

Barney Barnato practically owned the earth; he could have stuck to it.

Barney Barnato's career was a series of leaps. First as an acrobat, then into fame, and finally into the sea.

The New York World editorially refers to "rascals" in the United States Senate. This is very undignified. It is also very true.

Emma Goldman, the Gotham anarchist, says that "men are chains which hold women back from progress." Would Emma refuse a nice, gold-filled chain as a wedding present?

When a New York wife mistook a burglar for her husband the other night she gave herself away by answering in the dark, "Yes, dearie!" Such a bungler deserves hard luck for his stupidity.

The Memphis Commercial-Appeal cites the case of a white man named Beard of Newport, Tenn., who has recently turned black. It will probably be a month or so before he gets the tar off.

A "South Sea Paradise" founded in the Fiji Islands by tired Californians has collapsed because the settlers found work to be necessary even there. The primal curse of Eden seems to be quite far-reaching still.

The Almond (N. Y.) True Issue remarks editorially: "The editor was the happy recipient of a new straw hat last week. Thanks." And yet they say journalism is a profession which has no substantial rewards.

The editor of the San Joaquin Valley Reflector, a new Fresno paper, promises to remain "a plain, everyday citizen, without getting a swelled head." If success should crown his efforts, let him be put to the test.

There are no fish in Crater Lake, Oregon, the deepest fresh-water lake in the world, and the government has decided to stock it with trout. The natives used to say that the lake is bottomless, but soundings have shown its greatest depth to be 2,000 feet.

The Philadelphia Inquirer, commenting on the statement of a St. Louis paper which "welcomes the sweet girl graduates with open arms," remarks: "We would do the same thing if we thought our wives would not find it out." How many wives have "we" got?

A Kentucky reporter asked a Pullman conductor to awaken the President at 2 o'clock in the morning for an interview. There is a young man who has a fair realization of the importance of his calling. What a magnificent advertisement for somebody's nerve tonic that fellow could write!

All the street cars in Albany, N. Y., have recently been provided with a style of fender known as "the providence," and the New York Times in describing the machine says that a man who is scooped up in one of them "is apt to have an exciting moment or two, but he will escape any serious injury."

When the personal effects of the late Mr. Augustus Harris were sold in London the other day 176 manuscript plays from all sources, which had been submitted to the manager with a view to production, were knocked down to the highest bidder for \$5. Playwriting ability in England seems to be recognized about as it is in this country.

Some Pennsylvania congregations are getting very particular if the Philadelphia Inquirer is correct in saying that one of them recently requested a fescion to carry a cash register when making up collections. It is gratifying to note that the deacon is reported to have resigned rather than submit to the innovation.

Walter Kittredge, author of "Tenting on the Old Camp Ground," is living at Reed's Ferry, N. H. He was a popular singer long before the war and wrote many of his songs. None ever acquired the popularity equal to "Tenting on the Old Camp Ground," which Mr. Kittredge wrote and composed on the night after he was drafted into the army.

The Owensboro, Ky., News announces editorially that it is "the official warwhoop of the dark and bloody ground; the only paper of the kind in or off the earth; recherche, racy, religious and revengeful; old whisky always taken in exchange for subs, and 10c." That editor evidently understands the demands of his constituency and his enterprise ought to win.

An English paper states that at least 90 per cent. of "antique objects" now in existence have been manufactured within the last dozen years. In a recent lawsuit in London some workmen showed in court how ornate is "antiqued" by the use of pumice powder. The magistrate ordered a cabinet to be kept under lock until he could decide whether it was ancient or modern.

A St. Louis inventor has patented a device by means of which a type-setter, using a machine with type resembling those of a typewriter instrument, produces a printed strip of paper composed of colored characters representing a message. When the perforated strip is placed in a mechanical device...

mitter, connected by wires with distant type-setting machines, properly adjusted for the purpose, the type can be simultaneously set in as many different printing offices as may be connected in the circuit.

A FABLED ROC.

Marco Polo Tells What He Heard of the Monster Bird.

"The True Story of Marco Polo," as told anew in St. Nicholas by Noah Brooks, contains many stories about fabulous monsters.

