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AN ANCIENT FIATIST.

Sir John Mandeville, an English knight of the 14th century, who spent a large part of his life in traveling through Africa and Asia, and in the course of his wanderings saw as many things that did not exist as any traveler either before or after him, took pains when he came to the Great Khan's territories to investigate the source of that monarch's fabulous wealth; and he found it to consist in his use of an irredeemable paper currency.

"This Emperour may dispenden als moche as he wile," says Sir John, "with outen estymacion. For he despendeth not ne makethe no Money, but of Lether emprented, or of Papyre. And of that Moneye, is some of gretter Prys, and som of lasse prys, afre the dyversitee of his Statutes. And when that Money hath ronne so longe, that it begynnethe to waste, than men beren it to the Emperoures Tresorve: and than they taken newe Money for the Olde. And that Money gothe thorghe out alle the contree and thorghe out alle his Provynces. For there and beyonde hem, thei make no Money nouter of Gold nor of Sylver. And therfor he may despende enow, and outrageously."

That is the trouble to this day; when men discover that easy method of creating value out of the valueless, they begin to dispenden outrageously. Sir John records some of the ways this Oriental potentate devised to squander his revenues; he had Rubyes and Charboncles of half a fote long; he maintained 200 Phisicyens and 210 Leches;

he had his barn full of Olifauntz, tame and othere, Babewynes, Apes and othere dyverse Bestes; and so many wylde Gees and Gandres and wylde Dokes and Swannes and Heirouns that they were not to be counted.

CARLISLE AND REED.

Two of the ablest men who have ever served in the American house of representatives and the two men who with pre-eminent ability presided over its deliberations are John G. Carlisle and Thomas B. Reed. They have both retired from public life. Neither of them was ever an office-seeker. They are good lawyers.

Mr. Carlisle is especially gifted in memory and in the power of analytical reasoning. He can quote literally, word for word, more court decisions than any other man in the United States. He can expose a sophism and dissect a fallacy so skilfully and with such clearness that the dullest can comprehend the error and discern the truth.

Mr. Reed, like Mr. Carlisle, is peculiarly strong in his individuality and not commonplace in anything. Neither of these eminent citizens has ever been charged with or suspected of corruption in all their long and luminous careers. Nor has anyone ever, even by implication, suggested that they are lacking in the highest and best characteristics of statesmanship.

Carlisle and Reed are now residents of the city and state of New York. Either one of them would make a good, conservative candidate for the presidency. Mr. Carlisle would no doubt be ably supported under present political conditions, no matter by whom nominated, by Mr. Thomas B. Reed; and the latter, if named for the presidency, would count John G. Carlisle among his ardent advocates. These men are patriots. They love their country more than party.

TASTE.

About the last joke made by the poet Heine was his answer to the physician who attended him on his deathbed, when he asked him what kind of a taste he had, meaning in his mouth. Heine replied that he had bad taste, like all Germans.

This was merely a characteristic witicism, designed to please the French, among whom he spent his last days. It is by no means certain that the Ger-

mans have poorer taste than other nations. The taste of a good many Germans, for one thing, has led them to throw in their lot with that of the American republic.

And if one was looking for bad taste, it would be hard to find a better example than the verses recited by Captain Coghlan, of the United States navy, at a recent banquet of the Union League Club.

These were a set of bumptious and impudent rhymes directed at Emperor William of Germany, representing him as boasting, in low-comedian dialect, what "Me und Gott" could do if they tried. They are offensive enough to displease anybody, and funny enough to make anyone laugh; but there is apparently no more sense to them than to the humor the Spanish indulged in last year at the expense of Yankee Pigs. Captain Coghlan does not seem to be at all responsible for them, as it is said that they were constructed by an Englishman resident in Manila, and to have been recited on this occasion at the request of some of Coghlan's friends, who knew of their popularity in that quarter of the world; but both their urgency and the captain's compliance, in so conspicuous an assemblage, were certainly very much out of place.

SPOKANE.

It is one of the peculiar advantages of the English system of orthography, that the harder a man tries to spell a word exactly according to its sound, the more obscure does his intention become. The following paragraph, from Rev. Samuel Parker's book, leaves the reader entirely in the dark as to the pronunciation of the word which the writer no doubt thought he had fixed with mathematical exactness:

"The name of this nation is generally written Spokan, sometimes Spokane. I called them Spokans, but they corrected my pronunciation, and said Spokein, and this they repeated several times, until I was convinced that to give their name a correct pronunciation it should be written Spokein."

This Parker was a missionary who made the journey from the Missouri river to Oregon and the coast in 1835, or seven years before Fremont, the Pathfinder, set his foot upon the plains. He also accompanied Marcus Whitman, who, on his second trip across with his caravan of Oregon settlers, made the path that Fremont found.