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MENTAL TALK ABOUT.

Bits of Interesting Personal Gossip Concerning Those the World Hears of.

Kaiser William used only two swords and one saber throughout his whole life. The Prince of Wales distinguished himself at Homburg not long ago by drinking fourteen glasses of spring water before breakfast.

Senator Arthur P. Gorman, of Maryland, really has no family life except on Sunday. This day he devotes almost entirely to his family, and won't talk about politics at all.

Lord Dufferin, viceroy of India, is now dependent upon an amputation. The tendons of both of his hands have contracted and he is unable to use a pen.

One of the citizens of Salem, Mass., is Frank E. Vistorato, who, when he was a lad, was one of the twelve hundred Greeks who, under Marco Bozzaris, made the famous charge at Carpenisi in August, 1823.

Swinnburne, the poet, is quite independent in his dealings with publishers. He was recently asked to send a magazine a contribution in verse of "not more than sixteen lines" in length.

Hanson Craig, of Kentucky, is probably the heaviest man in the world. His weight is given at 792 pounds, and it requires thirty-seven yards of cloth to make him a suit.

Von Bulow doesn't allow greedy hosts and hostesses to use his services gratis to entertain their guests. He always makes it a point before entering a strange house that he shall not be asked to play.

Gaspard Ashhoff has at his own expense conquered twenty miles of territory on the east coast of Africa along the Indian ocean, and has named it Moscow, and set up there an independent government, of which he is the head.

"Tom" Hughes is as popular as county court judge as he is as the author of "Tom Brown's School Days." He is now past middle life and has the British robust figure and the British red, round face and small eyes.

Elder Joseph Harvey, of Pittsfield, N. H., who recently preached a sermon on the British anniversary of his ordination as a preacher, has been longer in the pulpit than any other clergyman in the state, if not in New England.

Capt. Bassett, the venerable doorkeeper of the senate, always goes through a ceremony at the opening of the sessions which few visitors are fortunate enough to see.

T. C. Crawford, the brilliant correspondent of the New York World, came over with Blaine in the City of New York after a sojourn in London of two years.

The offices of The Journalist are thronged daily with men prominent in the world of letters. Writers for the magazines, for the various syndicates, and correspondents of out of town papers can be seen changing ideas with clever reporters and writers for the daily press.

One day last week there was a gathering of a dozen men whose names are household words, and the recent death of a prominent journalist whose life had been a signal success led to a discussion on success and failure, and the causes which operated in favor of success, or which led to failure.

The delicate duty of deciding whether or not the Mormon bible is authentic has devolved upon the customs department. If really a bible, the duty to be levied upon it is but 5 per cent., but if not a bible, it is a mere book, taxable at the rate of 15 per cent.

An eccentric will will be tested in the courts at Fests in December. A physician, Dr. Goebinger of Buda, left \$250,000 to accumulate for the benefit of his posterity until the interest would be sufficient to relieve destitution everywhere.

The Republican party first sprang into existence a national party in 1856, when Fremont was its candidate for the presidency. He was defeated by a small majority.

Work of a Funny Man.

In reply to an interviewer Mr. Alexander E. Sweet, of Texas Sittings, who writes twelve columns of funny things weekly for his paper, said: "Unlike other alleged humorists, I cannot recall my first downward step. I began going downward from my cradle, I believe. The propensity to write funny things was contemporaneous with my first successful struggle with the alphabet, and has accompanied me through life, bringing with it all the misfortunes which have brightened my career and made me the penitive creature you behold. In 1870 I was the leader of the San Antonio (Tex.) bar, which consisted at that time of myself and another fellow. My promising career at the bar ended in favor of a protracted season at the free lunch counter.

"How do I build my jokes? I think my jokes build themselves. They even get into my business correspondence. Of the different styles of humorous writing, the brief paragraph is the most difficult. A column of such paragraphs daily would put any name under the soil in twelve months, whereas humorist sketches, especially if they are in a series, are the easiest work a professional humorist can find to do. I can write a couple of columns of sketches without any great mental wear and tear, but a half column of paragraphs makes me long to be a popular preacher." Mr. Sweet is, in appearance, a typical New Jersey "hay seed," with his loose, rough looking clothes, heavy movements, full, uncultured beard and rich complexion. One would judge he knew more about crops than human nature. In conversation he says funny things that deserve a place in print, with a countenance marked by ineffable solemnity.—New York Mail and Express.

How Jacksonville Got the Fever. The proposition that all the world loves a lover probably does not hold good in Jacksonville now. This whole yellow fever business is a love affair, or the result of a love affair. McCormick, the man who brought the yellow fever to Jacksonville, was a lover. His sweetheart was in Tampa, and Tampa was isolated on account of yellow fever. But yellow fever or no yellow fever, McCormick wanted to see his girl; so he managed to pass the cordon and steal an interview with his love. Then he came back to Jacksonville and brought yellow fever with him. Surgeon General Hamilton is authority for this short history of the spread of yellow fever. It is another confirmation of the wisdom of the sage who once declared there was a woman at the bottom of every mischief.—Washington Post.

