

### CAN'T UNDERSTAND AMERICA.

Novelist Howells' Amateur Experience with an Official in Venice.

The ways of English and Americans are still appearing to the morbidly interested and less clearly southern nations, which have had for many decades large opportunities for studying these race peculiarities, and yet have never ceased to wonder says *London's Companion*. When W. D. Howells was consul at Venice an attempted burglary in the palace occupied by him gave occasion for the following suggestive incident:

In my account of this affair to the commissary of police I said that the burglary occurred one morning about daylight, when I saw the head of the burglar peering above the window sill, and his hand extended to prey upon my wardrobe.

"Excuse me, Signor Console," interrupted the commissary, "how could you see him?"

"Why, there was nothing in the world to prevent me. The window was open."

"The window was open?" gasped the commissary. "Do you mean that you sleep with your windows open?"

"Most certainly."

"Pardon," said the commissary, suspiciously, "do all Americans sleep with their windows open?"

"I may venture to say they all do in summer," I answered. "At least, it is the general custom."

Such a thing as this indulgence in fresh air seemed altogether foreign to the commissary's experience, and but for my official dignity I am sure I should have been effectually brow-beaten by him. As it was, he threw himself back in his armchair and stared at me fixedly for some moments. Then he recovered himself with another "Pardon!" and turning to his clerk, said:

"Write down that, according to the American custom, they were sleeping with their windows open."

But I know that for all his politeness he considered this habit a relic of the time when we Americans abode in wigwags.

### ACCOMPANIED OR UNACCOMPANIED?

It Was Easy to Divine the State of Each Particular Case.

"My office is nearly opposite a popular downtown restaurant, the upper floor of which is reserved for ladies or gentlemen accompanied by ladies," said a young aspirant for legal honors the other day to a N. Y. *Herald* man.

"The view from my window, however, allows me to see only one person seated at any of the three tables near the window, and that fact has enabled me to have lots of fun, and at the same time gives me a first-rate chance to study my fellow-man in the presence of a girl of whom he thinks enough to invite her out to luncheon."

"In a fortnight I got so I could tell in a moment whether any man of whom I could catch a glimpse at a table had as his vis-a-vis another man or a woman."

"How did I do it? Oh, it was easily enough divined. If there were two men, the one I could see would act perfectly natural. But if there were a woman on the other side of the table things were very much changed. The fellow in my view would conduct himself entirely different from the one with his chum along. His interest in the curl of his mustache would be increased tenfold, and every now and then he would suspend operations in the eating line to cast a killing look at his fair companion."

"In fact, under such conditions I found that the whole manner and pose of nine men out of ten became at once absurdly unnatural and self-conscious, and their efforts to please, from my point of view, invariably became most amusing."

### A POINTER'S GREAT LEAP.

He Jumped from a Flying Train After a Bird.

August Osthoff of Frankfort road has a pointer dog that two weeks ago he valued at \$200 at least, says the *Philadelphia Record*. To-day it would make \$1,000 and more to win the animal. And the reason for this jump in value is not far to seek.

A few days ago Mr. Osthoff was bound out of the city on the North Pennsylvania railroad for a gunning trip, accompanied, as usual, by his dog. He was sitting by an open window in the smoking car, while Count Beaufort crouched calmly at his feet against the side of the car. As the train started away from Edgehill station the sportsman leaned forward to talk to some friends in the seat ahead. The speed of the cars was increasing fast when some boys that were shooting blackbirds in a field near by discharged a gun. Count started up and put his paw upon the window-sill. Mr. Osthoff's friends saw the dog's intent eye and ear and one of them for fun said: "Go fetch it."

Count knew what that meant. In an instant, before his master or friend could move a muscle, he gave a spring and while the train whistled along at a twenty-five-mile-an-hour gait went flying out of the window.

Mr. Osthoff drew a quick breath as he saw his splendid hunter jump to certain death. He leaped to his feet and seized the ball-ropes to stop the train. His hand was dislodged by the conductor, who said no dog would be allowed to interfere with "schedule."

Osthoff stormed and fumed and said it was worth \$100 to him to get to his dog at once. But argument availed nothing, and he was told to wait till the next station was reached, when he could telegraph back for the animal.

It was a mile and a half before the next stop was made, and the sportsman alighted, expecting to walk back and find his dog's scattered remains.

He started along the rails and then stood amazed. Three hundred yards down the track, like a shooting ray of sunshine, something was scudding toward him. The stretch was covered in a few instants, and there at his feet panted Count, his tail wagging, and in his mouth the blackbird that was brought down by the boy sportsman's gun. Count knew his business, and so does his master now. That dog can't be bought for love or money.

NEXT Thursday the democratic national committee will name the place and time for holding the presidential convention, Kansas City, Milwaukee and St. Paul are in the race for the convention.

### GIVE THE BOY A TRADE.

Ex-Mayor Vaux makes the statement, as the result of his fifty years' observation as an inspector at the penitentiary, that a useful trade is a better preventive of crime than a good education. This agrees with the observation of many other persons who have made a study of the question. The man or boy with an "education" and no trade or profession is poorly equipped for the world's battle. A false ideal prevails that it is "lowering" for a boy to be taught a trade. And that accounts for many of the crimes committed by men who think that "the world owes them a living." It is a pity that parents cannot be made to appreciate the truth of what Mr. Vaux says on this subject.

