

## HUMOR OF THE WEEK

STORIES TOLD BY FUNNY MEN OF THE PRESS.

**Odd, Curious and Laughable Phases of Human Nature Graphically Portrayed by Eminent Word Artists of Our Own Day—A Budget of Fun.**

Lord Freelunch—Ah, count, did you make a favorable impression on the father of the heiress?

Count Broken—Favorable? Why, when I told him I was looking for his daughter's hand he said he thought I was looking for a handout.

**Worth Little, Indeed.**  
"Darling," he said, hoarsely, "I love you better than my very life."  
"And—suppose I should refuse you?" asked the beautiful girl.  
"Then I should kill myself."  
"Gracious! Your life must be worth a great deal."

**As a General Thing You Can.**



"I don't think much of these fellows that are easily influenced; I tell you, you can't turn me."

"That's strange; you can usually turn a crank."

**Wonderful.**

The modern Sherlock had been lastly summoned to discover why so little work was done in the big office while the boss was out.

"I observe," said Sherlock, looking around the room, "that Mr. Bones, your tall bookkeeper, has been kissing your pretty stenographer during your absence."

"How in the world did you find that out?" gasped the boss.

"Why, she has a blot of ink on her nose. He forgot to remove the pen from behind his ear."

**Alteration Necessary.**

"Will you kindly alter this sign?" said the man with the curly whiskers and yellow grip.

"How should I alter it?" asked the sign painter. "It already has 'Don't Worry' on it."

"Yes, but change it to 'Don't Hurry.' I am going to Philadelphia."

**Really Observing.**

"Where you going, Hiram?" asked the old lady on the train.

"Up in the 'observation car,'" replied her husband, with a grin.

"Why, the observation car is on behind."

"No, it ain't; it's up front. That's four honeymoon couples up there."

**Chance to Swim.**

"I hear that your suburban place is for sale, Harker. Do you think it would suit me?"

"Yes, if you have the proper kind of feet."

"What kind of feet will I need?"

"Web."

**Then He'll Be Grown-Up.**



"Ma'am, we don't allow babies in this house."

"But I'm going to put him in pants next week."—New York Herald.

**Feminine Charity.**

He—I wish I could ascertain Miss Overten's correct age.

She—Well, there is only one way you can manage it.

He—How is that?

She—Outline her and read it on her tombstone.

## TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

**Comments and Criticisms Based Upon the Happenings of the Day—Historical and News Notes.**

Are the spring poets really any worse than the jokes that are sprung about them?

Attorney General Moody thinks he has at last found the right antidote for the drug trust.

A poem passing the rounds is inscribed to "The Kitchen Table." Now for the ten-plate stove!

The Czar says his first thought is for the happiness of his people. Upon sober second thought he is probably for the Czar.

Canada boasts that 12,000 tons of lobsters are caught in that country every year. Still it is not hard to catch a lobster.

Now we know the origin of the expression, "mad as a hatter." There is one in Paris to whom Bont de Castellane owes \$12,000.

The commission asks \$26,000,000 more to enable them to move the dirt in Panama. This canal business, couldn't be called dirt cheap.

Just as we are learning all about the different ways of getting rich quick, the courts come along and show that none of them are safe.

That German who was arrested for sneezing might make the plea that he got his signals mixed and thought the Emperor was taking snuff.

Denmark sells \$40,000,000 worth of butter a year. Is there a mathematician who can tell us the size of the piece of bread that much butter would spread?

The men who are accused of stealing several counties in Oregon may try to show that they are innocent because they made no effort to carry the counties away.

On the window of a London dentist's appears the announcement: "Teeth extracted with great pains." He offers a novelty. Most dentists' advertisements are less truthful.

J. Pierpont Morgan is reported to be forming a gigantic coal trust. Can't somebody hurry along with another batch of relics in which Morgau may become interested?

"Expressions of good will" in the way of blocks of stock from railroads and other corporations are likely to prove unpopular in the future; they furnish too many handholds for the grand juries.

