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STORIES ABOUT AUTORS.

He Was Almost Fool Enough to Be a

Sol Smith Russell tells of how he was traveling on Long Island some seasons ago, doing his monologue in town halls and church basements. At the railway station in one of these little eel catching communities, a native, rusty and boary, sat on a freight truck and accosted the comedian with: "Be you Mr. Russier"

"Yes, that's my name," answered Sol.
"Waal, I thought so," said the native. "I een yeow up to the teown hall las' night, an'-waal, you're a good un!"

"O, thank you," said Sol: "I'm glad you liked the entertainment,"

"Since I come away," resumed the native, "I've been thinkin' that mebbe you might do sumpin for my boy-good, likely critter as ever lived, but so pesky full of his gimeracks that we can't do nuthin' with him. Put him in a shingle factory last spring fer to larn the trade, but he kep' 'em all laffin' so that they couldn't do no work, an one mornin they threw him out, an' he hain't doin' nothin' neow. Settin' up to your show last night I jest about made up my mind that Rube would make a mighty good livin' in your business an' I thought I'd ask you to take him along with you. He's the goldurndest fool you ever see in all your born days."

The ex-Rev. George C. Miln once had a similar experience out in Nebraska City. He was playing "The Fool's Revenge," and he noticed that one old lady sitting well down in front was fearfully agitated. She sobbed and wept like a child. Mr. Miln knew he was a pretty powerful actor, but he had never suspected that he had it in him to exercise so terrific a control over another's emotions. He sent word down to the old lady that he'd like to talk with her after the play So the old lady waited. When Mr Miln had exchanged his stage toggery for civilized raiment be stepped down into the parquet and greeted the old lady cordially.

"My acting moved your" he suggested in his deepest and most soothing tones.

"Lor's sakes alive," said she, "I should rayther say it did. Pve got a son who's an actor in Cheyenne, and it broke me all up to think that mebbe he wasn't no better at actin' than you be."-Exchange.

A Grave Oversight Punished. When the eccentric Harry Webb moted for his freaks of absentmindedness) was lessee of the Queen's theatre in Dublin he pro-duced "Macbeth" with new scenic effects. Among the rest, clouds descended to conceal the exit of the three witches in the first scene. Webb, anxious to discover how the scene worked, passed from the stage to the front, but be saw only two witches instead of three.

Rushing back to the stage, he asked: "Where's the other witch?" Then to the stage manager: "Fine him, sir; fine him a

"Please, sir," explained that perturbed functionary, "it's yourself that missed the "Bless me, so it was! Dear me, give me a cloak; I'll go on in the next scene; and Jen-

kins, fine yourself five shillings for allowing me to neglect my business. "Sir!" exclaimed the dumfounded Jenkins. "Yes, five shillings. It ought to be ten,

but I'll take five."-Detroit Free Press.

Wanted the Play Changed. Some theatrical managers get weary of the incessant draft upon the exchequer for trifles, very frequently the most necessary requirements of a play. The property man knows what the plot calls for, he asks the manager to borrow or buy the necessaries. A manager recently was asked for money to buy cartridges, some play like "Deadwood villain being the main point of interest in the drama, were absolutely needed. The manager gave up a dollar without a word, but when the next day the property man came again and asked for more cartridges be

"Why," said he, "I gave you a dollar for

those things yesterday."

"I know you did, but they were all used up," replied the property man.

"Well, I won't stand that kind of recket. You can go back and have the plot changed and have the villain killed with a club."-Chicago Herald.

Traveling for Half Fare. A good story is told of Bolossy Kiralfy. When his "Seven Ravens" company went to

"How am I to get back to New York?"
"I'd like to fix you first rate." replied
Kiralfy, "but I can't think how to do it." Then an idea struck him, and he added: "I'll Then an idea struck that, swires. And say, tell you. You walk the wires. And say, travel at night. It's only half rate then." Pittsburg Chronicle.

Pevenge is Sweet.

