

KAISER LAVISH WITH TITLES.

Bestowing the Lower Nobility, to the Disappointment of Higher Nobles.

The action of Emperor William II in Prussia seems to be systematically aimed at the creation of a new nobility, somewhat in the same way, though not on the same scale, as was done by Napoleon I. in France.

The preceding emperors were much more chary of bestowing the highest titles. Only two new princely titles were created before William I., who promoted to that rank during his reign four nobles, including Bismarck; Emperor Frederick conferred two such titles; William II. has already created seven new princes and two dukes—of the latter being Duke Prince Bismarck, whose title of duke of Lauenburg was, however, not hereditary, and died with him.

AFTER A THIRD OF A CENTURY

Leward for Heroic Self-Sacrifice Delayed for That Length of Time.

any a thrilling story is told in the final reports of a congressional committee on claims. The Phillips claim an illustration. It seems that on December 21, 1866, Fort Kearney, under the shadow of the Big Horn mountains, and then 200 miles from the nearest telegraph line, was besieged by Sioux Indians, under Red Cloud, who greatly outnumbered the garrison.

A detachment of 78 soldiers, who had gone out to relieve a wood-train a few days before, had been massacred within four miles of the fort, and the Indians, stimulated by this victory, were pressing hard to complete their deadly work.

At this juncture John Phillips, a scout and trader, volunteered to take a message to Fort Laramie, 225 miles away. It was the only hope of relief. With the scantiest supply of food for himself and horse, he left the post at midnight and rode across a country inhabited by white men, and most of the way covered with snow. He had to travel by night and hide by day. The temperature was 20 degrees below zero much of the time.

Immediately upon the receipt of his message, troops were forwarded from Fort Laramie, and the garrison at Fort Kearney was soon relieved. For this remarkable feat, from the effects of which Phillips never fully recovered, the government did not directly reward him, and now, in behalf his widow and child, said to be in straitened circumstances, a bill has been introduced and favorably reported by the senate committee.—Youth's Companion.

Convinced. "There ain't no use talkin'," remarked the man with the side whiskers and the faraway look, "there is something in this superstition after all."

"Boss!" That sort of thing makes "boss" said the portly man whose face bulged outward in a most comfortable fashion.

"That's all right, mister," said the side-whiskered man, "but I guess I can prove it. I proposed to a woman 2 times, and she said 'no' every time."

AT THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Some of the Amusing Blunders Made by Readers in Search of Books.

In the public library of a large city there is much amusement and information to be gleaned that is not confined strictly to the multitudinous volumes on the shelves. The patient and courteous librarians and attendants are supposed to be walking encyclopedias of knowledge, and the questions asked them range over apparently every subject of information of any possible interest to the human race.

In one of the city libraries a character became well known to the attendants by his faithful appearance every Saturday evening and his diffident request for "How He Won Her." When told it was not in he would decline anything else and disappear, only to return the next Saturday night with the same patient query. He finally got the book, and after reading and returning it left to return no more, with the mystery unsolved as to the extent of his aid to him in his supposed uncertain wooing.

Sometimes the tables are turned and the joke is upon the attendant, especially when the latter is a novice. One such was handed a slip upon which a gentleman had written his request for a book called "What's Your Name?" The young lady glanced at the slip, drew herself up haughtily and withered the unfortunate man with a stare as she remarked: "I do not see how that possibly can be of any interest to you, sir!"

Another gentleman leaned over a young woman busy at a large slip case and said: "I beg your pardon, but have you 'Elbow Room'?" "Plenty, thank you," replied the young lady, and went smilingly on with her work, while the anxious inquirer for "Elbow Room" gazed in speechless bewilderment at the back of her fluffy head.

Postal cards are often received with elaborate requests to "kindly renew my book," the sender betraying a touching confidence in the ability of the library people, as book title and signature are in many cases conspicuous by their absence.

The advent of Young America is often the signal for something interesting. He came in one day and modestly announced: "Please, ma'am, I want the public library." He went off quite happy, however, with something less than the entire library. Two bright eyes, covering the edge of the desk belonged to a small boy whose father "wanted two vowels." He was given two volumes and went off quite satisfied that he had done the proper caper. A shy, honest-looking specimen asked slyly for "something by You-da." He got "Beebe; or, Two Little Wooden Shoes," and tiptoed carefully out. A lady who liked to show her superior culture asked softly for "Adam Bede," and sailed out with a frou-frou of silk and "Adam Bede" on her arm, while the attendant looked thoughtful.

One lady had "hunted the catalogue for a book she wanted and couldn't find it, and she had forgotten the name and could not remember the author, but one or the other began with C."

And she sweetly gazed at the attendant for inspiration.—Chicago Chronicle.

OF THE STONE AGE. Patagonians Who Are Living Representatives of a Race of Ancient Date.

