

## WON HIM WITH A SONG

### WONDERFUL LUCK OF A MAID OF HONOR.

Romantic Marriage of Miss Munk and Prince Oscar of Sweden—The Event Horrified the Royal Court at Stockholm.

One of the most romantic marriages in royal European circles was that of Prince Oscar of Sweden, better known as Prince Bernadotte, to Miss Munk, one of the attaches of his mother's court, and the most singular thing about it was that the young lady won her husband by a song. Prince Oscar, the king's second son, saw the young lady at her duties among the maids of honor in his mother's train. None was more obscure than she—untitled and unimportant. But she had a face that in his eyes singled her out from all.

It shone, white and pensive, from a frame of hair as yellow as that of any Valkyrie in the Norse mythology.

Prince Oscar, who knew the folklore of his native land by heart, wove around that face of hers many a day dream in which thoughts of gods and heroes were curiously intermingled with the realities of today, his own hopes and his own affections.

Like a Valkyrie, too, Miss Munk could sing a man's heart away. Prince Oscar discovered that listening to her one day when she thought she was alone.

King and Queen and all the court were horrified when Prince Oscar proclaimed that he loved Miss Munk and that no other woman should be his wife.

There was a great turmoil. The maid of honor was admonished to keep her thoughts and her eyes away from the King's sons and Prince Oscar was sent on a long voyage, with orders to forget Miss Munk as speedily as possible.

Meanwhile her gift of song had been discovered by others, and the Queen encouraged her to use it for the pleasure of the court.

King Oscar himself is no mean poet and musician. At that time he had composed several songs. Miss Munk studied them and learned to interpret them with great feeling.

Prince Oscar returned from his voyage in much the same frame of mind



PRINCE OSCAR

save that he thought more of Miss Munk than ever before.

So matters stood one evening when the court gathered in the music salon. Miss Munk was commanded to sing. She began a song of King Oscar's—his favorite composition.

The theme was a sad one, the music pitched in a tender minor. All the girl's breaking heart found voice as she sang.

When she had ceased she had apparently forgotten where she was. As a deep sob was heard all eyes turned from her to the King. His eyes were streaming.

Approaching Prince Oscar he took him by the hand and led him to where the singer sat. Without uttering a word he joined their hands and left them there, standing amazed before them all.

Prince Oscar and his wife—the Prince and Princess Bernadotte, as they call themselves—are well known and liked all over Europe. They are very religious and often work together as public evangelists. And at such times the princess's voice rings as sweetly in streets and slums as it did in a palace when it won a king's heart.

### Loss By Lightning in One Year

The number of deaths by lightning stroke in 1898 was 267, and the number of injuries 421. The places where the proportion of deaths to total population was the greatest were the upper Missouri valley and portions of the Rocky Mountain region. The proportion of deaths by lightning in the United States to the total population is about five in a million, which is higher than the average of most countries. Nine hundred and sixty-six barns, sheds, etc., 735 dwellings, stores and office buildings, ninety-five churches and schools and seventy other buildings were struck and damaged by lightning, the approximate loss being about a million and a half dollars. Of the buildings struck, forty were provided with lightning rods, 855 were not, and in 952 cases it could not be ascertained whether the building was provided with rods or not. Nine hundred and sixty-four head of cattle, 396 horses, thirty mules, 426 sheep and 116 hogs were killed by lightning during the year. The total value of the stock reported killed was \$48,257.

### Victim of Heredity.

Philanthropist—Poor fellow! You are doubtless a victim of heredity. Convict—Yes, lady! I fell over six new ancestors that the lady had just painted, an' that woke up the whole house and they caught me.—Melbourne Weekly Times.

## TO KILL INCORRIGIBLES.

### California's Legislature May Pass a Law to This End.

The authorities of California are seriously considering the advisability of passing a law making incorrigibility among criminals a capital offense. In other words, criminals, upon being taken into custody, will be put through a thorough test by criminologists, and if, in their judgment, the prisoner is totally depraved, he will be condemned to die. This radical step on the part of the State of California is prompted by the rapidly increasing crime in spite of all the laws to subdue and suppress it. Criminologists and penologists have studied crime and criminals from every point of view and every effort has been made to enact laws that should have a reformatory effect upon those inclined to commit offenses against their fellow citizens, and yet it is admitted that crime, instead of becoming less frequent, is constantly increasing.