Citizen (to leader of little German band)-Here, Dutchy, is a \$5 bill if you will play for an bour. Dutchy (highly pleased)-Ah, you vos fond

of dot music! Citizen-No; but a 250 pound enemy of mine occupies the second floor front, and he is too big a man for me to tackle myself.—New

A Moving Tale.

Charitable Plumber-It seems incredible, Mr. Bottomdollar, that you should be reduced to this distress. You were able to pay

my bills last winter.

Mendicant (who has asked a loan of his plumber)-1 was, sir, but yesterday was moving day, and I had to settle with my truckman.—Texas Siftings.

A Blizzard Streak. Detroit Man-I've read of straws blown

into boards during a cyclone.

Idaho Man—That's nothing; in the last cyclone we had out there a long, slim streak of wind was driven three inches into a hickory tree so solid that it took three men to pull it out again.—Detroit Free Press.

A Fair Proposition. Father (to would be son-in-law)—Young man, will you be able to take care of my daughter in the style to which she has always

Young Man (earnestly) -I'll guarantee it, sir, or return the girl. -New York Sun.

Taking the Temperature. She (at the races)—What's the trouble on the judges' stand, George! He—There is some dispute over the last

She-Aren't their thermometers all alike, Georget-Texas Siftings.

Scripturally Ignorant. Sunday School Teacher (reprovingly)— Now, Tommy, you must pay closer attention to the lesson. Who killed Abel? Tommy (in a surprised tone of voice) - Why, I didn't know he was dead. - New York Sun.

Looks Very Much That Way.

A Buffalo coal dealer is suing a milkman for watering his milk. If this isn't cheek there is no such thing. - Detroit Free Press.

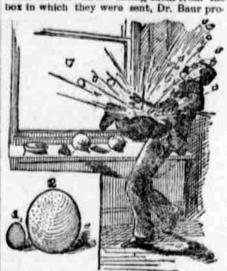
SCIENCE AND PROGRESS.

THINGS OF GENERAL INTEREST THAT ARE TALKED ABOUT.

Results of the Explosion of an Ostrich Egg at the Peabody Museum, with an Explanation of What Brought About the Unexpected Catastrophe.

The sketch here presented is taken from Scientific American, and shows a scene in the basement of the Peabody museum, New Haven, at the time of the explosion of an ostrich egg in the hands of Dr. George Baur, who was experimenting with it. An odor was produced in the building worse than nsed sulphuretted hydrogen and rotten eggs combined.

The egg was one of four received from South Africa. After taking them from the



EXPLOSION OF AN OSTRICH EGG. 1 Hen's egg & Ostrich's egg.

ceeded to remove the embryos from the shell, which he did by filing two little holes in the shell of two of them and blowing out the He wrapped a towel round the third and

began to file a hole in the shell when a hiss and an explosion took place which knocked him over and covered him with the contents of the shell. Upon recovering he found his face considerably cut up. According to Dr. Baur the first two eggs

had been treated with sulphate of mercury, which prevents fermentation. The third, not so treated, had accumulated during its iong voyage a quantity of powerful gas within its eighteen and a half inch shell, which burst as soon as weakened by the file. The shell is an eighth of an inch thick and so tough as not to break readily.

Fire Escape for School Buildings. A novel system of fire escapes for school buildings has been suggested by the chief of the Boston fire department, which promises to be of some practical importance. His idea is to utilize the large yard area to be found about nearly every school house in Boston, and erect an ornamental iron tower a short distance from the building. This tower would contain a broad iron staircase leading from the top to the ground. From each floor of the school house a covered bridge would lead into the tower, and the door leading from the schoolroom to the bridge would be kept unlocked during school hours. The rooms on each floor should connect with each other, and in case of fire the scholars could have unobstructed access to the bridge. By such an arrangement, whenever a fire broke out there would always be ar egress open, and even if matters became serious, the iron tower and bridges would reain unharmed. The plan appears to be perfectly feasible, and, it is said, the expense would not be much more than is laid out on the present fire escapes. Fire and Water, commenting on the above, suggests that the same plan might be adopted for factories and other buildings where numbers of persons are employed on the different floors of the

