

THOUGHT LITTLE OF DICKENS.

George Meredith Did Not Believe Novelist's Work Would Live—Condemns Other Writers.

"You may have histories, but you cannot have novels on periods so long ago. A novel can only reflect the moods of men and women around us, and after all, in depicting the present we are dealing with the past, because the one is folded in the other. I cannot stomach the modern historical novel any more than I can novels which are three-fourths dialect. Thackeray's note was too monotonous; the 'Great Hoggarty Diamond,' next to 'Vanity Fair,' is most likely to live. It is full of excellent foreshadowing. I met him and Dickens only a very few times. Not much of Dickens will live, because it has so little correspondence to life. He was the incarnation of cockneydom, a caricature whoaped the moralist; he should have kept to short stories. If his novels are read at all in the future people will wonder what we saw in them, save some possible element of fun meaningless to the reader. The world will never let Mr. Pickwick, who to me is full of the lumber of imbecility, share honors with Don Quixote. I never cared for William Black's novels, there is nothing in them but fishing and sunsets. George Eliot had the heart of Sappho, but the face, with the long proboscis, the protruding teeth as of the Apocalyptic horse, betrayed animality. What of Lewes? Oh, he was the son of a clown; he had the legs of his father in his brain."—Fortnightly Review.

THIEVES TO CATCH THIEVES.

Many Former Bandits Now Enrolled in Mexico's Famous Corps of Mounted Police.

The rurales or mounted police have pretty nearly put a stop to brigandage. Several years ago the government recognized the wisdom of the old adage, "Set a thief to catch a thief," and offered pardon and protection to all brigands who would enlist as rurales. Most of them took advantage of the offer, writes Dillon Wallace in Getting, and with these men on the side of law and order brigandage soon became infrequent, and the rurales developed into a wonderfully efficient mounted force to hunt down bandits. They are fearless riders, they know every mountain pass and fastness, and when they once start after a man he is pretty sure to be caught or killed—generally killed.

The rurales of Mexico compare favorably in bravery and reckless daring with that wonderful organization the Northwest Mounted Police of Canada, and are by far the best armed force in Mexico. Their calling gives them opportunity for wild adventures, and thus satisfies the craving for a life of danger, which led many of them to be brigands in the first instance. They are a free and easy set, quite in contrast to the peaceably inclined policemen of the towns and the slow moving, indolent soldiery of the regular army.

New Bone for Finger.

Surgeons in all parts of the country are taking great interest in the remarkable surgical operation which has just been successfully performed in Trenton, N. J., by Dr. E. H. White, formerly head of the staff of the McKim hospital. Several weeks ago ten-year-old Walter Barry was playing in his father's barn with a hay cutter, and his hand slipped through the feed chute. One of the fingers on his left hand was completely severed between the first and second joints.

Dr. White was called and tried to have the bones united by stitching the severed parts together, but failed. As a last resort, before entirely amputating the finger, the surgeon removed the bone between the first and second joints and allowed the secretions of the body to fill the space, practically growing a bone in place of the one removed.

Chinese Secret Societies in Java.

An ordinance just passed in Java falls heavily upon Chinese societies in Netherland, India. A fine of 100 guilders or three months rigorous imprisonment is the penalty for every Chinaman found in possession of secret society documents or emblems or caught wearing the distinguishing marks of these organizations. Those who preside over the meetings of such societies, allow meetings to be held in their houses or fail to inform the authorities of such gatherings being held incur similar penalties. The latter also fall upon Chinamen who recruit for these societies, supply them with money or give them help in any way.

Cured Men of Deeds to Set.

A Marlon (O.) woman has discovered an original practice for breaking bones of the practice of hatching, regardless of ducklings, which is an old-fashioned method of prevention. The woman had such a hen, which she put to set on a nest of two china eggs and an ordinary alarm clock with the alarm set. When the alarm went off, the hen came off the nest with a clucking and chirping that disturbed the entire neighborhood. The hen has not been near the nest since.

On Her Eye.

Wags—Horrible street car accident, wasn't it? Wag—What was it? Wag—A woman had her eye on a seat and a man sat down on it.—Exchange.

