

QUEER HUMAN NATURE.

An Illustrative Instance of the Fact That the Queerest Has No Limit.

"We're an odd lot, to be sure," said the prematurely bald young man...

There's a broken window glass fronting the street. I noticed it as I entered the store.

"This window was broken accidentally," the proprietor said to me as I read the sign.

"Here he was interrupted by a customer who had just entered, saying: 'How'd the winter get broken?'"

The druggist turned to me with a comical gesture of despair. Then he said to the newcomer: 'You're the thirty-seventh person to ask that question. See the sign?'"

"It appears that a gas jet pushed too close to the pane had cracked it. This mishap had caused the druggist to lose his patience, and, incidentally, run the risk of losing the patronage of thoughtless customers who insisted upon knowing the cause of the break."

"That reminds me of one," added the man with the cigar. "While waiting for a train out west one afternoon last winter, I struck up acquaintance with the station master of the dinky little station at which my train was to arrive."

"Is that entirely necessary?" I asked of the station master, nodding to the clock.

"Necessary? I suppose it saves me lots of trouble. But even that doesn't stop them entirely."

"Then he left me. A number of persons entered the station just then, a train having pulled in, and the little waiting room was soon filled with people. An extremely gaunt stranger approached the station master and asked him if the clock was right."

"Did you hear that fellow ask me if the clock was right? And with the sign up there, too!"

CLAM CHARACTERISTICS.

Peculiar Structure and Lack of the "Neck" and a Manner of Getting Underground.

Persons who have seen soft shell clams as they lay in a pan in the kitchen preparatory to being cooked scarcely recognize them in their natural state.

As every one knows, the clam, when in its native haunts, is to be found several inches below the surface of the sand. He has to be dug up when discovered by the little spurs of water which the clam breathes through up which distributed.

Particular Characteristics. No clammer made it a practice to design having in the window of his conservative and high priced haberdashery in Fifth Avenue. We have to do it to save our eyes trouble."

THE TRES PIEDRAS LEGEND.

Story of the Long Lost and Mysteriously Found Treasure Told by an Old Searcher.

Considerable excitement was lately aroused in western Oklahoma, especially in Beaver county—the "No Man's Land" of our histories—regarding the workings of a party of men in that county in the search for lost treasure.

Under-Sheriff McKew of Beaver county, returned lately to Beaver City, the county seat, from a trip through the western part of the county, where he had been serving papers for the present term of court.

According to an old Spanish-Mexican legend, handed down for generations among the Mexicans, a vast quantity of gold was buried by a Spanish expedition, which among the Mexicans known as the lost treasure of the Tres Piedras.

Several years ago priests of the Catholic church employed guides and followed the trail to within 30 miles of Clayton, N. M., where it was lost and further search was then abandoned.

While traveling overland from eastern New Mexico, Ryan's horse strayed from camp one night, and he was compelled to search for him on foot.

Finally, near Garrett, in Beaver county, Ryan came upon a mound near the old Santa Fe trail, where three large rocks in the shape of a triangle were arranged in the direction indicated within a quarter of a mile he came upon another triangle.

He searched the land in that locality for days, and finally came upon another symbol, which, with the two former, formed a triangle with the points about a quarter of a mile distant.

Bank Notes at a Premium. The recent notice authorizing the issue of notes to the value of \$27,000 recalls the fact, little known to the present generation, that Bank of England notes were at one time actually at a premium in the market.

From Machinery in England. Enclosed please find a list of the machinery used by its farmers. The remainder, \$1,000,000, would be in remission from America, and \$2,000,000 worth from Canada.

THE PIONEER TEACHER.

Portrait of a Spirit of Patriotism Labeled in This Sporting Generation.

Gov. Barnes, in his address of welcome before the national educational convention, recently held at Boston, called attention to the fact that the statue standing in the place of honor in the city was not that of state-man or general, orator or man of letters, although Boston claimed many such among her sons.

Local history and tradition everywhere reveal his influence. Of deficient education and eccentric character often, yet his reverence for wisdom and his enthusiasm for his work were such that poverty, opposition, difficulties of every sort were but fuel to be burned away by his zeal.

He wrestled with a hundred dull and indifferent pupils for the joy of finding one to whom he could transmit the divine spark. He was ridiculed often, ill-treated and half-fed nearly always, but he went his way rejoicing in the high task to which he had been called.

What of the school teachers of to-day? The least of them know things of which the old enthusiast never dreamed; many of them are his lineal descendants, filled with the same splendid spirit.

Teachers looked down upon? One can imagine the splendid indignation with which the old pioneer school teacher would have met the charge.

NIAGARA'S OVERFLOW.

The Volume of Water at the Falls Greater the Last Year Than for a Decade Past.

Authorities on the river condition at Niagara Falls state that in 11 years the volume of the great stream has not been so well filled, so continuously as during the year 1902. Connecting as it does Lake Erie with Lake Ontario, the Niagara river furnishes a good pulse to the rise and fall of waters in the great upper lakes.

These water conditions in such a stream as the Niagara are most interesting. They tell of an abundance of water for navigation purposes on the great lakes, and immediately at Niagara they preserve the scenic beauty of the falls of Niagara, which it has been feared by some were destined to be eradicated by the power development.

Old river men state that the waters in the Niagara District to a considerable degree every seven years but since 1892 has the river been so high. It is said that for seven years the waters receded, and then another seven years is contained in rising to the normal stage.

Just Fitted for It. Ethel—Now that Mrs. de Biter has nearly lost her eyesight, I suppose she will have to abandon her literary work. Gladys—Well, she'll have plenty of situations to be a clap-net. Our state Journal.

ANTIQUITY OF SMALLPOX.

Arab Historians Trace the Disease Back to the "Elephant War," A. D. 590.

