

PINEVILLE'S CIDER DAY

By M. QUAD

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For twenty years the village of Pineville had a custom of its own. On the 15th of every September, to case the day did not fall on a Sunday, a couple of barrels of new cider were placed on the public square and tapped and everybody invited to drink their fill. It was a day of rejoicing and was known as Cider Day.

On a certain 14th of September a stranger arrived in the village by stage. It was not so uncommon for strangers to arrive, but this was an uncommon man. He had a clubfoot, he had but one eye, he had a voice like the bellows of a bull, he had but one eyebrow. His personal appearance was freely commented on, as in the way of the villagers, and there was great curiosity to know who he was and what had brought him there.

The stranger was limping around town next day when the cider was brought in and the rejoicings began, but he paid no attention until after noon. Then the men had begun to warm up and grin and laugh and slap each other on the back. Firecrackers were thrown under the stranger's feet, and when he voiced his displeasure he was laughed and jeered at. Then he got a hand on his back and was challenged to a wrestling match and a trial of cutting off hats. He was invited to drink prosperity to Pineville, in a dipper of new cider, and when he refused to do so a quantity was poured on his hat.

The stranger was a good swearer and he swore. He stood on the public square and swore, and he sat on the tavern veranda and swore, and he locked himself in his room and swore. All day the town made merry, as per custom, and next day some of the leading citizens called to make excuses. The stranger had hired a rig and departed after an early breakfast.

Pineville wanted a railroad. It had wanted one for years and at times had had strong hopes. The trouble was in the hills half surrounding it. There must be a costly tunnel. Engineers had come and estimated and reported, and the cost had been considered too high. A new and greater effort was now on foot, and three days after Cider Day a large and enthusiastic mass meeting was held. At this meeting a greater sum was pledged than ever before, and a delegate was sent to the headquarters of the P. and P. railroad to lay the matter before the proper officials. The line to Pineville, if built, would be a branch. The delegate was politely received and listened to and then told that a larger delegation had better come down, indeed, the names of seven of his fellow townsmen were given him, and they would be received and the matter gone into.

"When the delegation reached the city it was informed that if Pineville got its branch it would be through a certain capitalist, who would give them audience half an hour later. He did so. They filed into his office and up to his desk to find the man of the club-foot. He had a smile on his face, but they did not like the smile. He spoke honeyed words, but at the same time he had the door locked and three stout men brought in.

"Glad to see you, gentlemen—very glad," he said to the delegation as a whole. "You may perhaps remember that I visited your pleasant little town the other day. Very nice town; very nice town. Very enterprising; very nice town. Very charming custom you have up there."

"Sir," replied Deacon Harrison, who had been appointed spokesman for the delegation, "my perchance our people would be too merry."

"Oh, no, no, no! I love merry people."

"It was our cider day, you know."

"Certainly, certainly—plenty of cider and plenty of merriment. So you come to see about a branch line in your town? Well, after an exhibition of a little custom of my own, we will proceed to talk. There's the gail and dipper. Help yourselves."

None of the seven ever knew what the nature of the contents of the gail were. Deacon Harrison drank first, and he looked weary as he turned away. The weariness went down through the line.

"Now for some merriment," said the clubfooted man as he nodded to his three stout retainers.

The trio moved. They cut off hats. They slapped the delegates on the back. They gave them the iron gails. They hustled them up and down and across and laughed and jeered. After ten minutes the boss held up his hand and said:

"The gentlemen must be thirsty. Before there is further merriment give them more drink."

What he said "merriment" ceased there was no man of the seven who could stand on his legs. As they sat down, hustled for fair. As they sat down, hustled for fair. As they sat down, hustled for fair.

"This is all, gentlemen. You don't need a railroad to Pineville. You have your cider day, and that's better. As you probably have important engagements elsewhere I will now excuse you."

There was fighting all over town next day. On the next after that there was a public meeting to abolish Cider Day, and if you are looking for trouble you enter the town some day and ask why it hasn't a railroad.

DOWNING STREET, LONDON.

It Bears the Name of a Clever Man From Massachusetts.

Downing street, London, where are the British colonial and foreign offices, and the official residence of the first lord of the treasury and where cabinet councils are held, perpetuates the name of a clever man from Massachusetts. These were the days before the Fourth of July had any significance in American annals, and George Downing, the first scholar in the first public school in Massachusetts and the first graduate sent out by Harvard college, came to England and became a chaplain in Cromwell's army.

