

Fined For Not Voting. The outstanding feature of most British elections is the large number of electors who fail to record their vote.

According to the universal suffrage law of Australia, all those on the register must record their votes, and at the last general election in that country 80,000 electors were fined sums from \$1.40 downward because they neglected to go to the polls.

Spain is another country that looks on voting as a national duty, at least in a municipal election. Should a citizen omit to cast his vote his name is published as a defaulter, his taxes are increased by 2 per cent, while if he be in the public service his salary is reduced by 1 per cent.

Wife of the Waiter. "I know I am looking like a fright tonight," the woman said.

"The man studied her dress, her hair and her complexion closely. "I don't see anything the matter with you," he said.

"But I am not," she insisted. "There is something wrong, and that head waiter saw at a glance what it was. If I had been up to the mark he wouldn't have put me away over here in this out of the way corner."

"All the best dressed people are always seated in the most conspicuous places, so as to make the restaurant look more attractive. I am glad to say that that is where I usually sit."

"That is why I know I am not looking well,"—New York Times.

A Perilous Experience. While hunting in the Big Horn mountains two men found a narrow path, little more than a deer trail, leading up to the summit.

King Charles of Roumania made many changes in his Balkan kingdom since he arrived there in 1880 after an adventurous journey in disguise from Germany.

Sir Francis Drake still a Terror. No public monument is needed to keep alive among Mexicans the memory of Sir Francis Drake's exploits in Central and South America.

Medical Advice. "Doctor, how can I prevent my husband from talking in his sleep?"

Only to Be Expected. The Optimist—I hear Brownsmith is going to be married. The Pessimist—Bears him right. I never did like that fellow.—Lippincott's.

No, Never. Love may be blind. But you never saw a bride who couldn't tell orange blossoms from sunflowers.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

A PLAN FOILED

By ESTHER VANDEVEER

Martin Borland, a man of wealth, having lost his wife, married again. The new connection was especially unfortunate for him and his only child, Mildred, who was sixteen years old at the time of her father's second marriage.

Her first move was to make the house so unpleasant for her stepdaughter that she was forced to leave it and go to live with an aunt. This enabled her to have her husband to herself, and as soon as his daughter had gone the stepmother began a systematic nagging upon her husband to compel him to make a will leaving his property to her.

Had Mr. Borland been in good health he might have withstood her prodding; but, affected as he was with a nervous disease and made a virtual prisoner by his wife, it was not long before he broke down under the strain and signed a will leaving all his possessions to her, except some swamp lands that were nearly worthless.

At last Borland died. His wife produced the will he had made in her favor, and a lawyer to whom she had paid a large retainer fee stood ready to enforce it against any demands that might be set up by poor Mildred, who had not a cent in the world to prosecute with and no one to take an interest in her case.

Soon after her father's death Mildred asked permission of her stepmother to take away a few belongings she had left there. She was permitted to do so, was denied nothing she claimed and went away with a boxful of odds and ends, among them a few books. On getting them to her home she looked them over carefully before putting them away.

Mildred was puzzled. She tried to remember from what room she had taken it, but could not do so. A suspicion came to her that these doubts might mean something. Two words that were daubed "wife" and "will" directed this suspicion.

Then Mildred cut out the words she had written and began trying to arrange them so that they would mean something. Several times she gave up the puzzle, but always returned to it. She made certain sentences, but found nothing intelligible for the whole.

There was no date or signature. Mildred's theory was that her father had managed to keep the book near him and when his meals were brought to him had used bits of food in lieu of a pencil. She carried the book to a lawyer, who took up her case in the courts and by skillful management succeeded in getting the cipher message accepted as evidence.

Bulls in Calf Stories. Mr. Chancellor of Houston for Hagerton or some other corner of north east London was dilating before the committee one day on the horrors of inoculation and vivisection, writes a member of parliament in London Opinion, and harrowed the feelings of his hearers by telling them about some calves which had been inoculated and assuring the committee that two years later the calves were still suffering from the effects.

It happens that on this committee is Edward Kelly, a cultured and witty young Celt. "Kelly, from the Isle of Erin," at once sprang to his feet and electrified his fellow members by saying,—"Mr. Chairman—on a point of order—would the honorable member kindly explain how the calves could still be calves two years later?"

Change of Front. On a murder case in one of the southern states an old mountaineer was called as witness. The defending lawyer was cross examining him.

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ROUND THE WORLD Louisville factories consume 38 per cent of its water supply. On the Sicilian Lipari Islands there are thirty pumice stone mines.

The Japanese have given up the custom of coloring tea with German dyes. China exports more than \$350,000 worth of chicken and duck feathers every year.

A novel lamp shade is mounted on a frame like an umbrella so it can be closed to save room. Hatpins the points of which lock so they will not slip out have been patented in Great Britain.

Cellulose is being recovered from waste asparagus by a process discovered by a Hamburg chemist. The most hygienic country in the world is Sweden, in the opinion of Professor Irving Fisher of Yale.

Venice is equipping its fire department with steam engines carried on petroleum propelled motorboats. Atlanta, Ga., has a public safety league of which more than 1,000 street railway employees are members.



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