You must know that this island lies so far south that ships cannot go further south or visit other islands in that direction, except this one and that other of which we have to tell you, called Zanghar. This is because the sea-current runs so strong towards the south that the ships which should attempt it never would get back again. Indeed, the ships of Maabar which visit this island of Madagascar, and that other of Zanghar, arrive thither with marvelous speed, for great as the distance is, they accomplish it in twenty days, while the return voyage takes them more than three months. This is because of the strong current running south, which continues with such singular force and in the same direction at all seasons.

'Tis said that in those other islands to the south, which the ships are unable to visit because this strong current prevents their return, is found the bird Gryphon, which appears there at certain seasons. The description given of it is, however, entirely different from what our stories and pictures make it. For persons who have been there and had seen it told Messer Marco Polo that it was for all the world like an eagle, but one indeed of enormous size; so big, in fact, that its wings covered an extent of thirty paces, and its quills were twelve paces long, and thick in proportion. And it is so strong that it will seize an elephant in its talons and carry him high into the air, and drop him so that he is smashed to pieces; having so killed him, the bird gryphon swoops down upon him and eats him at leisure. The people of those isles call the bird roc, and it has no other name. So if I wot not if this be the real gryphon, or if there be another manner of bird as great. But this I can tell you for certain, that they are not half lion and half bird as our stories do relate; but enormous as they be, they are fashioned just like an eagle.

The Great Khan sent to those parts to inquire about these curious matters, and the story was told by those who went thither. He also sent to procure the release of an envoy of his who had been despatched thither, and had been detained; so both those envoys had many wonderful things to tell the Great Khan about those strange islands, and about the birds I have mentioned. They brought (as I heard) to the Great Khan a feather of the said roc, which was stated to measure thirty spans, while the quill part was two palms in circumference, a marvelous object. The Great Khan was delighted with it, and gave great presents to those who brought it. They also brought two bear's tusks, which weighed more than fourteen pounds apiece; and you may gather how big the bear must have been that had teeth like that! They related, indeed, that there were some of these bears as big as a great buffalo. There are also numbers of giraffes and wild asses; and, in fact, a marvelous number of wild beasts of strange aspect.

Falling Walls at Fires

Mr. Charles T. Hill contributes to St. Nicholas an article on "The Perils of a Fireman's Life," in the course of which he says:

There are several kinds of falling walls, and the fireman of experience knows them well, and what to expect from each. There is one kind that breaks first at the bottom and comes down almost straight, somewhat like a curtain. This makes a big noise, but is not very much to be dreaded. Then there is another that bulges or "buckles" in the middle at first, and makes a sort of curve as it descends. This is a little more serious than the first, and has caused many fatalities. Then there is one that breaks at the bottom and comes straight out, reaching clear across the street, and remaining almost solid until it strikes; and, as an old-time fireman once remarked: "That's the kind you want to dodge."

This kind of "falling wall" has caused more deaths in the department than any other danger the firemen have to contend with. It has killed horses as well as men, and destroyed apparatus; and it is so rapid in its descent, and covers so much space, that to escape it the men have to be quick indeed.

Colored People Never Sneeze.

"It was Professor Schroeder of Louisville," volunteered a surgeon to a reporter, "who first ventured the opinion that the negro never sneezed. The statement was made in reply to a question of Professor Gross, the famous Philadelphia surgeon, and in whose memory a statue was recently dedicated in this city. A smile passed around the listeners, and Professor Schroeder, observing that there was some doubt about his statement, reiterated it with some force. He then explained that while there were no structural arrangements about the breathing apparatus of the colored race that had been discovered which prevented him sneezing, it was a fact that the colored man did not sneeze, though he could be made to sneeze by the use of snuffs, pepper and other irritants. He had, he said, never made any experiments in that connection. He also said his observation had been confined to colored people in the Southern States. Atmospheric or other conditions might exist elsewhere which might cause him to sneeze, but one related naturally in the South. The debate on the subject occupied nearly an hour at a meeting of the International Surgical Association, which held a convention in the old Lincoln hall some years ago. Since then, I have often spoke of it and asked my friends to notice, and though I have directed the attention of hun-

dreds to the subject, I have yet to hear the first one say that they have ever heard a negro man or woman sneeze. By negro I mean a black man or woman. I believe that mulattoes sneeze occasionally and the nearer they are to white the more frequently they sneeze, but even they are less sensitive to influences which produce sneezing than the people of the white race. It has been observed also that Indians sneeze very seldom, while Chinese sneeze ten times as much, even, as the white race."—Washington Star.