According to the plan that has been suggested, the legislature, at its next session, will have the opportunity to pass a law providing for the extermination of all incorrigibles. In case such a law should pass a commission would be appointed to which cases of this nature would be referred. This commission would consist of alienists, criminologists and others whose experience had fitted them for such delicate duty, and their decision would be final. In reaching this decision, however, they would have to be guided by something more than the ordinary methods of justice. Of course the condition of the prisoner's brain would play an important part in their judgment, for there are persons criminally insane whose removal in this manner would scarcely be justified by any civilized government. A question that would follow the adoption of such a novel innovation in California would be the proper method of disposing of persons to be removed from their sphere of crime. The increasing tendency of popular opinion is certainly against the present methods of capital punishment. It is the general opinion that the best means of accomplishing this purpose would be by the use of chloroform or ether or hydrocyanic gas. In Japan the government is considering the adoption of a similar method of inflicting the death penalty, but it really matters little whether one drug or another should be adopted. In either case the result would be the same. The death-dealing fumes could be conducted to the cell through pipes and the condemned would pass away as painlessly as if he was simply falling asleep. In these modern times, when the principle of the death penalty is absolute justice and not revenge, the more humane the method of inflicting this punishment, the less brutalizing will be its effects upon the community.

## IN THE GOOD OLD TIMES.

### Woman Was Laced So Tightly That Her Corset Burst.

Popular revolutionary novels make a point of describing the tight corset lacing of the heroines; but we need not go so far back as 1776 to recall the torture of tight stays, says the Boston Herald. Once the writer happened to be at a military post near New York. The colonel's wife was going to a ball in which she was to appear in a new pink silk dress. Both her servants failed to make the lacing meet. Her husband was called in and he, too, failed to draw the lacing together. "Call in your orderly sergeant," said the lady, which was done, and between the colonel and his orderly sergeant the corset was made to meet over the corsets. Both wiped the sweat from their brows when they got through, however. A more thrilling incident of tight lacing was of a young lady going to her first ball. In the lacing of her corset all the women of the household had failed and her brother was summoned to give his aid. After some futile efforts he wound the silk lacing around a bedpost, while the maid drew the eyelets close together with a button hook. Just as a beautiful fit had been secured a young debutante took a long breath of relief like that of a pistol. It was 9 o'clock at night and the stores were all closed, but the brother went forth and at last got a silk lacing at a barber shop. In those days some fashionable young men wore a short waist "stay" to make their skirts set smoothly and the barber kept a few of the laces to accommodate his dandy patrons.

### Danger in a Hair-Comb.

A few days ago Mrs. O. G. Sinclair, of Carlyle, Ill., was reading near the stove in her home with her head inclined toward the stove. In her hair she wore a celluloid comb, which suddenly ignited from the heat of the stove, enveloping Mrs. Sinclair's head in flames. She smothered the flames with a quilt, but before being able to accomplish this the comb had melted and buried itself in her scalp, her hair having been almost entirely burned. The parts of the comb were extracted with great difficulty. Mrs. Sinclair is in a serious condition.

### Thank You, Sir.

A gentleman detained at a country railway station one bitterly cold winter night went into the waiting-room, where a cheerful fire was burning, and lit a cigar to beguile the tedium of waiting. Shortly after a porter entered, and the traveler, pointing to the legend above the mantelpiece, "Smoking Strictly Prohibited," said: "I suppose that rule is not always strictly enforced?" "Oh, no, sir," said the porter, meaningly, "neither is the one underneath"—indicating another which read, "Railway Servants Are Not Allowed to Receive Gratuities."—Answers.

## LEARNING THE ROPES

### SOCIAL BLUNDERS ARE LIABLE IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

A Yankee Drummer Mistook the Minister of Public Instruction for a Colored Porter and Threw Him Out of the Ante Room.

