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Who Did What?

In the days when our grandmothers were girls there came occasionally into the family of a good deacon with nine children a village dressmaker. She had an absorbing interest in other people's affairs, and always looked forward with particular pleasure to the week during which she cut and fitted for the deacon's girls, knowing that his house was in some sort a social center, where she was likely to hear plenty of fresh news and entertaining anecdotes.

One day she arrived late for her work, and as she entered the house caught a glimpse of the six daughters already assembled in the family sitting room with their gowns and patterns, their workboxes and their new roll of "Injy muslin."

But none of them were at work, for one was telling the other a story of such absorbing interest that they sat breathless and spellbound, with hands fallen in their laps or needles suspended in the air.

The sight was too much for the newcomer. With one mitt on and one off, her unfastened pelisse dragging from her shoulders, her bonnet askew and its loosened strings streaming, she appeared suddenly among the astonished girls, crying as she came:

"What? What? What is it? Who did what?"

She was answered, although giving a full answer involved the retelling of the whole story, but her comprehensive inquiry became thereafter a family byword.

Among the deacon's descendants to this day if one shows signs of too great inquisitiveness, it is sufficient for any other member of the family to ask, with a lift of the eyebrow:

"Who did what?"—Youth's Companion.

Taking Thackeray Seriously.

The obscurity in which Thackeray has left the beginning of Newcome, Bart., is an instance of his forgetfulness about his people which, glaring as it is, has hitherto escaped comment. Thomas Newcome, the elder, is said to have been "the founder" of the Newcome family. We are given to understand that he was a foundling. Up to the time of his demise there was no Newcome, Bart. Mr. Newcome "might have been made" one, but "he eschewed blood red hands." As he said, "It wouldn't do; the Quaker connection wouldn't like it."

But his twin sons by his second wife, Sophia Alethea Hobson, are stated to have been called Hobson and Brian, respectively, "after their uncle and late grandfather, whose name and rank they were destined to perpetuate." The "rank" is clearly the Newcome baronetcy, but equally clearly the uncle and grandfather must have been Hobsons the founder of the Newcome family being "himself alone." The twins at first take order as above. Then Brian is declared to be the elder "by a quarter of an hour." He is referred to as "Mr. Brian." All at once he becomes "Sir Brian," and "perpetuates" a "rank" to which, for all that appears, he had no right whatever.—Notes and Queries.

Gold Fillings for False Teeth.

"Funny business, this," remarked a dentist, turning from his workbench and addressing the reporter. "What?" "Filling false teeth. Every now and then, when we make a set of false teeth, we are asked to fill two or three of the front ones, so that the gold when the wearer smiles will shine like a darkey's heel. This takes away the counterfeit appearance of the teeth to some extent. It's a counterfeit upon a counterfeit.

"Persons who have this kind of work done are willing to pay for it, and as they always want a good showing of gold, and are very particular as to the appearance of the work, we have to charge well for it. Somehow I don't like to do it. When we have made the counterfeit teeth it always seems to me that the deception has gone far enough."—Indianapolis Journal.

Yankee Thrift.

The Maine man who cannot turn his hand to another source of profit when one fails him is a scarce article. An engraver and carver of old time repute, in the palmy days of Maine shipbuilding, now a resident of Kittery, finding his occupation gone as a sculptor of figureheads for vessels, is engaged in making idols and graven images for the heathen! He has a large order that will employ most of his time for over two years, from a missionary just returned from Central Asia to this country. This missionary, by the way, is evidently something of a Yankee himself.—Kennebec Journal.

Johnson's Peculiarities.

Johnson was a eulogist of the metropolis, and it was down Fleet street that he took his daily walk, which, owing to the series of tasks he made compulsory on himself, was a really curious performance. First, every post required to be touched as he passed it; next it was a point of honor to step exactly in the middle of each paving slab, and lastly, as he approached his destination, a series of graduated strides had to be employed in order to reach the door with one particular foot.—Hygiene.

A Novel Watch.

One of the most ingenious and inexpensive novelties of the day is a gun metal watch, keyless, and showing upon its face, through small apertures, the day, date, month and state of the moon. The watch requires only to be wound in the usual way, and when the hour of 12 o'clock—midnight—arrives, with a slight click the day and date change in a magic, although automatic, manner.—New York Journal.

Huge English Bedsteads.

The English four posted bedstead was a huge affair. There is one at one of the inns at Ware, a small market town near Hertford, which is large enough to hold a dozen people, and it is one of the curiosities of England. It is referred to in Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night."—Table Talk.

Queer Earthquake Effects.

