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FORTUNE IN RARE COINS

Fat Picking for Watchful Cashiers in Stores, Bartenders and Street Car Conductors.

Cashiers in stores and restaurants, ticket agents at theaters and railroad stations, bartenders and conductors on cars are in a fair position to become collectors of rare coins, as they handle every kind of money piece from foreign coins to old-time money of the United States. A saloonkeeper in Harlem declares he has made a small fortune during the last few years by saving the rare coins that are taken over the bar.

"I have a tin box filled with rare United States pieces," he related, "and I could have a collection of foreign coins if I so desired. You would be surprised to see how anxious some men are to get a drink at the expense of spending a rare old coin for its face value. Silver and paper currency that pay a good premium are given to my bartenders for face value. I have often noticed a reluctance on the part of the holder before parting with the coin. He will give a last look at the money and then place it on the bar for the refreshing beverage. One man told me that a coin had been in the family for nearly a century. He wanted only one drink and was afraid I would not take the coin because of its age. I gave him the drink and change for the piece at its face value, and he was overjoyed."

PUT ON MOURNER'S BENCH

Little Dorothy Explains Break in Devotional Exercises for Her Family of Dolls.

Little Dorothy is the daughter of a minister. She has a family of fifteen dolls, one of them being a parson. Dorothy is devoted to her treasures. For a long time she held religious services for them, but suddenly the services were discontinued, only to be as unexpectedly resumed.

"Why did you stop the services, Dorothy?" she was asked.

"Oh, the dolls decided not to have them any more."

"But why were they started again?"

"They all voted that way, that is—"

Dorothy hesitated, but she added, regretfully, "All except the clown and the Teddy bear."

They were regarded as incorrigible by the minister's small daughter. Next day at the services they were seated immediately in front of the doll preacher, the other dolls occupying less prominent places.

"Why are the clown and the Teddy bear sitting so far forward?" inquired Dorothy's father.

"Oh," was the reply, "I thought they most needed to hear the sermon."

Impossible Road.

Chauncey M. Depew frequently deprecates the comparisons that are drawn between American and European railways.

"These comparisons are unfair to us," he once said at a banquet in New York. "When I'm told how very safe the European railway is I think of the Nola Chucky line."

"The president of the Nola Chucky line once waited on me to request an exchange of courtesies. I interrogated him, and he said proudly:

"On our line, sir, not only has a collision never occurred, but on our line a collision would be impossible."

"Impossible!" said I. "Oh, come, I know that the latest automatic safety devices are excellent things, but impossible is a large word."

"It's literally true with us, sir," he replied.

"How can it be?" said I.

"Why," said he, "we own only one train."

Taxing Bachelors.

One of the smallest of the German principalities is undertaking a very big experiment in financial legislation. The diet of the elder of the two principalities of Reuss, which lie in central Germany, to the southeast of the Thuringian states, carried recently a resolution in favor of increasing the state income tax by 5 per cent. of the tax on incomes between £150 and £200, and by 10 per cent. of the tax on incomes exceeding £200 a year in the case of unmarried persons of either sex who have reached their thirtieth year. The diet consists of twelve members, and the resolution was carried by seven votes against five. The super-taxation of bachelors has often been proposed in other German states, and was jocularly referred to as a possible form of imperial taxation by the Emperor William.

Dark Problem.

There are those who are dreadfully intolerant of ignorance about New York. The other day, for instance, a lady, obviously from many hundred miles away, boarded a Broadway car at Times square.

"Does this car go to Third avenue?" she asked.

A look composed of equal parts of pity, rage and disgust spread over the conductor's face.

"Will you please tell me, lady, how this car could get onto Third avenue?" he asked coldly, as soon as he could enunciate.

Bill the Philosopher.

Wise remark, by Bill, the Philosopher:

"There's one good thing about it. Anybody who talks about himself all the time hasn't time to be a knocker."

Know any of 'em?—San Francisco Chronicle.

