

A FORGOTTEN OVERCOAT.

Lamartine's Generosity to a Penniless Literary Man.

One day a penniless literary man called on Lamartine, who was then at the height of his fame as a statesman and an author. The visitor told Lamartine of his hopeless life and of his poverty and ended by asking him for the loan of a considerable sum of money.

Lamartine, who was much moved by the man's story, gave him the sum asked for. The poor fellow, overcome with his unexpected success, could only sob out his thanks and kiss the hand of his benefactor.

After his visit had lasted about half an hour Lamartine conducted the man to the door. The season was early winter, and as the statesman opened the door he noticed that the unfortunate man was clad in thin summer clothes and that he trembled like an aspen leaf.

He glanced at the rack, on which were his own overcoat and hat. Seizing the coat, he said to his trembling visitor, "Monsieur, you have forgotten your overcoat."

Before the poor man could make any objection and declare that he did not bring any overcoat with him and that he had not had one for some years Lamartine placed his own upon him, shook his hand and with generous heartiness pushed him quietly out and closed the door behind him.

This story would never have been given to the world had it depended on Lamartine's telling. Years afterward the once unfortunate author rose to be one of the foremost men in France and told the story of the generosity of Lamartine.

Tramp Actor's Timely Wit.

At one of the minor theaters which lean strongly to the variety business there was a good show recently, and people were paying money for seats. This naturally made the management feel good, and when a seedy looking individual presented himself at the door and asked for free admission he was promptly told to go way back and sit down.

"Don't you recognize the profane?" asked the seedy one in an injured tone.

"Yes."

"Well, look at that." And he handed out a greasy card.

The manager looked at it, shook his head and exclaimed, "That doesn't go."

"Why not?"

"Because I don't know you."

The tramp looked at him and ejaculated with fine scorn, "It's horse and horse."

The manager was floored, but his business instinct saved him. He passed the man, talked to him after the show, and the tramp is now doing regular stunts at the theater.—Philadelphia Telegraph.

Horace Porter's Airy Flight.

General Horace Porter, being called upon to speak at a public banquet in London, soon after he had arrived in that city, made a playful allusion to the "ocean lane," referring to the main route of the steamers, and said that the passengers beguiled the tedium of the voyage by gathering the flowers that grew beside it and listening to the songs of the birds in the overhanging elms. The remark was received with silence, and after he had taken his seat he heard one solemn Englishman say to another solemn Englishman: "Picking flowers along the ocean lane! Now, did you ever hear of such a thing as that? What liars these Americans are!"

The Eye of the Hedgehog.

Shakespeare, who seems to have been a most excellent out of door naturalist—a minute observer of life, indeed, in all shapes—noticed the hedgehog and wrote, "The hedgehog whines at night." If any one of our readers possesses a tame hedgehog, let him examine the eye of the creature, if he has not already done so. If the eye is the index to the mind, as I firmly believe it to be, the hedgehog knows a great deal and only uses his knowledge for his own special benefit.—London Globe.

Her Fault.

Mr. Newlied—I tell you, dear, I simply can't afford to get you a new dress.

Mrs. Newlied (sobbing)—I think you're just hateful, and you're the man who used to call me your "angel" and promise me every—

Mr. Newlied—But it's your fault if I don't consider you an angel any more. An angel wouldn't worry about clothes the way you do.

Kept on Going.

Jimson bought a business through an agent as a thoroughgoing concern. After six months he failed, but took his trouble very lightly.

Meeting the agent some time later, he said, "Do you remember selling me a business as a going concern?"

"Yes, of course I do," replied the agent.

"Well," said Jimson, "it's gone."

A WEAK SOVEREIGN.

Princess Lieven's Description of William IV. of England.

Letters written by Princess Lieven early in the last century give the following picture of King William IV. of England: "In the first place there's the king; a quaint king indeed, a bon enfant—with a weak head. At times I think he is likely to lose it, so great is his pleasure at being king. He changes everything except what he ought to change—his ministers. He changes the uniforms of the army and of the navy; he dismisses his cooks and his French servants. He will have none but English. He makes everybody out off their mustaches; he straggles about the streets and gossips with the passersby. He goes to the guard-room and shows the officer in command his ink stained fingers, tells him how many letters he has signed, and of the audiences he is going to give; talks about the queen, his wife, and promises to bring her to the guardroom to make his acquaintance. The day before yesterday he paid a visit to Lord and Lady Holland and invited himself to dinner for next week, to the dismay of his ministers. Asked if he had given the Duke of Wellington (the prime minister) an audience that morning, he replied: "Thank God, no, madam. I am only too happy not to see him. I wish I might never see him!" He displays a prodigious activity; he is delighted with court ceremonies and receptions, is constantly showing himself in public, occupied all day long in trifles, eager to reform everything at once—in a word, he is in a state of feverish excitement. The mob adores him—he goes about openly and treats every one familiarly—that is enough for John Bull. Wellington said to me quite truly, "This is not a new reign; it is a new dynasty."