MANY WORKED ON WIRELESS

As Far Back as 1863 Lord Kelvin Was Experimenting with the Principle.

Wireless telegraphy has many discoverers. As has been so often the case in any branch of physics, whatever pure or applied, the name of Lord Kelvin is associated with the discovery. In 1863 he gave forth the theory of oscillation. In 1865 Maxwell propounded the theory of electrical waves, and in 1888 Hertz practically discovered them. Sir Oliver Lodge was looking for the waves at the same time, and was successful in finding them running along wires in the same year that Hertz discovered them going through space. In 1890 he was able to take a further step, developing the receiving arrangements for the detection of these waves by means of the principle which he decided to call syntony.

At the same time another word, coherer, was added to the language. In 1894 he was able to give a demonstration before the British association of signaling across space without wires, and about the same time he published a book.

In 1895 Admiral Popoff of the Russian navy and Capt. Jackson of the English navy carried the idea a little further, and then in 1896 Marconi took up the matter with great pertinacity and marked success.

SINGERS BELIEVE IN CHARMS.

According to Caruso, Most Great Artists Have More or Less Feelings of Superstition.

"We of the opera," writes Caruso in the Gentlewoman, "are often inclined to be superstitious. One woman, a distinguished and most intelligent artist, crosses herself repeatedly before taking her cue, and a prima donna who is a favorite on two continents and who is always escorted to the theater by her mother invariably goes through the very solemn ceremony of blessing her mother good-bye and receiving her blessing before going on to sing. The young woman feels that she could not possibly sing a note if the mother's eye were not on her every movement from the wings.

"Another famous singer wears a small bracelet that was given to her when an infant by Gounod. She has grown somewhat stout of late years and the hoop of gold has been reinforced so often that there is hardly any of the great composer's original gift left. Still, she feels that it is a charm which has made her successful, and whether she sings the part of a lowly peasant or of a princess the bracelet is always visible.

"These little customs are not confined to the women singers either, for the men are equally fond of observing some little traditions to cheer them in their performance."

Deadhead's Nerve.

Oscar Asche, who, with his wife, Miss Lily Brayton, is on his way to Australia, his native land, which he left 18 years ago, remarked just before he set sail, apropos the slump in theaters, that the deadhead is a destroyer of drama.

"While I was touring with a certain highly respected manager we were playing at a long famous old playhouse in an ancient town. We had billed 'Macbeth' for the Friday night, but during that day the theater was burned down. For our next week there our chief contrived to borrow a playhouse a little way out of the district. On reaching there to rehearse on Monday the manager received a letter saying that the writer had been given two dress circle orders for the performance of 'Macbeth,' but as that play was not performed owing to the destruction of the theater, the writer surmised that the manager would remit the money value of those orders."

A Proliferous Potato Plant.

Not satisfied with yielding an enormous output in the regular way, an Irish potato vine growing in the garden of C. C. Mall at Luthersville, Ga., some time ago began to put out potatoes all along its branches, and when sent to the Constitution office the other day, had potatoes as large as eggs growing practically all over the vine.

In a letter accompanying the fresh Mr. Mall states that the vine grew in his garden, where the land is a mixture of sand and red clay. On taking up the plant, he found that the industrious vine had not neglected its regular duty while pulling off its unusual stunt, as proven by the fact that an unusually large number of potatoes were found in their accustomed place in the ground.—Atlanta Constitution.

His First Thought.

While skating, he had ventured on thin ice and gone through into the pond. Just as he was about to go down for the third time his companions dragged him forth. Now he stood by the bank, dripping wet and thoroughly dazed. He gazed about him vacantly.

"I—I must go back for my glasses," he said.

Patented.

A man met a doctor he knew one morning, and being one type of grafter, he thought to work him for a free prescription. After some small talk he asked quite incidentally:

"Doctor, what would you give for a sore throat?"

"Nothing," replied the doctor, promptly, for he knew his man; "I don't want a sore throat."

IN PRAISE OF GEORGIA GRUB.

