

DU MAURIER AND MORRIS.

Both Born in March, 1834, and Died in October, 1896.

One of the most extraordinary parallels in chronology is the almost exact coincidence of the time spent in the world by two men who had so much to do with the molding of the literature and art of their day as George du Maurier and William Morris, says the New Orleans Times-Democrat. Du Maurier, the elder of the two, was born exactly 26 days before Morris, on March 6, 1834, and he died but four days after him; so that these two great men, who lived more than 62 years, were on the earth for exactly the same time, with the exception of less than three weeks, both being born in March, 1834, and dying in October, 1896. Similarly, both Sir John Millais and the archbishop of Canterbury, who died within a month or two of each other, were born in 1829. It is one of the most striking events in the long history of the archbishops of Canterbury that the late archbishop, who was one of Mr. Gladstone's appointments and afterward diverged from him in political opinions, should have been stricken while sitting in the squire's pew of his old friend at Haverden. It is a most merciful thing that Mr. Gladstone did not happen to be in church. To a man of his years the shock must have been most dangerous. What an archbishop of Canterbury Mr. Gladstone would have made himself! He would have rivaled even Dunstan or Becket and not improbably proved the greatest prelate of them all.

DON'T VERSUS DOESN'T.

Grammatical Oddities That Grate Upon the Ears of Educated Readers.

The subject of pronunciation has been up for discussion a good deal of late. The following regarding "don't" and "doesn't" should be of interest, coming from the best authority, says an exchange:

Don't is like dropping the final g of the present participle, a vulgarity of people of culture. Thackeray and Anthony Trollope constantly place it, along with ain't for "am not," or "is not," in the mouths of their highly-bred characters. The late prince consort used it. I recollect quoting from memory from his "Life," by Sir T. Martin—that speaking of Princess Beatrice as an infant, the prince wrote: "She doesn't like it."

Other corruptions are, or were, 'em for "them," Hawyut for "Harriett," chawwyut for "chariot," yellow for "yellow," tassel for "tassel," Lunnon for "London," Room for "Rome," goold for "gold," oblige for "oblige." The first duke of Wellington, as I have been told, always said oblige. It certainly does grate upon the ear to hear don't used for "doesn't," and yet we find it used in "Pickwick Papers" in the song which Mr. Wardle sings on Christmas eve at the Major farm, Dingley Dell: "And love that's too strong—why, it don't last long."

As many have found to their pain, In East Anglia they say "you don't ought" and "he didn't ought," which, though true, is slightly ungrammatical.

MIDAS MAYSEED AT THE PLAY.

Bonds His Programme by the Light of Assurance and Matches.

He was middle-aged, guileless of aspect, slightly gray, wore store clothes and silver spectacles and had whiskers, says the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. It required no sign on his back for one to discern he was from out of town. The only urban characteristics he possessed were an independent air and a nerve—that air born of money in the pocket and that nerve the outcome of being the whole thing in a country town.

He went to the theater the other night, got there late and had a seat in the rear of the house. For a time he watched the antics of the nippie-legged comedian and the "riviling" soubrette. He had never seen them before and he liked them. He wanted to see who they were, but the theater was too dark for reading the programme. Then he did something no city-bred man would have thought of doing in a thousand years. He struck half a dozen matches and read the bill of the play from end to end.

It was all over by the time the ushers had noticed what they thought was a private bonfire and reached his seat. He had settled back comfortably and looked so innocent the manager wouldn't let him be disturbed with a warning.

The Pope's Wit.

Since Leo XIII has filled the chair of St. Peter, he has repressed the humorous side of his nature which made him greatly in demand as a dinner guest while filling the office of nuncio at Brussels. Always severe in matters of propriety, he was deeply offended on one of these occasions by a baron who passed him a snuffbox, on the lid of which was engraved a feminine figure in diabolical. Admirably controlling his annoyance, his future holiness replied: "Very pretty. Is it your wife?"

Leon Say's Secret.

Among the late Leon Say's papers were found five decrees dated on the same day, signed by President Grey and countersigned by all the proper officials, appointing him to all the grades of the Legion of Honor, including the Grand Cross. Grey went out of office without making the appointments public in the Journal Official, and Leon Say never mentioned the matter to anyone and never wore any of the decorations.

Clean Bookkeeping.

In a ledger of 456 pages which was found in an Auburn (Me.) curiosity shop among a set of business books used a century ago by a New Gloucester firm, there is not a blot, though all the pages are full of entries. The books were kept with a quill pen and home-made ink.

Fasting in Microbial Affections.

Two French biologists claim that fasting lessens the effects of diphtheria and other microbial affections.

