



### A GENEROUS CRITIC.

Story of John Oxenford, a Once Famous London Character.

John Oxenford was for years the leading theatrical critic of London. Mr. Oxenford was troubled with a serious bronchial affection, which occasionally disturbed the audience, for he refused to give up his beloved theater, although desperately ill. A certain rising young actor was very anxious to obtain Oxenford's valuable opinion on his work, and the tender hearted old gentleman literally left his bed and came down to the theater on a bitter cold night to do a good action to a clever youngster. In the middle of one of the actor's finest scenes on came the cough from the Oxenford box. It continued so long that it unnerved the actor, and he came to a dead stop. To the surprise of everybody he advanced to the front and said, "Ladies and gentlemen, I am sorry to say that unless the old gentleman with the irritating cough retires temporarily from the theater I really cannot go on. I forget everything. It is painful so to address you, but I am powerless in the matter and place myself in your hands."

The disturbance at once ceased, and the box was empty. When the curtain fell a friend rushed around and, breathless, said to the distressed actor: "Do you know what you have done? Do you know who it was that you turned out of the box?" "I neither know nor care," was the reply. "Why, it was John Oxenford!" The actor was paralyzed, but he got his good notice all the same. The veteran critic went home coughing to praise the young actor who had turned him out.

### JUDGING DOGS.

The Rules by Which the Different Points Are Valued.

The average man is greatly puzzled to find one dog awarded a first prize and another, which to him appears to be quite as fine a specimen, awarded no prize at all. A man who knows the relative values of the different points in all breeds of dogs is a veritable walking encyclopedia.

Generally speaking, the best dog is one which comes nearest the standard of requirements for its own particular breed, about 25 per cent of the points being usually awarded for fine head proportions, an equal number for legs and feet, a similar number for body and color and the rest for symmetry. In the Dalmatian, for instance, thirty points are given for color and markings, while head, eyes and ears have only fifteen; the bulldog, on the other hand, has forty-five for head and ears, while coat and color amount to but five points; the collie has twenty-five for coat, color being immaterial, and twenty-five for head and ears.

The St. Bernard has forty for head and ears and five each for coat and color. The Pomeranian has but fifteen for head and ears, forty-five points going for coat, color and tail, with fifteen for appearance. It may be set down as governing in all breeds of dogs that whatever is the typical feature of that breed is the feature upon which stress is laid in the allotment of points.

### The Ant's Cow.

The aphid, one of the most widely distributed species of insects known to the entomologists, is sometimes referred to as the "ant's cow." The aphid actually gives milk, although the creature itself is so small that it is estimated to weigh but the one one-thousandth of a grain. Out of the back of the aphid project two hollow tubes. These connect with ducts in the body, which secrete a sweet liquid. When the tubes are touched the liquid exudes in small drops. The ants know this, and they make a regular business of tickling the tubes of the little aphid to make her "give down her milk." The ant is very fond of this saccharine food and will "milk" a hundred aphides in the course of an hour.

### Why He Resigned.

The French Baron Rothschild once had in his service a valet named Alphonse, first class, but an acknowledged "red." This valet obtained permission once a week to attend the meetings of his Socialist lodge. Suddenly the baron noticed that Alphonse no longer desired this off night and, inquiring into the cause, was informed that the valet's late Socialist colleagues had worked out a calculation that if all the wealth of France were divided equally per capita each individual would be the possessor of 2,000 francs. "Monsieur," said Alphonse, with dignity, "I resigned. I have 5,000 francs!"—Argonaut.

### Henpecked Husbands.

Henpecked husbands are found even in India. A writer says: "To live as I have done in a Hindoo house, especially when the real house mistress is a masterful and deeply religious widow, who is grandmother to the babies and mother to their parents, is no longer to wonder at the absolute terror with which men speak of the 'stri' sechar." For the men of India are, poor souls, the most henpecked in the world."

### Too Much Heart.

"And you rejected him?" "I did." "He has the reputation of being a large hearted man." "That's the trouble with him. He is too large hearted. He can love half a dozen women at the same time."

