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## Islands of the Sea.

Some mathematician of leisure has been estimating the number of islands in the world, and has succeeded in counting some hundreds of thousands. He says there are over 1,000 island under the flag of Japan. Strangely enough, he makes no reference to the Thousand Islands of the St. Lawrence or to the thousands in our own Georgian bay, some of which are of considerable size. It was among these beautiful wooded little islands that the Huron Indians took refuge when they were assailed in 1649 by their implacable foes, the Iroquois. Among the labyrinthian channels the Iroquois could not successfully pursue them, and those who escaped to the islands saved themselves from the extermination which befell their friends. —Toronto Truth.

## A Trio of Practical Jokers.

The late W. J. Florence was best known off the stage as a practical joker. He relied for his success upon his cleverness entirely. And it is not recorded that he ever made an enemy by a practical joke. This love of practical joking made him and Dunderary Southern friends until the end of Sothern's life. They were continually playing jokes each upon the other, and whichever way the joke went it was appreciated. Larry Jerome, Sothern and Florence were a famous trio of jokers in New York ten years ago. —New York Sun.

## AN ODD NUMBER AND AN ODD CASE.

### And the Question Is, Had Thirteen Anything to Do with the Case?

There was a commotion in the hotel when the Denver stage came in, and the men who were playing poker in the bar-room, and the loafers who were waiting for somebody to treat hurried to see what was up.

"There's a sick traveling man. He's awful bad and can't go any further. Fix him up a bed and send for a doctor," some one in authority was saying.

There were plenty of volunteers to help carry the sick man to a room, and soon a temporary nurse was installed and a doctor in charge of the case.

There was nothing unusual about it. He wasn't the first sick man that had stranded there, and would not be the last. The only curious thing about him was this: He heard the landlord say: "Take him into thirteen."

"No, no," he said feebly, "that is an unlucky number to me—don't put me there."

"All right," said the landlord, "give him eighteen, that's empty." And the men bore him carefully upstairs.

But the landlord had winked to those who had him in charge, and they had responded by an answering wink, which said in dumb show, "All right, we understand."

So they carried him into the room with the unlucky number, and he, having faith in the man he had appealed to, asked no questions. Indeed he could not, for as they carried him into the room he swooned, and they had enough to do, with the doctor's help, to revive him.

Then he dozed, and started up in feverish delirium, and called for people who were far away, and raved and muttered, and the landlord was laughing down at the bar, telling of his good joke in deceiving the sick man.

"He'll never know the difference," he said. "I ain't no patience with such superstitions, and what the eye don't see the heart don't feel. Here's health and long life to the stranger in No. 13."

They clinched glasses and drank.

The noise of their carousal penetrated the room above, where death wrestled with life in an unequal encounter.

"What time is it?"

"The sick man had awakened suddenly, and as he asked the question the clock on the mantel began to strike the hour.

"One—two—three—four," he counted the strokes aloud.

The nurse tried to dissuade him from speaking by shaking her head in disapproval and laying a finger on her lips, but he persisted and had his way.

"Five—six—seven—eight"—

The doctor held his finger on the sick man's pulse and felt an accelerated thrill in its irregular beat. The sick man's voice continued:

"Nine—ten—eleven—twelve"—

"Midnight," said the doctor, giving the nurse a warning look.

"Thirteen!"

"The clock struck one too many; it is out of order," grumbled the nurse.

"It has stopped," said the doctor, taking his finger from the pulse, to which he referred. "Strange! I did not think the end was so near."

Neither did the landlord, who had just wished the traveler long life.

But the clock that struck one too many had been the strange instrument of fate. —Detroit Free Press.

## Some People Dislike Clocks.

I loathe clocks! They are like your frank people who are always bawling unpleasant truths at you. As I look up from my work just now and catch the eye of that brazen little monster on the shelf it almost seems as though it was gloating over the fact that time has been the best of me. "Ah, ha!" it seems to be saying, "would like to keep your bloom a little longer, would you? Don't like to think how late in the day it's getting for some folks, and how near the bedtime of the grave! But mortals can't hold on to youth, and they can't forget the inn where they are bound to sleep the night of death away, while my brazen tongue is wagging! You're on the lightning express that stops at no station, and I've got hold of the throttle valve, my dear!"

Well, you little beast, go on with your exulting beat of passing time! Swing yourself loose and hurry us away to the sea as a spiteful tug tackles an outward bound ocean steamer! Some day we will get it all back on you, when we stand under the new heavens checked off with no meridian of time! We shall forget you and your paltry environments as completely as the summer forgets the winter or the sunshine forgets the storm. Meantime I would like to demolish you with a meat ax! —Chicago Herald.

## Titles and Plain "Mister."

Not many years ago the title of doctor was considered justly as an honor and an evidence of sound education and training.

The extraordinary fondness in this country for titles of all kinds, especially those of doctor, professor and colonel or some military equivalent, has taken away all the prestige from the name. The druggist at the corner is a "doctor," the chiropodist is a "professor," and the advertising columns of some newspapers are embellished with pictures of these long haired "doctors" and "professors."

