

SHORT NEWS STORIES.

A Tale of the Unlucky Opal-To Seek For Cruso's Island-A Strange Bicycle-Monster Story.

Here is a story showing how to account for bad luck. A man was shaking dice in a cigar store. He lost.

"No wonder," said a bystander. "You're wearing an opal. You never will have any luck."

This set the man to thinking. Four days later he slipped in getting off a street car and sprained his ankle.

This decided him. He gave the ring to a friend who was on the board of trade and who was too hard headed to entertain any fool notions about the number 18 or black cats or cross eyed girls with red hair.

Nevertheless, when this board of trade man lost \$10,000 on wheat he began to worry. He didn't care much for the pin anyway, and so one day, when a young man in his office admired the "fire" in the stone, he said, "Take it along if you like it."

The young man overwhelmed him with thanks and waited with guilty knowledge to see what would happen to the young man. He did not have to wait long. The next week the employee was taken ill, and he missed four days at the office. The board of trade man was troubled in conscience; so he told his young friend about the opal pin and the superstition attaching to it, and the employee, after deliberation, decided that he would give the pin to his girl.

The opal did very rapid and effective work after it became the property of the young woman. On the second day after she began to wear it she ignited a curtain in attempting to light the gas. The curtain was destroyed, and the young woman burned both her hands in attempting to extinguish the blaze. The young man who had given the stone to her felt called upon to apologize.

"Perhaps it was that opal I gave you," said he. "You know an opal is supposed to carry bad luck with it. I didn't tell you because I'm not superstitious."

"I'll not wear the dreadful thing a day longer," said she.

So she didn't. She gave it to her brother, who scoffed at the suggestion that a sparkling, glassy little stone could wield any influence, good or bad. Nevertheless, when he started to Cincinnati and the train ran off the track and he was tossed half the length of a car he became converted.

"I'll not give it to anybody else to be a Jonah," said he. "I'll sell it to a jeweler."

So he went to the jeweler and said, "What'll you give me for this opal?"

The jeweler looked at it and said, "That isn't an opal, that's a catseye."

—Chicago Record.

Robinson Crusoe Expedition.

It has been hitherto assumed, much to De Foe's discredit, that he stole or "appropriated" the story of an Alexander Selkirk, who passed several years on the island of Juan Fernandez in the Pacific ocean. But members of a De Foe society declare that they have discovered that the novelist did not steal his narrative at all, and, moreover, that the island where the original Robinson was wrecked lies not in the Pacific, but in the Atlantic. They are going to send out an expedition next winter, as soon as the storky season closes, to ascertain beyond all peradventure just where this island is located. In the interest of all true narrators (of fiction) and for the benefit of all lovers of Crusoe, it is to be hoped that their mission will be a success.

The true island, they say, is situated somewhere off the north coast of South America not far distant from the mouth of the Orinoco, for Crusoe himself says in his journal that the last recorded observation, taken just before his shipwreck, was in latitude 11 degrees north, between the islands of Barbados and Trinidad. —New York Press.

The Biter Bit.

Biters are constantly bitten, even in swift cities. A probationary policeman has of late been utilized to stalk certain people on Broadway. One night he appears on the street arrayed as a longshoreman. Another night he is a mechanic or a countryman. Last night he sallied forth as a sailor and was making good headway when he was halted by a young man. He acknowledged that he had a nautical letter, which was moistened at the land lubber's expense, with a few repeats at other saloons. At last the liberal stranger took the guileless sailor over to a side table and pulled out three playing cards. "Say, mate, did you ever daily with these card monte?" asked the young man as he handed the pasteboard familiarly. "S'pose you try." "Oh, I thought that was your game!" interrupted the policeman in disguise. "You come with me." And the young man went. Things are not what they seem here, not baring many fascinating specimens of the human race. —New York Cor. Pittsburgh Dispatch.

A Bicycle-Monster Story.

