

# Breezy Bits of Gossip About Noted People

President Loubet is driving his master of ceremonies to despair, it is declared. The president will not have ceremony. When his visitors arrive he rushes forward and gives a grip of the hand before his bewildered attendant has made the usual announcement. And now, copying the example of the king of the Belgians and no doubt with happy recollections of his struggling bachelor days, the president takes Mrs. Loubet out to dine at a cafe in the open air. Parisians are delighted.

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, the leader of the British liberals, is a scholar as well as a politician and a representative of the old type of Englishmen in public life. John Morley said of him once that he was probably the only member of the Commons who had his Virgil and his Horace as readily at his tongue's end as was the custom a century ago.

Whenever there is a meeting of ecclesiastics there is sure to be told some story of the late Bishop Williams of Connecticut, who was one of the brightest men of his day. At a recent convocation at the General Theological Seminary they told this tale of the good bishop's wit. One summer day the bishop went out fishing with a friend and, as the day was warm, they swung a bottle of rare old Burgundy over the side

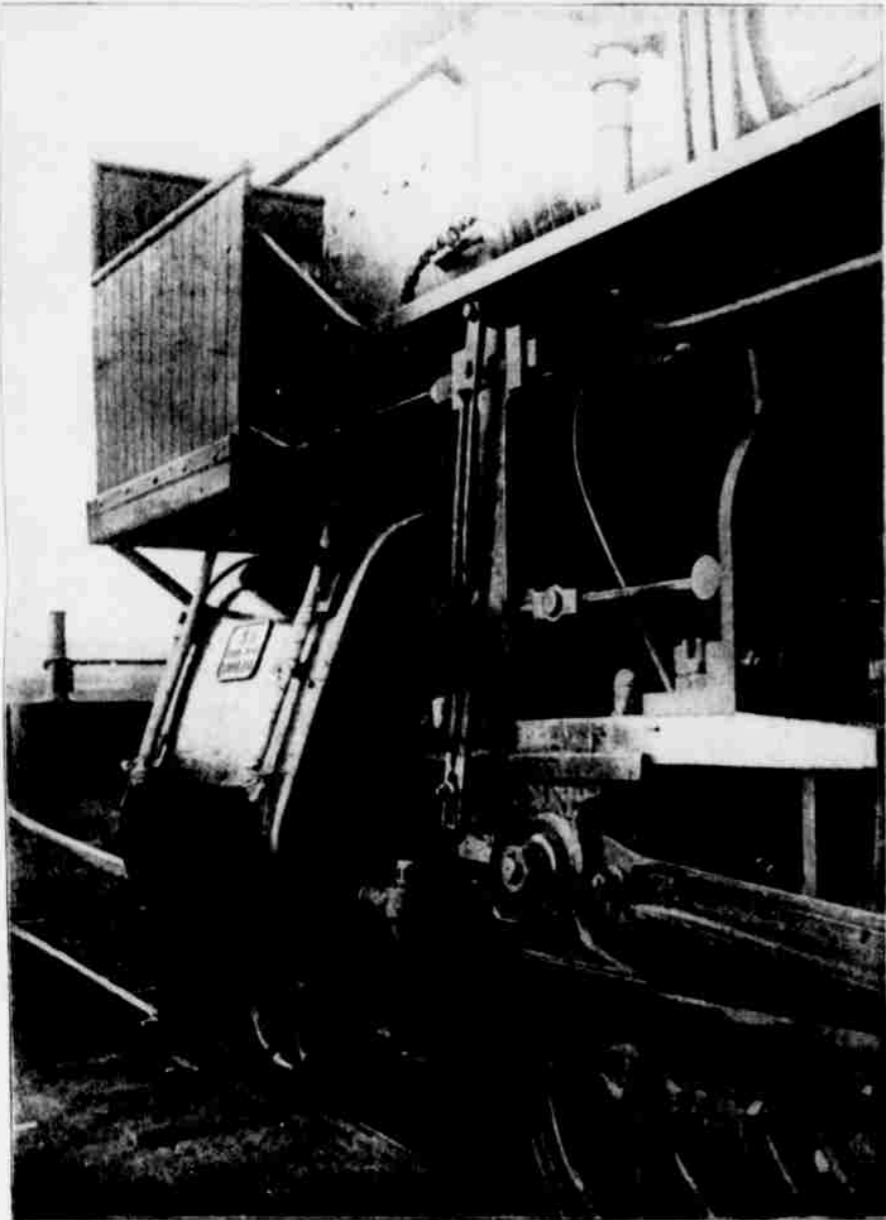
ice recently when he chanced to overtake one of the parishioners, an old shoemaker. "Good morning, Mr. Bain," said the minister. "How is it your good wife is not out today?"