### FIRE ON THE YORKTOWN.

The dispatches this morning give the startling rumor that the Chilians had fired on the Yorktown in the harbor of Valparaiso although it could not be found out whether it was the truth or not. If it should prove to be a fact Admiral Evans, who is the commander would evidently return the fire with Yankee heroism.

The navy department is very active at Washington and at Mare Island navy yard the men worked all day Sunday and the Baltimore has been over hauled and will start for Chilian waters to-morrow, and all Naval officers who are off on leave of absence are requested to report at once for special duty.

Maps of the coast of Chili which show every fortified spot along the Chilian coast have been furnished the different army officers and the navy, these maps show Valparaiso to be well fortified being protected by four large forts and several batteries, but it is thought that our biggest war ships with their heavy guns could soon silence them.

### ALL FOR PROTECTION.

Hackettstown, N. J., in order to induce a German firm to start a plush factory in its midst is raising \$13,000 for the erection of a building, which is to be given to the plush makers free of rent for a term of six years. Democrats and republicans are alike subscribing to the fund, thus testifying to the fact that when a copertie proposition is presented to Americans they sweep aside theories and act like noble men. A few months ago we had occasion to call attention to the fact that the citizens of San Diego had subscribed a large sum of money to induce the erection of an iron rolling factory in their midst. Among the subscribers were many of the leading democrats of the town. These gentlemen for the moment forgot the teachings of such eminent free trade lights as Cleveland, that the artificial stimulation of trade or manufactures is pernicious, and went in with all their might for a project which they knew would help their town. Of course they showed themselves to be sensible business men, but it is curious that the same person, when it came to broadening the question, seem to be unable to perceive that if it is a good thing for a town to have manufactures in its midst it must also be good for a nation. The silliest economic doctrine ever preached is that of natural methods. There is nothing natural about modern trade or manufactures. They are both in the highest degree artificial, and the nations or localities which trust least to nature and rely most on art are those which succeed in attaining the highest degree of prosperity.—San Francisco Chronicle.

### FILLED HIS HEAD WITH SHOT.

An Ashland Citizen Fatally Injured by an Accidental Discharge.

Scarfe, an employee of the Union Will Mill Company of Ashland, Neb., returned from a rabbit hunt. He entered his house and being cold laid his gun on the table, the most convenient place, not thinking that it was cocked. After warming himself his wife asked him to go out doors for something and just as he was passing the window the woman pushed the table back against the wall to its accustomed place. The jar discharged the gun through the window. The charge struck the husband in the back of the head and shoulders.

A physician was immediately called, and an examination showed that no less than twelve shot entered the unfortunate man's head and shoulder. These were removed to-day from his shoulder but it is almost impossible to remove them from his head, as he has a very thick, heavy growth of hair upon it which has been badly clotted with blood. Physicians say that the chances for his recovery is almost hopeless.

THE Chilian trouble is creating alarm on the Pacific coast as it now looks as if war with Chili was inevitable. The Montauk has been ordered got ready for service as soon as possible. The Montauk was built during the civil war and served during the latter part of that struggle in the naval campaign on the Mississippi river. She has a single revolving turret, in which are mounted two fifteen-inch rifled guns, which are formidable weapons for use in coast and harbor defense. It is understood that as soon as Montauk's machinery has been connected and made ready for operation, similar work will be done on the Nahant and Jason.

### PROHIBITION CONVENTION.

The national committee of the prohibition party has called the national convention of that party to nominate candidates for president and vice president of the United States, and to transact such other business as may properly come before it, to assemble in Music hall, St. Louis, Mo., June 29. The basis of representation has been fixed as follows: Each state is entitled to four delegates-at-large. Each state is also entitled to twice as many delegates as the number of congressmen which the state is entitled to elect in 1892 (this is the new apportionment). Each state may send one additional delegate for every 1,000 votes, or the major fraction thereof, cast for Fisk and Brooks in 1888. Each territory is entitled to two delegates. The District of Columbia is entitled to two delegates.

### REPEALING RECIPROCIITY.

The bill introduced by Congressman Breckenridge, of Kentucky, is a prominent piece in the tariff crazy quilt which the democrats in congress are at work upon. The republicans can not hope for better political fortune than that this bill be repealed. Repealing reciprocity. Repealing equitable trade relation with other nations! Repealing the clause of the tariff law by which the United States is enabled to demand from other countries fair treatment of its products and special privileges for certain products of this country! The democrats are welcome to the honor of repealing this clause of the McKinley law. The republicans wish all speed to the congressman from Kentucky. They beseech and urge the democrats to push the bill with all the vigor possible.