### Domestic Finance.

Mrs. Knicker—Can you get money from your husband? Mrs. Becker—No. By the time I've paid the cook for a good dinner before I ask him I'm just even.—Harper's Bazar.

Music is the prophecy of what life is to be, the rainbow of promise translated out of seeling into hearing.—Mrs. L. M. Child.

## Short Stories About People



CORNELIUS N. BLISS.

CORNELIUS N. BLISS, who as treasurer of the Republican national committee received campaign contributions from the New York Life Insurance company, is the latest financier to get into a controversy with the former legislative agent of that company, Andrew Hamilton. The disagreement pertains to the question whether Mr. Hamilton did or did not turn over the sum of \$75,000 to Mr. Bliss on behalf of the New York Life to be used for the election of the Republican national ticket in 1896. Mr. Bliss has been prominent in Republican politics for years and was treasurer of the national committee of that party in four presidential campaigns. It has been said that his case illustrates the saying that the office should seek the man rather than the man the office, for, though offices have been urged upon him on numerous occasions, he has only once served in a post of a public character. That was when he was for a short time secretary of the interior in the cabinet of President McKinley. Mr. Bliss was born in Fall River, Mass., in 1833. He has been a merchant in New York for twenty-five years.

James Keir Hardie, leader of the powerful Labor party in the British house of commons, is a remarkable character. He worked in Scotch coal mines from the time he was seven years old until he reached the age of twenty-four. He learned to write shorthand as a young man, not by attending a business college or working with pen and paper after hours, but by scratching on the walls of the coal mine the mysterious looking characters of stenography. He did not become a shorthand reporter, but his present position as leader of the Labor party is more influential than he dreamed of possessing in his early manhood. Hardie continues to wear in parliament his coster's cap and sack coat, the costume which so shocked the sticklers for the traditional usages of the house when he first entered it. One day about that time he was proceeding to the parliament library to consult a book when he found his way gently but firmly barred by a policeman, who said:

"Are you working here, mate?" "Yes," replied Mr. Hardie, who was attired in his usual democratic style, cloth cap and all. "On the roof?" "No; on the floor." "The roof of the house was being repaired, and as the policeman was not quite sure about the floor repairs he allowed Hardie to pass.

Owing to his simple way of dressing, Mr. Hardie was once placed in an awkward position while traveling in Belgium. He was arrested on suspicion of being connected with an anarchist who had just been seized on the charge of attempting the life of King Leopold. Hardie had difficulty in convincing the police that he was a member of the British parliament.

Representative Oscar W. Gillespie of Texas, whose resolution asking for information concerning the community of interests of the Pennsylvania, Baltimore and Ohio and other railroads was recently passed, came to congress the first time on the toss of a coin. He is from the Twelfth district and first served in the Fifty-eighth congress. There were three candidates for the nomination. Several thousand ballots were taken. Finally it was decided to break the deadlock by the toss of a coin. The third man was eliminated on the first toss, and Gillespie won the second toss and the nomination.

Mme. Lillian Nordica, who narrowly escaped serious injury by the premature falling of a heavy curtain at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, recently, is a prima donna who possesses much presence of mind. On this occasion she was so near the curtain that it struck a bouquet from her hand and bruised her fingers, but she retained her composure and helped to avert a panic in the audience. It was only a few weeks before this that the great soprano had won admiration for her coolness when a fire broke out on the Metropolitan stage while she was singing. ing Brunehild in "Gottterdammerung." She stamped out the flames as she kept on singing and when her skirts caught fire subdued the threatening elements without so much as a tremor in her voice.

Mme. Nordica once sang at a concert in a town in Texas. Among the crowd in the concert room was a cowboy who during the evening sat spellbound as he listened to Nordica's notes. When her last song was finished and she was wrapping up to return to her lodging it was discovered that her overshoes had been forgotten. The cowboy immediately offered to go for them and brought them one at a time. Mme.

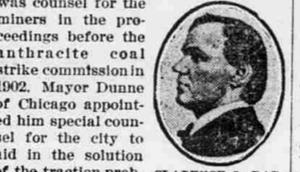


LILLIAN NORDICA.