How She Shopped

"I wasn't responsible," Baird said. "I always had known better than to venture into a department store with a woman bent on shopping, but, you see, I was on my wedding trip. So when Anne suggested going shopping I smiled fatuously and consented."

"Anne made for the elevators and led me to the topmost floor. Being totally ignorant of the correct method of storming a women's store, I took it for granted that starting in at the top was the rule, and that you got docked if you didn't begin that way. I believe it was the floor where you get fitted and altered when you buy ready-mades. I bashfully slunk along behind Anne as she strolled down mahogany corridors through the doors of which came walls and complaints and storms from women in the process of being altered and fitted.

"Just as I opened my mouth to ask Anne what she had bought to be fixed and when she had bought it, she turned on me blandly and said she was ready to go down to the next floor."

"There was a furniture display there and I think she priced every piece of it. In half an hour my head was a mixture of Flemish bookcases, mahogany dining room sets, rococo screens and tea wagons.

"Much as I loved Anne, I began to feel pale. I figured out that my whole annual income would just about pay for what the dear girl apparently had in mind."

"When she began talking with the attentive salesman about an \$800 carved chest I drew her aside. 'My dear,' said I in quavering tones, 'really, you know, we can't afford an eight hun—'

"'Silly!' she said. 'As if I didn't know that! Why, I'm not going to buy any furniture—I'm just looking.' And she sailed out of there under the outraged eyes of the salesman without turning a hair."

"How women do it I can't figure out—they undoubtedly possess a sort of courage that men lack."

"When I got my breath I found we were on the china and glass and picture floor. We priced about \$100,000 worth of stuff there—at least Anne did. The salesman was so impressed by her air that he did his best to sell her a dozen plates, very cheap at \$1.50. I assure you that I got cold chills, so realistic was her assumption that possibly if the plates pleased her she might condescend to have them sent to our address."

"And she was absolutely impervious to my agonized glances."

"She considered sets in rock crystal and she turned up her nose at \$100 coffee cups. At last she led me down to the floor beneath. It was full of hats—women's hats. Anne almost purred. What on earth she wanted there I couldn't imagine, because I distinctly remembered hearing her say that her trousseau included ten hats."

"She didn't give me a chance to point out to her that she could wear only one hat at a time, because she promptly had the head milliner and two earnest saleswomen surrounding her."

"That girl tried on thirty-three hats by actual count and, as each one was more expensive than its predecessor, you can imagine the state of mind I was in. I never knew there were so many different kinds of birds and feathers and things in the whole world until that day. I saw myself proceeding through the rest of our trip lugging bandboxes and just as I was working up an extremely bitter frame of mind Anne smiled sweetly at me and said she believed she was ready to go."

"We left the saleswomen reviving each other and proceeded to the silks and velvets. It was perfectly wonderful how much Anne knew about qualities and wearing abilities. She routed six salesmen before she descended to the linens and lingerie. I won't attempt to relate our visit to that floor, but some time I want to tell you about a \$500 tablecloth and napkins to match."

"The rest is a sort of mist. I know that at last we found ourselves in the basement among the kitchen furnishings. There Anne simply had a glorious time pricing things. Up to now she had bought absolutely nothing, so I woke up with a start when she ran out from a dark, underground corner with a teakettle in her hand."

"'Isn't this a dear?' she asked. 'And only 50 cents—think of it! How lovely it will look in the fireplace!' So she bought it."

"That isn't all. When we unpacked it at home she deliberately marked a 12 in front of the 50. Then the first time her cousin, who is one of those women who pride themselves on knowing the value of every article on earth, saw it she threw up her hands."

"'My dear!' she cried. 'Did you get that kettle for only twelve dollars and a half? Why, you got a perfectly tremendous bargain. It is worth double—you can't fool me on antiques! Where did you get it?'

"'Oh, said Anne, nonchalantly, 'I picked it up while we were away. I just happened to run across it.'"