The literary as well as the pathologic history of smallpox presents many items of special interest, says American Medicine. All readers of the clouded annals of the middle ages are acquainted with the fact that Arabian writers were for many centuries the recognized apostles of philosophy and physical science.

His original description of this formidable disease has been made familiar to English inquirers through the medium of Dr. Greenhill's translation. In addition to his observations on disease proper, the powers of observation of Rhazes in physiognomy are demonstrated by such items of information as: "A man with large ears is stupid, but long lived," and in rational therapeutics by his recommendation of the practice of the game of chess as a cure for melancholy.

Every one of the elephants, having ventured within the sacred inclosure, was struck by a stone and fell a victim to the smallpox. Among the bitter plants which also appeared at that date for the first time the rue and colchic are especially mentioned.

AN INDIAN TEACHER.

Duties of a Woman Who Spends Her Life Among the Western Red People.

A white woman, Miss Estelle Reel, is doing splendid work in civilizing the Indians on the reservations. She is superintendent of Indian schools for the United States, and her duties send her into the loneliest and wildest parts of the country.

The hour has passed when such curios could be bought cheaply. The Indian has learned the value of his wages. He has even begun to substitute animal dyes for vegetable ones. The tendency to seamp work is what Miss Reel is striving to counteract.

Tuberculosis and Race Immunity. The races which have been exposed to tuberculosis for a comparatively brief period of time have very little resisting power to the disease, says Lawrence F. Flick, M. D.

How It Happened. "Yes'm," said the unwashed nomad, "you ain't maxin' no mistake in thinkin' I've seen better days. One I lived in my house yer gran'ma and."

Could Keep a Secret. Smith—May I make a confidant of you? Jones—Why, certainly. "Well, I'm hard up and want \$100." "You can trust me, I am as silent as the grave. I have heard nothing," said McKee.

THE SAVING OF A CITY.

American Soldier's Account of a Courageous Missionary's Stand Against the Boxers.

Mr. H. J. Whigham, who went through the Cuban war and earned fame during the London Post, gives the following story in V. C. of a courageous missionary who braved a city full of Boxers.

"On these expeditions they generally got a Protestant missionary to go with them, in most cases a Scotchman or an Englishman to act as interpreter. The missionaries were glad enough to go, because they hoped to check in some measure the frightful excesses of the Russian soldiery."

"I undertake," he said, "to enter the city and to induce it to surrender without a shot being fired on one condition."

"The general yielded, and amounting his pony, Dr. Westwater rode forward to the city alone.

Westwater explained matters appealed to the citizens to avoid bloodshed, and pledged his word that neither destruction nor looting should mark the Russian occupation of their city. The appeal was successful, and he rode quietly back to the Russian general.

SHE MADE A MISTAKE.

She Wore the Glasses for Looks, Not to Look Through.

They had discussed the virtues and faults of nearly every one they both knew, and the conversation was beginning to flag, writes Elliot Fowler in Brooklyn Eagle, when Miss Black asked: "Do you know Mr. Blossom?"

"Such an aristocratic looking man," said Miss Black. "There's no one can match him for dignified reserve and fine appearance."

"How do you stand on the issues of the campaign Mr. Toppan?" "M?" replied the candidate for congress.

Why, I'm in favor of freeing Ireland, driving the Turks out of Europe, and punishing Russia for mal-administering the Jews.—Syracuse Herald.

MASTER OF THE PACK.

Arctic Explorer's Dog That Helped His Master Control Country Eskimo Dogs.

"Jack" was a magnificent St. Bernard dog that Mr. E. K. Young describes in "My Dogs in the Northland," as possessing all the good qualities of the Eskimo dogs and none of their thievish habits.

"The plan I originally adopted in breaking in a dog, should you know him up in a train with three or four well-trained ones in front of him and Jack in harness behind him. When 'March' the word for 'Go!' was shouted the old dogs would, of course, at once spring to advance. This the new dog would generally attempt to prevent by stubbornly balking.

"It was amusing to watch Jack's kindly patronizing way toward these dogs, as though they were his own. When they were being broken in he had appeared to be the personification of firmness and anger, when they had surrendered, in double fashion he licked their faces and bridges and was effectively affectionate.

"Some of them were, at first, not much inclined to receive these friendly advances; but eventually, perhaps after he had fought a battle or two in their defense, they came to be much attached to him as their friend, while they never questioned his title as their master in the pack."

MESSAGES WITHOUT WIRE.

Long-Ago Expectations of Wendell Phillips Have Come to Be Realized.

It is often said that there is nothing in the discoveries of science that the poets and other men of the imagination have not foreseen and foretold. Wendell Phillips delivered hundreds of times a prophetic lecture upon "The Lost Atlantis," in which he showed how almost every wonderful thing upon which the world predicted its own destruction had been anticipated a thousand years, or more, or three or four long ago.

"You must be better. You must copy out the spirit of your fathers, and not their temptations." Then he told the story of the Boston merchant who sent a cracked plate instead of a perfect one to China, to have a new set made of the same pattern, and when the set came every plate had a crack in it like the sample. Continuing, he said: "Now, boys, do not imitate me. Be better than we are or there will be a great many cracks. We have invented a crack, but what of that? I expect if I live long enough to see the crack that will end the world, without my being there, both ways."

An Intoxicated Humpty. "Eldred? Your friend Humpty fell some coming with the to-day that was quite amusing." "As usual—Really? I didn't think he was a humorous writer." "Neither does he"—Philad. Inquirer.

No Inducement. "Well," exclaimed Duke, asserting his statement, "I'll stake my reputation on it." "O, that doesn't help," retorted Bobbs; "you'll have to offer something of value as a wager."—Detroit Free Press.