Barbers' Clippings Useful.

Until quite recently no effective use had been found, even in this age of the universal utilization of waste, for the clippings of men's hair left over in barbers' shops, though all manner of experiments have from time to time been made with this material. But a very well known fishing-tackle maker, who sends his wares all over the world, has of late bought quantities of such hair, and the writer sought him out in order to ascertain the precise uses to which it was put, and information was readily given.

My workpeople use large quantities of human hair in the making of artificial fishing flies, for certain parts of which it is the best material out. Wrapped thickly round the bodies of many kinds of flies, it has the quality of not getting water and getting sordid, as silk does, while it stands more wear and tear. But even beyond this, we use a considerable amount in tying gut on hooks. Aided by a small patented implement, hook tiers now commonly use human hair instead of silk, and the lashing is both stronger and neater. But a plan has been devised for using human hair almost exclusively in silk and hair combination reel lines, in which horse-hair alone was at one time employed, and these new lines are unsurpassed for toughness and lightness.

You are mistaken in supposing that fishing-tackle makers are the only persons who buy barbers' clippings. Within the last year or two tons of hair have been packed in the lining between the iron plates forming the armor sheathing of certain parts of war vessels; a peculiar type of cupola, for instance, having a thickness of lightly packed hair between casings of metal. The hair is so elastic that it is said to form a most effective backing to metal; and also in connection with shipping, the makers of ships' fenders—the soft spheres of tow-ropes that are thrown over the side of a vessel to prevent her from scrubbing against the edge of a quay or dock—are beginning to utilize human hair.

Impartial.

A remarkable instance of the impartial administration of justice is said to have occurred some years ago in a court of Texas when a young Mexican, charged with having stolen a pistol, was arraigned.

He proved beyond all doubt that the pistol was his own, and that it had been in his possession long before the alleged theft occurred.

The case went to the jury at twelve o'clock, the usual hour of adjournment, and the jury, who did not wish to be kept until the court opened again at three o'clock, hurried to give in their verdict.

The foreman, who had been reclining in a peaceful attitude, suggestive of slumber, during the hearing, turned to his companions, saying:

"Well, boys, what do you think? Hadn't we better give him two years?"

"All right," responded a jurymen. "Put him through, or the judge will adjourn."

"Go ahead," said another. "We don't want to stay here till three o'clock. Hurry up!"

"But is he guilty?" inquired a thoughtful old gentleman.

"Well," exclaimed the foreman, after a stare of astonishment at this view of the matter, "if you think he ain't guilty let's clear him!"

A verdict of "Not guilty" was speedily rendered, and the jurymen cheerfully repaired to noontide meal.

Aluminum.

Aluminum, the new metal which it is believed is destined to play an important part in the arts from this time on, is found in many substances, widely diffused through nature. The common red clay, which exists everywhere in this country, at a depth of 3 or 4 feet, contains it in large quantities, and it is also present in slate, feldspar and other minerals. The metal was given its name, in 1812, by Sir Humphrey Davy, who suspected the existence of the metal in certain compounds, but failed to isolate it. It was first isolated by Wohler, in 1828, who obtained the metal in small quantities. In 1855 a French chemist, M. Deville, demonstrated that the metal could be prepared in large quantities for commercial use. It has been prepared from Greenland cryolite, and from the bauxite which abounds in the southern part of France. Since 1890 the metal has been produced in commercial quantities by the employment of electricity in its separation, but the processes, though much cheaper than formerly, are still somewhat expensive, though it is expected the experiments now being made will render aluminum so cheap that it can be used for any purpose to which its nature is adapted.

An Economical Emperor.

Emperor Francis Joseph is cutting down the expenses of his household and putting an end to perquisites enjoyed by court servants since the days of Maria Theresa. They had an allowance of food, wine and venison, with two wax candles in summer and three in winter. These are put an end to. Their liveries will no longer be their own, and they will not be allowed to sell the cold viands left from the daily meals and the State banquets.



Good Roads Pay.