To a man who has been a groom the bestowal of "doctor medicine," no doubt, still confers an honor; but, on the whole, the title has become rather a trade mark and a convenient means of unobtrusive advertisement rather than a badge of distinction or evidence of scholarly attainment.

There seems to be a growing feeling that, after all, the title of "mister" is as noble a one as a gentleman needs or can desire.

This is the title that is almost now a distinction among medical men, who feel their own strength and rest on their consciousness of being masters of their art—the good old title of "mister," which some of the best men in the profession find ample for all social and professional purposes. It is certainly infinitely more honorable than any unacademic or unwarranted use of the title of "doctor." And I see many indications that this view is shared by the professional and by many who think they have a right by courtesy to something more. —New York Herald.

## It Came Off, for Once.

"How now! What hot dear sir," said an old runner, stopping me at the Washington statue in front of Independence hall, "will you allow me, beneath the shadow of this historic building, to speak a few words to you?"

"Well, go ahead," I said.

"For about the fiftieth time I read the Declaration of Independence today," he continued, "and I pondered long and deeply over it. I believe the whole gist of it is that all men are free and equal. Am I not right?"

"Certainly. But what have I to do with that?" I asked.

"Everything, my dear sir; everything," he replied. "You are a good American, I know, and that is the reason why I wished to say to you that men are not free and equal in all cases."

"In what cases are they not?"

"Well, take for instance our own case," he said with all seriousness. "True, we are both free, but we are not equal. You have enough money about you to buy a brazer. I have not. Therefore we are not equal. Do I make myself clear?"

"Perfectly. Here you are. Will ten place us upon an equal footing?"

"Undoubtedly. Would that all Americans thought as much of our fundamental principles."

And he shot up the street rejoicing in the fact that for once he was free and equal. —Philadelphia Press.

## Names of London Streets.

I don't wonder that reformers shudder when it comes to the names of streets. I myself have counted twenty-six King streets, sixteen Queen streets and thirteen Duke streets in this town! The same name will repeat itself in street, road, place, crescent and square, upper and lower, east and west, until the brain begins to soften. We've spent more shillings in directing cabs to Gloucester something or other, when we ought to have gone to Gloucester something else, than I dare tell.

Bob declares he'll be chained to an address book hereafter. I suppose a good deal of this repetition is due to the greediness with which London swallows up town after town. But really there is no excuse for baptizing the same streets several times. One street in our neighborhood, not half a mile long, has three names. It's a blessing to get into Piccadilly, Oxford street and the Strand, for then I know where I am; but now I come to think of it, I don't know anything of the sort, for Piccadilly runs into Knights bridge, that street runs into several things, the Strand becomes Fleet street at Temple Bar—or, perhaps I ought to say, at the place where Temple Bar once stood—and Oxford street loses itself in Holborn.—London Cor. Kate Field's Washington.

## The Glow Worm's Light.

The English glow worm is the wingless female of a winged beetle. Some suppose that the light she bears is bestowed for her protection to scare away the nightingale and other nocturnal birds. Others, however, believe that the gift of brightness is the very lure by which her foes are assisted to discover and devour her. Much speculation has been indulged in as to the nature of the glow worm's light, which is not put out by water nor seemingly capable of giving forth any heat. It has been asserted that the light diffusing substance contains phosphorus, but this has never been proved. Certainly it is incapable of communicating ignition to anything. —Washington Star.

## A Ticking Tombstone.

A "ticking tombstone" draws many visitors to the cemetery of the London Tract meeting house on the boundary line between Delaware and Pennsylvania. Two centuries ago the region was settled by Quakers from London, and the meeting house is quaint and venerable. A constant ticking comes from one of the old tombstones; and while many superstitious ears listen to the sound with awe, practical people say that the strange noise is caused by a subterranean rivulet, which drains dry by drop, against the base of the tombstone. —Yankee Blade.

## A Sad Complication.

"I'll never publish another book anonymously as long as I live," said a poet on Christmas morning.

"Why not?" queried a friend.

"Because I have already received five copies of my own book from my admirers, with the compliments of the season." —Harper's.

## A Husband's Mistake.

Husbands too often permit wives, and parents their children, to suffer from headache, dizziness, neuralgia, sleeplessness, fits, nervousness, when by the use of Dr. Miles' Restorative Nervine such serious results could easily be prevented. Druggists everywhere say it gives universal satisfaction and has an immense sale. Woodworth & Co., of Fort Wayne, Ind.; Snow & Co., of Syracuse, N. Y.; J. C. Wolf, Hillsdale, Mich.; and hundreds of others say: "It is the greatest seller they ever knew." It contains no opiates. Try bottles and fine book on Nervous Diseases, free at F. G. Fricke & Co's Wonderful.

E. W. Sawyer, of Rochester, Wis., a prominent dealer in general merchandise, and who runs several peddling wagons, had one of his horses badly cut and burned with a lariat. The wound refused to heal. The horse became lame and stiff notwithstanding careful attention and the application of remedies. A friend handed Sawyer some of Haller's Barb Wire Linctament, the most wonderful thing ever saw to heal such wounds. He applied it only three times and the sore was completely healed. Equally good for all sore cuts, bruises, and wounds. For sale by all druggists.

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