

HE WANTED TO BE ON TIME

But It Is Probable Mrs. Blank Had Something to Say to Him That Night.

He was a very busy man and, like all of us, had to waste time by attending to his duties.

The secretary made off, and in a few minutes the required connection was made.

"What you, Mary?" he said. "Yes, that is the answer."

"Well, this is John," he said. "I have just rung you up to tell you that Barker was in here this morning with two tickets for the theater to-night."

The only answer was an angry click at the other end of the wire, which seemed to indicate that another receiver was in trouble.

NO FOREST FIRES IN EUROPE

There Every Part of the Tree Is Utilized, Leaving Nothing to Start Conflagration.

The question has been asked why there should be so many fires in our American forests when there are so very few or none at all in the forests of Europe.

In the European forests every part of the tree, including the smaller twigs, is sold.

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THAT SETTLED THE QUESTION

Youngster's Explanation of His Father's Standing Left the Others Away Behind.

The story, long since familiar, of the little boy whose boast that his father had put a cupola on his house was capped by his playmate, who remarked, proudly, that his father had just put a mortgage on theirs.

"My father is a window trimmer and an awfully big man," said the first kid.

"Ah, that's nothin'," said the second. "My father's a dump trimmer, and he's twice as big as yours."

"My father is a politician," he said, "but I heard a man tell him last night that he was the biggest trimmer in this ward."

And it was apparent to any one that the new kid had made a strong impression upon the neighborhood.

EYE OF THE CAMERA IS KEEN

Has Been Used to Decipher Documents Substantially Obliterated by Age.

Often the eye of the camera will decipher documents of which the writing had been substantially obliterated by age.

Changes in the pigment of the skin, undiscovered by the eye, appear with distinctness on the sensitive plate, and it is said that ample warning of approaching disease has been thereby given.

The camera takes pictures of subjects which cannot be made to appear on the ground glass and of those which the eye of man has never seen.

Through this attribute of the camera a great chart of the heavens is now being made.

"Tenderfoots" are not necessarily fools, as the guide of whom a writer in the New York Herald tells discovered.

"Yes, sir," he said. "It was my first grizzly, and I don't deny I was proud of having killed him in a hand-to-hand struggle."

"Do you mean that it took you two days to kill a grizzly?" asked the English tourist.

"Two whole days and one night," replied the guide. "He died mighty hard."

"Choked to death?" asked the tourist.

"Yes, sir," the guide said, calmly. "Well, well! What did you try to get him to swallow?"

Canal Long Ago Projected.

It is now nearly 400 years since the first proposal was made for the Panama canal.

Use for Elastic Conscience. Riggs and Briggs are two Montreal citizens, more or less interested in municipal affairs.

Queer Legal Oaths. In Siberia in the wild Ostayaks law courts, the natives swear by the newly-sprayed head of a bear.

USES WINGS TO CATCH FISH

Sly Old Bird Is the Cassowary, According to Observations Made by Naturalist.

Habits of the cormorant and of our native fish hawk are generally known. Their methods of taking fish are very much like those of birds of prey.

He saw a cassowary come down to the water's edge and stand for some minutes apparently watching the water carefully.

The bird remained motionless, and kept its eyes closed as if in sleep. It remained in this position for a quarter of an hour.

The fishes had evidently mistaken the feathers for a kind of weed that grows in the water along the banks of the rivers in this island.

ONLY AS OLD AS SHE LOOKS

Woman of To-Day Retains Youthfulness Longer Than Her Grandmother Did.

Women in Switzerland grow old more gracefully than any of the other women in Europe.

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Virtues of the Hazel Twig.

Hazel twigs long have been used as instruments with which to discover water under ground.

Wonder of Nature.

A noted divine was very fond of riding on horseback, and being vastly conceited about his fine figure.

Had No Complaint to Make.

Two young women boarded a crowded street car and were obliged to stand, says the Washington Post.

NICETIES OF LEGAL TENDER

Somewhat Perplexing Question Which Very Few Seem to Properly Understand.

One of the prominent officials of the treasury department recently ventured the opinion that not one banker in a hundred and probably not half a dozen members of the senate or house could tell accurately what parts of the United States currency are legal tender.

"A great many people know that the definition of legal tender is money of a character which by law a debtor may require his creditor to receive in payment in the absence of a special agreement."

"Gold certificates are not a legal tender, but are receivable for customs, taxes and all public debts."

"The following are legal tender in all that the term means: Gold coins of the United States, standard silver dollars, subsidiary silver coins, minor coin of copper, bronze or copper-nickel, up to 25 cents; United States notes or greenbacks, demand treasury notes, treasury notes of 1890, Columbian half dollar and Columbian quarters, subsidiary silver coin, including Columbian half dollars and quarters, are legal tender up to \$100."

CASE CALLED FOR SYMPATHY

Life of Single-Blessedness Made No Appeal to Battered-Up Married Woman.

Appropos of the discussion of the advantages of married life recalls the experience of a certain bachelor maid of some forty summers and some winters.

French Forest-Making.

A striking example of scientific forestry is furnished by the coast of France, chiefly in Gascony, where in 1792 tree-planting was begun in an attempt to fix the sand dunes.

Invited to Stay All Night.

The Hostess—"It's storming so hard that I guess you'd better stay all night, Mr. Scoresby."

The Dinner Guest—I'm afraid I would put you to too much trouble, Mrs. Brown.

The Hostess—Oh, not at all! Let me see I can sleep on the library lounge, and Jane and Martha and Ella and Aunt Mary can room together.

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SOCIAL CLIMBERS IN NEVADA

Land of Gold Witnesses Many Strange Vicissitudes in the Matter of Wealth.

Today a humble gold-digger may be living in a hutch of the simple architecture of a box car.

Social conditions were decidedly perplexing. Your washerwoman accepted a mining claim for an uncollectible debt.

However, if you take it into your head to move away from the vicinity of the fortunate lavandiere you would find the moving problem quite simple.

HOW DID THE PARROT KNOW?

Hard to Explain, But Polly Certainly Had Premonition of the Coming Earthquake.

"Beyond his habit of living to be 100 to 150 years old, the parrot is a truly remarkable bird in other ways."

ORIGIN OF BRITISH SQUARE

Battle Formation First Used by Scotch Troops at the Battle of Bannockburn.

The greatest of all Scotch anniversaries is that of Bannockburn, fought on midsummer day in the year 1314.

Duel with a Tiger.

Three Jakuns (aborigines) and a Malay chanced to be together in the jungle in Johore when they came across a tiger.

For Parents Only.

Parents nowadays have good cause to grumble. When they were young, father and mother were paramount.

The Better Half.

"I've often wondered," said Jones, "why woman is called the better half."

A Millionaire Before He Was 21.

The arch prospector of all times was Cecil Rhodes. For him it was not merely going out and putting down holes in likely places.

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HAD THE AUDIENCE WITH HIM

Christian Missionary Had Little Show in Argument with Native Mollah.

As a medical missionary, stationed for 15 years in northwestern India, near the Afghanistan frontier, Dr. T. L. Pennell had his share of peril and adventure.

As a medical man, Dr. Pennell had his ups and downs with the native doctors, who sweat their patients and burn sores with lighted oil.

As a missionary, Dr. Pennell had to contend with the mollahs, who are argumentative and great browbeaters.

Do you know?

"Do you know," asked the mollah, "what becomes of the sun when it sets every day?"

It is evident that I shall have to teach him everything from the beginning.

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