Macon Man Waxing Eloquent Over the Excellence of the Eating Common in His Territory.

"Come down in the goober fields of Georgia if you want to know what good eating is," said Mr. James Jackson of Macon, Ga., to a reporter of the Washington Post. "Did you ever eat a possum stuffed with goobers and sweet potatoes, with corn pone and gravy on the side, topped off with leccold butter milk right from the spring house? If you haven't, you have missed something," declared Mr. Jackson. "You can talk about your can vashack duck, your terrapin, and your turtle soup, if you think that is the finest of fare here, but wait until you eat what I have described. Or try a fat turkey, cooked with chestnuts, like only one of 'before de war' black 'mamies' can prepare it. The goober country in Georgia is the most prosperous and contented anywhere in the south," continued Mr. Jackson. "The people down there are extraordinarily hospitable, and no stranger traveling through the country can possibly get away from the farmers, who will insist that the traveler stop and stay over night to enjoy some of that celebrated eating. When you come that way, if you ever do, I will show you what sure enough 'grub' is."

FATHER WAS "WISE" TO GAME

Possibly Dad Had Recalled a Few Incidents of His Own College Days.

A student at the University of Pennsylvania had been going a fast pace with the boys of his class and fraternally and had had frequent interviews with father concerning debts and other financial troubles occasioned by the drain his pleasures had made on his source of supply.

Several times the "governor" had been compelled to get various articles of value back from the boy's "uncle," and the relation of provider and spender was strained.

One day the student wired father that his watch had fallen into deep water in the Schuylkill river and he wanted "at once" \$25 to hire a diver to recover it. The answer came as follows:

"Nothing on the \$25. Cheaper to seek the watch where it is."

His Important Service.

One of the greatest necessities of traveling is tipping. A waiter from a head waiter is a costly commodity, and no mental service is too small for remuneration. An unusually ingenious plan for a tip is that of a small Rhineland, mentioned by Mr. John Augustus O'Shea in "Roundabout Recollections." The author was traveling in Ireland.

I drove down to the station on the faint chance of catching the train to Dublin. When I got out of the cab at the station a bright-faced boy accosted me.

"Ah, sure, sir, you've just missed the train," he said.

It was true. I booked my luggage and ascertained when the next train would leave. While I was waiting the lad came up to me and asked me for a tip.

"What for?" I asked.

"Sure, sir, I told you that you were too late," he unblushingly responded.

Port Arthur Barrecks a School.

It is a curious statement of the great war between Russia and Japan and of the vast program of ambitious aggression which culminated in the war that the Japanese government has decided to convert the Russian barrecks at Port Arthur into a high industrial school (koku gakujo). The fact is announced by the Official Gazette, and the numbers and ranks of the officials forming the faculty of the school are detailed. The institution is to be under the jurisdiction of the governor general of Kwantung. The destination of these spacious barrecks had long been a subject of discussion and conjecture, and the Japanese government is to be congratulated on the use to which it has finally determined to put them.—Japan Mail.

Chinese Tree for California.

As a result of the labors of trained explorers of the bureau of plant industry in China the forest service has been furnished with a supply of seeds of the Pinus chinensis, an oriental tree resembling somewhat the California pepper tree. These seeds were gathered from trees growing in the province of Shantung, China, where some of them have reached large proportions.

A tree standing at the grave of Confucius has a diameter of over four feet.

They are well adapted to dry regions and are very long lived. It is hoped the trees grown from this seed will serve as a stock for the pistachio nut of commerce.—San Francisco Call.

Almost Unpardonable.

A small jugful of cream having been spilt in the cup of coffee it was decided by the recipient thereof that it was unpardonable, hence he graciously handed it to the cat.

"Sort of Puss-cats," suggested one who saw the action.

Hisses and shouts of derision.

Little Brighteyes.

"You have two very bright pupils, Miss Winona," remarked Mr. Sweetly to the school ma'am.

"Which ones do you mean, Mr. Sweetly?"

"Why, those in your eyes, to be sure."—Exchange.

BOUGHT PROFESSOR A FLAG.

