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50 STAR PERFORMERS. 5 FUNNY, FAMOUS CLOWNS.
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London Women Coming to Like Flats.

A very significant change has come over Londoners of late years with regard to a certain form of residence known as a "flat." Not many years ago the idea of living in a flat was so little appreciated that apartments of that kind could hardly be said to exist at all in London. A few unwieldy blocks of buildings were built after the American fashion, but so little did they suit the English taste that for a long time they remained almost empty and tenantless, notwithstanding the fact that they then added a very low rent to the other advantages that they offered to their occupants. Now during the last three or four years the inhabitants of London seem to have suddenly changed their minds and flats cannot be built quickly enough to accommodate the numbers who are looking for them.

Whole streets of flats, in some cases, have been constructed, and have been taken by eager tenants even before the builders had vacated them. Indeed, an inquirer for flats the other day, who was willing to pay a very fair rent for very modest requirements, discovered that, unless he could speedily make up his mind to take the unfinished article, he had no chance at all of inhabiting the article when it was finished, so very much greater was the demand than the supply. That the supply is making gigantic strides to overtake the demand is evident to any one who has lately watched the building operations in our streets, and the gradual rise of great blocks of red brick bearing the premature inscription, "Residential flats to be let." On the whole, we do not think it would be an exaggeration to say that, whatever may have been the increase in the number of houses in the metropolis during the last twenty-five years, the number of flats must have increased more than a hundredfold.—London Spectator.

A Postoffice Strike.

All the clerks in the postoffice at Vancouver, B. C., went out on strike Monday. The trouble has been expected for some time. The postoffice here is "farmed" by the postmaster, who, by keeping down salaries, makes \$4,400 a year, which is equalled by the salary of only three postmasters in Canada. The lady clerks have been getting \$25 a month, and one male clerk, married, gets \$35 a month. The clerks asked \$40 for ladies and \$50 for men, which would leave the postmaster about \$2,500 a year. Victoria's postmaster, being on the civil service list, gets only \$2,000 a year. Postmaster Miller refused positively when the scale was first proposed. Lady clerks are expected to dress at least neatly, and how they can do it on \$25 a month and pay their own board is a mystery.

The mail from the east today was eight hours late, and the sight of the big sacks and the thought of the China mails to get ready tomorrow brought the postmaster to time, and he agreed to compromise.—Cor. Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

How Papa Lost His Fish.

A prominent member of the Loom Fixers' union went on a fishing expedition Sunday, with good results. He caught a nice mess of eels, which he carried home and placed in the sink, intending to cure them after he looked out for the interests of the inner man.

In the meanwhile his little son, while amusing himself with papa's game, pulled up the sink lid and the eels one by one glided silently into the depths of the sewer.

When papa went to clean his fish he found the boy with a fishline through the sink, apparently angling.

Inquiry elicited the fact that the fish had "runned away" and the diligent son was trying to recapture them.—New Bedford Journal.

Death of the Ragpickers' Queen.

"La Mere Maupuy," the owner of "Cite Maupuy," a famous colony of Paris ragpickers, was an odd character among many. Her husband, whose right hand she had been for thirty years past, aiding him in the sometimes difficult task of keeping the "biffins" in order, died a few weeks ago and, the ragpickers not conducting themselves with proper respect at his funeral, "La Mere Maupuy" gave them notice to quit, one and all. Her occupation gone, "La Mere Maupuy" tired of life and committed suicide a few days ago by asphyxiation.

In her will she indicated that her funeral should be a civil ceremony purely, and that no chiffonniers should be allowed to follow her coffin to the grave.—Pall Mall Gazette.

British Columbians for Independence.

The Hon. Wilfrid Laurier has declared for independence. Had he done so long ago he would not have to count defeat after defeat. The only possible solution of our political existence is nationhood, and until it comes we are merely parasites, who are treated as such abject creatures deserve to be. We are no bodies upon the map of the world.—Vancouver (B. C.) World.

Leprosy in Spain.

Consternation exists in several Spanish villages in consequence of the great increase of leprosy. In the town of Gata there are so many lepers that a separate hospital is to be built for them. There are eight families in Benidorm that the other residents fear to associate with even for the transaction of business. Every member of the eight families is a leper.—Yankee Blade.

Did One of His Wives Go Shopping?

Among the bills that came into the till of an Augusta dry goods store recently was one issued by the Deseret National bank, of Salt Lake City, and bore the signature of Brigham Young. It was of the issue of 1872, yet looked quite crisp and fresh.—Bangor (Me.) Commercial.

The Way Women Do.

