

ORIGIN OF COMMON PHRASES.

No better illustration can be had as to popular fallacies and errors respecting the origin of phrases in common use...

A similar notable mistake is made more frequently by English than American writers in the use of the significant words "After me the deluge," or "After us the deluge," which they credit to the epigrammatic Maternich...

Lord John Russell in giving the English language the sadly worn phrase, "Conspicuous by his absence," in his address to the electors of London said "It is not an original expression of mine but is adapted from one of the greatest historians of antiquity..."

"Better half" is from Sidney "Arcadia," wherein Argalus says to Parthenia, "My dear, my better half."

"To rain cats and dogs" was one of Dean Swift's eccentric inventions. "Sweetness and light," attributed to Matthew Arnold, was also Swift's. The dean was also the first literary authority to apply the word "dust" in the sense of money payment...

Here and now let it be understood that strings are no longer on probation but for the next six months will be an active force for beauty in feminine dress...

By this device the bonnet is held on snugly and to 99 out of 100 women the straight band under the chin is far more becoming than the ends knotted to a full pompon under one ear.

A little piquant touch to this coquettish top-knot is a big, brightly jeweled brooch fastened in the smoothly drawn string a little to one side, and some women, who affect many fine expressions of daintiness, will pin one very sweet flower on the tulle scarf...

The line, "There is no jesting with edged tools," is from Beaumont and Fletcher's "Little French Lawyer." The wisdom thus embodied found expression many years in this legend, posted in a sawmill near Denver: "Don't monkey with the buzzsaw while in motion."

"To see the elephant," to see life, to see the world, especially the under side of the world, has a curious origin, little suspected. It was inspired by a passage from Arrian's "History of India," in which it is related that a woman was allowed to part with her honor in exchange for an elephant...

"The beginning of the end" is ascribed to Talleyrand in his answer when asked by Napoleon, after the battle of Leipzig, what was his opinion of the state of things.

"Let no guilty man escape" was the autographic endorsement of President Grant, written on a letter relating to the prosecution of the whisky ring, when it became apparent that some of his personal friends were involved.

"Everything is lovely and the goose hangs high" is a saying common to the southern states. Hangs is probably a corruption for "honks," the onomatopoeic reproduction for the cry of the wild goose, which flies on clear days.

"A sea of upturned faces" is said to have been used first by Daniel Webster as a figure of speech in Faneuil Hall, Boston, September 30, 1843.

"Familiarity breeds contempt" was quoted from Plutarch's sentence that "Furies took care not to make his person cheap among his people and appeared among them only at proper intervals." The first "father of his country" was Marius of Rome, and the last George Washington. The Latin "straddling with distorted legs" was the inscription for the political "On the Snow."

One of the genuine latter day aphorisms, as near as can be ascertained, is "Baptism of fire," contained in the dispatch of Napoleon to the Empress Eugenie, telling of the participation of the prince imperial in the affair of Saarsbruck, August 19, 1870.

Macaulay "First an Englishman, then a Whig," is from the old proverb, "First Venetians, then Christians." Thomas Mather the Irish patriot, made a free paraphrase when he said: "If the aitia games between me and my country perch the altar," Socrates said: "I am not an Athenian nor a Greek, but a citizen of the world." Patrick Henry said: "I am not a Virginian, but an American," said Daniel Webster, "I was born an American, I will live an American, I shall die an American."

"Being out to see a man" was the remark of Wood left the lecture hall to get a drink.

"The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world" is from Plutarch's "The Education," who called his son the most beautiful person in Greece. "For the mountains govern Greece," the Athenians said. "The mountains are the gods, and we are the people." "The mountains are the gods, and we are the people." "The mountains are the gods, and we are the people."

POINTERS FOR CAREFUL WOMEN

A perfectly good but somewhat demode stuff dress of the past winter can be coaxed cheerfully again into hard service this autumn under a well-nigh impenetrable alias.

One disguise is effectively done with velvet, another by scalloping wherever that device can be ventured, and a third is the adding of a bolero front or whole figaro pocket. If a skirt is a trifle the worse for wear at the bottom cut it in a series of scallops, bind the edges of the scallops with a narrow band of black velvet, or velvet in the same tone as the goods, and then permit the refreshed border to fall on a straight velvet band that artfully appears to be the bottom of a rich underskirt.

Should you have a smart skirt of plain green or brown cloth left over and you wish a waist for it he away to one of the shops where they are already getting in their fall goods, and buy some of the new Caledonian plaid camel hair for a body to your dress, because you must bear in mind that this is to be a fall and winter of combination gowns.