"It takes some time to learn the social ropes in Central America," remarked a man in the banana trade to the New Orleans Times-Democrat reporter, "and a stranger is apt to put his foot in it. The first time I ever went into the country myself was as the representative of an American machinery house. There was a good field for us in one of the republics, but the tariff was prohibitive and I concluded to go over to the capital and have an interview with the minister of agriculture, hoping to persuade him to recommend a reduction. I spoke pretty fair Ollendorf Spanish, but was otherwise green as a gourd, and as soon as I arrived I made a bee-line for the administration building. While I was cooling my heels in an ante-room, waiting for a chance to speak to somebody in authority and ascertain how the minister could be seen, a very black, fat negro waddled in, wearing what I took to be a species of livery. He had exactly the air of an impudent, overfed house servant, and he looked me over in a way that made my blood boil. 'Hi, boy!' I said sharply, 'how long must I wait here?' 'How should I know?' he replied in Spanish; 'if it doesn't suit you, get out.' He chuckled as he spoke and his answer so infuriated me that I lost my head. Jumping up I seized him by the collar and the slack of his absurd embroidered trousers, and propelled him, turkey fashion, through the open door. 'There, you black scoundrel!' I exclaimed, 'go and send somebody after my card!' The little fat dorky was so amazed he could not utter a word. He simply gasped and disappeared. Half a minute later a squad of soldiers rushed in and placed me under arrest, and then I learned that my friend in the embroidered pantaloons was the minister of public instruction. I will leave you to imagine my feelings. It took three hours of solid talk from both the American and British consuls to get me out of the scrape, and incidentally I made a groveling apology. Of course I didn't care to introduce the machinery proposition after such a debut, so my trip was a flat failure. As I said before, it takes some time for a stranger to grasp the etiquette of those 'furren' parts."

## A GREAT ACTRESS' IDEA.

### Ellen Terry's Plans for Her Little Granddaughter.

Ellen Terry has aroused interest in educational circles, both here and abroad, and especially among organizations devoted to child study. It came about through her making public her plans for her granddaughter, a beautiful little girl of 4, named Rose Marie Ellen Crang, says the Philadelphia Post. "An obstacle to progress is self-consciousness," she said to a friend; "it develops in childhood and unless treated properly is apt to influence a person's entire life. I propose to have my little grandchild go on the stage when she is 7 years old, and to stay there until she is as much at home before a large audience as in her own nursery. Of course, she has stage talent, which is an additional reason for this kind of training. By doing this she will never be troubled by self-consciousness. She will not realize that she is all hands, arms and legs, as most people do when they go upon a platform or even walk across a drawing-room. Another point is developing the dramatic instinct which exists in all healthy children. I tell little Rose a story and then she tells it and acts it to me in return. Sometimes she finds points which I have not noticed and treats them in a way that is simply surprising. Little folks are quick to appreciate fun and will make humor out of the most solemn passages. In acting Bo Peep, Rose can make it as serious as a tragedy or as ridiculous as a farce, and when it comes to the "Three Blind Mice," she converts the nonsensical jingle into a melodrama worthy of Drury Lane in its palmy days."

## A Thoughtless Habit.

Long before the average child understands how moisture promotes adhesion between two solid bodies he has contracted the habit of wetting his thumb every few seconds while turning the pages of a book. The practice is a most objectionable one, and mothers and teachers should discourage it for sanitary reasons as well as on the grounds of simple refinement. Fancy a child suffering from diphtheria or some serious disease of the mouth and gums transferring the germ-laden saliva to the porous paper to be in turn carried to the mouth of the next one to perform the same operation! Unhappily, it is practiced by older people, and by many that ought to know better. The baker, for instance, introduces his thumb or forefinger between his lips when he takes a sheet of paper from a pile of sheets to wrap the rolls or cake that you buy at his shop. Perhaps the dainties do not touch the identical spot of contamination, but again perhaps they do, conveying caries or some other taint of impurity to the eater. The librarian handling library cards sometimes forgets himself in the same way; so do people arranging slips of paper and counting bank notes. Because done innocently and unconsciously, the practice is none the less prejudicial to health and offensive to good taste.