Photography in Criminal Courts. Popular Science News tells how, by the aid of photography, a Berlin merchant was lately convicted of crooked ways in keeping his accounts "The slightest differences in color and shade of inks are made manifest in the photographic copy Blue inks appear nearly white, brown inks, on the contrary, almost black. The books of the accused were submitted to a photographer, who took off the pages concerned and brought into court the most undoubted ocular proofs of the illegitimate after entry of some of the accounts. A subsequent chemical test substantiated this evidence. The photographic is to be pre-ferred to the chemical test, because it brings its proofs into court and submits them to inspection, at the same time leaving the document under examination unharmed, while the results of a chemical test must be taken on the evidence of the chemist alone, and the writing examined is perhaps destroyed. In another case similar to the above the changing of the date of a note by an insignificant erasure and addition was proved by means of photography

A Live Gorilla in London A live gorilla has been added, for the first time, to the collection of the London Zoolog ical gardens. It is a young animal and at first was exceedingly shy before strangers, but after a month's sojourn in its new home it became more or less friendly



MUMBO, THE LONDON GORILLA. It feeds largely on fruit, and rarely refuses any kind that is offered, though it shows a marked preference for pomegranates. It is expected that Mumbo will in time prove an object of even greater interest than Sally, the educated chimpanzea.

Tenement Houses in Ancient Athens. Professor Trent, of Johns Hopkins univernty, lecturing to Baltimore werkingmen, has been impressing the fact that there is nothing new under the sun. There were tenement houses, he says, in ancient Athens, with many families in one house, there were corners in the iron market and in the olive oil industry then, manipulated just as are Wall street corners now; and there were slave insurance offices, where the old Greek, for about \$1 a year, could be insured against his slaves runALL AROUND THE HOUSE.

Table Decoration-Furniture Renovation

Rebronzing Gas Fixtures. Elegant and appropriate table decoration for a wedding is the following: Lay a long strip of white silk or satin, with handsome white or silver fringe, down the center of the table. On this, at equal distances, place four or six according to the size of tables pretty white straw baskets filled with growing plants of white hyacinths and lilies of the valley mixed with ferns. If the baskets have handles, twist a piece of white satin ribbon round them, and tie at the top a little on one side in a bow, a few sprigs of lily of the valley might be fastened into this. Have some glasses with white flowers and ferns placed here and there on the satin strip.

Cleaning Furniture and Paint.

Renovation of furniture being the order of the day in most households just at present, it may be mentioned that all French polished furniture should be rubbed with furniture polish and very soft cloths. Old fashioned ousekeepers, however, generally claim that nothing surpasses beeswax and turpentine well rubbed in till it shines like glass. Painted furniture, unless very dirty, needs dusting only; but if washed it should be done very quickly with a little warm water and dried at once with a soft cloth. The same must be done with the painted border of a room. New paint should be kept as clean as possible, for the first application of water takes off the gloss, that can never be replaced without a fresh coat of paint.

A piece of old soft flannel is an excellent thing to wash paint with and old linen to dry Warm soft water and sonp are generally used, but many housekeepers prefer whiting, ammonia or favorite trade preparations. Soda is sometimes employed on very dirty woodwork. In general it is best avoided, as it softens and tends to injure the paint,

Easily Made Angel Cake.

Well made angel cake is exceedingly light and good, but must be eaten while perfectly fresh. Among a variety of recipes the following is one of the simplest: Take the whites of six fresh eggs and beat them to a froth; then add six ounces of best white powdered sugar and a teaspoonful of vanilla flavoring. Into this stir lightly four ounces and a half of the finest white flour, which must be perfectly dry; in fact, it is much betten warmed. Pour at once into a tin about half filling it, and instantly transfer to an oven with a good regular heat, neither too hot nor too cold. When baked, do not put it in a cold place at once, but let it gradually

Cloth Mosale Embroidery. Mosaic embroidery is but a new name for the time honored patchwork with which artistic decorative results are now obtained. It is used for ornamental border to various articles, notably table cloths, as shown in the cut.