Students Came to Rescue of Loved Instructor Who Stood Out for Principle.

The late Prof. Arthur Latham Perry of Williams college, the widely known free trader, was accustomed to edify his political economy classes in the seventies with the statement that he would never buy a flag for the tail flagstaff on his new house until the tariff was taken off bunting.

The class of 1879, in its junior year, determined that the much-loved professor's house should not be without this patriotic adornment indefinitely, as it bade fair to be so far as the tariff and the professor were concerned. Accordingly, a very large flag was bought by class subscription, and one day, at the close of the lecture hour, it was unveiled in the professor's lecture room and presented to the professor by one of the class in a very humorous speech, to which the professor appropriately responded, declaring in his opening sentence: "You could not have done a kinder thing if you had thought ten years." This flag floated over the professor's house on all patriotic days during the remainder of his life.

When the survivors of the class of 1879 entered the banquet hall recently for their 30th reunion dinner, they were surprised and pleased to find that the family of Prof. Perry had caused the wall back of the head of the table to be draped with that old flag—a delicate and touching reminder of a pleasant college episode of 31 years ago.

UPSET FORCE OF ARGUMENT.

Undeniable Truth of Blacksliding Youth's Assertion Somewhat Staggered Teacher.

When the kid went to Sunday school at a time of year when there were no presents being given away and told the teacher he wanted to join the class she felt highly elated. This particular teacher had often noticed the kid while on her way to the school, and had so often urged him to abandon his evil habits of playing marbles on Sunday, swearing, chewing tobacco, smoking, and like pleasures, and reform by joining the Sunday school.

The kid's reform, however, seemed too acquiescent to be lasting, but for some time the teacher saw nothing out of the way in his conduct. Apparently all the habits of which she had complained had been cast aside, and he had become an exemplary youth.

That the casting aside of evil doings was not actual, though, was shown when she paid an unexpected weekday visit to him. She found him smoking a cigarette.

"Oh, I am so sorry," she said. "How do you ever expect to go to heaven if you insist on smoking?"

"What's that got to do with it?" he questioned.

"Why, nothing unless—and your breath is unclean—can enter the gates of heaven."

"Oh," he replied. "I ain't got to let that trouble me. You see, when I die I'm going to leave my breath behind!"—New York Times.

Against the Corset.

A number of Parisian women of high social standing are carrying on a campaign against the corset. They have formed a league to protest against the distortion of the female figure by the use of corsets. They seek to banish their own stays forever and to work to do away with the evils of tight lacing in Paris itself, where the most fashionable corsets are manufactured. Many respectable men and women have expressed sympathy with the Anti-Corset League. Marcel Prevost, M. Fauny and Guy are among those who have enrolled themselves as sympathizers, while scores of doctors have offered to encourage the movement. The league has sent out 50,000 pamphlets to Parisian women demonstrating the evils of the modern corset, but members do not enroll with the slowness wished for. Before the general winding-up of this world's corset may be denounced every new and then. But women will wear them if they want to, and they certainly are "becoming."

The Help of the Prodigal.

The prodigal son, repentant, or, at any rate, weary, of the diet of brans served upon his kind by a vigilant police system, had experienced a change of heart and joined the church. The good members were discussing his desirability.

"But," expostulated Mrs. Straight-lace, with a fine and virtuous display of righteousness, "he was a common gambler—what they call a bunco steerer."

"Isn't it lovely?" exclaimed Mrs. Upright. "What a help he will be in getting up our church fair."

As a wise philosopher once remarked in Latin: "De gustibus non disputandum."

The Mutual Annuity Society.

"This lot of chickens," said the visitor.

"Uh, huh," replied Mr. Strina Barber. "I suppose you enjoy eating one now and then."

"These chickens are not to be eaten.—I keep 'em to get even with the neighbors."

Quintessence.

"The real essence is now on." "Yes, I am about to notify the society editors that I have closed my steady ball bedroom for a glossy season of two weeks which will be spent in a partial test."—Kansas City Journal.

FISH TO DESTROY MOSQUITOES

Finny Tribe from Barbadoes Will Be Used for This Purpose on Panama Canal.