## PRICES OF WILD BEASTS.

### Lion Cubs Are Almost a Drug Because Easily Bred in Captivity.

The importation of lions has almost ceased because it is cheaper and easier to breed them in captivity. Formerly an importer of fine lions could calculate on getting \$5,000 for a good specimen, but today young lions bred in captivity are almost a drug in the market. The only demand for imported lions is to keep up the stock of the breeding ones, or for very large, powerful creatures, for it is noticeable that the tendency in the cage breeding is for the animals to degenerate in size and ferocity. Tigers do not take as kindly to cage life as lions, and they do not breed so satisfactorily in captivity, and considerable numbers are imported every year. Elephants do not breed well in captivity, not more than two or three having been bred in this country, but the importations of these animals are so large that the prices obtained for them have dropped from \$10,000 to from \$1,500 to \$2,500 each. Numerous as monkeys are in this country, they are not bred here, as they do not breed well in captivity. They are so easily obtained in the country south of us, however, that prices obtained for them are merely nominal, and there is little danger of their immediate extinction. In their native countries they multiply so rapidly that the supply always keeps well up to the demand. Among the high-priced animals of today are the rhinoceroses. They are quite scarce, and do not breed in captivity. There are probably not more than half a dozen in number in this country; all were bought years ago at good round sums. Thus the full-grown one in Central park cost the department \$7,000, and a similar sum was paid for the fine African specimen in the Philadelphia zoo. The most recent purchase of a rhinoceros was the full-grown one for Barnum's circus, which cost the proprietors \$7,250. The hippopotamus is another extremely rare and expensive creature, and the sales of these African products are so few that it is difficult to quote a price for them. It is seldom that dealers have a good specimen to sell, and few private circuses could afford to give the prices that would be demanded. The hippopotamus born in Central park is the only instance of these animals breeding in this country. Had this baby hippopotamus belonged to a private show it would have made a fortune for its owners.—Scientific American.

## MARK TWAIN'S DEBUT.

### How the Famous Funmaker Became "A Literary Person."

Mark Twain's first appearance in an eastern magazine was made over the name of "Mike Swain." How it came about he explains in the Century. In those early days I had already published one little thing, "The Jumping Frog," in an eastern paper, but I did not consider that that counted. In my view a person who published things in a mere newspaper could not properly claim recognition as a literary person. He must rise above that—he must appear in a magazine. He would then be a literary person, also, he would be famous right away. These two ambitions were strong upon me. This was in 1866. I prepared my contribution and then looked around for the best magazine to go up to glory in. I selected the most important one in New York. The contribution was accepted. I signed it "Mark Twain," for that name had some currency on the Pacific coast, and it was my idea to spread it all over the world, now, at this one jump. The article appeared in the December number, and I sat up a month waiting for the January number, for that one would contain the year's list of contributors, my name would be in it, and I should be famous, and could give the banquet I was meditating. I did not give the banquet. I had not written the "Mark Twain" distinctly. It was a fresh name to eastern printers and they put it "Mike Swain" or "MacSwain." I do not remember which. At any rate, it was not celebrated, and I did not give the banquet. I was a literary person, but that was all—a buried one; buried alive.

## Pope Much Altered.

A correspondent in Rome thus describes the present appearance of the pope: "There is no doubt that since I last saw Leo XIII. he has greatly altered. He is much thinner and much whiter than he was a few months back. His face looks so very small that one almost fears that should he wear his mitre it would entirely extinguish his tiny face and head. On the other hand his eyes are bright and his voice is fairly strong. He could not stand unassisted, or even walk across the room without the aid of a stick, and is afflicted by a constant, irritating cough. His intellect is as strong as ever, and his memory is very clear and precise. He is, moreover, quite able to attend to business and to write his letters and sign documents. His last signature shows no alteration in the firmness of his hand, and is as clear and distinct as it was twenty years ago."

## Papa Liked Rag Time.

The Boston Transcript tells a story of a man who had a class of boys in natural history. One of the subjects which he took up was butterflies and moths, and he told the children a good deal about the chrysalides and cocoons. After he had got the boys well instructed he showed one of the smallest of them one of the cocoons and asked, "What butterfly is this the cocoon of?" Then the little boy looked up and said, slowly and respectfully, "My papa says that all cocoons look alike to him!"

