AND HUMOR.

CHESTNUTS FOUND FLOATING  
DOWN THE TIDE.How a Western Preacher Counts His  
Salary—A Man Who Knows His Cat—  
Pulverized Paragraphs and Various  
Other Birth-Provokers.

He was a tall, slim man, with a satchel in his right hand and an umbrella, used as a cane, in his left, and the tail of his faded linen duster was lifted out behind him like a bustle when he started to cross Second avenue and Thirteenth street. A beer-wagon which he did not see might have run him down had not a boy called out an alarm and pulled him back to the curbstone.

"Boy, you doubtless saved me from serious injury, and perhaps from death itself," observed the man as he realized the situation.

"Yes, sir."

"And you should be rewarded."

"I don't want nuthin', sir," modestly replied the lad.

But I insist. Such actions as yours demand liberal recognition. I am from Nebraska. I've just plowed a town there. I am asking \$150 each for lots on the Main street, but in your case you can take your pick for an even hundred, and as taxes are now due you'd better scrape around and get me \$6.50 to pay on your lot!"—N. W. World.

## The Ideal Kiss.

Now, this is an ideal kiss, says an old writer.

The woman's head should rest lightly on the masculine shoulder. Her eyes look into his. There is not too much haste about it. Haste is always vulgar, and that ought to be kept well in mind. Slowly he bends his head. She makes a slight, very slight, resistance. Of course no self-respecting girl submits calmly to being kissed, but as he knows this, he does not give the feminine mind a chance to reconsider, and with a little sigh she permits the masculine lips to rest on hers for—well, authorities differ as to how long a kiss should last. Byron, who ought to know all about it, says:

"—For a kiss's strength I think it should be measured by its length!" And in another place he speaks of "A long, long kiss, a kiss of youth and love And beauty, all concentrating like rays Into one focus kindled from above."

So he evidently believed the kiss should not be cut short, while other writers are in favor of "antializing by brief kisses," which make one wish to kiss and come again."

## In Limbo.



Mr. Keegers—Stars a'mitey!  
Mr. Bulwer—Dat's all right. He don't hussel when I wuz reasonin' wif him, a' I's keepin' him dar fer 'n example t' dat scaramouch travver o' his'n, ober d' fence.

## Come Not, Unhappy Day.

Diggs—Was that pretty girl your sister that you had with you at the concert night before last?

Biggs—N—no, she isn't, but she will be, I expect, just as soon as I propose.

## Time to Go.

He at 11:45 a. m.—Time waits on no man.

She—I don't blame it. It would lose lots of sleep if it waited on some persons I know.

## Satisfactory.

She—Darling, do you love me?  
He (kissing her rapturously and repeatedly)—Do I? I wish you were a two-headed girl. That's all I can say.

## Remedy for the Grip.

Amber necklaces are coming into vogue as a remedy for the grip.

## THE MAD KING.

Otto of Bavaria and His Beautiful  
Little Palace.

The reigning king of Bavaria is Otto I., a man whose state of mental alienation is dark and terrible, says the Detroit Free Press. He lives since his accession as he had lived before, shut up in the beautiful little palace of Furstenrid, about two hours' distant from Munich. Of late years his malady has taken the form of stupor, though there are still occasional outbreaks of violence. There has never been any hope for his recovery, and it is really a lamentable fact that his physical health is excellent. He occupies a suite of rooms on the ground of the palace, the doors being always left open during the daytime, as closed doors and windows excite his rage. Once he broke all the front windows of his apartments and since then the glass has been protected by wire. Nothing else about the palace would indicate that a lunatic inhabited it. The king is always dressed in black and his pet adornment is a long black beard, which he will not allow trimmed. He often washes his face and hands, but can seldom be persuaded to take a full bath. He smokes from thirty to forty cigars or cigarettes a day—enough to make any man crazy! He seems to have no marked desire for anything of importance. It is described as pitiful to see him look at the old servant who cared for him in his infancy—she alone calls forth a gleam of intelligence in his countenance. Notwithstanding the great misfortune that his condition is to their country, the good Bavarians celebrate the natal day of their mad king with great loyalty.

