

Wise is the individual who can remain silent on any subject.

The Kearsarge and the Oregon would make a very pretty race.

Even a greedy man draws the line at taking both sides of an argument.

The woman in the case never observes how awkward a man is when to love.

Some men are surprised when they discover that the truth answers better than a lie.

It sometimes happens that marriage is a failure because the husband is unable to pay alimony.

When a man discovers that he is his own worst enemy it is up to him to make friends with himself.

There is no fixed standard of beauty. This enables every man to have a better-looking wife than his neighbor.

Kentucky educational reformers propose to teach the young idea in Breathitt county something else except to shoot.

How can it be possible that mosquitoes are killed by music when they are so fond of a little song of their own.

King Edward celebrated his birthday by creating a batch of new noblemen. American heiresses will please take notice.

The postoffice department has been looking into the business of some of these scoundrels who advertise to double our money for us. It is found that they take the bills, fold them up, thus doubling the money, and then come in. Where do we "investors" come in? About two inches under the dome of the tureen.

The hens of the United States alone during the year 1902 deposited in and around the barns and chicken-houses 16,000,000,000 eggs, always taking care to announce each separate deposit with a triumphant cackle, to the end that the same might be recorded. These white pellets brought in the markets fully \$150,000,000, an amount which combined with the worth of the poultry, \$439,000,000, is nearly double the value of all the precious metals yielded up by the bosom of old Mother Earth during the period named and six times greater than all the wool fleeced from the backs of all the sheep in the country for the same year.

People quit growing old at 40 half a century ago. They quit it when they ceased thinking themselves old at 40, ceased drinking old at 40, not to speak of drinking themselves old at 40. The young man of 50 or 60 now wears the tatty sack tweeds or serges that his son or grandson wears, tipped off with a jaunty hat. He goes to baseball, the races; he keeps up with the procession and is all in for a good time in moderation, healthfully. The young woman with him in white or colors, with the gay hat, who has the manners of a youthful but self-respecting girl of 20 in the last century, is his wife, perhaps a grandmother, but none the less young and happy yet. They feel young, they dress young, they believe themselves young—by the Great Horned Spoon, they are young!

It is likely to be the case in America that as time goes on and our relations with foreign powers become more and more complicated and pressing, permanence in consular and diplomatic office, based upon knowledge and proved fitness, will be the rule. This may mean that it will not be so common a practice to take scholars and authors from private life and place them suddenly in foreign consulates and missions. But even then it is likely that our literature will be enriched by the work of men who have become authors while enjoying the opportunities for new studies and broader observation afforded by the foreign service of their country; so that if, hitherto, literature has contributed to diplomacy hereafter we shall see our diplomacy contributing to our literature, as has, not infrequently, already been the case.

The Isle of Pines is definitely Cuban. Minister Squiers and Senor Zaldu, Cuban minister of foreign affairs, have signed a treaty giving the island to Cuba and reserving Bahía Honda on the northeast coast of the new republic and Guantanamo on the southwest coast as United States coaling stations. The Isle of Pines is about sixty miles south of Cuba. It has an area of 800 square miles and a population of 2,000. There are deposits of beautiful marble upon it, and the north end is luxuriantly fertile. Under Spanish rule it was always considered a part of Cuba. The United States has done wisely not to do violence to West Indian geographical history. The Cubans would have resented the grabbing of the island and future relations between the two countries would have been frigid. With the signing of the Isle of Pines treaty this country has finished a generous deed in a gracious fashion and has two fine naval stations.

We are indebted to a neurologist for the rather cheering information that

"many of our most respected and highly educated citizens bear many marks of degeneracy, while on the other hand persons who have been raised in the stunts and have been engaged in criminal practices from childhood have entirely escaped anatomical stigma." This is cheering, because it proves at once that there is nothing in so-called "degeneracy" and that you are not foredoomed to a life of crime simply because your ears are not on straight. It will be relieving to many to find that though they have all the marks of degeneracy they are among the best specimens of the race extant, and persons who go about priding themselves on the faultlessness of their thumbs and their right heels, their eyelids and their elbow joints, do not hesitate to plunge a long, rusty dirk knife into their fellow-beings and wriggle it.