The deathwatch beetle.

The deathwatch beetle has the invariable habit of feigning death when seized or disturbed. The simulation is so persistent that when immersed in water or even in alcohol the insect remains perfectly motionless and will allow itself to be burned alive rather than betray itself.

The larva of the insect lives in woodwork (framework, old furniture, etc.), which it gnaws in the interior without anything outside betraying its presence. A few weeks after it has been transformed to the chrysalis state the perfect insect comes forth and makes its exit from the wood by boring a cylindrical hole in it, which thereafter shows that the wood has been attacked and is often mutilated to such a degree that it is virtually destroyed.

A smaller species of the same genus works equal havoc not only with wood, but with books, herbs, natural history collections, cork, dry bread, crackers, etc.

The Discovery of Tea.

By whom or when the virtues of tea as a beverage were discovered is "lost in the wide revolving shades of centuries passed." The famous herb is spoken of in Chinese annals as far back as 2500 B. C., at which time its cultivation and classification were as much of an art as today.

Tradition says that its virtues were discovered by accident. King Shen Nung She, "the divine husbandman," who flourished forty centuries ago, was boiling water over a fire one evening when some tea leaves hanging over the vessel were loosened by the heat and fell into the steaming fluid. Nung She partook of the decoction while it was hot "and felt himself renewed in limb and sight for seven days thereafter." Then and there he consecrated tea as the sacred beverage of China.

A Land Without Animals.

Japan is a land without domestic animals. It is this lack which strikes the stranger so forcibly in looking upon Japanese landscapes. There are no cows and there are but few horses, and these are imported mainly for the use of foreigners. The freight carts in the city streets are pulled and pushed by coolies and the pleasure carriages are drawn by men. There are but few dogs, there are no sheep and wool is not used in clothing, silk and cotton being the staples. There are no pigs—pork is an unknown article of diet—there are no goats or mules or donkeys. Wild animals there are, however, and in particular bears of enormous size.

The Whale.

The forage of the whalebone whale is jellyfish. He has simply to open his mouth and paddle leisurely along to take them in by the wagon load, says Scientific American. The sperm whale, on the contrary, captures huge devilfish, weighing often several tons. Like his brother, the whalebone whale, he must be constantly on the lookout for food. Otherwise he would starve. As many as fourteen seals have been taken from a thirty foot "killer."

ALL SORTS OF PARAGRAPHS.

More than have been raised by schemes than by his companionship.

Dulwich, now a popular district of London, still has a tallgate across one of its main streets, at which tolls are collected regularly.

Ireland's geyser never shoots their water higher than 100 feet, while some of our Yellowstone geyser go more than three times as high.

A sovereign remedy for chills is to eat in a stick of wood a notch for every chill; blow your breath on it and throw it into a running stream.

A pair of gloves passed through about 500 pairs of hands from the time the skin leaves the dresses till the gloves reach the hands of the wearer.

The German reichstag is said to be the cheapest of all parliaments of Europe. Its total expenses for the current year have been only about \$170,000.

The most extraordinary plant known is the "traveling plant," which has a root formed of knots, by which it annually advances about an inch from the place where it was first rooted.

The way the tortoise passes through life is one of the most remarkable things in nature. One has been known to live three months after the brain has been removed. The heart will continue to beat fifty minutes after being cut out of the body.

The amount of liquid refreshment taken by a man of seventy years would equal 76,700 pints, and to hold this a pea twelve feet high and more than 2,500 times as large as an ordinary pea would be required. The weight of the liquid would be over forty-two tons.

The drivers of loaded wagons and carts seldom ride, but walk and run beside their teams, with their rope lines in their hands.

Many of the large stores do not ask their customers with good credit for a settlement of account often than once in six months or a year.

Boxes and bales packed for shipping are almost invariably wrapped with a final cover of coarse hempen cloth or rush mats sewed on, to prevent breakage and theft.

Dry goods and grocery stores have a "rod counter" that runs from one side of the store to the other. All the customers stay in front of this counter, and all the clerks and all the goods for sale are behind it. All dealings are made over the counter, and customers are seldom allowed this dividing line.—Mexican Herald.

Fish can be caught through the ice by a new device, consisting of a board having a reel piped in it to hold the line and a spring signal arm which is released by a fish pulling on the line.

Hats are retained in their original shape by two metal strips crossed at the centre of the crown and bent to the shape of the rim, to which they are attached and covered with cloth or plated into the straw.

To assist a photographer in taking flashlight pictures a sheet of cardboard is formed of highly inflammable materials and flashlight powder, the advantage being that the flash covers a larger area and gives a brighter light than the loose powder.