But how inconsistent is the democratic party! For nearly a year and a half they have been claiming that reciprocity was free trade. As its provisions have been hailed by the people, as under its operation foreign markets have been enlarged and others opened for the first time to American products, the democrats have been crying that reciprocity was stolen from the democrats, that it was free trade. But now they are going to repeal it. If reciprocity is free trade, why repeal it? Does not the democratic party believe in free trade? Either the democrats were mistaken when they called reciprocity free trade, or else they are mad now and like the madmen of old are tearing themselves to pieces. They had better get together in congress and map out some policy and stick to it. These bills for the repeal of everything fast and loose is going to make mischief for the bourbon party.—Iowa State Register.

### TRADE FLOURISHING.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade says: It was suggested two weeks ago that the exports in December were likely to be extraordinarily large. The preliminary reports just issued indicate that the exports in that month were probably the largest ever known, for while no increase appears in cotton, and exports of provisions, cattle, and oil were slightly less than a year ago, a gain of \$20,000,000 appears in bread-stuffs, making the net increase in principal items \$17,540,854, or nearly 25 per cent, indicating that the aggregate exports for the month will probably exceed \$116,000,000, against about \$98,000,000 last year, when the amount was greater than it had ever been in any month.

The exports of flour increased 50 per cent, and exports of wheat are 15,000,000 bushels, against 4,800,000 bushels last year, while exports of cotton are 43,000,000 pounds greater in quantity, though no increase appears in value owing to the low prices.

The enormous exports overshadow all other features in the commercial situation. They insure large supplies of money, if ever needed, but at present the markets are everywhere well supplied except at southern points and better supplied there than a week ago.

Treasury disbursements have

been large, and there is no reason to look for a lack in the supply of money.

Another fact of large importance is that the iron output was not diminished in December, as is usual, owing to the stoppage of furnaces during the holidays, but was 188,082 tons weekly, against 188,135 December 1. The market is fairly active, though the enormous output gives buyers an advantage, and Alabama and Virginia iron is offered at low prices.

Copper is flat, and in tin there is little change, but lead is weak at 4.30 cents, and the market for coal very dull on account of the heavy output.

The wool production last year is estimated considerably larger than that of the year before, but the stocks on hand are somewhat larger, indicating that the consumption in 1891 has been about the same as in 1890. The market shows no important change, and just at this season none is to be expected.

### \$3,500 IN REWARDS

The Canadian Agriculturists Great Fall Literary Competition

The fifth half year Literary competition of the Canadian Agriculturist, America's old and reliable illustrated family Magazine, is now open. The following splendid prizes will be given free to the persons sending in the greatest number of words made out of the letters contained in the words "The Illustrated Agriculturist." Everyone sending in a list of not less than one hundred words will receive a present of silverware.

1st grand reward.....\$500 in gold  
2nd .. grand piano valued at \$500  
3rd .. .. . \$250 in gold  
4th .. .. . Organ valued at \$200  
5th .. .. . \$100 in gold  
6th .. Gents gold watch full jewelled  
7th .. Ladies gold watch  
8th .. .. . \$50 in gold  
9th .. .. . \$25 in gold  
10 rewards of \$10 each.....\$100

Next 20 prizes—20 silver tea sets quadruple plate warranted.....\$500  
Next 50 prizes—50 silver dessert spoons warranted heavy plate.....\$250  
Next 100 prizes—100 silver butter dishes etc, warranted heavy plate.....\$250  
Next 500 prizes consists of heavy plated silver kettles, butter dishes, fruit baskets, biscuit jar sugar shells, butter knives etc. all fully warranted making a total of 850 splendid rewards the value of which will aggregate \$3,500.

1. The words must be constructed only from letters in the words, "The Illustrated Agriculturist" and must be only such words as are found in Webster's unabridged dictionary, in the body of the book none of the supplement to be used.

2. The words must be written in rotation and numbered 1, 2, 3, and so on, for facilitating in deciding the winners.

3. Letters cannot be used oftener than they appear in the words, The Illustrated Agriculturist. For instance the word egg cannot be used as there is but one 'g' in the three words.

4. The list containing the largest number of words will be awarded first prize, and so on in order of merit. Each list as it is received will be numbered and if two or more tie the first received will be awarded first prize, and so on, therefore the benefit of sending in early will readily be seen.

Each list must be accompanied by \$1 for six months subscription to The Agriculturist.

The following men have kindly connected to act as Judges: J. G. Mac Donald, city clerk, Peterborough, Canada, and Commodore Calcutt, Peterborough.

Our last competition—Got \$1000 prize all right, G. W. Cunningham, Vancouver, B. C. Thanks for \$500 prize—G. W. Cunningham Donald B. C. Prize received O. K.—J. D. Baptie West superior, Wis. \$300 prize rec'd Thanks—G. V. Robertson, Toronto; and 300 others in United States and Canada.

This is no lottery—merit only will count. The reputation for fairness gained by the Agriculturist in the past is ample guarantee that the competition will be conducted in like manner. Send 3c stamp for full particulars to The Agriculturist, Peterborough, Canada.

The Farmers Mutual Insurance Company of Cass county will hold their annual meeting at the Hails school house in Eight Mile Grove precinct on Saturday at 1 o'clock p. m. for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year and to transact such business as may lawfully come before the meeting.

J. P. FALTER, Sec.

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