A cyclist who has just returned from a tour wheel through New Jersey relates this story:

"During one of the recent hot days," he says, "I stopped at a certain cyclist's rest in the suburbs of Jersey City. I placed my wheel in the rack outside, in which were some 40 others, and entered the hostelry for some liquid refreshment. When I emerged, I found that both my tires and those of each of the 40 other wheels had been punctured by mosquitoes. The scene when the tired riders who were refreshing themselves inside heard what had happened may be more easily imagined than described. For an hour or two the air was full of the odor of India rubber, and busy men were to be seen at work repairing their wheels." —New York Commercial Advertiser.

CURRENT MISCELLANY.

In certain parts of the Alpine chain there are portions delivered over to the channels as their own, in which no gun may be fired, where the beautiful creatures may be sure of rest and security, in which they may nurture their young and to which, when hard pressed, they may flee, as to cities of refuge. In Tyrol such an asylum is called game preserve.

Of late years it has become necessary for law in Switzerland to extend its protection to the edelweiss. This peculiar and beautiful flower is much in request, both by lovers, who present it to their sweethearts, and also for the formation of little mementos for travelers. The edelweiss does not require an altitude so great that it is near the snow nor a precipitous rock to crown. The poor plant has been driven higher and ever higher and to inaccessible points as the only places where it could live unmolested. At Rosenheim, on the Bavarian plateau, at the roots of the mountains, are fields of edelweiss, where the plant is cultivated to satisfy the insatiable visitor who insists on going home from his holiday with a tuft in his hat and on sending dried specimens to all his friends. —Chambers Journal.

Maine Mast Teams of Long Ago.

"One of the sights that enlivened the spirits of the Redfield small boy of 40 years ago," says a former Redfield boy, "was the passage through that village of the mast teams on their way from Chesterville or Farmington or more distant points to tide water at Hallowell or Gardiner. Many of these stags were worth going a distance to see, even in these days when forest giants were plentiful. Then cutting them in the back country and taking them to the seashore made an important branch of business, and we used to see many of them pass, each drawn by a long string of cattle managed by a number of drivers who were expert at shouting to make the oxen stand up solid to the bow that they could rouse half the township with their voices. Some of these big masts were worth hundreds of dollars when they were got to the seashore. We wonder if a 'mast team' has been seen anywhere in Maine in the last quarter of a century!" —Lewisston Journal.

Religious Toleration in China.

After the restoration of peace and his return to Peking in an interview reported with a Methodist bishop, Li Hung Chang said:

"Say to the American people for me to send over more missionaries for the schools and hospitals, and I hope to be in a position both to aid them and protect them." As confirmation of these sentiments it is announced that since the war terminated all restrictions upon the propagation of the Christian religion have been expanded from the Chinese side. On the other hand, the war seems to have had the contrary effect on the Japanese, as we find the imperial diet engaged in decreeing the erection of Shinto temples in Formosa, in order that the spirit of a celebrated prince and those of others who fell in the service may be worshipped as gods, and the captured cannon are being adorned with an immense Buddha to adorn the capital. —John W. Foster in Century.

Southey.

He is the possessor of perhaps the purest and most perfect English prose style, of a kind at once simple and scholarly, to be found in the language. He has written in the "Life of Nelson" perhaps the best short biography in that language and other things not far behind this. No Englishman has ever excelled him in range of reading or in intelligent comprehension and memory of what he read. Unlike many bookworms, he had an exceedingly lively and active humor. He has scarcely an equal and certainly no superior in the rare and difficult art of discerning and ranging the material parts of a historical account. The pedant may glean but the true historian will rarely reap after him. And in poetry his gifts, if they are never in the very highest, are so numerous and often so high that it is absolutely absurd to poohpooh him as a poet. —Saintsbury.

Burning a Heretic.