By a remarkable stroke of fortune he was sent to represent England at The Hague when Europe was trembling before Oliver, and during three distinct eras in England's history he held the office of British ambassador at the Dutch court. He was as popular or as clever under the Merry Monarch as under the protector and the commonwealth, and it came to pass in the reign of Charles II. that the man from Massachusetts was granted a great tract of land at Westminster, where he built huge mansions and laid out Downing street.

To this day Downing's street is Downing street still, and though George Downing is forgotten, there is no name in the British empire which is more familiar to us than his.—St. James Gazette.

GREEN TURTLES.

The Youngsters Have a Perilous Time After Being Hatched.

Concerning the great turtles of the southwest Indian ocean a traveler says: "The cheelonian, or green turtle (Chelone mydas), is an animal of considerable economic importance to the atoll, for it still occurs in the vast borders which are so often described by early voyagers in the tropics. There appear to be two distinct groups—one resident and small in numbers, the other migratory and visiting the atoll to breed in numbers impossible to estimate."

"The latter arrives in December, and from then to April the sea seems alive with turtles. The females seek the small sand beaches and then ascend them with the rising tide, pushing themselves laboriously above high tide mark. Holes are then dug in the sand by means of the fore flippers until a satisfactory one is obtained, and the eggs, 200 in number, are buried, the turtle returning to sea immediately."

"After forty days the eggs hatch almost simultaneously, and the young turtles dig their way up out of the sand and go down to the sea in a long procession, in the course of which they offer an easy prey to their enemies, the frigate birds and herons. Once in the sea, sharks and other large fish eat them, and only 10 per cent reach maturity."—Chicago News.

A Strong Recommendation.
"We are not taking on any new traveling men just now," the safe manufacturer said. "Business is rather dull in our line."

"Well, if you need one let me know," said the applicant for a job. "I'd rather sell your safe than any there is to be had. It's the best."

"Are you an expert?"
"Yes, sir. I know all there is to be known about safes."

"Ever deal in them?"
"No, sir."

"Ever work in a factory?"
"No, sir."

"How do you know ours is the best?"
"Because it takes longest to break into it."

"How do you know that?"
"I'm a reformed burglar."

He got the job.—Chicago Tribune.

An Immense Flower.
The largest of all the flowers of the world is said to be the rafflesia, a native of Sumatra, so called after Sir Stamford Raffles. This immense flower is composed of five round petals of a brickish color, each measuring a foot across. These are covered with numerous irregular yellowish white swellings. The petals surround a cup nearly a foot wide, the margin of which bears the stamens. The cup of the rafflesia is filled with a fleshy disk, the upper surface of which is covered with projections like miniature cow's horns. The cup when full from its contents will hold about twelve pints. The flower weighs about fifteen pounds and is very thick, the petals being three-quarters of an inch.—Scientific American.

Rhinoceros Horns.
The horns of the African rhinoceros sometimes grow to the length of four feet. In older times rhinoceros horns were employed for drinking cups by the royal personages, the notion being that poison put into them would show itself by bubbling. There may have been some truth in the idea, inasmuch as many of the ancient poisons were acids, and these acids would decompose the horny material very quickly.—London Telegraph.

Adaptable.
Client—Before we decide on the house my husband asked me to inquire if the district is at all unhealthy.
House Agent—Er—what is your husband's profession, madam?
Client—He is a physician.
House Agent—Hum—er—well, I'm afraid truth compels me to admit that the district is not too healthy.—London Opinion.

An Endurance Test.
"Here is an account of a remarkable endurance test."
"Umph! Some couple been married for fifty years!"—Birmingham Age-Herald.

TRADITIONS.

Their Absence Was a Serious Handicap to Adam and Eve.

The great drawback to the garden of Eden was the lack of traditions. There was no history to serve as a guide to legal, moral or social rectitude. There was neither Baedeker nor Gibbon, neither Homer nor Vergil. Adam and Eve could not go to the library and buy a book and see how some body else did something or other. There were no daughters of anything to set the standards of social eminence. There were no old families. There were no descendants of any body to talk big, look wise and draw pensions. There were no forefathers who had laid down inviolable laws, conceived debts, given away franchises and established constitutions for posterity, even unto the third and fourth generation. There were no historic statesmen who had handed down orations for Adam and Eve to learn and recite at high school commencements and church socials. There were no dates for them to learn and remember. There was absolutely no past for them to revere, nothing that had stood the test of time.