Atlanta is getting ready to have an exposition in 1910. We had begun to believe our cities had outgrown the exposition habit, but it appears that a stray case still breaks out occasionally here and there.

It has been proposed by a clubwoman that every old bachelor should be compelled to support at least one orphan. This scheme has some good points, but if things go on as they are going in fashionable districts it may, in the near future, be hard to find enough orphans to go around.

Months ago the Portuguese warship Baptista Andrade, carrying a new governor to Mozambique, disappeared from the world's ken. All hands have been found on an African island, whether the ship was driven by a tornado. In this day Robinson Crusoe would have a poor chance of living through enough adventure to make a book; some ship with no regard for literary possibilities would pick him up within a year.

Some one has slightly said that nobody reads poetry. That poetry is read a student of statistics has shown by the records of the Boston Public Library. He finds that in four months the poetry of Browning, Whittier, Wordsworth, Tennyson and Emerson was called for more frequently than the novels of Trollope, Cooper, Howells, Anthony Hope, Mrs. Humphrey Ward, James M. Barrie or James Lane Allen; but that Dickens, Scott, Mary E. Wilkins and Thackeray, in this order, were more popular than the poets or the other novelists mentioned.

Every sign of the times indicates that the people of America are advancing to a higher ethical plane. Things that heretofore have been tolerated are now condemned. The ancient excuse that others have done it—that it is the way of the world—is less accepted. The big corporation must show greater rectitude of conduct than was displayed by individuals in the old days. From those to whom much power has been given correspondingly more is required. As wealth has increased a new burden is laid upon it.

It must carry it or else suffer the consequences that inevitably follow failure to do that which society demands.

It is now the turn of the sponge to come in for a drubbing. A very exceptionally serious journal has been investigating the possibilities of the sponge for evil. By observation, experimentation and careful calculation it has arrived at a position at which it is able to announce that an average-sized sponge of the common household variety absorbs and ejects no less than 500 gallons of water a year. This water contains impurities and the sponge collects these impurities with the same facility that is shown by a good filter. Only, with the filter the clear water stays away and the sponge full of impurities remains to work deadly harm. If the sponge owner uses soap, the case is all the worse. Insoluble curds of lime soap are formed which remain along with the impurities from the water. The sponge will "obviously" foam with potentialities for evil. Its slime is a "prolific breeding ground for micro-organisms." Under these circumstances, and especially considering that the more we wash the greater our peril, it is a real relief to be told exactly how to disinfect the sponge in the most effective manner. Here are the rules: First wash your sponge in strong washing soda solution. Next rinse it in a weak solution of hydrochloric acid. Then rinse it in pure water. Then—this is specially important—squeeze it dry. Finally hang it up for several hours in the sun's rays. We feel that we would not be doing our duty if we did not shove this information along, with the added advice that unless each man personally disinfects his own sponge he never can be sure that he has safely arrived beyond reach of harm.

Evidence of a reaction from the extreme secularism of public-school education is afforded by the effort which the leaders in the various denominations in New York City are making to secure such a modification of the school regulations that the children may be taught religion in the churches on one afternoon a week. The plan proposed does not involve the expenditure of public money for denominational instruction. Neither does it contemplate the use of the public schoolhouses. All that is contemplated is the injection of formal religious instruction into the period usually devoted to secular study. At a recent meeting held to discuss the project it was endorsed by representative Baptists, Congregationalists, Jews, Methodists, Presbyterians, Protestants, Episcopalians and Roman Catholics. They all agreed with the dictum of the German philosopher that morality is the substance of society and that religion is the substance of morality. One of the speakers remarked that he did not think that enough had been done for the children when they had received instruction in the three R's. They needed to be taught "three more important R's—righteousness, reverence and responsibility." This American movement, still in its infancy, must be distinguished from the English activity over religious education. In England public money has been used to teach denominational religion, and there is a large body of persons who still think the money should be so used. There is agreement on both sides of the ocean on the importance of religious instruction. Thus far it has found chief expression here in the adoption in various Sunday schools of a course of study with written examinations.

