

COULDN'T EXPLAIN.

A Sentimental White Man Tries to Pick a Quarrel with an Old Negro.

"How do you do?" said the white man, bowing with a sort of tender and sympathetic politeness.

"I mean how is your health?" "Sorter slow at de present. Ain't been all right in mer health fur several days. Went de uther day whar er friend o' mine killed hangs an I stood round de fire, kossin' haug melts on de hot rocks an' eatin' em, I did, till da made me sick. It ain't gwine do fur er ole man ter ack like er boy, sah; ain't gwine ter do er tall. W'y, w'en I wuz er boy I uster go ter er haug-killin' an' eat all day laung. Uster chaw, I did, till I couldn't hardly shet mer mouth w'en I opened it."

"A simple child of nature," mused the traveler, "an instrument upon which the skilled politician may play the tune of his unscrupulous improvisation."

AT EASE IN ORATORY.

Ex-Senator Bruce, of Mississippi, Tells How He Acquired the Art.

"To be an orator is a thing not half so difficult to master as some people think it is," said Hon. B. K. Bruce. "Of course, I don't mean to say," he continued, "that every body can become a Gladstone, a Cicero or a Demosthenes—these men are phenomenal. To speak in public is something which a great number of people imagine to be one of the hardest things to accomplish, and yet it is very easy. All it requires is a little bit of nerve. Now, just let me tell you my experience as an example."

"It was a good many years after I had become some kind of a politician before I could master up sufficient courage to step to the rostrum and speak before a congregation of people. I often thought the matter over, and I also felt that I had an ambitious vein in that direction, but I was afraid. I sometimes was asked to make a speech, but I blushingly told every body that I couldn't do it. That excuse carried me along for a long time. At last, however, I was tackled for good. There was some kind of a fair going on down in Mississippi. The Governor was expected in our town, and several other notables were to be there. My usual excuse wouldn't work this time. About a week before the time arrived I started to write my speech. I had it made up and worked in a most beautiful style. Then I began to learn it by heart. It was a terrible thing. But energy, perseverance, and perhaps a little pride as well as fear, accomplished a great deal. As soon as I had succeeded with that I started to teach myself gestures. I stood for hours and hours before a large looking-glass and began to practice."

"At last the day arrived. Inwardly muttering my speech, I walked around. If anybody began to talk to me and ask me questions I nearly always had to check myself to avoid answering with a passage of my oration. When I walked up to the platform I felt rather shaky, but, knowing that there was no getting over it, I manfully pulled myself together. When I looked around I almost forgot the beginning of my address. But, feeling that it either meant to die or to speak, I started off. I forgot now, exactly how, but after I had spoken for about two minutes the language came to me as readily and flowingly, it seemed, as if I were inspired. I spoke for an hour and ten minutes, but not a thought of the speech that cost me so much labor did I utter. When I returned home I put it quietly in the fire, and that was the only speech I ever wrote."

FAILING FINANCIERS.

Wall Street Leaders Go Down One by One—What Causes Their Fall.

Bank Presidents say that 75 per cent. of the men who go into business, fail. The percentage is much larger among financial operators. Ninety-nine out of a hundred of the "Napoleons of Finance" of Wall street end their careers in failure.

John Tobin, once President of the Hudson River Railroad, and worth \$2,000,000, is now a \$5 bucket shop operator. He gambled, lost money to John Morrissey, refused to pay, was reported to Commodore Vanderbilt and turned out of his Presidency.

Henry Smith was a noted operator in Wall street, for a time very successful, and accumulated a fortune of over \$5,000,000. He fought Jay Gould in numerous speculations, and once said: "I'll make Jay Gould earn his living with a hand-organ and monkey." When he failed for \$5,000,000, Gould quietly remarked: "He might now try the hand-organ himself."

A Fair Dream of Women.

Tennyson, in his exquisite poem, dreams of a long procession of lovely women of ages past. This is all very well, but the laureate would have done the world a greater service if he had only told the women of the present how they could improve their health and enhance their charms.

You can get a beautiful picture ("A Message of Love") that can not be distinguished from a fine photograph. It is a full-size paper pattern worth 25 cents—design and size of your own selection—besides the finest magazine published. Send for the February number that contains this wonderful picture and pattern, and you will receive 30 cents. Or ask your newsdealer to get it for your inspection. Tell him if he sends for it for you to see, he will probably sell hundreds of them. Published by W. Jennings & Co., 15 East 14th street, New York. Now is the time to subscribe and get ten times the value of the \$2 per year.

NO MATTER how prompt actors may be at rehearsal there is always one man who is prompter.—Texas Siftings.

Are You Going to Travel? If so, and in whatever direction, or by whatever route, have a sufficiency of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters with you. Then you may bid defiance to sea sickness, brave the influence of a malarious climate or abrupt transitions, 15 East 14th street, New York. Now is the time to subscribe and get ten times the value of the \$2 per year.

If you want the best garden you have ever had, you must sow

MAULE'S SEEDS.

There is no question but that Maule's Garden Seeds are unsurpassed. Their present popularity in almost every county in the United States shows it, for I now have customers at more than 22,500 post-offices. When once sown, others are not wanted at any price. More than one-quarter of a million copies of my new Catalogue for 1888 have been mailed already. Every one pronounces it the most original and readable Seed Catalogue ever published. It contains among other things cash prizes for premium vegetables, etc., to the amount of \$2500, and also beautiful illustrations of over 500 vegetables and flowers (15 being in colors). These are only two of many striking features. You should not think of Purchasing any Seeds this Spring before sending for it. It is mailed free to all enclosing stamp for return postage. Address

WM. HENRY MAULE, 1711 Filbert St. PHILADELPHIA, PA. 18 YEARS AGO.

For 18 years I have intended writing you. I got my back hurt when about 10 years old. When about 20 I took severe cold in my back, so that for 10 or 12 years I suffered death twice over, after almost giving up I was induced to try Merrell's Penetrating Oil. My wife applied it to my back freely and half a bottle cured me, and now 18 years have passed and my back still remains good. I have recommended Merrell's Penetrating Oil to all like sufferers since.

COUGHS AND HOARSENESS.—The irritation which induces coughing is immediately relieved by use of "Brown's Bronchial Trochoc." Sold only in boxes.

TO THE LADIES! FROM THE NATIONAL MEDICAL DISPENSING COMPANY.

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It is pleasant to the taste, tones up the system, restores and preserves health.

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FOR ALL DISORDERS OF THE Stomach, Liver and Bowels

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Blondes and Brunettes. The Gradual Decrease of the Former in Central European Countries.

Blondes and Brunettes. A highly interesting question is being agitated in Europe. It has been asserted that there has been a gradual decrease of blondes in Germany.

Blondes and Brunettes. KNOWS THE ropes.—The hangman.—Pittsburgh Chronicle.

Blondes and Brunettes. An Enormous Business for Doll Times. The great house of K. W. Tansill & Co. are now shipping their famous "Tansill's Punch" Cigar to their Chicago house in car-load lots.

Blondes and Brunettes. A Boon to Women. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is the only medicine that cures all the diseases of women.

Blondes and Brunettes. A Soothing Nerve. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is a powerful tonic, invigorating tonic, it imparts strength to the whole system, and to the uterus, or womb and its appendages, in particular.