If they wanted history or tradition they had to go ahead and make it themselves.—Ellis O. Jones in Judge's Library.

TABLE KNIVES.

Incident That Changed Them From Pointed to Rounded Ends.

Table knives are invariably made with rounded ends. Did it ever occur to you to wonder why they are of this shape instead of pointed, like any other knife blade?

Perhaps you may imagine that the ends were rounded as a protection to life and limb in those turbulent days when men drew their swords or any other available lethal weapon at the very slightest provocation.

But this is not the case. The story goes—and it is fairly well substantiated—that the great Cardinal Richelieu had a guest to dinner whose manners at the table were very far from being all that could be desired.

The climax was reached when the fellow, after finishing the meat course, began to pick his teeth with his table knife, at that date made with a sharp point. The guest being a man of birth and importance, the cardinal could not openly remonstrate, but next day he gave orders that the point of every knife in the establishment should be rounded off.

Before the end of the century his example was universally followed, and the pointed knife at table had disappeared.—London Answers.

Swimming Ghosts.

Lecturing before the Camera club, Dr. Francis Ward said that in an attempt to photograph fish in their natural surroundings he had constructed a pond with an observation chamber let in at the side below the surface of the water. Through the window of this chamber unseen by the fish he could watch and photograph their movements. He discovered by this means that the protection of fish when in their natural state is much more thorough than is generally supposed. All divers fish were in reality merely mirrors in the water, reflecting the tone and color of their surroundings, so as to appear to their fellow fish gray, unobtrusive, swimming ghosts, hardly to be distinguished at all. It was only when the dace, for example, rose to the surface, causing its body to reflect light, that the pike at the bottom of the pond could see and go for its little victim.—London Graphic.

England's Cream Ponies.
The famous cream ponies which are used to draw the king's carriage on state occasions are the sole survivors of a breed of horses which has otherwise passed out of existence. They are the direct and only pure bred descendants of the famous horses of Hanover, which George I. brought with him to his new English kingdom two centuries ago. The once famous white horses and black horses of Hanover have died out, and now the cream ponies survive, and only in England, for when Queen Victoria sent to Hanover about 1800 to procure fresh stock for the royal stud not one was to be found.—London Answers.

Reputation.
Reputation is one of the prizes for which men contend. It is, as Mr. Burke calls it, "the cheap defense and ornament of nations and the nurse of many enormities." It produces more labor and more talent than twice the wealth of a country could ever rear up. It is the coin of genius, and it is the imperative duty of every man to bestow it with the most scrupulous justice and the wisest economy.—Sydney Smith.

A New Interpretation.
History Teacher—What conspicuous feature figured in Harrison's campaign?
Pupil—In the long procession they had a log cabin with a colored man tied on top.
History Teacher—A what? Pupil—Well, my history says there was a live coon fastened on the roof.—Lippincott's.

Good Suggestion.
"Sometimes," said Uncle Eben, "a man kin build up a mo' valuable credit by keepin his promises than be kin by holdin' on to his money."—Washington Star.

It is not our wrong actions which it requires courage to confess so much as those that are ridiculous and foolish.—Rousseau.

Recommended by a Pastor.
My daughter suffered 4 years from Epileptic fits, had 3 to 4 attacks in a week, often that many in a single day. Our doctor treated her without any result. Rev. Otto Meier recommended Pastor Koenig's Nerve Tonic, which she took, and after that would not get more than one fit or 2 fits in a month. Upon advice from the doctor of the Koenig Medical Co. we give her the Anti-Epileptic Tablets, besides, and she has had no attack since.

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The Lion's Taste.
Miss Charlotte Mansfield in "Via Rhodesia" tells of a native South African who came to England and was taken to the Hippodrome. "Instead of enjoying the entertainment, however, he begged, with tears in his eyes, to be taken out and he said: 'There are lions over there—pointing to the stage—and I am the only black man here.' It is a well known fact that a man eating lion will make a meal off a black in preference to a white man if it is a question of choice. Perhaps the favor is stronger and the taste for white flesh—like caviar—has to be acquired."

Why He Retracted.
Kilmore—After all, Stedman isn't so bad a fellow. He came to me, man fashion, and took back all the things he had said against my people. Burman—Did it voluntarily? Kilmore—Practically that. It is true I threatened to shoot him on sight if he didn't retract, but that was only a matter of detail.—Exchange.

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