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Subject of Prime Importance. Weather is the one topic of conversation that never grows out of date. We are almost as nearly at the mercy of the sunshine, the rain and the snow storm as we were a century ago. Therefore we always scan the sky when we get up in the morning. It is almost instinctive, even with the city dweller. No farmer fails to take a long look at the sky when he first rises, for on the weather will depend his activities during the day.

JEWELER HAD BEEN ANXIOUS

Could Think of But One Reason for George Ade's Seeming Desertion of Him.

George Ade was one of the principal speakers at a recent banquet of the Illinois Manufacturers' association. "When I was a cub reporter," he confessed, "struggling along on a minute salary, I had just one asset in life which enabled me to 'tide over' that period in every week when poverty seemed to be staring me in the face. This consisted of a handsome gold watch, a keepsake of college days in Indiana. Tuesday was payday at the newspaper office. By Friday I would be 'broke,' and I would tote the watch over to the pawnshop to a man who now conducts a handsome jewelry shop on State street. On the watch I obtained five dollars, and by administering my affairs carefully I managed to worry through until payday. Then when I had received my small salary I would hurry to the pawnbroker's and release my watch. Finally, after this had gone along for many months, I received a raise in pay. It was enough to release me from the necessity of pawning my watch regularly. One afternoon, about ten years afterward, I was accosted in State street by a man. I recognized my old pawnbroker friend, now a prosperous jeweler. 'What's the matter, George?' were his first words. 'Did you lose that watch?'

BILL IS NOT YET RECEIPTED

Plumber Could and Did Worthily Amend It, But There the Matter Rested.

"Owing to the drain pipe in the kitchen sink becoming clogged with grease, water would not run through it," said Claude Cooper, comedian at the Warburton theater, Yonkers, "so the landlady of our boarding house called a plumber. He repaired the damage in less than twenty minutes after he arrived. Along about the first of the month he sent in his bill—no, he brought it himself. The landlady looked at the items, the total of which was \$5.15. Amazed at the size of the charge, she became sarcastic. 'Haven't you forgotten something, Mr. Plumber?' she said, with a sneer. 'The man took the bill and carefully read the various items. 'Upon my word,' he exclaimed, 'I believe I have, lady,' and he made the following additional entry: To one and one-half hours' time and trolley fares, going to shop and getting piece of lead pipe, \$1.05; Thank you, lady. That makes the total \$6.20.' 'Did the woman pay the money?' inquired Ramsey Wallace. 'Do the robins nest in January? No, the woman hung up the bill, and it is still hanging. That was two years ago.'—N. Y. Press.

Modern Mother-in-Law.

Wife, at the Breakfast Table—Henry dear, mother writes that she is coming down to visit us for a week. Henry (enthusiastically)—Bully! It seems an age since she's been down to see us and I've just been thinking we ought to have her come. But can't she stay more than a week? There are a lot of good shows and things she'd enjoy and besides I want to play a good long series of chess with her and a week will hardly start us. Write her we want her for a month. Wife—I'll try to get her for that long, Henry, but you know she can only get away from home once in a great while for a few days, and she's got to divide up her time between three daughters. Arthur and his wife and Mary and Charlie would be really angry if she didn't spend as much time with them as with us. Henry—Well, do your best. Honestly, Mary, your mother is a jolly good fellow, as I've told you before, and we can't have too much of her.

Expedition Across Greenland.

The Swiss Society of Naturalists is raising funds to enable Dr. A. de Quervain to undertake a journey across the inland ice of Greenland, from Disco bay, on the west coast, to Angmagssalik, the only inhabited place on the east coast. The expedition expects to leave Europe on the steamer Hans Egede April 1, 1912, and to start eastward from Disco bay the middle of June. It is expected that four weeks will be required for the journey, but provisions for twice that time will be carried. Two members of the expedition are to remain on the west coast of Greenland until the spring of 1913 to carry on glaciological and aerological studies—the latter in connection with similar observations that are to be made at the same time on the east coast of Greenland, in Iceland, and in Spitzbergen.

American Manners.

Frederick Townsend Martin, at a dinner in New York, criticized American manners wittily. "Kipling," he said, "declares truly that a gentleman has manner, while a would-be gentleman has manners. We should remember that. We lay too much stress on such details as taking off our hats when we go up in the elevator with a scrubwoman. 'In fact, in everything, we seem to search too uneasily for the correct, the modish, course. A society editor told me the other day that he had just got a letter from a young woman that ran: 'Dear Editor—Please state who should keep up the instalments on the ring when the engagement is broken off.'"

TOUCHED HUGO'S KIND HEART

Great Frenchman Aided Beggar With Verse of Much More Worth Than Money.