Preserving the English Flavor. Newport is still talking of Mr. J. J. Van Alen's balls. Mr. Van Alen's new house, about which so much curiosity existed, was thrown open for the first time, and the guests could scarcely look at each other they were so taken up with the furniture and decorations of the place. There is no gas in the house, and even the ballroom was lighted with wax candles. To preserve the English flavor the servants were arrayed in knee breeches and buckled shoes, and were ordered that. The ball was opened with a hunting quadrille, danced by men in scarlet coats and women arrayed in white with scarlet shoulder knots. Supper was served on the lawn, in huts, at tables that just held eight people.—Harper's Bazar.

Actor Emmett's St. Bernard. The famous St. Bernard, Pinlimmon, for which J. K. Emmett recently paid \$5,000, seems to deserve an item all to himself. An Englishman says that the dog was so beloved at Leeds that when Mr. Emmett took him away the scene was really affecting. The friends who were fond and proud of him all came to have a parting look at him. Children were brought in to shake hands the last time with Old Pin. Soon the whole neighborhood was alive as it became generally known that the splendid Pinlimmon was going away, and the levee had to be transferred to the street, where the people were crowding round the grand animal and his new master seated in the carriage.—New York Tribune.

English Women Take to Sticks. Men as well as women have elected to use sticks this year, and they have been turned to most useful account. One, with a handsome silver top, contains an umbrella, which requires to be closely rolled, then slips into the tin case formed by the stick, and is quite invisible. When in use the case is screwed on for a handle to the umbrella. Another has a receptacle for twelve pennies; and one which would be an acceptable present for a gentleman has a measure for the height of horses, with a spirit level. Women will better appreciate the crystal topped stick, through which a watch is visible; the top raises for winding, and it is ingenious as well as pretty looking.—London Queen.

A Wonderful Buttonhole Maker. Astonishing results of continued practice in any branch of work are illustrated by a buttonhole maker in Salem. This worthy woman has a reputation of being able to make 200 buttonholes in a day. She receives a large number of dress waists Friday evening, and after leisurely eating her supper she takes up her work and accomplishes twenty buttonholes that evening, completing the rest of her task the next day. As the buttonholes are "hand work," the number is certainly a surprising result of industry. "She is perfectly wonderful," said a neighbor, "and she works so fast that you can't even see her bite off her thread."—Boston Journal.

Was Not Fatally Damaged. The present series of experiments with ordinary live shells, and shells charged with melinite and gun cotton against the Resistance (armor clad) have been concluded. The top, sides and interior of the bulk are very much torn and rent, but the comparative values of the several explosives will not be determined until after a careful examination of the results has been made on board by a committee of experts. But the true fact that it was possible to tow the ship into harbor immediately after the firing goes far to prove that the hull was not fatally damaged.—Scientific American.

Is It a Bible? The delicate duty of deciding whether or not the Mormon bible is authentic has devolved upon the customs department. If really a bible, the duty to be levied upon it is but 5 per cent., but if not a bible, it is a mere book, taxable at the rate of 15 per cent. The department has levied the higher duty, thus practically determining that the work is no revelation, but the production of human intellect. Hence it is a ruling that will not be questioned in this community.—Toronto Mail.

Contesting an Eccentric Will. An eccentric will will be tested in the courts at Fests in December. A physician, Dr. Goebinger of Buda, left \$250,000 to accumulate for the benefit of his posterity until the interest would be sufficient to relieve destitution everywhere. The trustees calculated that they could effect a distribution when the capital reached \$1,000,000,000, but they declined to do so. The will will now be contested by claimants in America, London and Madrid.—Chicago News.

THE CURIOSITY SHOP.

The Red Cross Society—Its Origin and Its Work.

The Red Cross society is an organization for the purpose of securing neutrality to the ground occupied by hospitals, etc., during the war, and to provide relief from disaster by flood, pestilence or other calamity during peace. The movement had its origin in Europe. The battle of Solferino was fought in 1859, and Henry Dunant, a Swiss gentleman, visited the battle field. He saw that the wounded were often left for days without attention or surgical relief. In 1862 he published a description of what he had seen, and set forth reasons for establishing in every country permanent societies for the relief of the wounded. A society in Geneva, Switzerland, called the Geneva society of public utility, appointed a committee for the purpose of advancing the proposals of Dunant. This led to the international conference, held at Geneva in October, 1863, which was attended by delegates from sixteen governments. The conference resulted in the calling of an international congress, known as the international convention of Geneva of 1864. The special aim of the convention of 1864 was to obtain the neutralization of the wounded in war time, and also of the persons and materials necessary for their care. The conference of 1863 had aimed at a system of relief societies for all countries. The treaty of 1864 secured the neutralization of hospitals, materials, nurses and surgeons, and that these might be recognized, a common sign was fixed upon by one of the articles of the treaty, which provides for a flag for hospitals and conveys an arm badge for persons. The flag designed was a red cross upon a white ground, adopted as a compliment to Switzerland, this design, with the colors reversed, being the national flag of that country. Thus from these two notable conventions in Geneva, in 1863 and 1864, arose the establishment of national relief committees and a treaty that now embraces every civilized nation of the earth.