A quotation from "The Case of Heresy," 7 Coke, 56, says: "The archbishop and other bishops, and other the clergy, at a general synod or convocation, might convict an heretic by the common law. But for this, that it was troublesome to call a convocation of the whole province, it was ordained by the statute of Henry IV, chapter 16, that every bishop in his diocese might, at his own discretion, and if the sheriff be absent, or if he be to be burnt in another county, then there ought to be a writ de heretico comburendo." This revered common law authority should not be disregarded. Nothing less than the formality of a writ de heretico comburendo will satisfy a heretic when he is to be taken to another county to be burned. —Case and Comment.

Can Wind Up a Debate.

When Lord Beaconsfield was meditating his escape from the commons to the lords, where the style of "Don Juan" was to be exchanged for that of "Paradise Lost," he cast about him for a successor. "What I want," confided the Conservative leader to his intimates, "is a man who can wind up a debate." His eye fell upon Sir William Harcourt, and a visit to Hughenden was the result. However, the negotiations came to nothing, and Sir Stafford Northcote, who assuredly could not wind up a debate, was allowed to break up the Tory party. But Disraeli showed his usual discernment in judging men, for Sir William Harcourt has the faculty of winding up a debate. That is to say, he speaks with such weight of manner and exhaustiveness of reasoning that no one on his own side likes to follow him. —Saturday Review.

FACTS IN A FEW LINES.

Two persons die of starvation in London every week.

Of every 1,000 people in the world 4 live in London.

Each year Great Britain manufactures 15,000,000 paper collars.

On Jan. 1 the armies of the world numbered nearly 4,500,000 men.

There are 1,495 characters in the 24 books that Charles Dickens wrote.

The strawberry crop of the United States exceeds 4,000,000 tons yearly.

The spring and autumn maneuvers of European armies cost over £2,000,000.

The French people make over 65,000,000 francs in rearing fowls yearly.

The English breath is scented with 10,000,000 bushels of onions each year.

There is a street in Liverpool in which nearly every house is occupied by a dentist.

A new form of insanity has been discovered. This is caused by rising from bed too early in the morning.

The net reduction in the British national debt since 1875 is £35,000,000, or at the rate of £4,250,000 a year.

Experiments have shown that soft wood under pressure becomes considerably harder than hard wood under pressure.

French "paste," from which artificial diamonds are made, is composed of a mixture of glass and oxide of lead. Rubies, pearls and sapphires are also successfully imitated by the Parisians.

A horse was hidden long before he was shot, and until it was learned how to put shoes upon him his greatest usefulness was not achieved. It is cause for comment that the ancients did not sooner learn to shoe him.

Until after the sixth century of our era all silk imported from the east to the west was valued at its weight in gold. The silken goods were put into one scale, and enough gold to balance them was placed in the other.

The pulp and paper mills in Maine at the present time have a daily capacity of about 1,400 tons. This is two-thirds pulp and one-third paper. About \$13,000,000 is invested in this industry in Maine and upward of 5,000 men employed.

Italy has 48 per cent illiterate people; France and Belgium about 16 per cent. In Hungary the illiterates number 48 per cent; in Austria, 39 per cent, and in Ireland, 31 per cent. In India only 11,000,000 out of 250,000,000 can read and write.

War horses were not shod in any way in early days. For Alexander is said to have marched "until the feet of the horses were broken," while in another expedition of ancient days the "cavalry was left behind because the hoofs of the horses were in bad condition."

It is not generally known that when a person falls into the water a common felt hat may be made use of as a life preserver, and by placing the hat upon the water, rim down, with the arm round it, pressing it slightly to the breast, it will bear a man up for hours.

In the sixth century they began to shoe horses, but, strange to say, only in time of frost. King William I introduced horseshoeing into England, and six horseshoers are on the coat of arms of the man to whom William gave vast estates for caring for his horses in this way.