An old sheep herder who dwells in a secluded spot in the Sutter county buttes made his annual visit to this city Wednesday, and from him we learn of some phenomenal and interesting circumstances as a result of the earthquake of Tuesday morning.

The lonely camp of the old shepherd is far up in the buttes, and is surrounded with cliffs densely covered with massive rocks and bowlders, which have withstood the storms of ages and furnished mills for the aborigines to grind their acorns and manzanita berries into flour from the remotest antiquity.

The old herder had just emerged from his cabin on this memorable morn, and was gathering kindling with which to prepare his morning meal before turning his flock onto the range for their day's forage, and the wonderful sight he witnessed will never be forgotten. When the trembling began numerous sparks of a bright blue color began issuing from the rocks, caused by the friction as they were tossed to and fro by the surging earth. As the tremors increased the number of sparks did likewise, until at one time the hillsides appeared as one sheet of fire with millions of sparks darting here and there as if dancing for joy. As the trembling subsided the sparks gradually disappeared, and in a moment all was total darkness.

Shortly after the sun had started on its journey in the eastern horizon the attention of the old shepherd was attracted by the great branches of trees which had fallen to the ground, and those which remained intact seemed to horrify the wild birds, as they would attempt to alight, and then, with a frightened scream, would pass rapidly on, only to repeat the caper at the next tree. An investigation proved that millions of lizards and snakes had taken refuge in the trees during their fright and had become so numerous on the projecting branches that they were forced to succumb to the immense weight and fell to the ground. This is the only instance of damage reported in Yuba or Sutter county.—Marysville (Cal.) Democrat.

A Useful Collector of Coals.

Perhaps the following anecdote may be useful to readers whose houses and gardens abut on railways. An eminent "menagerist" lives in a suburb where forty trains pass his garden every hour. The weather was cold, coals were expensive, for the recent strike was just then at its height. The "menagerist," however, was a man of resource; he conceived a plan for utilizing the forty trains an hour.

From his menagerie in town he brought a large Barbary ape, which unfortunate animal was chained to the top of a pole at the end of the garden. The result was as pleasant as owning a colliery, without any wages to pay or fear of floods and explosions. Every stoker—and occasionally a driver—on every train that passed had a shot with a lump of coal at the Barbary ape. The B. A. was never hit, but the garden was littered with coal, which the "menagerist" triumphantly conveyed to his cellars.—London Tit-Bits.

A Well Traveled Letter.

An old member of a well known Breslau institution sent on the 13th of May, 1891, a post card from Cassel, addressed to "Dr. Emin Pacha, in German East Africa." The card contained a poetical allusion to the great traveler, and was signed by a number of other members of the institute. It arrived at Zanzibar on the 14th of June, 1891, and at Bagamoyo on the 16th of that month. The post card was then sent back to Dar-es-Salaam, where it arrived on the 12th of March of this year, and received the following official comment: "Aus dem Innern zuruck. Emin nicht erreichbar." (Returned from the interior. Emin not attainable.) On the 5th of May this same post card found its way back to Cassel and is now in the hands of the sender.—London News.

More Than a Hundred Fold.

Four years ago Miss Lena Woodard, living on Thorn creek, Washington, sowed the seed from one head of barley. She harvested the crop with a pair of shears and sowed the amount received the next year, again harvesting it with her shears. The third crop her father cut with a grass scythe, getting enough barley from this crop to sow forty acres last spring, which averaged forty bushels to the acre when thrashed, making a total yield of 1,600 bushels from one head of barley in four years.—Exchange.

A Boy's Explosive Pocket.

Elias Mellinger, fifteen years old, was in his father's quarry in Lancaster, and put some powder in his pocket, in which there were matches. The powder was ignited by one of the matches taking fire, and in a moment his clothing was in a blaze. It was 1,000 feet distant to his father's home, and the boy ran to it. By the time he reached there his clothing was entirely burned from his body, and he was badly burned from his head to his feet.—Cor. Philadelphia Telegraph.

Shipping Live Lobsters to London.

Recently the steamer Inchulva sailed for London with 3,000 live lobsters. They are carried in four plate iron tanks on the main deck, the tanks being fitted with shelves, and each capable of holding 1,000 lobsters.

By means of a steam pump connected with the sea valve in the engine room a large reservoir is kept filled with sea water, which in turn is supplied to the lobster tanks at will.—Halifax Cor. Boston Herald.

Hunter Bridges' Bear Average.

Nathaniel S. Bridges, who died recently in Charlotte, was one of the oldest men in town, having nearly reached the age of eighty-nine years. Mr. Bridges was well known in eastern Washington county as a lumberman and framer of farm buildings. He was a hunter and trapper of note, having killed the same number of bears as marked the years of his life.—Bangor News.

