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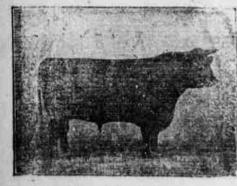
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#### GOT THINGS EVENED UP.

Convict Suffered Inconvenience to Have Laugh on Law.

late Capt. "Joe" Nicholson used to tell of a long-time prisoner who had been in the house of correction while the captain ran that insti-

Just before his term expired the convict cabled the captain that justice was now done and that an honest man would start afresh in the

"But you have told me several times that you were innocent of the harge on which you were sent here."

"So I was, Capt. 'Joe,' and I can prove it. Here are the names of three witnesses. Get their state-

ments and see whether I am lying." Just as a matter of curiosity the captain complied and found convinc-

ing evidence of the man's innocence. The convict was called in and indignantly asked why he had not used his evidence in getting a new trial.

"I'll tell you, captain. In my time I was acquitted three or four times when I was guilty, so when I was convicted of something I never did, I just thought I'd even things up by taking my medicine without kicking. Besides that, it sort of tickled me to find that justice had missed me at every shot."-Detroit News.

#### GOOD AND BAD READING.

Best Kind Must Arouse Reflection and Build Up Ideals.

Schopenhauer said: "The surest way of having no thoughts of our own is to take up a book every time we have nothing to do." That is not the popular idea, for reading is generally regarded as the generator of thought and character. But it is not so of itself. One must do something besides read. He must digest what he reads. He must increase the range of his perceptive powers, start up a new set of relations and draw some fresh conclusions. There are people who read a great deal more than other people, but know a great deal less. They read just to read-to put in past the Buchanan residence. time; for a pleasurable sensation that one gets lying in a hammock or drinking a glass of soda. There is no digestive force in it that builds up brain fiber. It is the sort of reading that sustains insipid talk and makes one in a little social circle turn away in disgust when a serious subject is referred to. The fact is the only kind I of reading that is worth the time employed is that which arouses reflection and builds up ideals.

#### Deserved Rebuke.

Lady Walrond, the wife of General Sir William Walrond, M. P., described at a dinner party in Boston the life of a maid of honor.

"One of my friends," she said, "was a maid of honor to Queen Victoria. She spent a part of each winter at San Remo, where I have a villa, and one January afternoon at the Sports' club, where we were taking tea under Post. an orange tree, a gentleman said to

"'How interesting your life at court must be! And what a delightful diary you must be able to keen!

"'No,' said the maid of honor, 'that condition that we keep no diaries while at court.'

"'Ah,' said the gentleman, laughing, I think I should keep a very secret one, all the same.'

"'Then,' said my friend, with a grave smile, 'I am afraid you would Simeon Ford. Sone one's sent me not be a maid of honor."

#### Not So Much Needed.

A family that had struggled many years in poverty suddenly came into possession of an income. They moved into a little place in the country and tried to impress their neighbors with their importance. They talked constantly of what "people in our position" should and should not do,

Some of their city acquaintances came to visit them one summer and the little daughter of seven or eight was showing them about the place.

"What nice chickens!" exclaimed one of the guests when they reached the poultry yard. "They lay every day, too, I suppose?"

"Yes," said the youthful hostess, "that is, they could, of course; but in our position they don't have to."

#### Fish That Climbs Trees.

"There are fish that shoot, fish that fish, fish that can't swim," said the nature student, "but I didn't know till I visited Tongatabu that there was a fish that climbed trees.

"They have in Tongatabu a small octopus, or feke, to give it its native name, and this creature frequently comes out of the sea and ascends a tree overhanging the water. On being disturbed it drops from the branches

back into its proper element again. "In the far Pacific isle of Tongatabu the natives are fond of octopus flesh and it is no uncommon thing to see a brown-skinned lad go shinning up a tree in the hope of finding a fish among the branches."

#### "Cult" of the Concertina.

An attempt is being made in certain musical circles to promote the cult of the concertina. It is quite likely that in the hands of skilled professional players the concertina is capable of giving an excellent account of itself. But in the hands of incompetent amateurs-and most amateurs who handle it are incompetent to the point of value." criminality-it becomes an intolerable instrument of torture, and any extension of its popularity in this nerveridden age would be nothing short of a calamity.-London World.

