

OUR PRESIDENTS



FRANKLIN PIERCE.

The fourteenth president of the United States was born at Hillsboro, N. H., in 1804 and died at Concord, N. H., in 1869. He won wide distinction as a lawyer. He resigned from the United States senate in 1842 to resume his profession and declined in turn an appointment to the senate, the nomination for governor and a place in the cabinet. At the opening of the Mexican war he enlisted as a private, but shortly became a brigadier general, doing gallant service. He was elected president on the Democratic ticket in 1852. His administration had much to do with the problems affecting slavery. Pierce's conservative course made him unpopular in the north.

THE MAGIC OF MUSIC

Power of the Melody of the Voice Over Man and Beast.

SINGERS WHO SAVED LIVES.

The Way Lablache, the Basso, Conquered a Bear and a Burglar—Grisi's Control of a Madman With a Razor. A Musical Wife's Presence of Mind.

That music really has charms to soothe the savage beast is proved by the many times that the power of song has been the means of saving life. On one occasion when Luigi Lablache, the great opera basso, was aimlessly strolling through a French fair he was surprised by a sudden stampede of the sightseers, who rushed by him in a great panic, crying that one of the great bears had escaped from the menagerie. So surprised that he scarcely realized his danger, the singer stood his ground and almost immediately found himself face to face with the maddened beast, which halted for a moment before making its final rush. In that moment Lablache began to sing one of his favorite airs in a voice so deep and terrifying that the bear slunk away, thoroughly cowed.

It was this same singer who, when confined to his bed by a broken leg, was surprised by his landlady, who burst into his room, crying that a robber was in the house and was about to kill her husband unless he revealed the hiding place of their money and plate. Lablache, unable because of his injury to give other assistance, began to sing an aria in such thunderous tones as to terrify the robber, who fled.

Mme. Giulia Grisi was once traveling from the south of France to Paris in company with several companions of her own sex, when their privacy was intruded upon by a man who entered their apartment at a wayside station. Before long he began to act so oddly as to make the women apprehensive and at last terrified them by drawing a razor, which he began to flourish, at the same time demanding that he be permitted to sever their heads. The women realized that they had a madman in the carriage with them and also that they were without protection until the next stop of the train. In consequence they became hysterical—all save Grisi, who with great coolness suddenly began to sing in a soft voice that gradually assumed volume as she gained the attention of the man, whose threatening attitude gave way to rapt attention as the song advanced. Song after song did Grisi sing, and not another movement did the man make until the next station was reached, when the alarm was given and he was taken into custody. It transpired afterward that he had escaped from a lunatic asylum.

Jennie Lind once saved not only her own, but hundreds of other lives by her gift of song. A fire broke out back of the stage in a small theater in her native land where she was singing. The audience became alarmed, and there might have been a panic had not Jennie Lind stepped coolly out upon the stage and begun singing a favorite folk song. Reassured and entranced, the audience resumed themselves, and the fire was soon extinguished.

Another well known opera star while traveling with some friends in Mexico was surprised by a company of half breed bandits, at whose approach the escort fled, leaving their charges to the mercy of the robbers. The attitude of

the latter on finding that their captives had little money and valuables was menacing in the extreme, and the travelers all expected to be murdered that night. When the robbers were eating their supper the star began to sing, and his captors were so delighted that they demanded more. For a time he gratified them, but at last suggested that he should sing for the freedom of himself and his friends. To this the bandits, cheered by wine and song, agreed, and after having sung for an hour he and his companion were free.

Kneissel, the notorious Bavarian brigand, once planned to rob a house in the neighborhood of Munich and, if necessary to secure the money and plate he knew was in the house, murder the inmates, a young married woman and her two female servants. His approach was heard by the wife, who, instead of losing her head, sat down to her piano and began to sing. The brigand listened for awhile and was on the point of forcing an entrance into the room when the song ceased and a man's voice struck up a rollicking air, to be followed in a few moments by a third man's voice singing a familiar chorus. Kneissel paused. The husband evidently had returned unexpectedly and had brought with him a friend. He was not prepared to attack the house against two men, so he beat a hasty retreat, little thinking that the voice he had heard proceeded from the lips of the young wife, a fine singer, who was an adept at mimicry.