## Aluminum in India.

Within the past year aluminum has been introduced in India for the manufacture of cooking utensils employed by the native inhabitants. The experiment was begun at Madras, and it is reported that the native metal-workers have readily substituted aluminum for copper and brass, while refusing to change the traditional shapes which for generations have been given to their utensils. They insist on genuine hand work, and some of them have developed much skill in manipulating the new metal.

## A Wasp as a Pet.

Perhaps the loveliest pet ever kept by man was a wasp, which Sir John Lubbock caught in the Pyrenees and resolved to tame. He began by teaching it to take its meals on his hand, and in a very short space of time it grew to expect to be fed in that way. Sir John preserved this pet with the greatest care. True, it stung him once, but then it had every excuse for doing so. Sir John was examining it while on a railway journey, and the door being opened by a ticket collector, he unceremoniously stuffed it into a bottle, and the outraged Spaniard, not finding quite at home during the progress, gave him a gentle reminder as to the proper way to treat a guest.

## The Lark a Staggard.

An ornithologist having investigated the question of at what hour in summer the commonest small birds wake up and sing, states that the greenfinch is the earliest riser, as it pipes as early as 1:30 in the morning, the blackcap beginning at about 2:30. It is nearly 4 o'clock, and the sun is well above the horizon, before the first real songster appears in the person of the blackbird. He is heard half an hour before the thrush, and the chirp of the robin begins about the same length of time before that of the wren. Finally the house sparrow and the tit occupy the last place on the list. This investigation has altogether ruined the lark's reputation for early rising. That much celebrated bird is quite a staggard, as it does not rise until after the chaffinches, linnets and a number of hedge-row birds have been up and about.

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## A Fiction of the Sea.

One of the oldest maritime fictions has received its death blow by the raising of the American flag over Guam in the Ladrones islands. According to sailors, thousands of vessels cleared for Guam, from ports all over the world each year, but none ever arrived there. Clearing for Guam was done by ships which wished to conceal their real destination. According to maritime law, when once a vessel has cleared for a port it must proceed thither by the most direct route or give a satisfactory explanation. Guam was a closed port under the Spanish rule, and ships could always give that as a reason for not going there after having cleared for the place.

## Wear Men's Gloves.

The latest masculine wrinkle which girls affect is masculine gloves, not gloves made in a mannish style and fitting the feminine hand, but gloves that are cut on masculine lines, designed for masculine wearing, and buttoned with the single button that holds together the abbreviated kid wrist. The gloves are short and square and made of heavy dogskin and stitched markedly in white. The fingers are big and clumsy, and the entire glove is almost twice the size which the girl ordinarily affects. The bigger the glove the more stylish the result. The masculine glove is entirely in keeping with the stubby, ugly masculine shoe.

## Not Clear Enough.

It may be safely asserted that the wit of Richard Brinsley Sheridan never deserted him in any emergency. Once, on a visit at a country house, a bore asked Sheridan to take a long walk with him. Sheridan made an excuse of the weather, saying it was scarcely pleasant enough for a walk. An hour later the bore intercepted Sheridan as he was about to escape from the house. "I see it has cleared," he said, persistently. "Why, yes," said the wit, doubtfully, "it has cleared enough for one, but has it cleared enough for two?"

## Not a Safe Swimming Pool.

An English officer whose ship was stationed off the coast of Ceylon went for a day's shooting along the coast, accompanied by a native attendant well acquainted with the country. Coming to a particularly inviting river, the officer resolved to have a bath, and asked the native to show him a place where there were no alligators. The native took him to a pool close to the estuary. The officer thoroughly enjoyed his dip, and while drying himself he asked his guide why there were never any alligators in that pool. "Because, sar," promptly replied the Cingalese, "they plenty 'fraid of shark."