An Old Adage. The saying, "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush," originated from the following circumstance: Will Somers, the celebrated jester to Henry VIII, happened to call at Lord Surrey's, whom he had often, by a well timed jest, saved from the king's displeasure, and who, consequently, was always glad to see him. He was on this occasion ushered into the aviary, where he found "my lord" amusing himself with his birds. Somers happened to admire the plumage of a kingfisher. "By my princely wits, I will give it to you." Will slipped about with delight, and swore by the great Harry he was a most noble gentleman. Away went Will with his kingfisher, telling all his acquaintances whom he met that his friend Surrey had just presented him with it. Now, it so happened that Lord Northampton, who had seen this bird the day previous, arrived at Lord Surrey's just as Will Somers had left, with the intention of asking the bird of Surrey for a present to a lady friend. Great was his chagrin on finding the bird gone. Surrey, however, consoled him with saying that he knew Somers would restore it if he (Surrey) promised him two some other day. Away went a messenger to the prince of wits, whom he found in raptures with his bird, and to whom he delivered his lord's message. Great was Will's surprise, but he was not to be bamboozled by even the monarch himself. "Sirrah," said Will, "tell your master that I am much obliged for his liberal offer of two for one, but that I prefer one bird in hand to two in the bush."

Antiquity of Gold. Gold is first mentioned in the eleventh verse of the second chapter of Genesis, 4004 years before Christ. It is mentioned as one of the elements of Abram's riches in Genesis, thirteenth chapter, second verse, 1918 years before Christ. The Egyptians used gold as money at a very early but unknown period, but first in the form of rings, which opened and could be strung together. It is probable that gold was used as money at the time Abraham bought the field of Machpelah, though he paid for that in silver "current with the merchant." That was 1875 years before Christ. This probably is increased by the fact above stated that gold was reckoned as a part of the riches of Abram. According to Herodotus, the invention of the coinage of gold belongs to Lydia, about 700 years before Christ. High authority says that gold was first coined in the island of Egeina, and other authorities say the Persians first coined gold. And very high authority says that the first coinage of gold was at Miletus. But the fact of the first coinage of gold has never been and probably never will be certainly ascertained.

The Harvest Moon. The "harvest moon" is so called from the fact that in the early autumn days when grain and fruit are being taken from the fields, there is scarcely any darkness intervening between the close of day and the beginning of night. The moon rises early and gives a brilliant light, by means of which the harvesters work until late at night to secure the crops. The harvest moon has long been a favorite theme with the poets.

The Electoral Vote of 1840. The electoral vote for William H. Harrison in 1840 was: Ohio, 21; Tennessee, 15; Kentucky, 15; North Carolina, 15; Maryland, 10; Delaware, 3; New Jersey, 8; Vermont, 7; Connecticut, 8; Rhode Island, 4; Massachusetts, 14; Maine, 10; New York, 42; Georgia, 11; Louisiana, 5; Mississippi, 4; Indiana, 9; Michigan, 3. Total, 254. Van Buren had only 69 votes.

French Candidates. A candidate for the French chamber of deputies can stand for election wherever there is a vacancy. If elected in more than one department he notifies the president of the chamber which one he decides to represent, and new elections would be held in those he declined.

Wild Goose Chase. The expression, "a wild goose chase," arose from the peculiar action of wild geese. When one takes the lead the others follow blindly, no matter what the obstruction or danger of the path may be. It is easy to see how the expression is applicable to some people's actions.

No Religious Test. The last clause of paragraph 3, Article VI, of the constitution of the United States reads: "But no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States." According to this, a Jew is not ineligible to the office of president.

Champions of Christendom. The seven champions of Christendom were St. George, for England; St. Andrew, for Scotland; St. Patrick, for Ireland; St. David, for Wales; St. Denis, for France; St. James, for Spain; St. Anthony, for Italy.

Birth of a Party. The Republican party first sprang into existence a national party in 1856, when Fremont was its candidate for the presidency. He was defeated by a small majority.

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THE G. M. JARVIS CO., Gentlemen: I have made a chemical examination of the sample of Jarvis' Pear Cider submitted 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 1.065. 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. THE G. M. JARVIS CO San Jose, Cal. 39 N. State St. Chicago W. B. HOWARD, Traveling Salesman. FOR SALE BY ALL Druggist and Leading Wine Merchants.