"So, after all," Baird concluded, "I think I see how by spending half a dollar and five hours a woman can really accomplish something when she goes shopping."

WE ARE NEVER SATISFIED

The Thin Man Bemoans His Fate, and the Fat Man Starves to Become Thin.

We are never satisfied, it seems, and the growls and walls of discontent rise all above us, showing that others feel as we do.

The thin man bemoans his fate. He eats fattening things and yearns to be fat, and the fat man starves himself as much as a fat man's self control will admit, and longs to be thin.

It's pretty tough. Over in the valley they grow alfalfa—great crops of alfalfa that bring in money, and our farm won't. It hurts our feelings, but over on the alfalfa farm they can't make a peach tree grow worth a cent, and they're kicking about it envying us.

It would seem that Nature would know better. Discontent is not natural, and it would appear that Nature might rig up some sort of an exchange by which discontented people might swap.

The poor man who aches for dollars could go there and give his appetite for half the sickly rich man's pile, and it would be gladly given.

The woman with the ostrich feathers her sailor brother brought her could swap with the envious woman for a diamond and thus control her own longing.

All we'd have to do would be to go to the exchange and register, and Nature would do the rest. We'd list our discontented state and tell what would make us feel better, and sooner or later the exchange would be made and two discontented people would be made more contented. But no such exchange is being considered, and the two discontented parties to all these troubles are far apart.—Galveston News.

TALKED IN MUSICAL TERMS

Policeman Shows Result of Long Duty at Door of Concert Hall.

All amateurs are familiar with the musical term "syncopation," but for the benefit of the non-musical it may be said that it is a word relating to time or rhythm, the precise meaning of which will be sufficiently indicated by the story.

A celebrated conductor was conducting a long series of concerts, and he had observed that it was always the same policeman who was stationed at the nearest door to the orchestra. Remarking upon this, he was informed that the officer in question was becoming quite an expert in musical terms, etc., so long had he been on duty inside the hall. However, one evening he was passing, and meeting him accidentally in the corridor next night, the great conductor accosted him thus:

"Officer," he said, "where were you last night?"

"Last night, director?" replied the cop. "Oh, I was in syncopation."

"In what?" gasped the conductor.

"In syncopation—off the beat, sir," replied the policeman.

The Colonial Shilling.

The value of the Colonial shilling was gradually reduced from the English standard as the result of persistent coin slipping. As early as 1642 Massachusetts raised the rating of the Spanish dollar to 5s and Connecticut took similar action the following year. In 1645 Virginia raised the rating of the dollar to 6s.

In 1652 Massachusetts established a mint and began to coin shillings that were 22½ per cent. higher than the sterling standard. In 1683 the Spanish dollar, weighing approximately 17 pennyweights, was rated at 6s 9d, while Pennsylvania valued it at 7s.

The consequence of these variations in the colonies was that in 1707 parliament passed an act providing that the Spanish piece of 8 reals (dollar) should not be valued at more than 6s, but Bullock tells us in his "Monetary History of the United States" that this law was almost universally ignored.

Finally New York and North Carolina settled upon a rating of 8s to the dollar, and this valuation was gradually accepted and retained until our national monetary system was established.

Simple Spelling Move.

A conference between representatives of British and American societies to extend the movement for a simplification of English spelling has just been held at University college in England, with a large number of professors connected with English universities, and the following from America: Dr. James E. Bright of Johns Hopkins university, Charles H. Grandgent of Harvard university, Dr. George Hempl of Leland Stanford university and Dr. Brander Matthews and Dr. Calvin Thomas of Columbia university. The proceedings were private, but a report of the conference will doubtless be made public after it has been submitted to the societies represented.

Foolish Question.

"Are you going to permit your son to play football when he goes to college?"

"No, I'm going to keep him from it in the same way that I have kept him from smoking cigarettes."

"Oh, have you kept him from doing that?"

"Certainly—when he knows I'm looking."

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