Rough-faced goods will be worked up with satin-surfaced cloth, crepons of the most corrugated face are to be draped over glistening peau de suede milks, antique velvet is the proper mate for lady's melon and the smartest black silk gowns will show heavy incrustations of stitched on black cloth, in odd figures or running wreath patterns.

Every resource will be exhausted in order to enable us to escape from any use of braids, while the more lace there is appropriately introduced in a costume the nearer the perfection of the momentary style is gained.

Here and now let it be understood that strings are no longer on probation but for the next six months will be an active force for beauty in feminine dress, and the smartest little bonnet is put on with one continuous strap or scarf, made of a fold of velvet lined with satin, or a scarf of lace.

One end of the lace or velvet is permanently fastened to the back of the bonnet, the height of the scarf is then carried down under the chin and up the opposite side of the head, concluding in a small rosette and pinned to the bonnet's rear alongside the other end, forming a part of the head gear's ornamentation.

By this device the bonnet is held on snugly and to 99 out of 100 women the straight band under the chin is far more becoming than the ends knotted to a full pompon under one ear.

A little piquant touch to this coquettish top-knot is a big, brightly jeweled brooch fastened in the smoothly drawn string a little to one side, and some women, who affect many fine expressions of daintiness, will pin one very sweet flower on the tulle scarf that anchors a wide hat so securely.

There is more genuine novelty in the wraps of cloth and fur designed for the autumn clothes market than in either the gowns or hats that are already casting their shadows before them. None of the fashionable newcomers at the furriers or cloakmakers are braided. The whole creed of decoration is cloth stitched on cloth and fur on cloth.

Not one of all new coats or capes make the slightest pretense of fitting the figure. What the English call box and what the French volante shapings are being pushed for popularity most vigorously by the manufacturers, and the chances are just even whether this style, so frequently and emphatically rejected and despised by women, will now be accepted.

Climax large capes of the same type as were worn last winter are eligible for use in the coming season, and the handsomest are made of thick, sleek-surfaced dark cloth, with broad borders of gray and brown fur and finished by tall kaiser collars.

Another mode shows a cape with long kersey skirts to the hem of the dress, and then over this to the hip falls another cape of fur, and it is perfectly evident that the long-haired pet coats are to be first in the hearts of our countrywomen this year.

Silver fox is the most costly and sumptuous skin, far, far more fashionable than seal or sable, and now, by some secret, the furriers are being let out long-haired black furs, mottled in tiny white specks. This is called Labrador fox, and the fur bears as minus heads and tails, and are shaped exactly like those of feathers and silk muslin ruffles that we have worn all summer.

That is, from great girth at the back of the head a cub bear or Canadian sable box tapers to slender points at the waist line, and few run longer than this, and all are meant to be held together with ornamental pins at throat and belt.

Every handsome fur-trimmed cape is fastened at the collar in front by an ornamental clasp and the jewelers select brilliant agates, full of red and white fire, polish them highly and sink them in broad rims of gold or silver. The whole pin is about the size of a dessert spoon's bowl and is held in place by an eye and catches the cape together under the chin.

Long cloth coats that might easily be called ulsters are made of broadcloth, vicuna or venetian cloth, are cut on the Chesterfield or Raglan pattern, as those for men are modeled; their pockets are made ample, and the one feminine suggestion is the tall, up-poled collar, often lined with mole's fur, that gives the tenderest, most grateful touch to the face imaginable, and the smoked pearl-gray color of which forms a soft, becoming background for the face. The majority of long coats are made to fasten with the buttons out of sight, or one or two very choice cut steel disks hold the fronts together and twinkle in the soft, deep hair.

There is a pretty fashion coming in of using bullet-shaped buttons of brass or metal on sleeves and yokes and the fronts of cloth suits. These are copies of the buttons that small boys in livery wear and they are not the first ornaments that have crept into women's wardrobes.

Some of the handsomest of the new umbrellas have initials in brass sunk in the wood of their handles, monogrammed leather purses are made of gold, platinum brass letters, and traveling bags are brass bound. Shopping bags and brass-headed hampers are among the most attractive novelties of the season. It is evidently the craze of the moment to have a bag or basket made by treating it to a high gloss and covering it with a peculiar lacquer of neither brass nor silver, but a mixture of the two.

ALIENS IN JAPAN.