#### PROVED HIM AN IMPOSTOR.

Judge's Clever Ruse Uncovered Trick ery of Plaintiff.

Joseph Choate, the famous lawyer, related at a dinner party at Lenox some interesting reminiscences of the bar and bench.

"A striking case," said Mr. Choate, "transpired in the '60's. It was a case of a workman who claimed to have lost the sight of his left eye in an explosion

"There was no doubt about the explosion and there was no doubt that the workman's eve had been injured, but the physicians claimed that he could see out of it, while he stoutly declared that the sight was utterly destroyed.

"The judge heard all the evidence, pro and con. Then, sending the workman from the court room, he said:

"'Get a blackboard and write a sentence on it with green chalk. Also get a pair of spectacles with ordinary clear glass for the left eye and red glass for the right."

"This, in the course of an hour or so, was done. Then the workman was brought back and he was ordered

to put the queer glasses on. "He put them on and the judge said to him:

"'Turn the blackboard round and see if you can read what is written.' "The man read the sentence without hesitation, whereupon the judge said

to him sternly: "Your case is dismissed. You are an impostor. You must have read that sentence with your left eye, for the red glass over the right one turned the green writing black and made it quite invisible on the blackboard."

#### BEFORE AND AFTER ELECTION. President Buchanan Had Had All the

Visitors He Wanted.

President Buchanan's home still stands in the outskirts of Lancaster, Buchanan was a close friend of Abraham N. Cassel. He was president of the turnpike company which owned a road leading from Lancaster

During the campaign which gave Pennsylvania her only president this turnpike prospered on the tolls of the callers who daily thronged to the candidate's home.

"Abe," said Buchanan one day, can't you abolish the tolls, or give a special rate, for all these people? want to encourage them to comewant 'em all to come.

Mr. Cassel promised to consult his directors, and a concession granted.

After election came the office seekers, and the home of the presidentelect was compassed about like a beleagured camp. Meeting him, Buchanan again entreated the road owner:

"Cassel," he said, "for heaven's sake keep 'em away! Can't you build toll gates clear up to the sky so they can't climb over?"—Saturday Evening

#### Couldn't Afford It.

About a year ago Sewell Ford became a resident of Rye, N. Y. He had lived there only a short time before he discovered that one of his neighis impossible. The queen makes it a bors was Simeon Ford. The revelation was made over the telephone.

"Hello!" said a voice, "is this Sewell Ford?"

The author of "Shorty" admitted

that it was "Well," went on the voice, "this is your meat bill."

"Good! Why don't you pay it?" "I will if you'll pay mine," said

Simeon.' At last accounts the bargain had not been concluded. Simeon runs & hotel.-Exchange.

#### Carelessness About Firearms. A few days ago at Brockton, Mass.,

6-year-old child blew a man's head off with a shotgun; at Bangor, Me., a small boy killed his infant sister with a load of shot, and similar occurrences have recently been reported from other places. Ninety-nine per cent of gun accidents might have been avoided by the exercise of a small symptom of common sense. The children referred to in the dispatches found the guns in their homes and the guns were loaded. To keep a loaded gun in the house is next to criminal carelessness. To keep a loaded gun in the house where there are children is idiotic.-Washington Star.

#### Passing of Wedding Rings.

"Perhaps because rings as simple ornaments are so completely out of fashion, few married women wear the symbolic gold band at present," said a fashionable manicurist the other day. Of the several dozen patrons who frequent our establishment in the busy season every day not one in six or seven of the married matrons is so distinguished. The fragile looking circle which of past years has gradually been losing something of its solidity is carefully preserved, no doubt, with other interesting souvenirs and keepsakes. It is seldom worn."

#### Too Careless.

"Did you bring the engagement ring, Henri?

"Yes, I have it here. But fair and softly, Gwendolin. Before I place it upon your taper digit I must ask for sufficient security to cover its fair

"Security, Henri?"

"Aye, security. I have lost no less than three rings by being careless on this point No security, Gwenny, no

#### NOT THAT KIND OF TIES.

Youth Unaware of Nature of Job He Asked For.