"She's no' but poorly," was the reply. "It's nae wink of sleep she's had for the last three nights."

The minister was sorry to hear such a poor account of Mrs. Bain's health and expressed a wish for a speedy improvement. "I'm thinking if she could get a good sleep," said the shoemaker, "she'd soon be on the mend. 'Maybe if you're passing the house tomorrow ye'll nae object to be' in an' just give her frae 'lastly' to the end of your discourse this morning. I'm no' sayin' it wadna be very helpful."

Senator Depew used to have in his collection of curiosities a certain telegraphic dispatch which never failed to interest the politicians to whom he showed it. The telegram was sent to Mr. Depew, then president of the New York Central railroad, by Mr. Platt shortly before the latter's election to a second term in the senate. It is dated a few stations above Poughkeepsie and reads:

"Please stop the noon express to take on Mrs. Platt and ME TOO."



SHOWING THE DETAIL OF ATTACHMENT OF CONTRACTOR AND INDICATOR AND CAGE IN WHICH THE OBSERVER RIDE

of a rowboat. When luncheon time came the bishop essayed to pull the wine aboard already tasting in anticipation the cool, delicious beverage. Through some mishap the string slipped from his fingers and the bottle sank to the bottom of the river. Bishop Williams sat up with a sigh and said, with his eyes sparkling: "You say it, Jones; you're a layman."

Henry A. Lytton, a stage favorite of England, plays the Irish pipes with wonderful skill and one would hardly believe that when they were sent to the Savoy from County Kerry it took him a whole week before he could extract a single note. Mr. Lytton had mastered the bagpipes on a former occasion and he has now succeeded equally well with the Kerry pipes. Mr. Lytton has met with several exciting experiences during his eighteen years on the stage for it is eighteen years, although Pat Murphy is such a slight, boyish figure. On one occasion when he was alone on the stage singing a long solo the scenery over his head caught on fire. There was some alarming little puffs of smoke. Mr. Lytton sang on. A smoldering piece of cloth fell at his feet. There was the whisper of a hoarse voice. "Go on, sir, if you can, go on!" The voice belonged to the theater fireman, who was managing to cut away the burning stuff. So Mr. Lytton sang on, never moving an inch as the stage was scattered with smoking or flaming scraps of cloth. The audience stirred and murmured and his perfectly cool demeanor on the stage alone prevented a panic.

The new minister of a small town in Inverness-shire, relates the Scottish American, was walking home from morning serv-

"I stopped the train gladly," Mr. Depew would say when he exhibited it. "I am always willing to do a favor for a man who turns a joke on himself."

Attorney General Gray of New Jersey is the recognized humorist of the present administration of that state and he gets more genuine enjoyment out of official life than any other man on the state roster. He has been in practice for forty-three years and has been associated with the prominent men of that and adjoining states. He is heavily charged with reminiscences of the bar and stories of legal procedure. On that account he is no sooner seen by the older set of practitioners than a swapping of stories begins, the attorney general giving two for one.

He is always a welcome guest at the luncheons given in the governor's chambers on Tuesdays. These are as a rule regarded as cabinet dinners and the luncheon hour is devoted to informal discussions of state affairs, with an occasional story of the attorney general thrown in.

The attorney general often runs across some old friend in the governor's reception and they make at once for any easy corner, where the story-telling begins. Occasionally the governor will join the group and the "smoking stories" will go on indefinitely, unless state duties or the time to catch a train cause the flow of humor and wit to cease.

The attorney general scarcely ever takes the serious side of anything. In his office, in court or in the corridors his fund of humor crops out. A newspaper reporter who seeks to interview him always comes away smiling, having heard a good joke but precious little news.

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