Over 1,000 citizens of the United States, 2,000 Englishmen and about 1,000 Germans and French citizens will be directly affected by the new order of things in Japan, by which extra-territoriality disappears and foreign residents are made subject to the laws and business regulations of that empire.

Fully 5,000 of the 10,000 foreigners now residing in Japan will be thus affected by this feature of the fifteen new treaties which have abandoned consular courts and extra-territoriality and made the citizens of the fifteen countries in question subject to the laws of Japan when residing in that country.

It is interesting to observe that the disposition of the Japanese is apparently to look almost exclusively to the United States in educational matters, as the total number of Japanese students residing abroad, as shown by the census figures, was 2,465, and of this number 1,178 were in the United States, 129 in Germany, 47 in Russia and Russian colonies, 44 in England and English colonies, 11 in China, 14 in Corea and 10 in France.

The commercial relations between Japan and the United States differ materially from those of many other countries. While our total exports largely exceed our total imports, the conditions are reversed in our commerce with Japan, as our imports from that country greatly exceed our exports to it. This is due to the fact that Japan is the producer of certain articles absolutely required in the United States, and which cannot, or at present are, not produced in this country.

Our raw silk for our manufacturers our imports from Japan in the year just ended amounted in round numbers to \$15,000,000, or nearly as much as our total exports to that country, while practically one-half of our team imports was also from Japan, the total from that country during the year being over \$4,000,000. Of rice the imports range in the vicinity of a half million dollars; flax, hemp, jute, etc., for manufacturing, in round numbers a half-million, while manufactures of silk from Japan range between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000 annually.

Japanese official figures show that the exports from that country to the United States were in 1898 47,311,154 yen and her imports from the United States 40,901,087 yen. An examination of the total figures for 1898 shows that Japan's trade with the United States is larger than with any other country, her exports to the United States being \$7,311,154 yen, against 30,473,895 to Hong Kong, 29,198,175 to China, 20,496,496 to France and 7,783,643 to the United Kingdom; while the imports from the United States were 40,901,087 yen, against 62,397,572 from the United Kingdom, 40,364,244 from British East Indies, 30,523,260 from China and 25,610,000 from Germany.

Price of Meat.

The rise in the wholesale price of meat has been gradual and due to causes over which the packer himself has had no control. It has been the commercial result of the gradual rise in the price of live stock; and this enhancing of the value of the herd has been brought about by the general shortage of live stock for slaughter purposes, and the increased cost of producing hand (stall fed) beef, because of the shortage of feed and the increased cost of getting it. If the past prices are so, since they are calculated on the same basis. A comparison of the market for beef cattle on the hoof in Chicago and Kansas City for Aug. 10, 1897, 1898 and 1899, shows that the following top and average prices were paid by the packers at the stock yards in competition for hand fed and choice western beef cattle: Aug. 10, 1897, prime cattle, live weight, \$4.90; average, \$4.15, making the prime dressed meat cost \$7.90, or nearly 8 cents per pound to produce. The butcher paid less for it. August 10, 1898, prime stock fetched \$5.25; average good heifers brought \$4.50. This made prime dressed beef cost, \$8.50, or 8 1/2 cents per pound landed. August 10, 1899, prime beef cattle sold for \$6.20; average good \$5.25, making the carcass of prime cost landed, \$8.25, or 9 1/4 cents per pound.

The price of cattle has been creeping up for two years in proportion to the shortage of stock and the expensive food and weather conditions for producing marketable beef. We have warned the retail trade of these advancing conditions and from time to time advised them to meet the inevitable by putting up their shop prices. That they have lingered at the old prices for two years and are now forced to meet the state of trade in one jump is as unfortunate as it was unnecessary, but the wholesalers are not to blame, inasmuch as the stock grower draws first blood from the slaughterer and for spot cash at that. If any one questions this statement let him bid at the stockyards with millions behind him and ask for credit.—Nations Provisioner.

MRS. CALLIPER AND THE COLONEL

"Jason," said Mrs. Calliper to her absent-minded husband, looking toward the clouds as she spoke, "what a lovely bluefish sky!"

"Bluefish sky?" Cythia? said the Colonel, with more than his usual eagerness of manner, "bluefish sky? Oh, you mean mackerel sky, Cynthia, mackerel sky?"

"No, I don't, Jason," said Mrs. Calliper, usually, however much put on she might feel over the Colonel's failure to appreciate her little jokes, he copying his corrections cheerfully, "at this time, at least, revolting. 'No, don't, Jason,' she said; 'I don't see mackerel sky at all. If you don't like bluefish I'm ready to call it green fish or yellow fish, or any color, but not mackerel.'"—New York Sun.