Some years ago a released convict went to the house of the Indiana judge who had sentenced him to prison with the intention of shooting him. As he crept nearer to the window beside which the judge was sitting and raised his revolver to fire the sweet voice of the judge's wife floated out on the summer air from the bedroom, where she was singing her baby to sleep, all unconscious of her husband's peril. The lullaby she sang was one that the convict's mother used to croon to him, and, throwing aside his revolver, he confessed to the judge his intention. The judge befriended him, and he is today one of the most influential and respected citizens of a town in the far west.—Addie Farrar in Chicago Record-Herald.

Silk Manufacture.

From all accounts silk manufacture originated in China. Chinese tradition has it that the Emperor Foh Li taught his people the art of cultivating the silkworm as early as 5000 B. C. Spain was the first European country to receive the silkworms, the Arab conquerors introducing them about the tenth century, probably from their home on the borders of Persia. The foundation of the silk industry in France dates from the year 1516, when Francis I. imported silk workers from Milan.

The Baby's Fault.

Nursemaid—I'm going to leave, mum. Mistress—Why, what's the matter? Don't you like the baby? Nursemaid—Yes'm, but he is that afraid of a policeman that I can't get near one.—London Tatler.

His Absentmindedness.

Professor (after dinner, looking at his empty plate in a rage)—There, you've had spinach and egg again! You know perfectly well, Amelia, that I can't eat it!—Fliegende Blätter.

Sure Thing.

"Do you believe any of the plant or arboreal kingdom would stick to man if given the choice?" "I think the dogwood."—Baltimore American.

ANIMAL INTELLIGENCE.

The Difference Between Instinct and Reasoning Power.

Most animals have little self-consciousness, and their reasoning powers at best are of a low order, but in kind at least the powers are not different from reason in man. A horse reaches over the fence to be company to another. This is instinct. When it lets down the bars with its teeth, that is reason. When a dog finds its way home at night by the sense of smell, this may be instinct; when he drags a stranger to his wounded master, that is reason. When a jack rabbit leaps over a bush to escape a dog or runs in a circle before a coyote, or when it lies flat in the grass as a round ball of gray, indistinguishable from grass, this is instinct. But the same animal is capable of reason—that is, of a distinct choice among lines of action. Not long ago a rabbit came bounding across the university campus at Palo Alto. As it passed a corner it suddenly faced two hunting dogs running side by side toward it. It had the choice of turning back, its first instinct, but a dangerous one; of leaping over the dogs or of lying on the ground. It chose none of these, and its choice was instantaneous. It ceased leaping, ran low and went between the dogs just as they were in the act of seizing it, and the surprise of the dogs as they stopped and tried to hurry around was the same feeling that a man would have in like circumstances.—"Evolution and Animal Life."

PLANT ODDITIES.

Flowers That Possess Eyes, Though They May Not See.

The night lily has thousands of eyes, but a nasturtium leaf has more. Holding up his hand in front of a desert shrub, an experimenter has taken a micro-photograph showing half a dozen distinct images of his fingers formed by the eyes of the plant. Many common garden and wild flowers—the nasturtium, begonia, clover, wood sorrel and bluebell among others—possess eyes situated on their leaves. They are minute protuberances filled with a transparent gummy matter which focuses the rays of light on a sensitive patch of tissue at the back of it in a similar manner to that in which the eyes of an animal do their work. A common nasturtium plant has thousands of such eyelets on its leaves, forming thousands of minute images of the objects around them. But, though a plant may have eyes, it does not follow that it sees. It is not yet known if the sense impressions are telegraphed to some central nerve exchange corresponding to the brain of the animal. In addition to these light sense organs many plants possess a touch of sensitiveness and a response to electric stimuli that show further resemblance to the animal world, while ferns, mosses and seaweeds in an early stage of their existence are capable of actually swimming through water.—Chicago Tribune.

The Lady in the Moon.

An amateur astronomer writes of the "lady in the moon": "It is a very beautiful face seen in profile and uplifted, as though in proud disdain of things terrestrial. The curve of the throat is exquisite, and indeed the entire outline is marvelously lifelike. The moon lady may best be observed through a small opera glass when our satellite is at half. At that time the tip of the chin about touches the terminator—that is, the dividing line between the light and dark portions of the lunar surface. Most people can recognize the man in the moon. Well, the hair of the lady, in which I can always fancy I see a spray of orange blossom, forms the man's left eye, the nose and mouth his nose, and the chin and throat the man's mouth."