A number of notable clergymen of all denominations have banded themselves together with a view of checking the "divorce evil" of this country. It is claimed that more than 500,000 divorces have been granted in America during the last twenty years, and that a million and a half of children have undergone the experience of seeing their parents separate and their homes broken up, and that some concerted action must be taken to prevent the fearful havoc which is being wrought in American family life. Now, there is no question but that there is a "divorce evil"—but is it so great an evil, essentially that it should be eliminated entirely? It may be noted that those countries where marriage is almost as indissoluble as the marriage vows would seem to make it, are the countries which are seeking more lenient divorce laws. Italy for years has been pleading for less restriction. France has framed several divorce laws, none of which seems to meet the situation. She has another plan now under consideration. In England divorces are growing more and more plentiful, until the divorce situation there almost rivals that of America. Germany is following suit. Here we have gone to extremes, as usual, with the liberty that has grown up among us. We have been playing with a new toy—a slightly dangerous one, it is true. Every state has its pretty little divorce law framed up, and a few months' residence will make a free man or woman of you in several cases. A man may be divorced in one state and still be considered married in another. Many take advantage of these lax and diverse divorce laws, and hence the spread of the "evil" which is threatening the foundations of our nation. Divorce has been a good thing for woman. Who can deny that? It has saved her from enforced association with many a brute and spendthrift, and it has helped her to keep white the growing souls of her children. Of those 1,500,000 children who have seen their homes broken up by divorces, how many, think you, were not benefited by being deprived of the experience of quarrelling parents and an unhappy household? It would not be just to do away with divorce entirely—even to make a divorce too difficult of attainment. It would be well to advocate a uniform divorce law for this country as there is a practically uniform marriage law—one has grown as important as the other. And also, it might be wise on the part of these well-meaning clergymen to consider another step with regard to the divorce question; that is, the step which leads to so many divorces—the hasty marriage. Get after the Gretna Greens and the marriage mills. Make it more difficult to get married. Keep silly young people within better bounds and allow them not so much freedom. How can one expect anything but a divorce to follow a marriage suddenly decided upon "just for a lark"? Everyone, probably, will condone all efforts toward a uniform divorce law, and a restriction of these hasty marriage opportunities; but it is doubtful if any thinking person would join in a sentiment which would abolish divorce entirely, or make it too difficult for an unhappy wife, or a wronged husband, to secure.

Fatal Oversight.
Rip Van Winkle had awakened from his long sleep, tried his dialect on himself and found it uninjured, and had returned to his old town, where his story was generally believed. But one day somebody asked him,—"Rip, what have you been doing to your finger nails?" "Nix," he replied, in good stage German. "Vot you means py dot?" "What! Haven't you trimmed them since you woke up?" "Nix."

"Don't you know, old man, that if you and I slept twenty years they would have been a foot and a half long by this time? Your hair and beard are all right, but your short finger nails are a dead give-away. You are an impostor!" And they drove him back into the mountains.

Couldn't Help Himself.
Beggar—"Boss, can't you help a poor fella?" Markley—"See here, you've touched me before."

Beggar—"Possibly, sir, possibly. I'm a photographer by profession and the old habit of retouching still clings." Philadelphia Ledger.

Many a woman would gladly recall her past, but the average man is satisfied if he can get his presents back.

Domestic discord is an apple of which the man in the case gets the core.

Old age either brings experience or is brought by it.

Topic Lines

There are 144,000 Mormons in the United States.

There are about 11,000,000 Catholics in the United States.

Last year America imported only 3,000,000 bushels of potatoes.

Automobile building gives employment to 200,600 persons in France.

In future women will be allowed to take degrees in the University of Dublin.

Alderney is the only place in the British islands where tobacco is now untaxed.

Six hundred men are regularly employed on the new steamship Kaiser Wilhelm.

Japanese is the latest language to be added to the list taught at the University of Chicago.

In London twenty-nine autograph letters and manuscripts of John Keats were sold for £1,070.