A new toy for the children consists of a hollow finger ring, with an outlet in the setting through which water is forced by a flexible ball attached to the under side of the ring and held in the hand.

Cigars and cigarettes can be lighted without the aid of a match by a composition cap formed of combustible material and designed to be attached to each cigar and ignited by a friction head similar to a match.

In a recently patented animal-cleaning device a circular brush is mounted on a revolving shaft geared to two friction wheels, mounted on a yoke frame, the brush being rapidly revolved by drawing the friction wheels lightly over the body of the animal.

To aid in teaching music in schools a western woman has patented a movable ladder, which may be suspended on a blackboard on which the staff is drawn, the ladder being fitted with balls set on movable arms, to indicate notes.

IN MEXICO.

All summer long the afternoon sun shines in the north doors and windows. The large banks at the capital will not take deposits to start a new account amounting to less than \$500.

As there are no back yards in Mexican cities, clothes are dried on the roof, and the chicken coop is also kept there.

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"You say there is only one train a day from this station?" said the lady at the ticket office. "Only one, madam," was the reply. "Is the train on time?" "No; it is fifty minutes late."

"Too bad; I want to get to Pokenville the worst way." "Well, this is the road you want to take."—Yonkers Statesman.

DON'T

Don't spend your money before you get it.

Don't cote too much on a girl or an antidote may follow.

Don't believe that curling irons are responsible for all the curly hair.

Don't imagine that the dude is higher up in the scale than the ordinary fool.

Don't hit a man when he's down—unless you are very sure you can keep him down.

Don't waste time trying to shave yourself with the razor your wife uses on her horns.

Don't forget that the man who shakes hands the hardest is always the hardest to shake.

Don't forget about the performance if you would keep the friend obtained by a promise.

Don't jaw back unless you want the other fellow to know that you are as big a fool as he is.

Don't judge a man by his relations instead of his companions. Relations are thrust upon him; but companions are usually of his own selection.

HOW ANIMALS FEED.

Man is the only animal that has teeth—incisors, canines and molars—of an equal height. Man, the ape and nearly all mammals have thirty-two teeth. The hog, however, is better off than this, and has forty-four. So have the opossum and the mole.

The river dolphin of South America has far beyond this, however, having no less than two hundred and twenty-two teeth. Teeth are not part of the skeleton, but belong to the appendages, like skin and hair. The shark is toothless and draws in its food by suction. But the shark has hundreds of teeth set in rows that sometimes number ten.

Lobsters and crabs mutilate their food with their horny jaws, but they have a set of teeth in their stomachs where they complete the work of chewing. But there is one peculiar kind of crab, called the king or horseshoe crab, which chews its food with its legs. This is an actual fact, the little animal grinding its morsels between its legs before it passes them over to its mouth.

The jelly-fish absorbs its food by wrapping itself around the object it seeks to make its own. The star-fish is even more accommodating. Feeding itself to the body it wishes to feed on, it turns its stomach inside out, and envelops its prey with this useful organ. Dogs seize their food with their jaws, cats with their feet, and so do monkeys, some of them pressing their prey between their tails into service.

The squirrel uses its paws to carry its food to its mouth, and the elephant its trunk; the giraffe, ante-eater and load their tongues. Spiders draw their food with their horny jaws, which are sharp enough to give quite a nip. Grasshoppers and locusts are very well provided with the necessary machinery for eating much and often. They have saw-like jaws and gizzards, too, the latter being fitted out with horny teeth.

The caterpillar feeds with two saw-edged jaws, working transversely, and uses them to such advantage that he eats three or four times his weight every day. Toads, tortoises, turtles and most lizards have no teeth.

Frogs have teeth in their upper jaws only. Ant-eaters, sloths and armadillos have no teeth. The lion and tiger, and indeed, most of the carnivores, do not grind their food, using the jaws only up and down, the molars acting like chopping-knives, or, rather, saws. The mouths, in fact, are veritable flesh mills.

Floating Prairie.

A curious phenomenon, known as prairie trembles, or floating prairies, prevails in Southern Louisiana, and is responsible for much damage during the annual overflows of the Mississippi River.

All along the Gulf coast the large border of land floats on the surface of the water. The land is made by fallen timber and grasses. It gradually accumulates earth, and becomes, in the course of time, sufficiently firm to support bushes and even trees; but the soil is only three inches or a little less thick and below it is the water, upon which it floats on account of its lightness. Occasionally pieces of trembling prairie are detached and become floating islands. There are quite a number of these lands, floating from side to side, being frequently carried away by the breeze, from acting as sails to catch the wind.

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Minnie—All right. Then you'll come and give me a whole lot of beautiful presents.

Mamie—Will I? Oh, no, Minnie; I'll let you be Santa Claus, as you are my guest.

Well, look at that.

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