INTELLIGENCE OF WASPS.

Dr. George W. Peckham and Edna Beth G. Peckham, his wife, have spent years studying wasps. They have printed a book on the intelligent insect, and here are some of the stories they tell:

Some wasps will catch spiders, using the mas food for their progeny, leave their prey on the ground or hide it under a lump of earth until ready for use, or hang them on a forked branch of bean and sorrel plants, that they may be out of the way of ants while the nest is dug. Or a queen of some colony of social wasps will occasionally occupy the comb of the previous year, instead of building a new one for herself.

Wasps, according to their mode of living, may be divided in two groups social and solitary. In the case of the latter each female makes a separate nest and provisions her offspring by her own labor. The eggs are generally deposited in the bodies of spiders, maggots, etc., caught by the mother and stung by one or more stings, so as to be not wholly dead until the young wasp-child has emerged from the egg and has fed upon them to its heart's content.

These solitary wasps, having no knowledge of their progenitors, who die long before their children see the light, are all the more interesting because inherited instincts alone determine the course of their activities. But their ways and habits are influenced to a great extent, nevertheless, by so much individual judgment and experience that they offer a wide field for study and experiment.

I shall relate a few of the stories told by Dr. and Mrs. Peckham of the manners of these little stinging and severe-looking insects:

The female amphiopias and urnariars make their nests in the ground. They dig a short tunnel extending over the surface and ending in a minute cavity. There they deposit one or more caterpillars, stung by one or more stings, and close the opening of the tunnel and retire.

"Just here," say the authors, "must be told the story of one little wasp. We remember her as one of the most fastidious and perfect little workers of the season, so nice was she in the adaptation of means to ends; so busy and contented in her labor of love. In filling up her nest she put her head down into it and bit away the loose earth from the sides, letting it fall to the bottom of the burrow, and then, after a quantity had accumulated, jammed it down with her head. Earth was then brought from the outside and pressed in, and then more was bitten from the sides. When at last the filling was level with the ground, she brought a quantity of fine grains of earth to the spot and picking up a small pebble used it as hammer in pounding them down with rapid strokes, thus making this spot as hard and firm as the surrounding surface.

"Before we could recover from our astonishment at this performance she had rapped her stone and was bringing more earth. We then threw ourselves down on the ground that not a movement might be lost, and then saw her pick up the pebble and again pound the earth into place with it, hammering now here now there until all was level. Once more the whole process was repeated, and then the little creature, unconscious of our very existence and intent only on doing her work and doing it well, gave one final, comprehensive glance all around and flew away."

Breadth of Lightning.

"Did you ever see the diameter of a lightning flash measured?" asked a geologist. "Well, here is the case which once enclosed a flash of lightning, fitting it exactly, so that you can see just how big it was. This is called a 'fulgurite,' or 'lightning hole,' and the material it is made of is glass. I will tell you how it was manufactured, though it only took a fraction of a second to turn it out.

"When a bolt of lightning strikes a bed of sand it plunges downward into the sand for a distance less or greater, transforming simultaneously into a glass the silica in the material through which it passes. Thus, by its great heat it forms a glass tube of precisely its own size. Now and then such a tube known as 'fulgurite' is found and dug up. Fulgurites have been followed into the sand by excavation for nearly thirty feet. They vary in interior diameter from the size of a quill to three inches or more, according to the 'bore' of the flash.

"But fulgurites are not alone produced in sand; they are found also in solid rock, though very naturally of slight depth, and frequently existing merely as a thin, glassy coating on the surface. Such fulgurites occur in astonishing abundance on the summit of Little Ararat, in Armenia. The rock is soft and so porous that blocks a foot long can be obtained and perforated in all directions by little tubes filled with bottle green glass formed from the fused rock. There is a small specimen in the national museum which has the appearance of having been bored by the teredo, and the holes made by the worm subsequently filled with glass.

"Some wonderful fulgurites were found by Humboldt on the high Nevada of Toluca, in Mexico. Masses of the rock were covered with a thin layer of green glass. Its peculiar shimmer in the sun led Humboldt to ascend the precipitous peak at the risk of his life."

"Why does he make all those motions with his arm before he pitches the ball?" "These are signals to the catcher. The two men always work in concert. 'Dear me! is that the correct pitch I've heard about so often?'"