Wisconsin is first in lumber and timber products, and Minnesota leads in flouring and grist mills.

Prussian railway cars have only about three-tenths the carrying capacity of those used in the United States.

During the last three years twenty-two millionaires have died in England. Their average age was seventy-five years.

Compared with 1901 the population of New Zealand (851,063, including 43,143 Maoris) shows an increase last year of 20,263.

Before he had reached his twelfth birthday young Handel was known throughout Germany as a brilliant composer and virtuoso at the court of the Emperor.

The Uganda Mission, in Central Africa, begun twenty years ago, has now 1,070 church buildings, seating 123,850 persons, erected chiefly at the cost of the people.

Several new comic papers make their appearance in Paris every year. Lire, which was founded ten years ago, had so much success that it has since had about twenty imitators, most of which were short-lived.

Artificial teeth and "uppers" for boots and shoes are among the new uses to which paper is being put. A substantial business firm in Boston is considering a proposition to take up the work of manufacturing paper hats.

Several Chinese cities have erected temples in honor of Li Hung Chang. His tomb also has the form of a temple. Two of its inscriptions are: "All countries in the world mourn him" and "He changed heaven and revolutionized the earth."

Capt. S. P. James, who was associated with the Royal Society's commission on malaria during the investigation in India, says that in India, anyway, the kind of mosquito that carries malaria rarely, if ever, flies more than half a mile from its breeding place.

The Pennsylvania terminal to be erected in Manhattan will be the biggest railroad station in the world, with accommodations for handling 200,000 passengers a day, or about 70,000,000 or 80,000,000 a year. From sixty to ninety trains will enter and leave it hourly. The tunnels will be lighted and trains moved through them by electricity.

A German professor has been investigating the causes of insanity among women, and has come to the conclusion that if women are admitted into competition with men the inevitable result will be a tremendous increase of insanity among the women. He finds that the percentage of women teachers who become insane is almost double that of the men teachers.

Dr. S. Weir Mitchell says too much importance is attached to college athletics. In a letter to the senior class of Pennsylvania he says: "You have lost out of college life that which it were better to have kept. We talked hard in my college days, but we talked of our sports less than you do. You, I fear, care too little for your intellectual athletics. Athletic sports are meant, as I see them, to insure that the body shall be made and kept sound."

It is said that Mascagni seeks dramatic laurels. The composer has written a three-act comedy, which will be staged in October. A Rome newspaper, the Menestrel, is quoted as making the following very discourteous comment on the composer: "Composer, leader, newspaper man, lecturer, professor and conservatory director without a job, likewise playwright, Mascagni would hop around St. Peter's on one leg if he could get an audience."

Old furniture collectors in this city have lately been driving prices higher and higher. The rage for Chippendale and Sheraton patterns of the finer lines is greater than ever. Chairs especially fetch astonishing prices. Even leaders are paying in some cases as much as \$50 for a single Chippendale chair of rare pattern, though it be out of repair. A collector in this city paid the other day \$279 for a Chippendale armchair. Chairs of less unusual pattern are sold every day for \$40, \$50 and \$100.—New York Letter.

STARS THAT STEAL.

Planets and Stars May Pick Up Minor Celestial Bodies.
Jupiter is much the biggest member of the family of stars which revolve around our sun. Consequently the power of his attraction is greater than

that possessed, for instance, by the earth. Jupiter's exploits as a burglar have caused very considerable annoyance and inconvenience to astronomers in the days before his powers were fully recognized.

In 1770 there appeared a fine comet, which was found to have an elliptical orbit round the sun of so comparatively small a size that Mr. Lexell, its discoverer, calculated it would return in five and a half years. But in 1775 telescopes were vainly focused on the spot where it was expected to reappear, and again in 1781 it disappointed all observers. Mr. Lexell plunged into fresh calculations, and after much research found that Jupiter was the culprit. The unfortunate comet had been rash enough to plunge into the sphere of the giant planet's attraction, with the result that it had been completely diverted from its former orbit, and flung off into quite a different one of a twenty years' period. It has never been seen again by any one on this earth, and probably never will be.