A Frenchman, writing recently upon "The Mendicants of Paris," recalls a pretty anecdote of Victor Hugo and a blind beggar. The beggar was an old soldier, very feeble and quite sightless, who was led every day by his little granddaughter to a certain street corner, where he waited patiently for such scanty alms as the hurrying public might drop into a small box that hung from his neck. One day a group of gentlemen halted near him, chatting, and he heard the name by which they called the one who lingered longest. Reaching forward as he, too, was about to go, he caught him by the coat. "What do you want, my good man?" asked the gentleman. "I have already given you two sous." "Yes, monsieur, and I have thanked you," replied the veteran. "It is something else that I want." "What is it?" "Verses." "You shall have them," said the gentleman; and he kept his word. The next day the blind soldier bore on his breast a placard with a stanza to which was appended the name of Victor Hugo; and the arms in the box were quintupled. The lines may be thus translated:

Like Belsarius and like Homer blind,
Led by a young child on his pathway dim,
The hand that aids his need, pitying and kind,
He will not see, but God will see for him.
—Youth's Companion.

NOT ON SECURE FOUNDATION

Engineer Explains Why Some Buildings Shake When Particularly Heavy Wagon Goes By.

"What makes a building shake as if it had the ague every time a truck with a twenty-ton girder rumbles by?" an engineer was asked. "Only the buildings whose foundations do not go down to bed rock shake," he replied. "The occupants of the building that rests on rock never know when a heavy load passes it. The man in the building whose foundations go down just a few feet below the cellar floor, and stop in the subsoil, often imagines he is in the center of an earthquake. "When the wagon bearing the beam goes traveling along it bumps over the inequalities of the street with tremendous force, and this imparts wave motions to the soil, which in turn transfer the vibrations to the old-style foundations, which sway and shake and tremble. The foundations whose piers rest on bed rock are not affected. A twenty-ton beam, as it slips from one paving stone to another, imparts a force to the ground that may be likened to a constant bombardment, but because the wave of motion proceeds in constantly widening circles, and hence in constantly diminishing force distributed all over the foundation, no harm results. If the force were all driven at one point the effect would be like that of a projectile from a battleship."

Clever Birds.

Record has recently been made of a canary bird that displays almost human intelligence. The bird in question acts as guard over a sleeping child, singing shrilly at any sign of danger. The bird is allowed the freedom of the house and never shows any desire to escape into the free air. At night it will perch itself on the baby's cradle and such seems to be its liking for the child that if anyone approaches to disturb its slumber, it shows spirited signs of its displeasure. A man in London prizes a parrot for its intelligence. The bird is as valuable about the man's house as any patent burglar alarm he could buy. The parrot is always on guard. If anyone approaches the house, the bird sets up such a commotion that if the person is bent on evil, he is immediately frightened away.

Rush Hour in Indianapolis.

The "Sardine Special" on the Irvington street car line last night carried 141 passengers, or rather the conductor on the special collected 141 fares. There were some that he did not get because the special was at the belt before the conductor could be hoisted through the various departments of the car. There were thirty-five on the rear platform, figured on a cubic capacity basis. There was no other way to estimate it, as legs, bodies and heads were wedged to such a degree that it was practically impossible to tell to whom each belonged. The seating capacity of the car is forty-one, so that an even 100 passengers that were standing paid fares.—Indianapolis News.

Frenchman's Strange Mania.

The latest monomaniac to make his appearance in Paris, is a man who is obsessed with the idea of snipping every fur he meets. He lies in wait for women who are wearing costly furs, and stealthily cuts them and makes off. When a woman left a metropolitan train at the Place de la Concorde, she found that half of a costly blue fox-fur she wore had been cut off. She went to the nearest police station and made a complaint, and learned that numerous women had already been there on the same errand.

RIGHT CHILDHOOD IS MODEST

Well-Bred Youngster Does Not Think That It Knows Everything, Says Ruskin.

The first character of right childhood is that it is modest. A well-bred child does not think it can teach its parents, or that it knows everything. It may think its father and mother know everything—perhaps that all grown-up people know everything; very certainly it is sure that it does not. And it is always asking questions, and wanting to know more. Well, that is the first character of a good and wise man at his work. To know that he knows very little; to perceive that there are many above him wiser than he, and to be always asking questions, wanting to learn, not to teach. No one ever teaches well who wants to teach, or governs well who wants to govern; it is an old saying (Plato's, but I know not if his, first), and as wise as old. Then, the second character of right childhood is to be faithful. Perceiving that its father knows best what is good for it, and having found always, when it has tried its own way against his, that he was right and it was wrong, a noble child trusts him at last wholly, gives him its hand, and will walk blindfold with him, if he bids it. And that is the true character of all good men also, as obedient workers, or soldiers under captains.—Ruskin.