"I am asked to name several good plants which can be grown in halls and parlors where the heat is from a furnace and the temperature is kept from 70 to 75 degrees," writes Eben E. Rexford in the September Ladies' Home Journal. "There are few plants which will stand such heat. It is too dry. The life-giving element has been burned out of it. The Aspidistra will be more likely to flourish under such circumstances than any other plant that I know of."

NEW YORK HOTELS.

There are about sixty-two prominent hotels in what is commonly called the "hotel district" of New York, extending say from the Astor House at Broadway and Barclay street, to the Majestic, Seventy-second street and Central Park West. There are several large and very excellent new houses that are outside of the limit mentioned, but the list given comprises the New York hotels best known to visitors in the habit of going there.

All the hotels mentioned have a resident population, that is, patrons who live in them all the year round. The total number of persons who live in this way cannot be even approximately stated, but it is very large, and is increasing from year to year. The figures given indicate the capacity of these hotels for transient patrons, irrespective of the permanent. It is estimated by 'allround people that fully 100,000 strangers take at least one meal in New York each week day. The majority of these have departed by nightfall, but the daily population looking for accommodations at the hotels is at least many thousands. Here are the best known hotels and their capacity for transients:

Albemarle 200, Albert 150, Ashland 300, Astor 300, Bartholdi 150, Brevoort 150, Broadway Central 600, Buckingham 40, Cambridge 200, Cadillac 150, Continental 200, Cosmopolitan 250, Everett 150, Fifth Ave. 600, Gilsey 300, Ironole 100, Grand 250, Grand Union 300, Hoffman 250, Holland 300, Imperial 400, Majestic 600, Sinclair 300, Marie Antoinette 250, Manhattan 300, Marlborough 300, Metropole 200, Metropolitan 150, Murray Hill 600, Morton House 100, Netherland 500, New Amsterdam 150, Normandwile 150, Park Avenue 500, Plaza 300, St. Cloud 200, St. Denis 250, Savoy 300, Sturtevant 300, Union Square 150, Waldorf-Astoria 1,800, Westminster 200.

Assuming that each hotel mentioned takes only its normal number of transients, room is found for only 14,350 persons. In the case of the Waldorf and a few others, patronized by persons with whom money is no object, bed-rooms will not be broken up into parlors and two or more patrons will not be put into one room. But with most of the hotels in the list there will be a great deal of doubling up. Lucky indeed will be the man who gets a room to himself.

New York hotel keepers have always boasted, and justly, that no matter how great the rush they have never raised the rates. They declare that they will not do so during the Dewey celebration. This is the reverse of the policy pursued by Western cities on similar occasions. But the New York hotel keepers must get even somehow, so they take it out in "doubling up," though never, they say, going to the extent of uncomfortable overcrowding.

Assuming, therefore, that on an average each hotel mentioned will double its capacity for the three Dewey days, 3,700 persons are provided for. Then there are at least one hundred smaller hotels in various parts of the city capable of accommodating anywhere from 100 to 200 patrons each.

Farming By Wire.

Huxley stated that our vital force is the transformed energy of inorganic matter absorbed by plants, which within ourselves becomes muscular strength and brain tissue.

If the power of living things depends upon latent forces in matter, then perhaps these forces may be able to affect an organism in their turn—possibly mold its future growth if applied in time or exercise a marked effect upon its development.

A remarkable experiment has been tried with an egg which was being hatched. It was found that an electric current of sufficient strength to kill the fowl did not destroy the vitality of the germ in the egg. But the chicken when hatched was of abnormal shape and monstrous in appearance. These facts prove that the organization of a growing thing is influenced by the impress of a force upon it before it reaches maturity.

The Massachusetts Agricultural college has proved that electricity stimulates the growth of plants. Mr. Aas & Kinney has made experiments for three or four years. They prove that a seed planted in the ground does not grow as quickly as one raised in its development by electricity.

Two lots of 12 groups, each of 112 seeds, were soaked in water and placed into cylindrical glass vessels at each end. The receptacles had dipping into them copper disks to which a current was applied. The seeds were kept at a temperature of from 45 to 50 degrees.

The seeds treated electrically grew 30 per cent quicker than those treated in the regular manner. A great percentage of seeds used in farming are wasted, as a rule, and no effort is made to save them. They rot or dry up. By the above process germination is started beforehand, thus increasing the chances of growth.

An electric clock performed the service automatically of allowing the current to affect the seed once an hour for about 30 seconds. Slow-growing seeds grew rapidly after the treatment.