Jupiter was also responsible for the delay which occurred in the return of that splendid visitant known as Halley's comet. Halley found that he was not the first discoverer of this big comet. It had appeared at least twice previously, once seventy-five years before, and again seventy-six years before that. The astronomic conclusion was that there would be a further delay in its third return, and predicted that its next appearance would be 518 days later. He did not live to see it, but in 1758, the year he had prophesied for its reappearance, astronomers were waiting for it.

But they waited for more than three months before it did actually appear, and then found that it was the planet Saturn they had to thank for delaying the comet this extra hundred days.

This same comet appeared again in 1835, this time late again. Not only had Jupiter delayed it 518 days, and Saturn about 100, but Uranus had also had a hand in retarding it, and had added another sixty-nine days to its journey.

Our own earth is by no means guiltless. It is constantly picking up unconsidered trifles of stardust, which range all the way from the thirteen foot long mass of meteoric rock lately found by Professor Ward in Mexico, down to the infinitesimal particles which are found on the roof of St. Paul's, on the Arctic snows, and at the bottom of the deep sea. It is calculated that the total amount of matter thus absorbed by us is certainly not less than 500,000 tons a year, and that, therefore, the weight of this world is increasing at that rate every twelve months.

It appears also that we may be occasionally responsible for the disappearance of a poor, unoffending comet. Biela's comet, which went astray, is supposed to have been absorbed by the earth. That amazing shower of shooting stars, which was seen on November 27, 1872, may have been the death throes of this misty space-traveler.—London Answers.

ILL-NATURED AT BREAKFAST.

Where Men Are Said to Differ from Their Sisters and Wives.

"I think my business affords me the best opportunities in the world for judging human nature," said an observant Avenue restaurant-keeper, "and my observations have led me to the conclusion that woman, with all her 'nerves,' are much more good-tempered than men, and there is no greater test than at breakfast. I have no reason to believe that my patrons differ from the ordinary run of people, in fact, most of them are newspaper men, who for the most part take life as it comes without much complaint, and if you take them at dinner or at night they are fine fellows and easy to please; but breakfast time is quite another matter, and as friendly as I am with my men customers, I cannot recall one whom I would care to provoke before breakfast, for this is his favorite time to register kicks. First his very attitude signifies that he is impatient; then he has been there at least fifteen minutes without being so much as seen by the waiter, and when the order is finally brought to him he's in a bad humor and finds fault with everything placed before him. The steak is sure to be too rare or too well done and the eggs fried only on one side, or because he prefers them so they will upon this occasion be cooked brown on both sides. But by the time the first meal is consumed and, having had a cup of good coffee, he then realizes that things were not half so bad and that he does feel better and then gets in really good humor.

With women it is different. It may be that an empty stomach does not affect their nerves to the same extent that it does a man's, but it is the exception when my woman patrons complain of their breakfast, and for the most part are in apparent good humor."

Our Greatest Frontier Judge.

A man who sentenced 172 criminals to death, 88 of whom were hanged, an upright judge, holding sway for twenty-one years over 74,000 square miles of the most lawless territory in the United States; a stern, just judge, whose name became a terror to evildoers; a very kindly, sympathetic gentleman and public-spirited citizen—few characters have been developed in our West who have played a more striking role than Isaac C. Parker, United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas from May, 1875, to September, 1896.—Leslie's Popular Monthly.

If a man draws a blank in lottery he can tear up the ticket, but it's different in the matrimonial game.

Science AND INVENTION

Exhaustive tests for years have convinced Joseph L. Ferrell that sulphate of aluminum is the best fireproofing for wood. Unlike sulphate or phosphate of ammonia, which check flames by emitting ammonia gas, the aluminum compound forms an infusible and non-conducting coating.

The late discovery in strawberries of salicylic acid, a specific in acute rheumatism, has seemed to confirm the idea that these berries are a desirable article of food for rheumatics. The effect of the fruit cannot be due to the salicylic acid, however, as less than the hundredth of a grain per pound is found.