An Unhappy Comparison.

A country minister had just received his first call to the charge of a small church, and his wife, of course, was highly excited—so much so that she was obliged to tell everybody of the good news.

One day she met a farmer's wife and began the conversation.

"Do you know, Mrs. Close," she said, "my husband has just secured the incumbency of a church, and I can't tell you how delighted I am. I—"

"Yes," replied the sympathetic old lady, "I quite understand your feelings. I felt just that way when our pig took the gold medal at the cattle show."—Pearson's Weekly.

Very Plain.

Two country women, mother and daughter, were at the circus for the first time. They were greatly taken with the menagerie. At last they came to the hippopotamus and stood for several minutes transfixed in silent wonder. Then the mother turned to her daughter and said slowly and solemnly: "My! Ain't—he—plain?"

An Advantage.

"Now," said Tommy's mother, "I hope you'll profit by that spanking and not be such a little savage hereafter." "Boohoo!" blubbered Tommy. "I wish I wuz a little savage. Little savages' mamas don't wear slippers."—Exchange.

Practical.

"What," asked the dreamer, "would you do if you could be a king for a day?" "Me?" answered the practical man. "I'd borrow enough money to live on for the rest of my life."—London Telegraph.

It's so much easier to congratulate a man on his success than it is to sympathize with him in his misfortune.—Chicago News.

Uncle Sam and the Latin Americans



SECRETARY ROOT.

THE affairs of the Latin American republics have been brought into special prominence by the trip of Secretary Root to Mexico, by the calling of a Central American peace conference and by the discussions over the so-called Drago doctrine during the peace conference at The Hague. Further prominence is given to the subject of relations between the United States and the other republics of the continent by the visit of a delegation of merchants from Rio de Janeiro. Their trip to this country and tour of various industrial centers are one result of the visit of Secretary Root to Brazil last winter. His present Mexican tour was planned by way of completing the journey he then made around South America. He was invited to go to Mexico at that time, but circumstances did not permit, and, fearing that an unfortunate interpretation might be put upon his failure to include the country of President Diaz in his tour, he promised to pay his respects to the sister republic later.

Mr. Root's jaunt is no ordinary pleasure junket, but is believed to have considerable international significance. Naturally the principal object is the strengthening of our relations, both political and commercial, with Mexico. As the Mexican ambassador, Senor Enrique Creel, recently said, "It will mean the rounding out of the policy which is to determine the attitude of the United States to Latin America."

About the middle of September a protocol was signed at the state department in Washington by the diplomatic representatives of the five Central American republics accepting the invitation of the United States and Mexico to meet in the city by the Potomac early in November and negotiate an agreement for permanent peace be-



DR. LUIS MARIA DRAGO.

tween the states in question. The quarrels and even open hostilities between them, involving injury to the property of citizens of Mexico and the United States, have caused much concern to the governments of the latter countries. The project of closer union between them instead of jealousy and strife has been mooted for some time, but now definite steps have been taken to carry out a well considered plan. The agreement as to a conference was brought about after long discussion of the subject between the diplomatic representatives of the five republics. The protocol signed binds the parties to it to refrain from any movement that might disturb the status quo and endanger the success of the conference.

The Hague conference has brought into international prominence one of the most eminent of the public men of Latin America, Dr. Luis Maria Drago of Argentina. The so-called Drago doctrine has been one of the leading themes at the conference, and the action of the delegates from the United States in espousing a somewhat modified form of it has occasioned comment. This action was in part the result of Secretary Root's visit to South America, for while in Argentina he became acquainted with Dr. Drago, discussed with him his doctrine and invited the distinguished South American to visit Washington as his guest on the conclusion of The Hague conference. Argentina is one of the most advanced of the South American countries, enjoys a stable government and popular rights and a marked degree of prosperity. Dr. Drago, who is about forty-nine years of age, an excellent linguist and learned in the law and in literature, was minister of foreign affairs of Argentina in 1902, and it was then that the doctrine now known by his name took its present form. He maintained that the collection of a debt should not be made the occasion of armed intervention in an American country by a European power, but that recourse should be had by creditors to international law in the case of delinquent debtors. He urged that armed intervention implied occupation of territory and was in violation of the Monroe doctrine. Dr. Drago is talked of as next president of Argentina.