## FRENCH IN AFRICA.

### BLOOD OF THE GAUL RUNS IN THE NATIVES.

Why So Many French Names Are to Be Found Among the Natives—The Boers Inherit Their Superiority from the Sons of France.

We are accustomed to look upon the Boers as being entirely of Dutch extraction, but in reality there is a leaven of French blood among them, and, indeed, there are French names among them still, such as Joubert, De Villiers, Duplessis, Dutoit, Roux and many others, says the New York Herald. Probably there are few Afrikaners without a mixture of French blood in their veins. How did this French blood mix with that of Holland? Through a colony of French Huguenots who settled in South Africa long ago. The actual colonization of South Africa did not begin until 1652, when a small colony settled on Table bay and at Cape Town. This colony was founded by an officer of the Dutch East India company. The population of the young colony increased but slowly, and was probably not more than 400 in 1685, the year in which Louis XIV. issued a decree revoking the edict of Nantes, and vigorous persecution followed, and many of the Huguenots escaped to Holland. A proposal was made to send some of these to South Africa, but the Dutch East India company feared it might be dangerous to their interests to harbor a large number of French subjects in their South African colony, so only a select few of the Huguenots, and such as were skilled in such branches of agriculture and other industries as the Dutch settlers were ignorant of, were sent over, in all about 300 souls. Before leaving Holland the heads of the Huguenot families were required to take an oath of fidelity to the Dutch East India company and to promise to conform to all regulations which might subsequently be made for the South African settlement. These Huguenots were undoubtedly the best settlers the colony had received, and in point of numbers they were nearly equal to the original Dutch settlers. They were superior to the latter in industrial attainments and the amenities of life and soon made their influence felt in the colony. The rule of the Dutch East India company was tyrannical and corrupt and the result was that difficulties soon rose between the governor and the French settlers, who on several occasions made a bold and more or less successful stand for their rights. Whenever in the subsequent history of the colony principles had to be asserted the descendants of the Huguenots have been well to the front. In the late '30s it was a man with a French name, Peter Retief, who raised his voice in protest against the action of the British authorities in connection with the emancipation of the South African slaves and the native question in general. This protest was followed by the migration of about 6,000 colonists into the desert and this migration led to the founding of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State.

## HORSE-RACING ON THE STAGE.

### Animals Run on What May Be Called Treadmills.

In racing scenes the horses do run at full speed; they run, however, not on the fixed stage, but on what may be called treadmills, which keep the horses in front of the house for longer or shorter periods, according as they are moved quickly or slowly, says Cassell's Magazine. A picket fence, placed between the audience and the course, not only makes the scene more realistic; it also hides the mechanism of the treadmills. This fence has contributed in another way to add to the effect by being moved in opposition to the direction of the horses, and so lending to their apparent speed. As to the sounds made by the footfalls of horses to be heard as though passing outside an interior scene they are reproduced by the dried hoofs of dead horses, or wooden imitations mounted on handles and hammered against surfaces of stone, gravel, sod or whatever the occasion may demand. They are also more elaborately manufactured by revolving a cylinder with pins protruding from the surface. These pins are arranged like the spurs on the hand-organ roller, to imitate trotting, galloping or walking when struck against other substances. If the sound of a carriage is to be added to the tramping of horses, wheels are run on sand.

## Gorgeous Swords.

Of gorgeous swords which are not so much weapons as settings for precious stones, the most valuable in England is said to be the one presented by the Egyptians to Lord Wolsey and valued at £2,000, but this sum is comparatively little for a bejeweled sword if the value of the sword brought over to Europe by the late Shah of Persia on his first visit—namely, £10,000—can be taken as a standard of what a diamond-hilted weapon ought to cost. Those who can recall that wonderful sword will be somewhat skeptical about the existence of the Gaikwer of Baroda's gorgeous blade, which is supposed to be worth more than twenty swords of equal beauty and value to the Shah's; but it is popularly supposed that the diamonds, rubies and emeralds with which it is thickly encrusted brings up its value to about £220,000, which at 4 per cent represents an income of almost £9,000 a year and renders the possession of such a sword something more than a mere luxury.—Chamber's Journal.

