

**How to Tell Age of Fishes.**  
The ages of fishes can be told by their otoliths. Otoliths are little bony concretions found in the auditory apparatus which assist in the auditory work. The otoliths grow every year, forming one ring in summer and one ring in winter. The ring formed in spring and summer is light, the ring formed in autumn and winter is dark. The rings are very distinct and the fish has a pair—a light one and a dark one for every year it has lived.—Harper's Weekly.

**Preparations for Shocks.**  
For most of the wrenches and jolts of life there are, happily, conditions which alleviate what would otherwise seem unbearable, conditions which soften and break the most cruel shocks. Death, for instance, the greatest shock of all, unless it is very sudden, seldom comes as an unbearable wrench, because weakness or suffering has prepared us for it.

**Small Men in History.**  
Stephen A. Douglas was known as "the Little Giant." Among other small statured men who have made history was Thiers of France, less than five feet high, who turned a striking contrast to the gigantic Bismarck when during the Franco-Prussian war they met in conference at the Chateau de Ferrieres. Louis Blanc was even shorter than Thiers. Windthorst, the leader of the Catholic center and for many years Bismarck's most formidable opponent in the German reichstag, was almost a dwarf and nearly two feet shorter than the iron chancellor.

**Bank of England Employees.**  
There are about 1,040 persons on the staff of the Bank of England, of whom 840 are at the head office in London and the remainder in the branches throughout the country. Five hundred porters and mechanics are also employed. The bank prints its own notes and Indian rupee notes, together with all postal orders and old-age pension orders; this work is done at the head office.

**Manners and Customs.**  
The manners of some people encountered in taking walks abroad are suggestive of the report made by the old British sea captain who was sent out to investigate the manners and customs of the inhabitants of a newly-discovered Pacific island. His report was brief, as follows: "Manners they have none, and their customs are beastly."

**Cowards.**  
New York's hotel men say that they couldn't stop their guests from tipping if they tried, and one of them suggests the reason when he quotes Mr. Dooley's remark about a man famous for his millions: "Jaws is th' bravest man in th' world. He can stroll away from a table without tipping th' waiter."—Boston Globe.

**Hardest Kind of Work.**  
"I want you to understand that I got my money by hard work." "Why, I thought it was left you by your uncle." "So it was, but I had hard work getting it away from the lawyers."

**IMPRESSES THE OFFICE BOY**

**Chicagoan Enthusiastic Over Scheme Which He Claims is Great Success in New York.**  
Gerald Jones came here from Chicago. Consequently there are a number of things about New York which he compares with the same things in Chicago—much to the disadvantage of New York. One that chiefly irritates him is the office boy habit here, the Cincinnati Times-Star's New York correspondent writes. Gerald Jones enters the office of a friend of his. A small, cynical boy meets him at the mahogany rail. Mr. Jones declares that he wishes to see his old college pal, P. Norval Smith. The small boy demands a card, and hands him a blank form. "Write here what you want to see him about," says the small boy.

Mr. Jones protests. What he wants to see Smith about is something that he does not propose to confide to any small boy in the world—especially to a small boy toward whom he feels a sentiment perilously approaching hate. He waves his hand. He dips the small boy in a lordly way to take his name and be quick about it, and never mind the card. "Just say Jerry Jones, is here," he says to the small boy. The small boy puts back the hunt of gum and sits down on his slippery little bench and indicates with an air of finality that there will be nothing doing until he gets the card he asked for and the full history of Mr. Jones' recent past. If Mr. Jones gets in to see P. Norval Smith it is only by assenting to the terms made by the small boy. Therefore Mr. Jones has had a fresh set of cards printed for use upon the office boys of his friends. They bear the most awe inspiring names—Jim Jeffries, for example, and James J. Corbett and Packey McFarland and Cut Throat Jenkins, the terror of the gulch. He observes that the small New York boy is not well posted upon the life and crimes of Bloody Hand Ben, the scourge of the Sierras, but every one of them knows all about the men of the ring. "And tell that old fool Smith," he bellows, in the character of Tom Sharkey, "that if he doesn't come out here I'll beat him to death."

Gerald Jones is perfectly happy. He knows how to circumvent the office boy.

**WORTHY OF GREAT MONARCH**

**King of Sardinia's Tasteful Manner of Concealing Kindness Done to Impoverished Follower.**

The King of Sardinia, Charles Albert, was very kind and obliging to the French royalists who were at Turin. The Duke of F—, with whom he was connected, had an employment about the court—he had been severely wounded, and lost a leg in the affair of the Three Days. The king heard that the duke was anxious to visit the king and royal family at Prague, but that his finances were not favorable to so long a journey. His majesty, therefore, thought of an expedient which would enable the duke to gratify his loyalty, without his feelings being wounded.

"Duke," he said, "would you do me the favor to choose some horses for me in Bohemia; and as your best way will be through Prague, of course, you will pay respects to the royal family there."

As the journey was on the king's service, the duke could feel no reluctance about having his expenses paid.

**The Overwrought Nerves.**

Fresh air will string up any group of nerves not hopelessly demoralized. When you feel that "flying to pieces" inclination overtaking you, jerk yourself to order with the check rein of determination and then, if you cannot regain self-control, stop anything on earth you may be doing and go out of doors. If you cannot leave the house, lean out of a window, or step for a little while on a porch. You will not lose any time—you will, in fact, gain time by increasing efficiency in whatever you may be doing. Sleep also is a great restorer of nerves to a normal tone, and sleeping with all windows open secures for us two nerve cures at the same time. In foods, raw onions, carrots, lettuce and celery, with plenty of olive oil, are excellent nerve foods, all valuable as aids in the good work, but the chief remedy is strong will and the compelling of your body to obey your mind.

**Man and the Mammoth.**

The skeleton of a mammoth discovered in the department of Pas de Calais, France, measures 49½ feet in length. The head is well preserved, with finely enameled molars of the true Siberian type, thus furnishing one more proof that the whole country was once a land of ice and snow. At a dinner given recently on a sand-bar in the Danube an attempt was made to convey an idea of the food consumed by man in the time of the mammoth. Cabbage soup cooked over hot stones, horse ham, roast pork with boiled millet, and turnips cooked in hot ashes composed the bill of fare. The dessert was dried pears and honey.—Harper's Weekly.

**Exaggerated Expectations.**

"I'm afraid," said Bronco Bob, "that Plute Pete's ideas of the game is gettin' kind o' warped."  
"What's the trouble?"  
"Every time he picks up a hand an' finds less than three aces he thinks it wasn't a square deal."

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**Widow's Pension.**  
The recent act of April 19th, 1908 gives to all soldiers' widows a pension \$12 per month. Fred Maurer, the attorney, has all necessary blanks.

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