L'ABEILLE DE LA NILE-ORLEANS

Est très répandue en Louisiane et dans tous les Etats du Sud. Sa publicité offre donc au commerce des avantages exceptionnels. Prix de l'abonnement, pour l'année: Edition quotidienne, \$12 00; Edition hebdomadaire, \$3 00; Edition du Dimanche, \$2 00.

A DOG THAT CAN TEST METALS.

Silver Tip Knows Good Money from Bad, Every Time.

No bank teller in Iowa has a truer instinct for real, genuine cart-wheel silver dollars than has a Rock Rapids dog called Silver Tip, says the Chicago Times-Herald. Silver Tip is tan-colored and weighs about ten pounds. All his two years of life he has been the property of Landlord Barber, of the Lyon hotel, at Rock Rapids, but it is within the last year that his power of immediate insight into the nature of metals has become known to his owner.

The way Tip manifests his powers, as his owner puts it, is as follows: If one takes a pile of coins the size of an American dollar—say a trade dollar or Mexican dollar, a five-franc piece and some counterfeit dollars—and puts one genuine dollar piece in the center of the pile, Tip will rummage around among them for an instant and then snaffle the good coin and proceed to take care of it in approved dog fashion to an accompaniment of growls and barks. Or if one rolls a coin along the floor Tip can tell every time whether it is good stuff to be chased.

Tip never makes a mistake, and there isn't a bit of doubt about his powers. He has been tested by Chicago business men and by committees of Iowa scientists. He gets no human help in his work. The good coin is not marked in any peculiar way for his benefit, nor is it scented. Anyone can use his own coin in the experiment. Nor does Tip's powers depend on signs from his master. The latter leaves the room without detracting from the dog's ability in the least.

Mr. Barber has refused all offers for the purchase of Tip.

MILLIONS IN PAINTING.

The Hertford-Wallace Collection Is Worth \$7,500,000.

The celebrated Hertford-Wallace collection of pictures bequeathed to the British nation by Lady Wallace is estimated to be worth \$7,500,000. Her magnanimity, says the Boston Transcript, is all the more noteworthy because she was struck off the queen's visiting list many years ago.

Sir Richard Wallace died on July 20, 1890, leaving behind him the most famous art collection of any Englishman. The whole of Sir Richard's great wealth and the peerless collection of pictures (which includes 19 examples of Meissner and 15 of Greuze) were given to his wife for her own free disposition. Prior to his death, however, he expressed his wishes to his wife that after her death his superb collection of works of art should go to England's national gallery and that his wish in this respect should be carried out she arranged several years ago.

The magnificent Hertford collection comprised when it passed into Sir Richard Wallace's hands a splendid assortment of paintings, porcelains, bronzes, decorative furniture, jewelry and other works of art. His own purchases during the past 30 years included many of the choicest examples of old Japanese art, which he was one of the first to bring to the attention of European connoisseurs; of the masters of the Italian renaissance, notably the productions in silver of Benvenuto Cellini and his immediate followers and of modern French painters.

BRICKS OF STRAW.

Mixed with Tar and Formed Into Cubes Under Pressure.

A Polish newspaper announces a new invention made by a Warsaw engineer, who proposed to the city authorities a quite original material for street paving. He uses cubes of compressed straw instead of the wooden blocks used in some other European countries. The manufacture of these straw cubes is carried on according to a peculiar process. Straw is cut in pieces of a certain length, impregnated with a fluid, the composition of which is a secret of the inventor, and then pressed in blocks. The inventor buys up straw in bales, binds them closely together with wire, and then immerses the entire bundle into a hot solution, the smell of which indicates that several materials like pitch, resin, tar and other of the same kind form part of the mixture.

These bundles of straw remain for a certain length of time in the solution and are then subjected to heavy pressure in a machine, which they leave in the shape of ready cubes. According to the inventor, this paving material is cheaper than wood, but more durable and stronger, and at the same time more elastic.

A Proposed Monument.

A meeting was held in Washington to organize a Soldiers' and Sailors' National Monument association. Its object is "the erection of a monument at the capital of the nation in honor and memory of the officers and enlisted men of the army and navy of the United States who fell in the war of the rebellion, which shall serve as a perpetual reminder to the present and future generations of the sentiment entertained by all loyal people for the soldiers and sailors who risked their lives in the defense of their country."

Could Not Awe the American Girl. Justin Huntly McCarthy was once showing a young American woman over the house of parliament. In escorting her through the library of the commons he casually mentioned, as a more or less interesting fact, that it was against the rules for women to sit down there. "Is that really a law of the place?" asked the fair American. "That is so," answered McCarthy, gravely. "Then," said his visitor, "you just see me break it," and drawing up a chair, she sat resolutely down at the table.

The Famine in India.

Among the greatest sufferers from the Indian famine are the jewelers in Delhi, whose business is ruined, as hardly any marriages take place and everybody wants to see ornaments instead of buying.

Fasting in Microbial Affections.

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