Important tests of the fatal proportion of carbonic oxide in the air have been made by Prof. Mosso at the Turin Physiological Institute. A heroic subject was confined three times in a hermetically sealed iron chamber, the air of which was mixed first with 1-333 of carbonic oxide, then with 1-285, and lastly with 1-233. On the last experiment the man ceased to breathe, being re-oxygenated only by oxygen.

While urging that the proposed biological survey of the North Sea should seek means of favoring fishes and their food supply, Prof. W. C. McIntosh declares that no important species is in danger of becoming extinct. The fishes were not exterminated by the swarms of gigantic destroyers of reptilian times, when the destruction must at least have equalled that of to-day by man, and future extinction need not be feared.

Alcohol is coming into considerable use for illumination in France. The flame is made luminous by the addition of sufficient coal-oil or crude benzene, or the ordinary non-luminous flame is used to give incandescence to a Welsbach mantle. The latter is the more important method. Some lamps have from sixty to eight hundred candle-power, and these large portable lamps, carrying their own illuminant, seem to have advantages over gas or electricity for many purposes. The best of the burners yield about thirty candle-power hours per ounce of alcohol.

Tests have recently been made on the Boston and Maine and the Florida East Coast Railroads to determine the value of oil as fuel for locomotive engines. On the Florida Railroad it was found, after a month's experimenting with a locomotive hauling its regular load, that 322.3 gallons of oil did the work of one ton of coal. Another test showed 131.8 gallons of oil to be equivalent to a ton of coal. In the Boston and Maine experiments the ratio was 140.26 gallons of oil to one ton of coal. It was found that the engine could be urged to a greater capacity with oil than with coal, and this with a smokeless fire.

By a singular change of circumstances, the gold miners of Hastings County, Ontario, Canada, who for years were baffled in trying to extract the precious metal from its matrix by the presence of arsenic in the ore, have lately found the arsenic to be more profitable than the gold. This is due at once to the great purity of the Canadian arsenic, and to the rapid exhaustion of the arsenic deposits of England and Germany. At the same time, the introduction of a successful method of separating the gold increases the profit of working the Canadian deposits, because every ton of the arsenical ore carries from \$4 to \$60 worth of gold.

HOLDING HIM TO HIS WORD.

It Does Not Pay to Make Too Sweeping Statements.

"My dear," said Mr. Puffer, with some dismay, as a smoking cherry pudding was placed on the table before him, "don't you think you are sort of running to cherries lately? Of course I hope that I shall always be cherished by you, but when it comes to cherries in some form every meal—just cherries or stewed cherries or cherry pie or cherry pudding—I believe I could cheerfully donate some of our cherries to our less fortunate neighbors."

"Well, John," said his wife, calmly, "I suppose you remember what you said when you insisted on picking the cherries yourself?" "Ah, Martha," said Mr. Puffer, complacently, "there was a clean-cut, neat, workmanlike job for you, in spite of all your tears and opposition. Instead of the grass under the tree being piled a foot deep with a litter of leaves, twigs and branches broken from the tree, as it invariably is when you send a boy rampaging after the fruit, I cleaned that tree without any damage to it, and consequently with hardly a single leaf to be raked up off the grass. And I got all the cherries without breaking any of my arms or legs or necks, as you so cheerfully predicted, too. Still, while I admit I am proud of the job, I do not think it absolutely necessary to live indefinitely upon those cherries I gathered."

"You haven't eaten a single one out of the few quarts you gathered, John," said Mrs. Puffer, positively. "I earned all of them."

"Well, where does this satiety of cherries I've had inflicted upon me for the past two days come from, then?" demanded Mr. Puffer.

"Do you remember what you said when I asked you if the few you picked were all it was possible to get

from the tree, John?" asked Mrs. Puffer, with a twinkle in her eye. "Why, ye-es," acknowledged Mr. Puffer, thoughtfully and suspiciously. "What was it?" persisted his wife, the twinkle widening. "Well, I believe I said that if any body could get any more off that tree I'd eat them, stones, stems and everything," admitted Mr. Puffer reluctantly.