Conditions such as recently existed in a small town in New Jersey, twelve miles from Philadelphia, form a fitting object lesson of the profit of good roads. In consequence of the bad roads the wagon makers thereabout constructed four-horse vehicles to carry fifty-five bushel baskets as a maximum load, which was regarded as heavy hauling. Real estate had gone a-begging for years; there was no possible market for it. It had been impossible to settle up estates because no purchaser could be found for the land. But a few years ago the people of the community woke up. The town issued \$40,000 worth of bonds and applied the proceeds to better roadways. As a result New Jersey wagon makers of the vicinity of Philadelphia are making two-horse vehicles to carry, not fifty-five bushel baskets, but loads made up from ninety to 125 bushel baskets, and still the loads are not regarded as heavy. Two horses are able to do more work than four horses, and with much more ease.

On the old roads two men and four horses, with a wagon weighing 1,900 pounds, could take two and a half tons of produce to market and bring back an equal amount of fertilizer, making one trip a day. Now, on the good roads, one man with two horses, and a wagon weighing 2,300 pounds, makes four trips to market, bringing back an equal weight and making four trips a day.—Jersey City Evening Journal.

Good Roads.

The Lake Charles Echo, taking Troutwine's tests as the basis of its calculations, estimates that it costs Louisiana \$5,250,000 a year to move its crops, and that two-thirds of this could be saved if he had good roads. Troutwine's tests show the number of pounds of pull required to move a ton on different kinds of roads to be as follows: Park road, 30 to 50; cubical block, brick, 32 to 50; macadam, 62 to 75; gravel, 140; common earth, 200 to 300. The pull on earth roads in dry seasons is from six to eight times as hard as on brick, and three or four times as hard as macadam, and in wet seasons much greater, and in Louisiana, with its heavy rainfall, we have longer wet seasons than any other part of the country, and, as a consequence, worse roads.

The United States Agricultural Bureau figures that it costs the farmers \$3 per ton to haul their crops from the farm to the railroad or market. With a total production of 1,750,000 tons of corn, cane, cotton, rice, etc., the hauling costs Louisiana farmers \$5,250,000 now, which cost can be reduced \$3,500,000 if the roadways are made better.

If, therefore, Louisiana spent \$3,400,000 a year on its roads, it would be better off financially, their cost being less than they would be saved in hauling. The expenditure of such a sum of money would put our highways in splendid condition in a very few years; but such an expenditure is not dreamt of, nor would the people favor it.

The best course in Louisiana would be that which has met with such success elsewhere—to build just enough miles of good roads to enable the people to see and appreciate their value, and how much they can save by them. If this were done, as in Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and other States, it would not be long before the people demanded better roads in every part of the State.

It is proposed to bring the matter before the Legislature at its next session, but it would be well to inaugurate a preliminary campaign, so that there will be popular backing to a "good road" law when it comes before the General Assembly.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Widows for Sale.

"Of all the matrimonial trafficking—in the age of chivalry—the ways of widows," says a writer in the "Gentleman's Magazine," "are at once the boldest and most comprehensive. As a rule, their methods seldom resort to blandishment; it is remarkable when tenderness is an item in their bargains. Speed was their maxim; it was one that King John honored, for he profited by it.

"Yet one of the rarest exceptions in the way of delicacy in these commercial negotiations has evidently been prompted by a widow who had quite an exceptional lover. In 1296 William de Landa—either one of the most famous of the Crusaders or his son—offers 50 marks and a palfrey for having to wife Joan, who was the wife of Thomas de Ares. If he may be pleasing to the said Joan, the sheriff is instructed to ascertain the widow's wishes, and if the said Joan shall be pleased to have him for a husband, then the sheriff shall cause William to have seizing of Joan and her land—both of which he obtained in the name of gentle love and the faith of a true soldier. It is fitting that the name of one of the men who led the assault of Acre should be preserved in such a record as the above. He was in truth a very perfect knight.

"One of the most rampagous of the southern English borderers manifested the like delicacy. Young Walter de Umfraville, son of Gilbert, had left a widow, Emma, presumably in the very blush of her charms. Peter de Vaux had fallen at her feet, but he declined to obtain her in border fashion; and this fact is the earnest pledge of the chivalry of his love. If he would not

send her he was bound to buy her, and coin with the De Vaux was always a scarcity. So he offered the king five palfreys for her 'if she wished it,' and with what would read as a graceful acknowledgment of the borderer's pure chivalry, John absolutely drops the commercial from his reply and simply orders Robert Fitz Roger, the sheriff, 'to permit it to be done.'

