

CHARACTERS OUT OF SCRAPS

Thackeray's Personages Were Pithy-witted, Seem to Be Recognized as Portraits of Actual Persons.

Thackeray rarely drew an out and out portrait, though he sometimes ventured on a recognizable caricature of people he detested.

Warrington, indeed, may be taken as a typical instance of how Thackeray made up his own personages out of "odds and ends of characters."

Besides the originals already suggested, James T. Field hints at a fourth in Barry Cornwall, and Gen. James Grant Wilson says Thackeray told a Philadelphia friend that Warrington was an English professor of Latin.

RETREAT OF A PHILOSOPHER

Avignon, the City of Exiled Popes, Was the Home of John Stuart Mill.

Avignon, the city of the exiled popes, was en fête on Sunday, when a bust was unveiled in the gardens of the cottage of John Stuart Mill.

After Mrs. Mill's death Miss Helen Taylor, her stepdaughter, was Mill's constant companion at Avignon. There the philosopher wrote to his friends his encomiums of Miss Taylor.

A Left-Handed Job.

The advertisement called for a left-handed dressmaker's assistant, but the first person who answered it was neither left-handed nor a dressmaker.

Surprised at City's Size.

A Colorado ranchman was paying his first visit to New York, and a friend took him down to the Battery, and then proposed that they walk up Broadway.

Range of Bow and Modern Gun.

In the days of mailed knights and battles there was safety at a distance of 400 yards. That was about as far as the best archers could shoot an arrow.

TO JUDGE MEN CORRECTLY

We Should Think of Each as He Is Rather Than as the World Sees Him.

It is worth our while to remember that the czar of all the Russias does not sit in royal state with a crown on his head all the time.

Every man has to be something more than the world knows him to be. The man whom the world knows as a great and revered judge is only "my papa" to the little children who listen for his step on the walk or his knock at the door.

DOLLAR AN ANCIENT WORD

Heard in the Language at Least 300 Years Before It Was Used in America.

The word "dollar" was in our language at least 300 years ago, for it is used by Shakespeare several times, says Harper's Weekly.

The dollar was adopted by congress as the unit of our currency on August 5, 1785. It was to contain 375.64 grains of pure silver.

Mechanical Lightning Calculator.

The clerical staffs of many of the big insurance companies have of late years been considerably reduced by the employment of mechanical calculators.

One of these, the invention of a German, is a compact little affair resembling a music box. It may be made to perform almost instantaneously the most portentous sums in addition, subtraction, multiplication by one or two factors, division, squaring and cubing.

Diplomatic Menus.

An interesting collection has just been added to the museum in connection with the French ministry of foreign affairs. The collection is the gift of M. Jean Fabre, and it consists of menus of dinners and luncheons given by French diplomatic representatives abroad during the last 50 years.

Didn't Read Daughter's Novel.

Sir Russell Reynolds, the late eminent physician, once related how he met Thackeray at dinner shortly after the publication of "The Story of Elizabeth," by his daughter, Lady Ritchie.

When? Not What?

Recently, when there was a more or less chaotic condition existing in the administration of the New York police department, two "old line" police captains were discussing the new order of things.

GOT THEM "GUMMY-SIDE UP"

Cranky Man Also Got One-Cent Stamps When He Had Paid for Two.

The man who keeps a watchful eye on the federal government bought five postage stamps.

"See that?" said he. "By laying down stamps the way you did you are loading me up with germs. This window sill may be alive with germs. They will stick to the gum on the stamps, and I shall carry them home and lick them off and maybe be laid up with a spell of sickness."

"Take these stamps back," he said, "and lay out five more gummy side up as the government directs."

STAGE MEDICINE WAS REAL

Veteran Actor For Years Played Invalid's Part and Took Remedy for Indigestion.

"Taking medicine on the stage is not only realistic, it is real," said an old actor. "Anyhow, it was so in my case. Here is a copy of a prescription that I had renewed eighty-three times in the three years that I played the part of an invalid."

Weddings Approved.

An old-fashioned man who wished to hire a team for the afternoon saw a nice pair of boys which he thought he would like to drive.

Test for Stutterers.

A new method of voice control was tried by the lifelong stutterer. In a few lessons the impediment in speech was overcome.

Chinaman Wanted Much.

One of Boston's insurance men insured a small building which serves an industrious Chinaman both as shop and home.

Candid, If Nothing Else.

The Lawyer—Are you acquainted with any of the men on the jury? The Witness—Yes, sir; more than half of them.

Awful.

"I heard Gibbs is sick in bed," said Blithers. "Yes—he's got cirrhosis of the liver," said Jiks.

Prosperous Times.

"All you farmers out this way must be prosperous. I see ten automobiles to one horse."

YOUR WEIGHT AND HEALTH

Better Be Over the Average When Young and Under When Old, Say Insurance Men.

At the annual meeting of the Association of Life Insurance Directors some facts were brought out in regard to the best build of men and women from the insurance man's point of view.

In the New York Life Insurance company efforts have been going on for many years to determine the exact influence of build on longevity, says the Medical Record.

For instance, figures show that at the age of twenty all risks from 24 per cent. overweight to 10 per cent. underweight are better than average risks. Does it not then seem probable that the point of most favorable build is about half way from 24 per cent. overweight to 10 per cent. underweight, or in the neighborhood of 7 per cent. overweight?

At age sixty, on the other hand, the super-standard risks begin at about 8 per cent. overweight and extend to about 22 per cent. underweight. The mean point between these extremes lies at about 7 per cent. underweight and the conclusion appears evident that the present table based on average weights is too high by about 7 per cent.