"I haven't insisted upon the stones and stems," said his wife, demurely. "Eh?" exclaimed Mr. Puffer.

"But little Jimmy Ballou got enough to last about three weeks longer at the rate you are eating them," continued Mrs. Puffer, quietly.

Mr. Puffer solemnly helped himself to a large, thick slab of the pudding, and began slowly savoring it away.

"Martha," he said, gravely, after a few minutes of this labor, "if I own up that I am a little—just a trifle—too old and stout to pick cherries as well as I did when I was a boy, don't you think the hospital would appreciate a donation of some nice, luscious cherries?"—Youth's Companion.

BOLD ROBIN HOOD'S DAY.

May 1 the Anniversary of the Death of the Noted Woodsman.

An immense lot of leases still date from May 1, says the New York Commercial Advertiser, but not many of the lessors or lessees know that this is simply an adjournment of a few days from St. George's day, from which the leases of their ancestors used to run. This again dates from the more remote period when the date was fixed at the time of one moon after the spring equinox. May day is a day for strikes of workmen is not a thing of recent years. It has the sanction of centuries, if of nothing else. May 1 is the day on which bold Robin Hood was bled to death by his treacherous relative, and sped his last arrow, which marked where his grave should be. The date is at least as certain as that on which Remus made his unlucky jump over the rising walls of Rome. Robin Hood was the hero and saint of the common people of England, and for centuries the May day festivities were joined to celebrations of his deeds, and to exultant prophecies of the day when conditions should be equalized after the ideal of this knight of their own.

It has happened ever since that when the sun enters the sign of Taurus and Robin Hood's day approaches, the sturdy descendant of his woodsman, working at the mechanic's bench, feels a strange fever burning in his blood. He feels that he would like to have a reckoning with certain "rich earles" whom he wots of. He grows impatient toward the "fat bysshoppes" and the archbishops, and works himself into such a fighting mood that if interfered with he would not hesitate to take a fall out of even the "hye shryffe of Nottingham." So he throws down his tools and lies him off to the "green forest," where shaws be sheen and shards full fair," together with a brass band and plenty of refreshments. Perhaps he will bring to terms the proud Norman who owns the shop; perhaps not; anyway, he has his fun.

The floral festivities of the day, in these times and in this country usually adorned to the first Saturday in May are a survival of the old Roman festivities in honor of the goddess Flora. The May queen is Flora herself impersonated. The raising up of a boy consort is an impertinent and ridiculous innovation, which should, if possible, be abolished.

MISSING HIS ENGAGEMENT.

Wily John Chinaman Could Not Escape From Police Clutches.

Some time ago a squad of Manhattan police raided a fan tan game in Chinatown. Eleven Chinamen were captured and kept in a third story front room in charge of Detective Drennan until the patrol wagon came for them. While they were waiting for the wagon one of the prisoners said to Drennan:

"Me got to go. Me got volly important engagement."

"I suppose so," said the detective, "but you've got a more important engagement at the police station."

The Chinaman begged like a good fellow, but Drennan was obdurate.

"Me give you five dollars if you let me go," the prisoner finally whispered.

"No use, John. Even if I let you out of the room," said the detective, "the police would catch you at the lower door. They are guarding that."

As quick as a flash the Chinaman answered: "That's all right. You let me out, me go upstairs, get out on roof, and go down other building. Police no catch me."

"Can't do it, John," Drennan persisted. "They've got you prisoners all counted. If I turn over only ten I'll have troubles of my own."

"Me fix that," the Chinaman answered, without a moment's hesitation. "Me go to window, call a Chinaman friend up from street. When he come to this door you pull him in and I run out. See? You have eleven prisoners all same, and police can't tell one Chinaman from other."

But notwithstanding his cunning, John had to go to the station, and his volly important engagement was broken.—Brooklyn Eagle.

When Talk Comes High.

"Oh, well, talk is cheap," sneered the angry lawyer.

"Not that kind," replied the judge promptly. "Ten dollars," please.—Syracuse, N. Y., Herald.

Theaters in New York.

Thirteen new theaters, to cost \$8,000,000, are being built in New York city.