## Heavy Drinkers in Belgium.

Belgium has a population of less than 7,000,000, whom it takes 198,000 wine and beer shops to supply. This is one for every thirty-nine persons, women and children included. Its annual drink bill is figured at \$100,000,000, the item of gin representing one-third of this sum. Investigation shows that of the convictions in criminal courts 74 per cent of the crime is to be traced to drink; of the suicides, 80 per cent, and of the paupers 79 per cent are thus accounted for. Under these circumstances thoughtful and serious Belgians are deeply pondering the drink problem and endeavoring to find some means of limiting the practice and diminishing its destructive effects.

## Why He Attended a Funeral.

Our Welsh friends are pretty sharp, and a learned judge has just been nicely "had" by one. Summoned as a juror at the assizes, he asked the permission of the judge to absent himself on the ground that he was very anxious to attend a funeral. It was not until after the judge had granted the request that he learned from the sheriff that the applicant was an undertaker.—Westminster Gazette.

## CHINA'S CORRUPT OFFICIALS.

Sample of the Robbery Practiced at the  
Gates of Peking.

A curious instance and by no means a flattering one of Chinese methods of government has just been supplied by the arrival of Sheng Taotal from Shanghai. This gentleman holds several important posts, and among others has the appointment of director of railways. He is also the administrator of the Chinese telegraphs, and has an excellent reputation among foreigners for his tolerance and open-mindedness. Recently he was called here by command of the emperor to confer about several reforms which his majesty is so eager to adopt. The chief officials of Peking hailed his advent with delight, as it at last gave them the opportunity of a "squeeze," which had been quite impossible while Sheng was so far distant at Shanghai. The modus operandi is quite a usual and an everyday one and deserves notice. The gates of Peking are farmed out to high officials, chiefly princes of royal blood. All merchandise is examined and is passed on payment of a small tax. But when an official like Sheng comes in, from whom they are desirous of exacting a good round sum, the procedure is altered. In this particular case Sheng was given to understand that contraband articles would be found in his luggage unless he satisfied the farmers of the gate. I believe I am correct in saying that Sheng did not even attempt to dispute or haggle, but resignedly asked what amount was required. The answer was 30,000 taels. This was paid, or promised, and Sheng proceeded on his journey, probably glad at having got off so cheaply. But against all precedent and custom he was stopped at the inner gate and did not get off under 20,000 taels. So altogether this unfortunate official, called to the capital by the emperor's order, had to pay over 6,350 pounds before he was allowed to go to his duties.

## A Strange Siamese Custom.

Every Siamese girl who reaches a certain age without marrying is ticketed and labeled and placed in a privileged class, under the special care of the king, who binds himself to find husbands for them all. His method is delightfully simple. A prisoner in any of the Siamese jails may gain his pardon and release by marrying one of the ineligible class. Whether he is already married or not is not of great consequence, for in Siam it is not necessary to draw the line at one wife. This method of matchmaking can hardly result in domestic bliss.

## Bridal Splendors.

Paris has not quite exhausted the possibilities of the spangle as an ornament, for the loveliest wedding dress yet seen was made in Paris for the duke of Manchester's bride, and consists of white satin overworked in the most gloriously opalescent shell sequins, interspersed with pearls. For the duchess of Hamilton, whose daughter was recently married, a beautiful fawn-colored cloth was made on the Rue de la Paix and adorned with spangles of cloth. These spangles were not laid on flat, but were caught on one side, and went to form the clusters of grapes in vine embroidery that overran the skirt and waist.

## Millions Under Arms.

A French statistician states that the total number of men permanently under arms is 4,250,000. If universal war broke out there would be 44,250,000 men ready to take up arms at once. Placed in one line the soldiers of the world could cover the equator right around the earth. To pass along the whole line one would need to ride in an express train at sixty miles an hour for seventy days. If the soldiers received orders to exterminate the rest of the population they would only have to kill thirty-three persons apiece.