THINK TOO MUCH OF MONEY

Many Persons Lose Chance of Happy Marriage by Exaggerating the Value of Wealth.

Scores of people lose their chances of being happily married through making an unnecessary obstacle of money. The importance of it is often exaggerated. Many a man hesitates to propose to a girl because of his small income. Very often much misery, misunderstanding, and tangled lives result from the silence. More unfortunate love affairs are the result of what has not been said than of spoken words. When a man has a small, sure income, and a prospect of increase, there is no legitimate reason for his not speaking of his love; no reason, for that matter, to prevent marriage. People are so desperately afraid, though, of beginning married life in a small way. They fear the sacrifices which they will be called upon to make—of the criticism to which they will be subjected. Many years of happiness are lost in this way. It is such a mistake for young people to want to start marriage in the state that their parents are ending it. To delay marriage until a "comfortable" income is available is to prove something lacking in the love.—Answers.

Better Keep the Boy.

At nightfall the junior partner's exultation of the day changed to chagrin and he clamored noisily for the errand boy's dismissal. "Better think it over," the senior partner advised. "Why waste time in thinking," the junior retorted, "when he's got to go? Here I am, lying awake every night for a week planning an effective window decoration, which is turned into a laughing stock the first day by the stupidity of that boy, who leaves three yards of blue woolen dust rag draped around silver tankards and trays of diamonds." "Well," said the elder jeweler, "people stopped and looked, didn't they?" "Yes, but what of it? That dust rag?" growled the junior. "That's why I advise you to keep the boy," advised the senior mildly. "If it hadn't been for him I am afraid nobody would have looked at all."

In Praise of Courage.

Certain virtues are divided from vices by so narrow a line that we must discern very clearly to see the difference. Few men can distinguish pride from vanity; perseverance from stubbornness; economy from avarice. The same is true of courage as distinguished from effrontery. The courageous man must have ambition, not merely dream of what he would like to have. The audacious have been found fault with for their brutality in overcoming all obstacles—but force is necessary to accomplish any real purpose.—Chicago American.

Two Pickeral on One Line.

A humble and honest fisherman who set his traps for pickeral on a Maine pond the other day is ready to make affidavit as follows: "I hereby declare on oath that I did catch two pickeral on one hook. The first pickeral swallowed the bait and didn't like it. Apparently he tried to cough it up. At any rate he spewed the hook out under his gills and it floated off in the water to be grabbed by a second pickeral. Thus there came up two pickeral, all strung on a line."—Lewiston Journal.

Part Played by Heredity.

Heredity plays an important part not only in tuberculosis and cancerous affection, but likewise in diabetes, rheumatism, gout and many other diseases. We do not inherit tuberculosis, but we do inherit a lessened vitality, or a tendency to contract tuberculosis infection. Underweights are usually people who have inherited such a lessened vitality, and they run the further risk of infection from their underweight brothers or sisters who are apt to be infected.

Getting Even.

Eels are the luxury of the East end, and the fish shop stuck up proudly the notice "We sell eels to the king." From the opposite side of the road the rival salesman watched his customers diverted to the shop that claimed to supply the royal table with eels. And then, after a week's reflection, he put up the rival notice: "God save the king!"—London Chronicle.

Not the Same.

"You seem to think it's pretty well settled," said Miss Passay, "that I'd marry him if he proposed." "Yes," promptly replied Miss Knox. "The idea! So you think a girl should be ready to say 'yes' to any man who asked her?" "No, I don't say that a 'girl' should."

Reputation Carefully Kept.

On the island of Jersey the breeding of cattle is still systematically and carefully carried on. The authorities are particular that the island be kept immune from cattle diseases. Neither bovines nor hay and straw may land from the continent of Europe.

Better Be Safe Than Sorry

Saving is a habit. The first thousand dollars is the hardest—after that it comes easier, for money makes money. But you'll get the first thousand quicker by making each dollar work for you while you are aiming at the thousand mark. That's the system—save dollars and make them get busy earning more. You save them and deposit them with us and we'll put them to work for you—working twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, fifty-two weeks a year—all the time.

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Statesmen and Politicians.

A statesman is merely a politician with whom we agree. Neither is necessarily a leader of progress. Both are flies on the wheel, and we honor them in direct proportion to their riding ability.—Life.

An Inference.

There died in Chicago the other day a man of whom it is said that he knew the intimate history of every important family in the city. Some members of some of the important families must be mighty glad that he died.—Savannah News.