**NAMING OF FORT SCOTT.**  
Kansas Post was started in 1852 by the First Dragoons.

Fort Scott, Kan., was named after General Winfield Scott. This comparatively small section of Kansas soil first came into distinction when, on May 30, 1842, companies A and C of the 1st dragoons, under orders from the department of war, marched to this point and pitched their tents. The name of Camp Scott was applied by the soldiers, who were under command of Captain Moore, says the Kansas City Star.

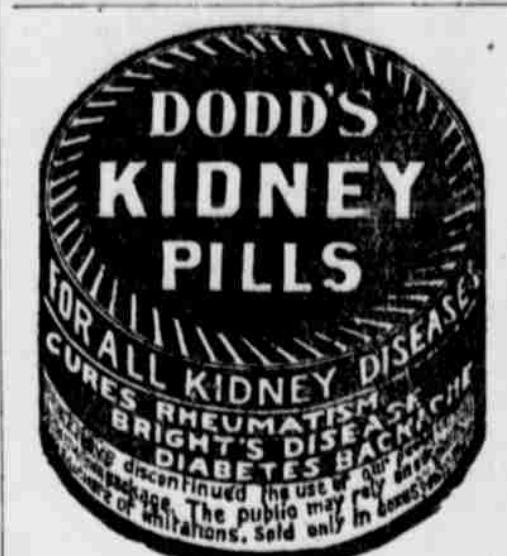
In May, 1837, by an order of Colonel Zachary Taylor, a military board of commissioners consisting of Colonel W. S. Kearney and Captain Nathan Boone, of the First United States dragoons, was appointed to lay out a military road from Fort Coffee, in the Cherokee nation, to Fort Leavenworth and select a site for a new post, to be located somewhere midway between the two points for the accommodation of the garrison at Fort Wayne. The inclination of the commission was to locate the post on the Spring River, but the land owners held their property so high and such other conditions existed that the commissioners were driven to the Marmaton River, forty miles north, in the selection of a point.

General Scott was at that time a major general in the army. The camp was named by the soldiers themselves and became permanent. When a town site was laid out some years later the name was changed from Camp Scott to Fort Scott. It was the second postoffice opened in the territory of Kansas.

About the proudest man on any paper is the base-ball editor.

It was Saint Lawrence, the patron saint of Spain, who was broiled to death over a slow fire, because, as treasurer to Pope Sextus II., he refused to give up the keys to his cash boxes. Saint Lawrence was a Spaniard by birth, and a gridiron is emblematical of the torture he endured. A gridiron is in some instances used as a vase for churches dedicated to his memory; and the Escorial, the palace and mausoleum of the Spanish kings, twenty-seven miles northeast of Madrid, is built in gridiron form in honor of him. The Escorial was built by Philip II., in the sixteenth century.

Some droll blunders frequently made by American schoolboys. Here are a few of the latest selected from their compositions: "Franklin's father was a tallow chandler." "The climate of the North America is very embracing." "This song is in the key of B flat." "There are five vowels, a, e, i, o and u." "He lived in Cambridgeport." "Man is in the muscular gender because it denotes a male." "They went to the foolish—Polish—church." "Question: 'What is geography?' 'Geography is round, like a ball.'"



A gold nugget was recently found in the craw of a chicken raised by Miss Jennie Kleim, at Falls City, Kan. Now a couple of Plakerton sleuths have been engaged to keep a watch upon that chicken, to see where it picks up its food.

**TERRIBLE TO RECALL.**  
Five Weeks in Bed with Intensely Painful Kidney Trouble.

Mrs. Mary Wagner, of 1367 Kossuth Ave., Bridgeport, Conn., says: "I was so weakened and generally run down with kidney disease that for a long time I could not do my work and was five weeks in bed. There was continual bearing down pain, terrible backaches, headaches and at times dizzy spells, when everything was a blur before me. The passages of the kidney secretions were irregular and painful, and there was considerable sediment and odor. I don't know what I would have done but for Doan's Kidney Pills. I could see an improvement from the first box, and five boxes brought a final cure."

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The sunflower was brought from Peru.

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The gourd is probably an Eastern plant.

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