"If men were as economical in their social relations, as women are we would not be such a nation of spendthrifts," said T. B. Rose, of Minneapolis. "I was impressed with the force of this idea today by an observation begun in a cable car and pursued through a dry goods establishment and a restaurant. I saw two ladies chatting together intimately on a car, and when the conductor approached them to collect the fares one of them had no change. The other offered to pay for her companion's ride, but the latter wouldn't submit to the proposition. Instead she borrowed a nickel from her friend, remarking as she did so that she would break a bill as soon as she got down town and repay her. My curiosity was excited to see if women really dealt that way with one another, so I followed the two after they got off the car. They first entered a dry goods store, where the borrower made a small purchase, and as soon as she got her change she handed her friend five cents, which was received without the slightest protest.

"Then they went into a restaurant to get lunch. Each gave separate orders and the bill of each amounted to thirty cents. They marched up to the cashier and each paid her own bill. Now, these are small transactions, but they are indicative of the difference in the characters of men and women. Had the objects of my observations been men instead of women, the man who offered to borrow a nickel for car fare would have insulted the other, and one of them would have ordered that dinner for both and paid the bill, which, I may as well say, would have amounted to dollars instead of cents."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The True Artist.

Henry Norman gives the following instance of modest self estimate in the case of a man who is one of the most skillful and original artificers in the world, and whose works are everywhere admired:

This ivory carver sat in his little room, open to his little garden, chiseling upon a magnificent tusk, from which was just emerging a very graceful female figure. The ivory he held between his knees, and the tools were spread out at his side.

"How long will this take you?" I asked.
"About four months," he replied.
"And what is the proportion between the value of the material and the value of the labor in such a work as this when completed?"

"I paid \$140 for this piece of ivory," said he, and four months' work, at \$50 a month, is \$200."
And this man was estimating his work at less than forty American dollars a month! His was the true artist's temperament, for he was willing to accept only what would supply him with the necessities of life, depending for his actual reward on the joy of seeking to do a perfect work.

"Are you not very sorry sometimes," asked I, "to part with one of these works, that have been companions and a part of your life for so long?"
He looked up for a minute at a great white lily nodding above him in the garden, and then gently shook his head. "No," he said. "I expect the next to be more beautiful still."

A Suggestion About Dinners.
The next time you give a dinner give a good one. Do not feel that because you can afford it your dinner must consist of complex, mysterious, rich, indigestible dishes. No one wants them. All men hate them. When a man goes to a restaurant he never orders such a medley for himself. He never wishes them on his own table. Few women care for them, and not one person in fifty can digest them with comfort. Although such dinners are very common in New York, they are not given because we desire or respect them, but because we are a rich and vulgar people without the ability to realize our vulgarity.

There are many people in this city, and happily the class is growing, who have the good taste and courage to offer a simpler dinner to their guests. Such dinners can be as long and as dainty as the most fastidious may desire, and they are infinitely more satisfying. Try to bear in mind that a dinner consisting of complex and mysterious dishes is only a development of American vulgarity. When a woman gives such a dinner you are correct in supposing that either her own taste is vitiated and false or that she does it because she thinks it "the proper thing." In either case it indicates the presence of more money than intelligence.—Life.

They Agreed Then and After.

A Baptist minister took charge of a parish near Boston where he knew that one man was decidedly opposed to his pastorate. Soon after his arrival the Rev. Mr. X. called upon Mr. A.
"Brother," said he, "I hear that you think I am the wrong man to be the pastor of this church."
"Well, to be frank," replied Mr. A., "I do think that another would have filled the place better."
"Now that is just what I think," said the pastor. "But as long as we hold this opinion in opposition to the majority of the parishioners, let's try to be unselfish and make the best of it."
After that call Mr. X. never had a firmer friend nor more faithful champion than Mr. A.—Boston Herald.

Why Petrarch Is Remembered.

Petrarch thought it a disgrace that his verses should be sung in the streets, and he regretted that he had written anything in the vulgar tongue. No one now reads his Latin poetry, but every reader of Italian is charmed with the poems that attracted and suited the popular taste, which is made kin by a touch of nature, whether from the lyre or the pen.—Notes and Queries.

The Ivory of Solomon's Time.

It is not impossible that ivory and apes in Solomon's time may have come from Somali land and not from India.—Scottish Review.

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PINE LUMBER!
Shingles, Lath, Sash.

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Can supply every demand of the city.
Call and get terms. Fourth street in rear of opera house.



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The Favored Classes.
Teachers, ministers, farmers, mechanics, merchants, as well as their wives, daughters and sons, who would like to devote at least a part of their time and attention to a work that would bring them in a lot of ready money during the next few months, would do well to look up the advertisement of B. F. Johnson & Co., Richmond, Va., in another column, as it may be the means of opening up to many new life and larger possibilities. These gentlemen have been extensively and successfully engaged in business for many years, and they know what they are talking about when they tell you they can show you how to your financial condition.