

BREVITIES OF FUN.

"Our teacher has commenced to teach us how to paralyse sentences," said a little lassie to a companion the other day.—Glasgow Times.

Charley Bragg—"Yes, Miss Brightly, it costs me ten thousand a year to live."—Miss Brightly—"Oh, Mr. Bragg, do you think it's worth it?"—Boston Transcript.

Little Pitcher—"I don't think my papa loves me as much as he loves my mamma. Mamma says papa tells her fairy stories. He never tells any to me."—Boston Transcript.

Park—"That old chap with the high hat is Prof. Jenkins, the famous medico-legal expert. He's both a lawyer and a doctor."—Tilford—"H'm! Another case of 'Your money or your life'?"—Puck.

Margery—"Papa, why did they bury Mr. Goodman with his eyes-glasses on?"—Papa—"Well, my pet, he was near-sighted, and his widow feared he might miss the pearls gates and come back."—Jewellers Weekly.

A Great One—"You seem to be very fond of farces," said the young woman at the theater. "Ah, yes," replied the gentleman with the French accent. "I sat through Zola's entire trial."—Washington Star.

Drawing the Distinction—"Are you telling the truth when you say you are looking for work?" asked the householder. "Yes," answered the stranger at the gate, "but I ain't expecting it."—Indianapolis Journal.

Couldn't Do It—Traveler (in upper berth, angrily)—"Here, you! in that lower berth! Why don't you stop snoring and sleep like a Christian?" Occupant of Lower Berth (sleepily)—"Pegause I aind't puidt dot yet."—Puck.

HIS OWN MEDICINE.

A Practical Joker Chafes Under a Joke Played Upon Him.

Having been married less than a month, it would naturally be supposed that Bimley was one of the happiest men in the country. But he's not. He broods and schemes and indulges in long exorcisms. He would give half his fortune to get his grip upon a certain person or persons unknown.

Of course there is a story back of this. Bimley married a Philadelphia girl. He went on there day before the wedding, and in going about the city he noticed that he was being shadowed. Having a character above reproach, this did not bother him much at first, but the thing grew very annoying when he was followed to the house of his fiancée and found the shadows awaiting him when he left. In trying to dodge them he whetted their suspicion and was promptly arrested.

At the station house Bimley gave his name and was informed that he was known. Word had been wired from the chief of police in Detroit that Bimley had gone to Philadelphia to make a big haul and expected to leave with a treasure that would satisfy him for the balance of his life. The more he protested the more material he gave the newspapers. It took several hours to clear the matter up, and the next morning the whole story was told under flaming headlines. It was a practical joke on the part of one or more conspirators who made free with the name of the chief. It set all the harder with Bimley because he is a practical joker himself. Time only makes him madder instead of soothing him, and there is no telling what would come off if he should succeed in unearthing the conspiracy.—Detroit Free Press.

BUILT BY THE WAVES.

Holland's Interesting Illustration of Natural Engineering.

An interesting illustration of natural engineering is the well-known heavy dike on the Holland coast, which was built by the winds themselves. The sand formed between the jetties becoming dry in sunny weather, and the surface blown ashore on the wind blowing in that direction, it was desired to build a strong dike to connect with the sand dunes, and this was accomplished by setting in the sand, in rows about a foot apart, tufts of dune sea grass near by. The tufts thus placed, consisting simply of little handfuls of grass, were put, each one, into a cavity dug out with the hands, the tufts set into this and the sand pressed around. The whole surface of dry sandy beach above high tide was covered with this plantation, and, just back of it, at the highest point of the existing sandy area, one or two rows of reeds were set into the sand, their tops cut off, and the stalks left standing about four feet above the sand—the latter, drifting along over the surface, catching and, in one day, most burying the tufts of grass and landing a foot along the rows of reeds; and another plantation being made; and another, a massive dike was thus built up to the height of the adjoining dike. In high-storm tides the waves eat into the toe of the dike and down the sand, but by the same process of building the dike is again restored to its former size.—N. Y. Sun.

ORIGIN OF A PHRASE.