Nordica thanked him graciously and expressed regret that he should have had so much trouble. "Not at all, madam," said the admiring youth; "I only wish you were a centipede." The singer asserts that this was the prettiest compliment ever paid to her.

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Clarence S. Darrow of Chicago has been counsel in many famous labor cases, and now he is to be one of the lawyers who will conduct the defense of the men indicted on the charge of murdering ex-Governor Steunenberg of Idaho. The accused men are officials of the Western Federation of Miners. Mr. Darrow was the legal adviser of Eugene V. Debs in the great railway strike of about ten years ago, and he was counsel for the miners in the proceedings before the anthracite coal strike commission in 1902. Mayor Dunne of Chicago appointed him special counsel for the city to aid in the solution of the traction problem. He is noted as a brilliant lawyer and an eloquent speaker and is also widely known as a writer. One of his books, "Resist Not Evil," champions the ideas of Tolstol. Another, "Farmington," is a novel which describes country life and rural characters in days gone by, when there were but few links between the life of the city and that of the country. Mr. Darrow is forty-nine years old and a native of Ohio. He started out in his profession as a railroad attorney, but his sympathies soon carried him in an opposite direction. One of the feats of his career was his summing up of the miners' case before the strike commission, when he spoke for two days without notes and without manifesting fatigue.



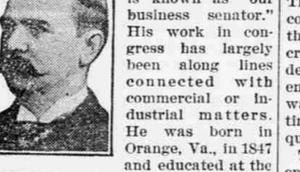
CLARENCE S. DARROW.

Representative Ollie James of Kentucky was explaining how any Republican senator who voted against the railway rate regulation bill was like a Kentucky negro and his wife. "Shut up, woman. I's a mighty good min' to slam yo' in yo' face," the husband said. "Do it, do it, yo' black gum nigger, do it," answered the wife, "but if yo' does I su'nly can hyar yo' a-ayin' 'Good mawnin', jedge, yo' honor,' in de mawnin'."

"That's the way with those Republican senators. They would like to beat up the rate bill, but if they do they know they will be saying the next morning, 'Good morning, Mr. President, I plead not guilty.'"

Senator James P. Tallaferro of Florida, who recently had an altercation with William Nelson Cromwell, the lawyer, at a hearing on Panama canal affairs before the senate committee on interoceanic canals, was a successful business man before he entered politics. In Florida he is known as "our business senator." His work in congress has largely been connected with commercial or industrial matters. He was born in Orange, Va., in 1847 and educated at the school of William Dinwiddie at Greenwood, which he left in 1864 to enlist in the Confederate service. He followed the fortunes of the Confederacy until the close of the war, and shortly afterward removed to Florida and engaged in the lumber business. He lived in lumber camps and went through all the hardships incident to life away from the centers of civilization. One of his achievements at Washington was an enactment which put on the pension list about 1,700 veterans of the Seminole war.

Andrew Hamilton, famous as the legislative agent of the New York Life Insurance company, created a sensation when in his recent speech in Albany before the Armstrong committee he referred to some one prominent in the New York Life as "the Pecksaiff of three administrations, who thinks he is the Talleyrand of the present one, the confidant of the Beers scandal and the author of the Beers pension."



WILLIAM B. HORNBLOWER.

When asked by an interviewer if he meant to refer to William B. Hornblower, he replied that it was a good guess. Mr. Hornblower is counsel for the New York Life Insurance company and has occupied that post under three presidents—Beers, McCall and Orr. He has been counsel for the New York Central Railroad company and also for other large corporations. His name was much in the public prints thirteen years ago, at the time he was nominated to the bench of the United States supreme court by President Cleveland. Mr. Hornblower had opposed the presidential aspirations of David B. Hill in the so called "snap convention" of 1892 and was a leader in the gathering of Democrats which followed and which was known as the "anti-snap convention." About a year later, when Mr. Cleveland, who in the meantime had been inaugurated for the second time, sent the name of Mr. Hornblower to the senate as a member of the supreme court, Senators Hill and Murphy opposed his confirmation, and his name was finally withdrawn. Mr. Hornblower is fifty-five years of age and is a graduate of Princeton university.