Most Mongolian beauties do not know what a feather pillow means, and the Japanese pillow consists of a lump of wood about the size of a loaf of bread, with a piece of soft paper tied on the top of it, so that it will just fit into Yam Yum's neck and prop her head off the floor.

The purple shoes of the high priests marked the highest degree of power; the closed shoe (black) was in vogue among the men of the upper classes. The women pushed the love of luxury to extremes; they ornamented their shoes with ornaments of gold and perfumed the inside with myrrh and incense.

Donagel, old name Tyronnell, the land of the Chel Connell, or O'Donnell's country, received the name of Donagel from Perpet. The name Dun-na-Gall, the fortress of the foreigners, arose through a fire erected here by the Normans. The O'Donnellaghans, O'Dohertys and McSwineys were powerful clans.

Wahls children call "happan cyril" the hornlike cap, made of rushes tied at top and twisted into a band at bottom. In Scotland the children also make rush caps of the same shape. Among Scottish Highlanders of the present day we find caps which most probably resemble those worn in early times by the people of at least the northern part of Britain.

The industrial exposition of Berlin, which will be opened in 1896, is rapidly assuming shape. Nearly all the buildings are under roof, and the workmen are now busy with the interior and exterior decorations. The main building of the exposition is enormous. It has a front of 670 feet, while its depth is 600 feet. The floor space of this gigantic building is 501,800 square feet.

The khedive of Egypt possesses the only complete toilet service in the world. It was made in London and consists of 23 pieces, each bearing the khedive's monogram in diamonds, which is surrounded by a fillet in imitation of that of the Grand Turk. In the decoration of these costly articles more than 3,000 diamonds and 1,300 rubies were used. The body of each piece is 18 carats gold.

It is said that two species of native birds are becoming quite rare in South Carolina—the showy redbird and the mockingbird. The threatened extermination of these birds is said to be due to the demand for them in the north, and in the case of the redbird the introduction of the English sparrow is to blame. The mockingbird, however, is quite capable of holding its own against the pugnacious foreigner.

DIOCESAN NEWS.

From Our Special Correspondents.

Miss Cassie Roe, who spent her summer vacation here among her many friends, returned to Miss Rice's school in Chicago, last Saturday, accompanied by Miss Ade Coleman of Sodas Center.

Mrs. Robinson, who so ably filled the position as preceptress in our school, handed her letter of resignation to the school board last week, which was accepted, and Miss Fuller, teacher of some years' experience and a graduate of Oswego Normal, takes the place.

Miss Phoebe Smith of Macedon was a guest of friends in town last week. School Commissioner Pinter was presented by his teachers with a gold watch at the end of the institute here.

Miss Anna Connor will visit Mr. and Mrs. M. P. Connor in Brooklyn, and sisters, Margaret and Mary, on Long Island, this fall.

A life-size portrait of McKinley was in S. B. Van Dusen's store window this week. The work was done by an artist of this place.

Miss Van Dusen has a position as bookkeeper with the Wayne County Milling company.

P. McGee and family are about to move to Buffalo. They have resided here for the past eleven years, and have made many friends.

Mrs. Coleman of Sodas Center was the guest of her daughter, Mrs. Roe, over Sunday.

Miss Nicholas has returned from her eastern visit.

A Kindergarten school has been started here by a young lady from Syracuse.

Misses Mayme Fitzsimmons, Lizzie Lawler, Rose Conroy, Mrs. D. Eggleston and Peter Fitzsimmons were guests of Mrs. John Quinn in Lyons over Sunday.

The Catholic church at Savannah, through the enterprise and aid of Rev. Father Gleason combined with the parishioners, have secured a fine new altar, which was erected last week.

Misses May and Nora Burke spent Sunday in Syracuse.

Mrs. John Quinn of Lyons is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Conroy, this week.

Edward Tobin of Fairport spent Sunday with his sister, Mrs. James Duggan.

Mrs. Marjorie of Ontario was the guest of her mother Saturday and Sunday.