FIXED UP PAPA'S MATTRESS

Little Elizabeth Did a Good Job, But He Didn't Seem to Appreciate It.

"Elizabeth," said Mr. Jones to his ten-year-old daughter, "the mattress on my bed needs punching up; it's like a bowl and I always roll down into the middle. If you'll fix it up nice I'll give you a quarter."

The bait was alluring, and Elizabeth worked hard, ripping open the mattress and making its contents as fluffy as she could. But she found it a hard task. Then an idea came. She repaired to the back yard and picked up half a dozen tomato cans.

A Discerning Person.

Mrs. Martin's new parlormaid, Susan, appears to be not only extremely well trained and all that a correct parlormaid should be but also a young woman of unusual penetration.

Heaven and earth shall pass away.

but that which thinks within me must think for ever; that which feels must feel; I am, and I can never cease to be.—James Montgomery.

Lander Poems Found.

The Walter Savage Lander exhibition at the London Library is of great interest, comprising portraits, manuscripts and first editions from the important Lander collection of S. Wheeler, says the London Times.

Most interesting of the literary relics is a volume of manuscript poems and corrections by Lander which he himself described on a slip of paper (here preserved) as "sweepings from under the study table."

Some of the poems are unpublished, and in other cases there are to be found the original drafts of lines which appeared in print in an altered form.

Other documents include a will written by himself in which he bequeathed pictures to Robert Browning, and Mrs. Lynn Linton.

VERY RICH NEVER GENEROUS

They May Give Away Their Money, but Never Themselves, Says G. K. Chesterton.

There are two other odd and rather important things to be said about them. The first is this. That with this aristocracy we do not have the chance of a lucky variety in types which belongs to larger and looser aristocracies.

Lastly, the most serious point about them is this: That the new miser is flattered for his meanness and the old one never was. It was never called self-denial in the old miser that he lived on beans. It is called self-denial in the new millionaire if he lives on beans.

FRENCH LOVE OF DRAMATIC

National Trait Illustrated by Story of Soldier Who Was Carrying the Pardon.

When Marshal MacMahon was president of the French republic, an incident occurred which aptly illustrates the French love of what is dramatic.

A French soldier sat on the summit of a hill overlooking a garrison town; his horse was picketed close by; the man was smoking leisurely, and from time to time he glanced from the esplanade to a big official envelope he held in his hand.

One inevitable characteristic of modern war is, that it is associated throughout, in all particulars, with a vast and most irregular formation of commercial enterprise.

There is no incentive to Mammon-worship so remarkable as that which it affords. The political economy of war is now one of its most commanding aspects.

Even apart from the fact that war suspends, ipso facto, every rule of public thrift, and tends to sap honesty itself in the use of the public treasury for which it makes such unbounded calls, it therefore is the greatest feeder of that lust of gold which we are told is the essence of commerce, though we had hoped it was only its occasional besetting sin.

W. E. Gladstone.

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Prosperous Times.

"All you farmers out this way must be prosperous. I see ten automobiles to one horse."

HOW HE DODGED THE ISSUE

Minister, Preaching Funeral Sermon for Worthless Man, Talked of This Glorious Age.

One of the hardest things a minister is called upon to do is to deliver an address at the funeral of a man for whom there is really nothing good to be said.

The very worst man in a mining camp not notorious for its petty died. The fellow had been terribly bad. If he lacked anything of total depravity, none could recall any evidence of it. He had been brutal and debauched and de-based in every way known to mankind.

"Didn't he have any good point?" asked the minister. "Not one." "Wasn't he even kind to a child some time?" "Never."

HE WAS WILLING TO WATCH

Burglar Wanted His Pal to Tackle the House With the "Load-Ed" Key.

The man with his coat collar turned up, and his derby pitched down over his eyes, who was slouching along the shadow of the building, suddenly beckoned to the man on the other side of the street. "Here's an one, Pete," he growled, hoarsely.

All Have Artificial Legs.

Loss of a leg is essential to a job with a Chicago firm. All but two of its 102 employees in the factory and in the branch offices wear one or two artificial legs.

The institution manufactures artificial limbs, and the employees leave their work to show the newly fitted patients how well they can walk, run and jump with the artificial article. Makers doubt if there ever was such a thing as a "cork leg"—in which cork entered in any considerable extent into the making of the limb.

Sheep as Burden Bearers.

In the northern part of India sheep are put to a use unthought of in European countries. The mountain paths among the foothills of the Himalayas are so precipitous that the sheep, more sure footed than larger beasts, are preferred as burden carriers.

The load for each sheep is from 10 pounds to 20 pounds. The sheep are driven from village to village with the wool still growing and in each town the farmer shears as much wool as he can sell there and loads the sheep with the grain he receives in exchange. After his flock has been sheared he turns it homeward, each sheep having on its back a small bag containing the purchased grain.

Telling the Age of Eels.

The scales of the eel tell its age. On each may be observed at intervals several more or less clearly marked lines parallel to the margin. These mark lines of growth, one for each year of the life of the fish.

Three years, however, must be allowed for the innermost ring, as the eel has no scales until the third year. The scales do not overlap to any extent, and are arranged in series of small groups at right angles to each other, so as to resemble what is known as herring-bone brickwork. Conger eels, however, are said to have no scales.

Almost as Slow as Nature.

Gibbs—I noticed you were late at the theater last night. I suppose your wife spent the duce of a time putting on her hat. Dibbs—No; putting on her hair.