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PASSING OF THE WILD HORSE

The wild horse of the west seems destined to share the fate of the buffalo. Slowly, but surely, the great herds of these beautiful animals which roam the plains of Washington, Idaho and Montana are being decimated. In the last two years at least 85,000 head of horses have been removed from the ranges of eastern Washington alone. Their disposition has been approximately as follows: Shipped to Chicago and other eastern markets, 20,000; sent to Alaska during Klondike rush, 8,000; canned into horse meat at Linton, Ore., for shipment to France, 3,000; driven to Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and Utah, largely for pack and saddle horses, 10,000; broken for use by new settlers in Washington, 10,000; died in the last two winters, 8,000.

This loss has been double the natural increase, reducing the number of wild horses in that state from about 125,000 to 80,000 or 90,000. At this rate of decrease they would last for some years, but the fact is that the horses are being confined to a smaller area each successive year, thereby increasing their chances of destruction.

At least 5,000 died of starvation last winter in the districts north and south of the Snake river. Fifty to 80 per cent of some bands vanished under the conditions of short grass and deep snow. The cattle and sheep, on the other hand, are rounded in the lower valleys during the fall and fed during the winter.

The range horses are now confined almost entirely to the thinly populated counties of Douglas, Lincoln, Adams and Franklin and parts of Yakima and Klickitat, in Washington. These animals are worth \$3 to \$20, according to size and quality. A large number of them are castrated. Others are strong, large-boned horses.

In June 5,000 head of Douglas county horses were sold for shipment east at \$2.50, \$3 and \$5 per head, according to the size. The horse-canning factory at Linton, Ore., has converted about 9,000 head into meat for shipment to France and Germany in the last two years. A still larger number will be canned in the near future, for the industrial department of the Northern Pacific railway has aided in the establishment of another horse-canning factory at Melora, N. D.

A home market for many thousand head has been caused by the boom in the wheat industry owing to the good crops and good prices of the last two years. Thousands of wild horses, that weigh from 1,100 pounds upward, have been broken to the plow by both old and new settlers. The indications are that this local absorption will continue in a limited way for several years in eastern Washington and Idaho.

Three Acres and a Cow.

Jesse Collings, M. P., parliamentary secretary of the board of trade, whose famous phrase, "Three acres and a cow," carried Mr. Gladstone and the liberal party into power in Great Britain in the elections of 1885, has come to the United States for a pleasure trip. He arrived on the steamer Campana, and will remain in New York a short time before starting across the country. While rest and recreation are his main objects here, he will make serious observations of American conditions in many sections of the land before returning to his home.

The phrase, "Three acres and a cow," which is usually thought of when Mr. Collings' name is mentioned, was first breathed forth by him as a pious aspiration when he was campaigning as Mr. Gladstone's lieutenant. It expressed what he wished could be granted by allotment to every propertyless family of agricultural laborers in England. It was taken by the laborers themselves, however, to express the distinct promise of the liberal party to them in case of success in the elections. It is hardly too much to say that the same belief was the direct cause of the success that did come to the liberals.

Mr. Collings was not the man, however, to let the laborer's hopes be disappointed. His famous small holdings resolution soon followed, and it was the foundation of the allotment act, which has saved many a rural district in England from ruin. The resolution upset Lord Salisbury's government and made Mr. Collings an under secretary in Mr. Gladstone's third ministry.

Mr. Collings is a great friend of Joseph Chamberlain, and the two have traveled and campaigned and taken their pleasures together for many years. Both are Birmingham men, and both came to the front through their interest in Birmingham's municipal affairs. Mr. Collings received an excellent education as a boy, and at an early period became a clerk to a big Birmingham firm of hardware dealers. Before long he was their "bagman," or traveling salesman in his own county, Devonshire, and the whole south and west of England. He was pushing and thrifty and saved money. In 1866 he was able to buy up the firm's business. Under his management it increased wonderfully in size. In 1878 he was elected mayor of Birmingham. He started the "mayor's fund," which gave relief to 10,000 families during a period of hard times. He was one of the founders of the agricultural union, "Give the laboring classes education," he said, "and they will help to raise themselves."

"Look out!" he cried, for the advancing vehicle was almost upon his friend. "Look out! Here comes an auto, an auto, an auto, an auto, an auto—there! hang it, I've said it at last! but, of course, it's too late," and he picked the bleeding form of his companion from the street as he watched the machine bowl over a policeman and crash to pieces in front of a street car.

"Good thing for the doctor," he said, "unless you've got a dictionary with you."—Cleveland Leader.