"No Will Never Set the Thames Afire" Explained.

A correspondent recently asked the New York Weekly for the origin of the phrase: "He will never set the woods afire." A California reader offered this explanation: He says: "I never saw the quotation made in that way before, but think it likely that that saying is only a change of the original. I have always heard it quoted as: 'He will never set the Thames (Tems) afire,' that is the river Thames. But here we have a means of getting at the possible origin of a phrase, which will show how peculiarly many of them begin and change in application. The saying: 'Never set the Thames afire,' it seems to me began in this way: In olden times they had not the perfected machinery for separating bran from flour, in the milling process. It had to be done at the mill by means of a sieve. The wheat was ground into a box and across the box was a narrow piece of plank an inch thick and three inches wide set on edge. The miller fastened to the box a sieve made of very fine wire netting or open cloth stretched across a wooden hoop 2 1/2 or 3 feet wide. The ground wheat was placed in this sieve and sifted with a quick motion, the sieve resting on the plank so that it would relieve the strain upon the miller's arms. Now this primitive machine for separating the flour from the bran was called a taze or tempe. Well, if a man was lazy or showed no disposition to work at this process, it was said of him that he would never set the temse afire, meaning the wood of which this crude machine was made, for if the miller was a miscalculating, hardworking man, the friction that he would get upon this wooden sieve would in times cause it to take fire and blaze (much in the same way as an Indian lights a fire)." Our correspondent is 83 years old. He has, he says, seen these machines in operation separating oatmeal 75 years ago. We have to thank him most kindly for this reply, which we have no doubt many of our readers will be interested in as well as the party who wrote to us for this information.

A REMARKABLE RACE. Occupies Tiburon Island in the Gulf of California. United States Consul Long, at Nogales, Mexico, has furnished an account of a peculiar people known as Seris Indians, who occupy Tiburon island, in the Gulf of California. The consul says the island of Tiburon is one of the largest and most picturesque in the Gulf of California, and is peopled by a most remarkable tribe of Indians, who are noted for their large size and extraordinary athletics on land and water. Those who have witnessed their aquatic sports at a respectful distance declare that many of them can actually walk, or rather run, upon the water with no other assistance than broad rawhide shoes. They are, writes the consul, expert fishermen and huntsmen, having rigid ideas as to the maintenance of game preserves on their island and limiting the killing of game under severe penalties. They destroy all children in infancy that are malformed or apparently lacking in intelligence. In this way the standard of physical and mental conditions in both sexes is kept very high. It is currently believed that at one time the native women were exterminated to make room for a whiter and superior race of women. The nucleus of this race of higher women was formed from captives made at various times, extending over a series of years, on land and water. They have no schools, but each home has a system of physical training. The natives guard their shores day and night, and no man is allowed to penetrate the island, even if he should make a landing. It is said that no epidemics have ever prevailed on the island, and disease is scarcely known among this extraordinary people, so that the men and women are magnificent in physical endowment. No man or woman is allowed to live beyond the age of 70 years, no matter how well preserved in body and mind. By careful selection, a large percentage of the women have a transparent, peachy complexion and deep auburn hair.—Golden Days.

A PRACTICAL JOKE.

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Australia's Mineral Wealth.

In addition to gold and copper, New South Wales is said to possess every mineral advantage of the great manufacturing countries of the world in the shape of abundant coal and iron easily accessible and readily worked. But although the local iron ore is exceedingly rich scarcely any progress has been made in smelting, and nearly all the pig and wrought iron used in local manufacturing is imported. It Came Often.

Very Affable Young Lady—Yours is rather a quiet beat, isn't it, officer? Policeman—You're right, miss; it is. The only bits of pleasurable excitement I have is when some pretty young lady asks me to escort her across the road.—Facts.

POWER WITHOUT FUEL.

Another Attempt to Utilize Solar Heat for Work.

Hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of people going out on the Boston & Albany railroad through Brookline have noticed just before coming to Longwood station a peculiar iron framework surmounted by mirrors and surrounded by a board fence. Probably hundreds have speculated on the nature of this peculiar contrivance, and here and there, perhaps, one has been found who recognized at a glance that the machine could be nothing more nor less than a solar engine, for certainly no such combination of mirrors could be framed except for any other purpose. Those who have made this guess have arrived at a correct conclusion. For some time a number of Boston capitalists have been working on this machine, and the other afternoon the completed solar engine, crude though it is, was given a successful test.

So far as is known Euclid, the famous mathematician, was the first to investigate the theory of solar heat, and Archimedes the first to experiment practically in helio-dynamics—his feat of setting fire to the Roman fleet which was besieging Syracuse by setting the tarred rigging and sails on fire by reflected light being a practical demonstration which satisfied even the skeptical Romans. The skeptics of the eighteenth century doubted the truth of the story about the burning of the ships, and the learned naturalist, Buffon, conducted a series of experiments to demonstrate that the act of Archimedes was within the bounds of possibility. With a series of 154 mirrors at a distance of 250 feet he caused a tarred plank to smoke in two minutes, when the sky was partially obscured. This was in 1747. Saussure, instead of employing reflectors, used a series of cylinders of glass, by which he caused water to boil in the inner cylinder by direct sunlight alone. Sir John Herschel in 1838 turned his attention to the matter and conducted a series of experiments at the Cape of Good Hope, demonstrating that it is possible to use directly the tremendous energy in the sun's rays.

It was not until as late as 1866 that the experimenters began to turn their attention toward the use of solar heat for power purposes. In that year M. Mouchot, then professor of mathematics in the Lycee of Alencon, began a series of experiments with this end in view. In August of 1866 he made his first solar engine. Ericsson was at the same time busy with the same problem. He estimated that concentrated solar heat would evaporate eight liters of water when reflected from a surface of nine square meters, furnishing the equivalent of one horse power. A Frenchman named Pifre assisted in Mouchot's experiments in France and Algeria, and as a result a conical reflector, erected first in the courtyard at Tours in May, 1875, and afterward shown at the Paris exposition in 1878, was used to pump a continuous stream of water by means of an engine whose only fuel was the sun's rays. It was Mouchot, with all due credit to other inventors, who established the art of solar engineering, and while later machines may bear the same relation to his conical reflector that an "ocean greyhound" bears to Fulton's Clermont, it is to him that due credit should be given. Strange as it may appear, the first patent granted for a solar engine in this country, so far as can be learned, was dated March 20, 1877, and was to two California inventors, who were prevented from developing it by interest in other matters.

It may be asked why anyone should spend thousands of dollars in experimenting with the construction of solar engines when coal is so plenty and electricity is coming into such common use for motive power. It might appear as though solar engines would not be needed until the world's supply of coal runs short, and that such an invention is ages in advance of its need. But it must be taken into account that there are great areas in this country where coal is neither accessible nor cheap; where the water runs under the ground, and where the sun shines through a clear sky for three-quarters of the year. Such are conditions to be met by solar engines. The area of California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming and New Mexico is 710,000 square miles, equal to that of all the states east of the Mississippi river except Wisconsin and Michigan.

The sale of 700,000 windmills west of the Mississippi river last year indicates that there is a demand for power in the so-called arid regions, provided it can be procured at a reasonable cost, and the solar engine has the great advantage over the windmill that sunlight is these regions is more plentiful than wind, and the means of utilizing it is more efficient, for the windmill is but a wasteful power.—Boston Transcript.

Germany's Telephone-System.

The price for the use of a German government telephone has been reduced from \$37.50 per year to \$12.50.

Bulletin Financier.

Vendredi, 13 mai 1908.

COMPTOIR D'ECHANGES (CLEARING-HOUSE) DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS.

Faculté cetle semaine... 87,981,431 00 \$724,189 00

ETAT HERDOGADAIRE DU CLEARING-HOUSE.

Complé par Thos C. Herndon, Directeur.

Billets des Etats Unis et des Banques Nationales... \$ 6,104,500 00

Change étranger... 11,400 00

Prêts et acomptes... 15,660,576 00

Prêts hypothécaires... 7

Prêts sur garanties collatérales... 4

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