About 20 years ago, when I was in Spokane, Wash., a young fellow was sent there from Boston by his father for his health, and, incidentally, to make his fortune, says a writer in the Boston Herald. He worked at his trade as a tailor for his health and gambled for his fortune. Needless to say, he lost both, for, at that age, he being about 19, he was a delicate

His money and job giving out about the same time, he looked around for something to do. Chancing to pass an employment office, he saw on the Pennslyvania or Nova Scotia coal, and blackboard, "Tie-makers wanted, 121/2 cents apiece." He walked in, and addressed himself to the man behind the desk, a big, raw-boned specimen, with a fierce mustache.

"I see you want tie-makers, sir," he

"Yes, we do, sonny; but don't you think you are rather too light for the

"Oh, no," replied the young man I can sew.'

"Sew," the other roared. "Why, great Scott! kid, these are railroad

#### COULD HAVE GOT SUBSTITUTES.

Excuse of Election Judge Blown Away by Investigator.

In recalling incidents connected with Virginia politics some years ago a prominent Virginian recently related an account of an investigation of election frauds in the lower section of the state. In the course of the proceedings it developed that the ballots in an important precinct had not been sealed after the final count, thereby being exposed to fraudulent practices. The chairman of the investigating committee closely questioned the election judge as to why the prescribed duty of carefully securing the ballots had been neglected.

"Could you not obtain any mucilage in the town?"

"No. sir.'

"Could you not procure some sealing wax, some shoemaker's wax, if nothing else?" "No. sir."

"Well, then, sir, why didn't you go out into the woods and get some resin? Do you mean to tell me that there were no pine trees around there shedding tears at your infamous rascality?"

Japan Growls at the New Woman. The girl who is the product of the female education of the present day does not make a suitable wife for ordinary Japanese, by any means. She learns much at school that is of no use to her in after life, and she is too often made concelted by the smattering of knowledge she possesses and is apt to put on airs. There is a great lack of practicability about the instruction given to young girls at most modern schools. Some of the girls from these schools may suit the tastes of officials, but the majority of them are shunned by marrying men, for the

reasons given above.—Rikugo Zasshi.

#### USE OF PEAT FOR FUEL.

Canadlans Preparing to Use It as Substitute for Coal.

The first commercially practicable method of preparing peat for commercial purposes is described by Aubrey Fullerton in the Technical World magazine. In his article, entitled, "Hurrying Up the Coal Mines," he tells of the efforts of fuel men of the United States, and particularly of Canada, to break away from their dependence upon the limited sections that now control their coal supply. In the advent of a new coal strike in the anthracite fields, something must be found which will take the place of while the mine operators are hurrying their collieries in order to lay up a supply of coal in advance of the coming winter demand, experiments are being made in Canada which promise to develop the first commercially practicable method of treating peat so as to put it on the market at a price which will make it a competitor of anthracite coal.

The rock upon which all former tests have foundered is in extracting the last 40 per cent. of water from the peat after it is taken from the bog. The new process, as described by Mr. Fullerton, solves this difficulty in a way which is so simple and inexpensive as to reduce the cost of the drying part of the operation to about one dollar a ton.

The northern states of the union and most of the provinces of the dominion have extensive peat-bog lands, and the placing of peat upon the market in large quantities promises to destroy the economic anomaly of two countries dependent upon one kind of fuel produced by only limited sections of country.

#### CUT OUT FOR A DIPLOMAT.

Quick Wit Extricated Young Man from Difficult Situation.

Most people take things lightly at the seashore, so that probably accounted for the fact that a certain young man found himself engaged to two charming girls at one and the same time while enjoying his vacation during the past summer.

One day he was seated, half dozing, on the deserted plazza of the hotel where all three of the interested parties were stopping when suddenly two little hands were clasped tightly over his eyes, and a sweet voice whispered,

Was it Clara or Nan? Should he say one of the names and chance it? These thoughts were flashing through his brain, when an inspiration struck

"It's the dearest, sweetest, prettiest little girl in all the world," he said. "Oh, you dear old Jack boy!" she

whispered, satisfied and delighted, and the hands dropped from his eyes to his shoulders.

In Low Esteem. "Lend me a hundred, old man." "Can't do it." "I'll pay you six per cent inter-

"Say, if I thought you'd pay six per cent. of the principal I'd let you have the money."

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