Washington—Uncle Sam is importing fish into the Panama canal zone now to eat up the mosquitoes there before the latter eat up his nice new canal.

According to the Panaman officials, the fish employed by the government to eat up the pesky little stingers are popularly known as "millions" and less popularly known in the city directory of fishdom as "Girardinus poeciloides," and are natives of Barbadoes, West Indies.

These fish belong to the group broadly known as top minnows, so called from always feeding at or near the surface of the water; for which the structure of their mouth and habit of swimming, with a large portion of their back out of water, adapts them. This habit, in connection with their small size, is of especial value, as it enables them to secure their food by pursuing it across plants and masses of algae over which there is only a thin film of water. They derive their name from the great schools in which they are found, are small, never over one and one-half inches long, and are found in stagnant, sluggish and running water, either fresh or brackish.

The group to which they belong is omnivorous, but it has been discovered that if mosquito larvae are accessible the "millions" will eat it in preference to the other food, and they are said to eat the adult mosquito also. They ascend streams against a swift current and penetrate into the smallest rivulets. The species is viviparous; that is, their young are born alive and not hatched from eggs. This aids in their rapid multiplication, as the young, rapidly-moving fish are less exposed to enemies than they would be if hatched from eggs. They are hardy and stand transportation well.

The absence of malaria in Barbadoes has been attributed to the presence of these fish, by their destruction of the larvae of malaria carrying mosquitoes.

FATHER OF THIRTY CHILDREN.

John Guy, Maryland Farmer, Thrice Married, Still Robust and Healthy.

Beaver Dam, Md.—Col. Roosevelt started for Africa before being acquainted with the fact that one of the best exposures of his anti-race outside theories is John W. Guy, who has been the father of 30 children, 20 sons and ten daughters, of whom there are 21 living, his eldest child, a son, being 53 years old, his youngest, a daughter, being two years of age.

Guy, who is a farmer, resides about one mile from Meigs station, on the New York, Philadelphia & Norfolk railroad, and was 75 years old on April 6.

In 1855 he was married to Mary Ann Rayfield, a farmer's daughter, and to this union seven children were born. On September 12, 1868, he married Miss Margaret Elizabeth Ayers, after a romantic elopement, who bore him 18 children. His third wife was Miss Lola Crockett, a beautiful girl of 16 years, whom he married when in his sixty-fifth year, in 1898. To this union five children have been born.

Despite the fact that 16 of his children are married, he has only 23 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. One of Guy's sons, by his first marriage, married a sister of his present wife, and a daughter by his second wife married a brother of his present wife. Although well advanced in years, Guy still is robust and hearty, without a bend in his body or a gray hair, and he may be seen each day working on the farm with his farm hands.

WHEN WIFE WANTED A FARM.

Husband Compelled to Walk 28 Miles a Day Because Spouse Wanted Country Home.

Milwaukee.—Walking 28 miles a day to and from his work in the city, just because "his wife wanted to live on a farm," Richard E. Fido, a thin, hollow-cheeked man, explained to Judge Neelso in the district court the cause of much domestic infelicity.

Fido had been arrested by his wife, Adda, on a charge of assault and battery. Adda is a burrow brunette, with a swarthy complexion, and weight 150 pounds more than her husband.

"We were married a year ago," said Fido in court. "My mother objected to the match, but I really went over. Then my wife refused to live in the city. She wanted a house in the open country on a farm. So we moved to Granville."

"Every day I walked to Milwaukee, worked ten hours, and then walked home again in the evening. And many evenings there was no supper waiting for me."

"Well, my poor man, I am afraid you have a hard row to hoe," exclaimed the court, whereupon Fido was discharged.

Champion Boottank Ester.

New York.—Phillip Lester, weighing 270 pounds, has won the championship medal as a boottank eater. In a contest with Max Meyers, 375 pounds, at a political club's eating, Lester gulped himself with ten pounds of boottank without getting up from the table, while Meyers was able to stuff only 14 pounds into himself. There were many bets on the contest, which was watched by an excited crowd of several hundred people.