"PAGEANT."

Professor Skeat on the Proper Pronunciation of the Word.

Instead of trusting to casual observers, it is far better to understand the principles that govern our pronunciation. There is one principle in particular which, rightly considered, gives us a good deal of help in the instance under consideration.

In my "Primer of English Etymology" I give some simple rules of accentuation. Rule 1 is as follows:

"When the length of a word is augmented an original long vowel is apt to be shortened by the accentual stress falling upon it." Such augmentation is due to the formation of a derivative. An easy example is seen in the case of cone, pronounced with a long "o" for if we form a derivative by adding the suffix "ic" the result is conic, with a short "o."

There is a general principle that affects the whole language and sets up a standard habit. By way of illustration, compare bile with bilious, crime with criminal, brake and bracken, dime and dinner, mine and mineral, coal and collier and perhaps at least seventy more. A remarkable instance is seen in collic, which is merely a new pronunciation of coal. Certain dogs were once called conly dogs because of their coal black markings. An extension of the same principle may be formed in comparing the dissyllabic forus agent and cogent with the allied trissyllables agitate and cogitate.

When once such a principle has become general it is obvious that a word like pageant will be influenced by the very large number of dissyllables that have the former vowel short, and this is why the truly normal pronunciation of the word resembles the "a" in Page. I do not certainly know the origin of that name, but I suppose it is merely the diminutive of page, in which the "a" is shortened as a matter of course simply because the diminutive "et" has been added.

The pronunciation of primer has often been discussed, and many are they who think that they clinch the matter by saying that the "i" in the Latin primus is long, for that proves nothing at all as regards modern English, and those who have studied our peculiar ways with the closest attention are well aware that the normal way is, after all, to pronounce it as if it were spelled primer. We do not therefore spell it with a double "m," because that is not our system. We write tonic and conic and mimic in order to show their connection with tone and cone and mime, and we trust that the unfortunate reader, after he has thus had the etymology explained to him, will provide the pronunciation for himself. Such a word as pageant may be usefully compared with magic and tropic and agitate.—London Academy.

SAVED BY QUICK WIT.

The Escape of Sir Archibald Douglas at Poitiers.

In the battle of Poitiers (1356) a number of Scottish soldiers fought on the side of the French, and several of them were taken prisoners by the English. Among them was Sir Archibald Douglas, half brother of Lord William Douglas. Being dressed in a suit of splendid armor, the victors thought they had captured—as indeed they had—some great nobleman. Several of the English were about to strip off his armor when Sir William Ramsay of Colluthie, who was also a prisoner, happening to catch Sir Archibald's eye, gave him a meaning look. Pretending to be very angry, he cried out: "You rascal, how is it that you are wearing your master's armor? Come here and pull off my boots!" Douglas, seemingly thoroughly cowed, went humbly forward and drew off a boot, with which Sir William began to beat him. The English onlookers at once interfered on Douglas's behalf, saying that he was a person of great rank and a lord. "What!" shouted Ramsay, shaking with laughter. "He a lord? Why, he is a base knave and, I suppose, has slain his master. Go, you villain, and search the field for the body of my cousin, your master, and when you have found it let me know, that I may give it decent burial." All this was acted so naturally that the English allowed Ramsay to ransom the pretended manservant for 40 shillings. The money having been paid, Sir William gave Douglas another thrashing and then bade him begone. Sir Archibald lost no time in effecting his escape, which he owed solely to the ingenuity of his friend.

Human Muscles.

If the muscles in the arm of the average man were put together and a nervous impulse passed into them, their contraction would lift a weight of 224 pounds from the ground. Muscles have the unique power when stimulated by nerve impulse of contracting somewhat as rubber bands might do if they could squeeze themselves up shorter. They are, in fact, the reverse of rubber, for they contract only and cannot stretch out.—Minneapolis Journal.

One Comfort.

They were weeping for the head of the house, whose automobile had gone over the bank.

"Anyway," said the widow, drying her tears for the moment, "his death was in the height of fashion."—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Her Little Pleasures.

Husband—I wish you would stop this everlasting picking flaws in your neighbors. Wife—That's just like you! You never want me to have the least pleasure!—Liverpool Mercury.

The strongest things are in danger from the weakest.—Disraeli.

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