Victoria's Descendants.

A laborious genealogist announces, as the result of years of minute labor, that the Queen has had nine children, of whom she has lost two; forty-one grandchildren, of whom eight have died; and twenty-three great-grandchildren, all of whom are living. She has, therefore, sixty-three descendants living—seven children, thirty-three grandchildren, and twenty-three of the next generation. Her eldest great-grandchild—the Princess Feodora of Saxe-Meiningen—is now nearly 17, so that in all probability her Majesty will live to see her grandchildren's grandchildren. Few English sovereigns before Queen Victoria have seen grandchildren grow out of infancy, and none ever saw a great-grandchild. Hence her Majesty had to determine the question of precedence in the case of the Duchess of Fife's children, and she wisely decided that they should rank only as daughters of a duke.

This decision was in accordance with a House law decreed earlier in the reign, by which the title of prince and royal highness is limited to the children of the sovereign, and the children of the sovereign's sons, the children of the sovereign's daughters taking precedence only according to the rank of their fathers. Thus the Princess Helena's children rank as children of Prince Christian only, while the Duke of Connaught's are royal highnesses; and Prince Arthur of Connaught's son and successor, if he has one, will be the Duke of Connaught, as an ordinary duke, taking precedence merely by date of the creation of his dukedom. This is now the case of the Duke of Cumberland on the roll of the House of Lords, though he is styled royal highness as son of a king of Hanover.

Broke a Big Gold Coin.

One of the most puzzled men in town is a Montgomery street restaurant-keeper, who recently took in a \$20 gold piece which filled all the ordinary requirements of genuineness so far as a superficial test could reveal the true facts. But a few days ago a banker stepped into his place and saw the \$20 gold piece which the restaurant man had received only a short time before. The banker had a queer look in his eyes as he took the coin and rapped it sharply with his knife and the restaurant-keeper had a stranger expression as he saw his supposed \$20 piece break into two pieces.

"How is this?" he demanded. The banker answered: "It is the same old game. I had one of these pieces myself and since that I have tested gold pieces of the \$20 denomination very carefully. If that had been genuine my test would not have broken it."

Then the restaurant-keeper and the banker carefully examined it together. The outside of the gold piece was all right, seemingly, when the discovered parts were placed together. The milling seemed to be up to the standard. The weight was correct.

But the inside of the piece was half filled with a composition which was not the customary gold and alloy. Still closer examination revealed that the gold had been sawed through with exquisite care and skill just inside of the milling. Then the milling had been removed and from the interior of the piece some of the gold had been extracted and the baser composition was made to take the place of the more precious metal. Then, with equal deftness and skill, the milling had been replaced and soldered in some way and the trick was done.—San Francisco Call.

Stringent Food Laws.

France knows how to protect the rights of her people. Anybody who doubts the genuineness of an article of food that he has purchased from a Parisian tradesman may take it to the municipal laboratory for analysis. It will cost him nothing to have it analyzed and the fact determined whether it is unadulterated or adulterated, and if the latter the law deals with the offender without further action on the part of the purchaser. The shopkeeper is liable to be heavily fined and imprisoned, and has to display conspicuously in his shop window or on his door for a year a large placard bearing the words, "Convicted of Adulteration."

The Sack Tree.

From a species of trees, the genus which includes the celebrated upastree, sacks are made in Western India by the following singular process. A branch is cut corresponding to the length and diameter of the sack wanted. It is soaked a little, and then beaten with clubs till the fiber separates from the wood. This done, the sack formed of the bark is turned inside out and pulled down till the wood is sawn off, with the exception of a small piece left to form the bottom of the sack. These sacks are in general use in Western India.

Doesn't Trust Man.

A naturalist says that in captivity elephants always stand up when they sleep, but when in the jungle, their own land and home, they lie down. The reason given for the difference between the elephant in captivity and freedom is that the elephant never acquires complete confidence in his keepers, and always longs for liberty.

We have noticed that married women who are kept occupied don't excite as much sympathy as the idle ones, for the reason that they don't have time to pine, and do justice to it.