TABLE COVER WITH MOSAIC BORDER. In this instance the stars of eight points are formed of velvet in two contrasting colors, the remainder of the design being composed of light colored cloth of various es. When finished, the mosaic border is fixed to the table cover of dark brown cloth, trimmed with a fringe and lined.

Summer Flowering Bulbs. The tuberous begonias that have attracted popular attention of late are not only favored pot plants but equally liked for bedding out in the flower garden as summer bloom-

Bulbs are ; 'anted in the open ground about the second week in May, or any time after wards. Seeds are very small, and not easily managed, so that tubers are used for bedding Plants are easily propagated from cuttings, the same as geraniums

In color tuberous begonias are extremely flue, representing in different varieties very brilliant scarlet, a delicate rose, handsome golden yellow, pure white, etc. Both single and double varieties bloom almost constantly

Doing Up Silk Handkerchiefs.

Silk handkerchiefs are ruined by careless washing, such as they are likely to get if put into the general wash. It is better to do them up by themselves. They should be washed in lukewarm water and rinsed two or three times in clear cold water without blue. Wring them out, fold and roll them tightly in a cloth, but do not let them get dry before ironing, or they will never look smooth. Colored silk handkerchiefs should be washed with fine white soap, never with strong yel-low soap.

New Styles in Wall Papers.

A reaction from very dark to light coloring in wall papers, as indicated by this season' exhibit in the shops; appears to be taking Even for libraries, or other rooms finished in dark woods, comparatively light paper hangings are frequently chosen. Bedroom papers are marked by coloring in exquisitely soft tints and with grace of design, a dainty spray of roses, or similarly delicate fancy, being a typical pattern. Iridescent effects obtained by the use of mica represent a novel feature in fine papers.

Preparatton for Rebronzing.

A convenient preparation for rebronzing gas fixtures is made by mixing bronze powder with any transparent varnish, say amber, gum dammar or copal. Decorator and Furnisher, in recommending the above, advises not to mix any more than you are going to use at once, because most bronze powders act as powerful dryers. It is best to put a little of the varnish in a small flat saucer and some of the loose powder next it, and mix with the brush while you are using it.

A Delicious Hot Weather Drink Mix three pounds brown sugar, one pint of molasses, one-quarter pound of tartaric acid, an ounce essence of wintergreen or sassafras, and pour upon these ingredients three pints of boiling water. Let stand till cold, bottle, cork tight and put in a cool place. Put two tablespoonfuls in a tumbler, fill nearly up with water and stir in a third of a table spoonful of soda. This beverage will keep a

Cafe au Lait and Vienna Coffee. Cafe an lait consists of one part of filtered or clear, strong coffee added to one part of milk that has been brought just to the boil-

ing point.

For Vienna coffee a cup is filled one-fourth
full of boiled milk; to this is added three
tablespoonfuls of whipped cream and the cup
is filled up with filtered coffee.

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Knowing there are many spurious ciders sold in this market we offer the above explanation with the eminent testimonial of Prof. J. H. Long. Very Respectfully, THE G. M. JARVIS CO., Sole Proprietors,

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I have made made a chemical examination of the sample of Jarvis' Pear Cider abmitted to me a few days ago, and would report these points among others noted. The liquid is non-alcoholic and has a specific gravity of 10.65. The total extractive matter amounts to 10.25 per cent., containing only .025 per cent of free acid. The tests show this acid to be malic acid as usually found in fruit juices. I find no other

acid or foreign substance added for color or flavor. I believe it, therefore, to consist simply of the juice of the Pear as represented.

Yours truly,

J. H. LONG, Analytical Chemist, Chicago Medical College.

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