Mrs. Margaret Todd, who has been dangerously ill, is some better. Her daughter, Margaret, is at home caring for her.

George Johnson of Bristol was in town Sunday.

Miss Julia Dwyer of Rochester spent Friday of last week with Mrs. Anna Zimmer.

Edward Dwyer is home from Rochester, ill with typhoid fever.

Miss Lizzie Cady of Rochester was home over Sunday.

Mrs. Ellen Kearney spent a few days of last week with Mr. Margaret Murphy, she returned to her home in Syracuse Wednesday.

Her niece, Miss Mary McGarry, went with her for an indefinite stay.

Miss Fannie Naughton attended teachers' institute at Newark last week.

Macedon turned out a mass to the Palmyra fair Saturday.

Mrs. Margaret Nelson has gone to Syracuse to visit her son and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Nelson.

Miss Mary Hughes of Shortsville visited her mother here recently.

The family of Michael DeLaney of whom we have been ill with that dread disease, diphtheria, are reported as being out of danger and doing well. Two trained nurses from Rochester are caring for them.

Wednesday.

Miss Mamie O'Connell spent Monday of this week at Auburn, visiting friends.

E. O. Radford and Allen Sticks left Monday morning for the North woods where they will spend a few weeks.

J. Sullivan of Port Byron was in town Friday night last.

M. J. Hickey of New York spent Sunday last in town visiting relatives.

Misses Mary McKown and Angie McNarney spent Sunday last at Port Byron.

E. Radford and sister Amanda, of New York, are spending a few weeks in town visiting relatives.

Lima.

A grand rally is to be held here some time in October. It is to be an open air affair. Col. W. E. Fish of Penn Yan will probably speak on free silver, and if possible a gold man will be engaged for a joint debate. The Lima "Bryan and Sewall" club of about 200 members will make its first appearance then.

A large crowd from Lima went to the Hemlock Lake fair last Thursday.

Messrs. Louis Boehme, Robert McDonald, Frank Smyth, Michael O'Day and Patrick O'Brien of Lima spent a few days in Rochester last week.

Mr. Patrick Hendrick of Lima has been nominated for the assembly from this district by the populists.

Port Byron.

Miss Kate Cullen of Rochester is visiting friends in town.

Miss Farrell of Jordan was entertained by Miss Lizzie Walsh for a few days.

Mrs. Quinn and daughter Julia have returned home after week's visit with friends in Lyons and Fairport.

Willie Hogan has nearly recovered from his recent severe illness.

Cards are out announcing the marriage of John D. Carberry of New York and Miss Jennie M. Barrow of Orwell, Vt., at the home of the bride's parents, Wednesday, October 24th. Mr. and Mrs. Carberry will be at home after November 15th at 223 East 39th street, New York. Mr. Carberry is a former Port Byron boy, and has the congratulations of a host of friends in this place.

Mr. and Mrs. Ward of Ithaca were guests of H. Murray and family, Sunday.

Miss Lizzie West visited at Lodierville, Sunday.

Miss Anna Lynn is attending school at Wells college, Aurora.

There will be a social party at Ogden's hall, King's Ferry, Friday evening, Oct. 2, under the auspices of Council 13, C. F. & M. A. Music by Jacobus Bros. orchestra.

Mrs. C. W. Dennis has returned home after a two months' visit with many friends.

Miss Helen Bradley is able to ride out.

Miss Maggie Riley has returned to Auburn, where she will learn the dressmaking trade.

Shortsville.

The benefit ball which was given in March last Tuesday evening was a decided success, about \$200 being realized from it.

P. Dailor is very ill at his home in this place.

Mr. and Mrs. P. Hamilton were called to Geneva last week on the death of Mr. Hamilton's brother, who died rather suddenly at his home in that place.

Miss Kittie Dietz of Auburn is visiting Mrs. F. J. McIntyre of this place.