The Guayakis of Patagonia are extremely shy, taking to flight on being seen, while the thickness of the forests in which they dwell, and their extraordinary physical activity, effectually prevent their being followed. Herr Schultze was only once fortunate enough to obtain sight of an individual of the tribe—dark in color and completely naked—who glided down from a tree and vanished in the depths of the forest in an instant. He learned, however, from an old inhabitant of Caravao that a Guayaki man was once captured by means of the boleadoras and brought to Asuncion, but of his subsequent fate no information could be obtained. The tribe is greatly hated by the settlers on account of the depredations committed by it on the young cattle and horses, and for this reason a merciless war is waged upon them, whenever possible. In 1898 a settler came upon a Guayaki woman and two children in the forest and captured one of the latter, after wounding the mother. Photographs of the child were obtained by Dr. Endlich, of Leipzig. The body is well nourished and in good proportion, the head large and the forehead well developed. A few Guayaki words were noted by Dr. Endlich, but, while confirming to some extent previous information on the subject, are not sufficient to allow definite conclusions to be based upon them.

TEN THOUSAND WEDDINGS.

Quaint, Curious and Humorous Reminiscences of an Old English Parish Clerk.

The eternal theme of "Amandus He—Amanda She" is subject to many, and often fantastic, variations, but perhaps the newest is to be found in the recollection of a parish clerk, who has "assisted at no less than 10,400 marriages." The chronicler has wisely preferred to remain anonymous, for, look you, mesdames and mademoiselles, what ought fate to have in store for a man who not only confesses to have given away 1,130 brides, but proceeds to repeat the process, with, it must be admitted, the bridegrooms as well, in "Cupid's Pupils?"

Truly, I do not think that the author would find women altogether as Shakespeare describes them, "soft, mild, pitiful and flexible," if some of the brides in question knew that he had thus ruthlessly torn away the veil and laid bare their tender secrets to the gaze of an amused public. One's belief in the shrinking maidenly modesty inseparable from the ideal bride is somewhat shaken to find that in some cases the bans were put up by the lady unknown to the happy man, and that out of 100 consecutive entries in the bans book 28 couples attended together, 14 were given by the men, and no less than 58 by the expectant brides!

The ladies were evidently self-possessed and businesslike, for the "Parish Clerk" makes no mention of their introduction of themselves, but the men—clumsy and awkward as ever—seemed one and all to indulge in attempts at humor to conceal their nervousness. For example: Come to commit suicide—I mean put up the bans.

Want to enter our names for a hanging match, and we want to be prayed for.

There also seems to be a considerable amount of trouble in getting accurate information from both brides and bridegrooms regarding names and ages. In one amusing instance a young lady, unable to spell her lover's name, and the family gravestone had to supply the information. That the gentler sex is always in a hurry to change names is an accepted tenet of the male creed, but possibly few meet with so blunt a rebuff as the young lady who, on being asked her name when the couple called about the bans, gave the surname she was expecting to bear. The young gentleman instantly turned toward her and said, correctly: "You ain't—yet," covering the girl with blushes and confusion.

Many eccentric characters, of course, figure among "Cupid's Pupils," one of the oddest perhaps being a widow who had only buried her husband four months previously, and upon giving notice for her second marriage wished that her "poor husband" could know of her intention to take another, "he would be so pleased." Another individual, perhaps not altogether singular in this respect, suggested that "C" should be substituted for "M" in a certain portion of the marriage service, which would then have read that the couple should live together as long as they both should live.

Bridesmaids, too, do not seem to be always the quiet, unobtrusive assistants one would expect; and instances are here recorded of some who have taken upon themselves to rearrange the wedding group at the communion rails, or keep the ring out of sight, while others have thought it their duty to give the bride away, or even dress exactly like her, with veil and orange blossoms, so that the embarrassed bridegroom scarcely knew which to marry.

Among some of the more curious weddings at which the author gave the bride away were those contained in the following extract: Two spinsters, one aged 29, to two men in a dying condition. A spinster pauper from a workhouse to a wandering tramp. A widow to a gypsy. A spinster of 23 to a jet-black negro—and within the space of 12 months one young lady to two husbands.

Men seem to come out very badly at weddings, their courage oozing out at their finger ends, when it comes to taking the bride officially by her hand, some indeed so that they have scarcely been able to articulate! "A few of them," says the clerk, "have been as ridiculously ready to do the bride's part as nervously as they performed their own, calling themselves Sarah Jane, or any name mentioned by the clergyman. In another case the bridegroom allowed an omniscient pause to follow the introduction, 'I, Thomas,' but the bride was in no mood to tolerate unnecessary pauses, and instantly instructed him to proceed. Her spirited command was 'Take thee, Elizabeth—go on!' And Thomas took her."

Bulletin Financier.

Vendredi, 6 avril 1900.

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