## HOW A CLAIM PAID.

### One Way of Getting Money Without Panning It Out.

"There are more ways of making money off a claim than panning it out," said an Alaska miner who had some luck with his pick and shovel. "For instance, I knew of a man of means in the Dawson district who had a claim which had failed to be as profitable as expected, and he didn't know just what to do with it to get his money back, until he had devoted considerable thought to it. And it was simple enough when he knew how. He quietly went to the gold commissioner and announced that he wished to pay his ten per cent royalty on the product of his claim for a year, which was \$60,000. The commissioner accepted the \$60,000 royalty and gave him the usual receipt, stating on its face what it was for, with the number of the claim, location, etc. Then he 'waited patiently about,' like Mary's little lamb, and one day in the course of human events, an Englishman came along looking for a good thing for some people who had money to spend. He asked Mr. Blank, among others, what he had to sell, and the smooth gent told him he didn't know exactly, but he would show him his goods. They looked over several claims that were practically unworked, and then in a casual way, Mr. Blank showed the Englishman his receipt for royalty on claim so and so. 'And you know, he said with a wink, 'that a man isn't paying royalty on any more than he can possibly help.' The Englishman was right on to that little game, of course, and he sized up the \$60,000 receipt, looked over the claim in a general way and ended by buying it for \$150,000."—Washington Star.

## PRESENTIMENT

### Of a Physician Told Him Exactly What Was Wanted.

"Like everybody else," said a Kensington physician, "I have presentiments; but my presentiments come true oftener than other people's. Here is a startling case in point that happened last week: A woman, in the middle of the night, sent for me. Her husband, a dangerously sick man, was hicoughing. The hicoughs were violent, and the patient was weakening visibly under them. Well, I went there, and I worked hard over him, but, do what I would, I couldn't stop his hicoughs. At daybreak he died. Then I came home. That evening the woman sent for me again. Now for the presentiment. On my way to make this second call I felt absolutely sure that on my arrival the woman would say she doubted if her husband was quite dead, and wished me to set her doubts at rest by an examination of the body. I grieve to say also that I hoped the man was quite dead, because, if he shouldn't be, the error would damage my reputation. I got to the house, and the woman's first words were: 'Doctor, won't you go upstairs and see if John is positively dead?' That request, which I had so surely expected, together with my wicked dread of the man's being alive, upset me so that I burst into an idiotic laugh and stood there guffawing in the woman's face. Heaven knows what she thought. Then I went upstairs and came down tremendously relieved, because John, I grieve and at the same time rejoice to say, was quite dead after all."—Philadelphia Record.

## A STORY OF "BACK-ACHER."

### Bill Told 'Emery What He Was Going To Do.

An Indian correspondent of "M. A. P." tells a little story in reference to the restless activity of Gen. Gatacre. He was in command of a district in India and there had been a field day. This, with Gatacre at the head of affairs, means a good deal more than it does with the ordinary general. There were long marching, forced marching and mimic hill warfare in full field order, and Tommy sweated for hours. How many miles had been covered I will not attempt to say. Some allege twenty, others 120, but anyhow the long day was at an end, and disheveled and footsore, the troops marched back into camp. 'Twas then I heard this delightful little dialogue: "Tired, Bill?" said a private to a comrade. "No," unblushingly came the reply. "Well, Bill, seeing as how it's all over, I think I shall just drop into the canteen and have a quart of ale. What are you going to do, Bill?" There was a pause. "Do, 'Emery?" said the dust-begrimed Tommy. "Well, 'Emery, I shall just go and 'ave a bit of a wash and then I think I'll go for a walk." The tale went round many a table in the land of exile and no one who knew Gatacre failed to laugh outright when they heard it. Tommy thinks the world of Sir William, however. His only objection is that "he does make 'em work"—wherefore hath he been nicknamed "Back-acher" by his men.

## Laws Against Miscegenation.

Marriages between persons of negro descent and whites are prohibited and punishable in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia and West Virginia. Marriages between Indians and whites are void in Arizona, Nevada, North Carolina, Oregon and South Carolina, and between whites and Chinese in Arizona, Nevada, Utah and Oregon.

## Stingy.

"You say he's stingy?" "Stingy! Why, he's so stingy he wouldn't even tell a joke at his own expense."