Miss Celia Moore of Rochester has been visiting her brother in this place.

Miss Margaret Phelps is visiting at Canandaigua.

Willard.

Miss Veronica Mackin is spending the week at the home of her sister at Farmer.

Mrs. Margaret Black is spending two weeks at Toronto, Canada.

Mrs. Cornelius Breen and sister, Lizzie Hamilton, were called to Geneva on Friday by the death of an uncle.

Miss Mary Arden of the Ogdensburg State hospital called on friends here last week.

The new concrete walk between the new laundry and group 4 has been laid. It will be extended to the main sidewalk by the first of the year if the weather permits.

John McKenna has accepted a position as traveling salesman for Flannigan's toy store, Canandaigua.

William McCullum, the blind singer, gave an entertainment at the Opera House here on Wednesday evening last.

Palmyra.

William Breen was in Rochester last Sunday and Monday, visiting James Fenell and family.

Mrs. Hugh Reynolds and brother, James Kelly of Rochester, spent last Sunday with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. Kelly, on Johnson street.

Miss Minnie McGovern of Macedon was the guest of Mrs. Mary Murphy during the fall.

Mrs. John Keating of Rochester visited her mother, Mrs. William Bushnell, last week.

Mrs. Andrew Ryan of Egypt spent last Sunday with her daughter, Mrs. Michael Griffin.

Edward Harley of Fairport was in town last Saturday.

Miss Lillian McGill of Rochester was the guest of her parents, Miss Anna Ryan, last week.

Misses Margaret and Julia Delaney of Rochester were the first last Saturday.

Miss Helen Johnson of Rochester spent Sunday with her sister, Mrs. Fred Mackay.

St. Albans.

Wells College has opened with the largest number of students in years.

The military academy, under the management of Prof. Holbrooke, has reported. It is hoped under the present management that this will be one of the best schools of its kind in the state.

Dr. and Mrs. Russell have the sympathy of their friends upon the loss of their infant daughter.

Death claimed the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. John O'Brien of Fairport last week.

A new tin roof has been placed on the Catholic church, and many other improvements have been made. The members of St. Patrick's church feel proud of the work done so far.

South Port.

William LaFolre of Rochester spent Sunday with his parents.

The boat race held here Saturday was won by Fred Wickham's boat, the "Wickham." The Henrietta came in second.

The democrats of Sodas village held a rally here Thursday for the purpose of forming a Bryan and Sewall club. One hundred and fifty members were enrolled, 75 of whom had heretofore been republicans.

The republicans of this place held a meeting at Market hall and formed a McKidley and Hobart club. Fifty members were enrolled, only one being a democrat, who had been bought over.

The large steam barge, of Elton, was in here Saturday and took out a very large cargo of coal.

Horseless carriages are by no means new, as in volume 11 of the Encyclopaedia Britannica, published in Edinburgh in 1810, there are diagrams and a description of a horseless carriage invented by Mr. Richard, a physician in Rochelle. The machinery by which the movement was effected was placed in a box in the rear of the carriage.

In the West Indies, where hurricanes are frequent and destructive, they generally originate in the tropical equator near the inner boundary of the trade winds and are caused by the vertical ascent of a column of heated air, which place is supplied by a mass of wind from the surrounding regions, as the system is by the rotation of the earth.

Gaping Ghyll, an uninclosed stream near Lingleborough, in Yorkshire, was recently explored by M. Messall, the French cavern hunter. After a stream which falls into the cave had been diverted he was let down to a depth of 250 feet, and there found a chamber hollowed out in the limestone 450 feet long by 180 feet broad and 100 feet high, with a level bottom covered with sand and pebbles.

Blue, like white, has a legendary good fortune, attached to it as being one of the colors dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. An blue or white are those children who are vowed "enfants de Marie" for the first seven years of their lives exclusively arrayed. There is an old saying that a bride should wear something blue, something new and something that was worn before.

New

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