### ANCIENT WATER VILLAGES.

Relic of Old Customs Prevailing in the "Spreewald."

One of the most interesting regions in the "old fatherland" is the so called "Spreewald," the forest of the Spree, situated not far from the German capital, in the province of Brandenburg. Each village is a little Venice, every house a little island, and these islets are connected by bridges sufficiently raised to allow boats to pass under them. Most of the houses, with their barns and stables, rest on piles, and there is generally a strip of artificial terra firma either in front or at the rear of every building. By means of these land strips and of the bridges the slender land communication is kept throughout the district, but most of the business and amusement are carried on through the canals, which not only form the main highways, but penetrate and cross and recross the whole region. It is on these lagoons that all traffic is conducted in boats during the period from spring when the last vestiges of frost and ice are disappearing until the end of autumn. You see the letter carrier shoot up and down the canals, performing his duties in his frail craft; the police glide leisurely along the banks, watching everything going on; peasants bring the products of their toil to the nearest towns; children go to and from school; young mothers, dressed in their Sunday clothes, are rowed to church, carrying in their arms a small, queer looking bundle from which two large eyes in a tiny face stare at the stranger in wonderment—baby is going to be baptized, an important moment with this strongly religious people.—Technical World Magazine.

### DREAM MYSTERY.

The Events That May Be Crowded Into a Few Seconds.

The duration of a dream is so seldom accurately measured that a story published in the St. Louis Medical Record is worth repeating. The writer, a doctor, was seized with an uncontrollable drowsiness during a call and was struggling to keep awake when he was asked by his companion, "How long may you stay in B.?" His answer, which came promptly enough, was, "That depends on the Western Union," and, catching himself, he explained that he was expecting a telegram. In fact, however, his answer related to the facts of a dream which had been sandwiched between the two parts of the sentence.

After hearing the words "How long" the doctor had dozed off, dreamed that after long and tedious experiments he had invented a wonderful apparatus for holding telegraph poles in a vertical position, had negotiated with the postal company for its sale, but unsuccessfully, and had finally gone to the authorities of the other company. They, in the dream, told him they were considering a German invention for the same purpose, and the dreamer crossed the ocean to examine the rival device, returned, explained the differences to the intending purchaser, and was writing a reply when he woke in time to hear the end of his companion's question.

The events of the dream had apparently consumed months, yet the actual time that elapsed was merely that required for uttering about four short words.

### Precedent For "Governess."

Albert VII, archduke of Austria, married Isabella Clara Eugenia, infant of Spain, who brought to him as dowry the sovereignty of the Low Countries, etc. When Philip IV. of Spain ascended the throne in 1621 he took from his aunt the sovereignty of the Low Countries, but left her the title of governess. Her husband died soon after, whereon she took the veil, though still retaining the reins of government. She died at Brussels in 1633, aged sixty-six. Here there is precedent for the use of the word governess when a lady holds the post.—London Notes and Queries.

### Paid For the Opinion.

Shortly after Chief Justice Purley of the court of appeals of New Hampshire had retired from the bench and resumed the practice of his profession a man called on him to get his opinion in a certain matter. After stating his case clearly he said, "Well, judge, what do you think of my case?" The judge promptly replied, "I think you are a scoundrel." "How much do I owe you for that opinion?" inquired the client. "Ten dollars," demanded the judge. The fee was promptly paid.

### Rhodesia's Largest Nugget.

Weighing 21.62 ounces, a gold nugget which measures five and a half inches in length and three inches in width was recently found near Bulawayo. It is believed to be the largest yet found in Rhodesia, and is now in the British South Africa company's museum at 2 London Wall buildings, E. C.—London Mail.

### The Woman of It.

Mother (impatiently)—You have been very naughty today, Juanita. I shall have to tell your father when he comes home. Juanita (aged seven)—That's the woman of it! You never can keep anything to yourself!

### The Determining Factor.

Helen—Sometimes I like waltzing and sometimes I do not. Ethel—It depends on your mood? Helen—It depends on my partner.—New York Press.

Of all persecutions, that of calumny is the most intolerable.—Hazlitt.

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