A Real Romance.

On the platform of a Pullman at the depot in Cheyenne, Wy., one morning an indolent looking chap in English togs and a pretty young woman in red conversed so earnestly that they attracted the attention of everybody within range. Several passengers were anxious to tell what they knew of the story of the interesting pair, and said that the man was a frank, honest fellow, who would talk willingly. Cards were exchanged, and his read, "Edward F. Griffin, Overseer Public Works Department, Hong-Kong."

He yielded his story like a major. Said he: "I am trying to persuade the girl here to stop off in Cheyenne and marry me, but she wants to go to Colorado Springs and see her folks about it first. This is a genuine romance, just like a novel. Eight years ago we were lovers in Vermont and were engaged. My parents were Irish emigrants and poor, and her people were well fixed. It was agreed that I should start out to make my fortune, and that she should wait ten years for me. She has been true, and she has waited like an angel. I worked in the Chicago stock yards, prospected in Colorado and tried a dozen things on the coast.

"Six years ago I landed in Hong-Kong. At first I was clerk in a wholesale house, then secured my present place. My salary is $5,000, and I make something on the side, as you say in America. All the time I have thought of the girl and knew she was single and thinking of me, though I never heard of her. She now lives at Colorado Springs and has been visiting with friends at Helena. We met in the car at Ogden and recognized each other at once. It was a pleasant meeting. Before the train had gone 100 miles we were engaged again and will be married at her home right away."

Griffin's story was corroborated by the girl.—Cor. St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Natives Disappearing.

From the administrative report of the Andaman Islands for the past official year, which has recently been issued in Calcutta, it appears that the aborigines of the archipelago are disappearing so rapidly that Mr. Portman states the present generation may be considered as the last of the great Andaman tribe. All the people of Rutland Island and Port Campbell are now dead and very few remain in the South Andamans. Apart from the mortality from infectious diseases, it is said that the few children who are now born do not survive.

Mr. Portman is endeavoring to keep the tribe alive as long as possible, and he is collecting all the children at his house, where they are well fed and cared for; but this can only postpone for a short time the extinction of the race. For many centuries the people lived completely isolated from the rest of the world, but, like the Pacific Islanders, they seem unable to withstand contact with external civilization.—Galignani's Messenger.

Kept General Grant's Horses.

Sixty long years, with their sunshine and shadow, have passed since Mr. John T. Price, the well known liveryman, first saw the light of day, and all day Monday he was kept busy receiving congratulations on his golden jubilee. Mr. Price was born in Alexandria on April 11, 1832.

Having been in business at his present stand for twenty-seven years he is full of reminiscences of great Americans who patronized his fliers. Among these was General Grant, who came in one day and said: "Price, I want to take a spin over the road today. Let me have one of your fastest trotters." When the general returned he was profuse in his praise of the horse he had driven, and said:

"Price, that fellow was chain lightning itself."

General Grant's Arabian steeds, presented to him by the sultan of Turkey, were placed in Mr. Price's care when they first came here.—Washington Post.

The Dog Knew Where to Jump.

A very knowing dog got into the train which was coming down from up river, at Great Works, recently. The train started up and the dog still staid aboard. The train began to move faster and faster, until it was going at the rate of twenty miles an hour. The dog did not dare to jump. The animal got out on the lowest step. At last the train reached a swamp. He then gave a tremendous leap and landed in safety in the soft mud and water. The dog was uninjured and ran back.—Bangor News.

The Turtle Seed Tree.

Among a collection of curious plants recently received at the Kew Gardens, England, is a specimen of a curious tree from the Solomon islands. It is believed to be a new genus of the order of Sapotaceæ, to which the sapodiller of Florida belongs. The tree is known to the natives of the Solomon islands as the "turtle seed tree," on account of the close resemblance which the seeds bear to a turtle.—London Letter.

An Electric Launch.

A fine electric launch has just been built for the Earl of Dysart, which measures 55 feet in length and 8 feet 6 inches in beam. With her full equipment on board she will draw 2 feet 6 inches of water, and her speed will be 8½ to 9 miles an hour for seven hours. She is built of mahogany and teak, with omnibus seating on the roof of her capacious saloon.—New York Telegram.

A Strange Ordinance.

The city council of Salem, O., has passed an ordinance prohibiting girls from being on the streets after 8 o'clock at night. A number of the young men of the place are already preparing to leave and locate where the rights of the fair sex are not infringed upon by the city authorities.—Exchange.

Safe.

There is a poet in the Statesboro jail. He was the first of the spring season, and the watchful editors nipped him in the bud.—Atlanta (Ga.) Constitution.

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