HIGH IN INDUSTRY

Greater New York Is First, with Chicago Second.

Clothing Heads Business in Gotham, While Meat-Packing Holds First Place in Illinois Metropolis, as Compiled.

Washington.—The industrial district of Chicago, embracing an area of 500 square miles and a population of 1,815,107 in 1900, is the second industrial district in importance in the country, according to bulletins just issued by the bureau of the census. The figures upon which the comparisons are based are taken from the manufacturing census of 1900 and 1905. New York, of course, ranks first in importance, while Philadelphia, Boston, the Iron and steel region around Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Buffalo, Minneapolis-St. Paul, San Francisco, and Providence follow in the order named. The bulletin shows the influence of the large urban populations, with their enormous wealth and transportation facilities, upon the manufacturers of the country.

The bulletin, which is a summary of the conclusions reached in a long report, illustrated with maps showing the cities and townships in the districts, with the steam and electric railways, rivers and canals says:

"Products valued at \$2,144,682,093 were manufactured in the factories of the industrial district of Greater New York during the year 1904. The increase in the value of the output of the entire district in 1904 as compared with 1900 was over half a billion dollars (\$530,226,746, or 23.8 per cent.). The increase in the number of persons engaged in these industries was 140,906, the number of employees in 1904 being 735,460.

"The city of Greater New York was credited with products valued at \$1,526,236,006, or 71.3 per cent. of the total value for the district in 1904. In the 376 square miles that were outside of the corporate limits of the city, but were so closely allied with it industrially that they were included in the industrial district, the manufactured products were valued at \$617,956,087. The increase in value for the city was 36.3 per cent., while for the remainder of the district there was a gain of 40 per cent.

"The manufacture of men's and women's clothing was the foremost industry in this district in 1904, the products being valued at nearly one-third of a billion dollars and constituting 14.6 per cent. of the value of the products of the entire district. The average number of wage-earners employed in the industry was over two per cent. of the entire population of the district. The printing and publishing industry ranked second, the refining of sugar and molasses third, the smelting and refining of copper, lead and zinc fourth, and the manufacture of textiles fifth, with products aggregating over \$405,000,000 in value.

"The industrial district of Chicago comprised an area of 500 square miles and had a population of 1,815,107 in 1900. The city of Chicago is credited with 35.8 per cent. of the area and 93.8 per cent. of the population of the entire district. The value of products for the district in 1904 was \$970,872,230; the number of wage-earners and salaried persons employed, 254,909; and the number of establishments reported, 5,322. The increase in the value of the products for the district in 1904 as compared with 1900 was \$164,439,620, or 20.4 per cent. The increase for Chicago alone was \$157,157,126, or 19.7 per cent., while the gain for the surrounding places was \$7,322,503, or 8.6 per cent. Thus the rate of gain for the section outside of the central city was much greater than that for the city itself.

"Among the industries, slaughtering and meat-packing was the first in value of products, with \$360,581,408, or 37.8 per cent. of the total value of the manufactured products of the Chicago district. The steel industry, the manufacture of foundry and machine shop products and the printing and publishing industry were of great importance, with aggregate products valued at \$220,411,332."

Child Is Offered for \$600.

New York.—Harry Beach, 23 years old and out of employment, and his wife, both of whom have been hungry much of late, have offered their two-week-old baby for sale for \$500 cash. When Beach's first wife died, two years ago, she left him with two children and he married his present wife six months later. In discussing their offer of the new baby for sale Beach said his wife said that to keep the child would only inflict their hardships upon him and that by selling the boy they would provide him with a good home and bring prosperity to themselves.

Wed While Standing in Bay River.

San Francisco.—With teeth chattering until they hardly could answer the questions of the minister, W. N. Lynch of Fruitvale and Miss Violet Ford of Colorado Springs, Col., were married the other day while standing knee-deep in the icy waters of the Sacramento river near Shasta resort.

Pig Iron Production Jumps.

Sharon, Pa.—With the exception of three stacks, every blast furnace in the Shonango valley is in operation. The pig iron production from this locality has increased 50 per cent. during the last four months.