

Mental Originality. Anable France coined a phrase which may have the breath of life in it. "What is madness after all," he says, "but a sort of mental originality?"

Great Eaters, Great Breakfasts. Looking over the aged pages of Morrie Herbeck's "Journey in America," which extended through Ohio, we found this account of a breakfast at Nashville June 10, 1817, in Fairfield county:

First Chess Champion. Authentic history locates chess in Persia in 760 and the word chess is known to be of Persian origin, coming from the word "shah," meaning "king," and chess has been considered a game for kings from time immemorial.

How Rough Diamonds Shrink. The loss in weight in diamonds when going through the process of cleaving and chipping and polishing amounts to from 50 to 60 per cent on the average. Accordingly, the price of a rough diamond will have to be advanced in the finished brilliant, aside from all other expenses, at least twice to three times.

Have the Best Last. He who eats the best grapes from a bunch first and finishes with the poorest on the stem is likely to feel at the end that grapes are very unsatisfactory and that he does not care for any more. But if the last few grapes are good he is more than likely to reach for another bunch.

A Case Convinced. A life convict in the Andamans had served some long period when an order recently came for his release. All the time he had been in the band and had evidently so far forgotten that he was a prisoner that on his release he put in a claim for a pension on account of his long and faithful service as a government servant.—Madras Mail.

His Preference. Woman (in cigar store)—I wish to get a box of cigars for my husband. Clerk—Here's a new brand I think would suit him—the Saffragette. Woman—Oh, dear, no! He prefers a mild domestic—Ludger.

Wall Begun. Officer to recruit who has missed every shot—Good heavens, man, where are your shots going? Recruit (nervously)—I don't know, sir. They left here, all right.—Exchange.

A Home Talk. Husband—You can put this down as settled—if I ever get out of it you will never catch me in matrimony again. Wife—Yes, you'll if you depend on me for reference.—Exchange.

Do not watch the office clock; it may not be right.

Every man is his own master or else a slave for others.

The one sure thing that comes to him who waits is old age.

If Boer and Britisher fall out, what will the poor Hindu?

Look out for the stranger with the glad hand—he may have a knife in the other.

Many a man gets the better of an argument without necessarily proving he is right.

There are a lot of honest men, some of whom never had a chance to be anything else.

It used to be that a woman could lead a man a dance, but now she makes him trot.

Coal men would like to disestablish the interlocking directorate between winter and summer.

The new king of Albania chooses a capital on the sea coast. He probably knows how to swim.

About all the buried treasures most people have are the good resolutions they have put away.

Maybe the ocean liners run ashore so often because they are ocean grey hounds and not ducks.

The new French nickel has a hole in the center. The hole represents Al-sace-Lorraine, we suppose.

Anna Held lost a \$2,000 hairpin recently. Think of a woman with her mouth full of \$2,000 hairpins.

The longer the days the shorter the nights, but many a man shortens his days by lengthening his nights.

He is, to say the least, an unusual man who doesn't love himself any more than he loves his neighbor.

The London Times calls Huerta "a pronounced tyrant." And the average person can't pronounce him at all.

A Parisian has reproduced digestion by the use of violet rays, he avers. Is this another argument for light dinners?

How feebly a mere medal expresses what the world feels a man like Marconi has done for "scientific" advancement!

Nothing can express the contempt we have for a girl when we are little boys or the admiration we have after we are men.

Barbers fail to understand why Bernard Shaw's philosophy is called "Shavian" while he wears that full set of whiskers.

It's hard to understand why men who "are all right when you get to know them" are so mean before you get to know them.

Earthquakes, volcano and tempest may be intended as a reminder to Orville Wright that man's mastery over nature still needs perfection.

Now that \$5,000 has been paid for a rare flea, some thrifty owner of a score of dogs is liable to wake up and find himself a multimillionaire.

After a man finds himself in a hole it's surprising how many people there are who could have told him what path he might have taken to avoid it.

It is true, as a minister avers, that many a woman is more in need of a husband than a vote. The difficulty, however, is that so many have neither.

The Duke of Warren Surrey says he'll marry an American woman if she has a few millions. Naturally, he'd stand no chance if she merely has sense.

Cures for baldness were in use in Cleopatra's day, says an Egyptologist. Which proves that men have always been hard losers, so far as hair is concerned.

General Leonard Wood declares that the American artillery is sadly inadequate. Perhaps so, but we haven't noticed anybody rearing to go up against it.

Will the new plan of preventing holding companies from loaning themselves money stand in the way of a woman giving her husband a set of silver spoons on his birthday?

There ought to be some way to avoid experimenting with these dangerous submarines except in time of war and then the enemy ought to be permitted to man the post things!

An English writer says American girls who marry titles soon become as expert in politics as their sisters to the manner born. That's right; blame the muddle on a perfect stranger.

The position of an income tax collector will be peculiarly difficult because of the number of hard luck stories he will have to hear from sources where they were least expected.

There will still be life on this planet 15,000,000 years hence, estimates Professor Eric Doolittle. Can't we give the professor a vote of thanks for the brief breathing space he has allowed us?

Smoking Postmen of Korea. A decidedly quaint character is the Korean postman, says a writer in the Wide World. You come across these gentry in the morning, delivering the letters. They appear to recognize the dignity of their office and fulfill their duties in a very quiet and grave manner. In wet weather he dons his "rain clothes" to protect him from the heavy showers. Over his white kaftan he wears a light mackintosh, provided by a thoughtful government, while his head is covered with a waterproof hat made of oil paper. He is further fortified against the wet by an umbrella. Like most Koreans, the postman could not possibly work without his pipe, and as he strolls from house to house he is invariably smoking. The letters are carried in a leather satchel strapped to his back. This individual may be taken as a typical example of the physical characteristics of these interesting people. They are tall over a head higher than the Japanese—well built and fair complexioned.

When Critics Disagree. Professor Lounsbury tells a good story which seems to show that in the matter of poetry critics hold diverse opinions and that one man's opinion is as good as another's. According to the professor, Aubrey De Vere, the Irish poet, collected on the same day the opinion of three of his brother poets on the poetical standing of Burns.

One of these poets, who was Tennyson, said Burns' songs were perfect, but that one had to forget his serious pieces to enjoy them. The second, who was Wordsworth, said that Burns' "serious efforts" showed great genius, but that his foolish little amatory poems were worthy only of oblivion. The third was Sir Henry Taylor, who said that he found Burns' songs and his serious poems alike tedious and disagreeable.

Spoonerisms. Even history has its charms. As one follows the events of the day start echoes from the past, and sometimes laughter. Example: Here is a quaint fellow in Tay Pay's Weekly revealing marvels about the signs and names of English inns. (Creditable performance, doubtless, though drowsy withal. But we have conned the pages of history, so remember Spooner the great, great Spooner—

—he who got run over while "bolling his leicel" at the side of the road, yet recovered and went home by "the town drain." To Spooner we owe a criticism—by deeds, not words—of the names they give inns. Surely you recall his agreeing to meet a friend at the Green Man, Dulwich, and, with his usual aptitude, hunting all afternoon for the Doll Man, Greenwich.—New York Tribune.

Nothing Like System. "There's nothing like system," said a New York official. "System will accomplish the impossible."

"The director of a recent art show was a fine chap for system. One day he arrived at the show without his pass and the gateman, a stranger, held him up.

"I have no pass nor ticket," said the system exponent, "but I am the director of the show."

"You'll have to produce your ticket, sir."

"But I tell you I'm the director—high mucky muck—boss."

"I can't help it, sir; I'm forbidden to let—"

"Yes, I know," said the director impatiently, "but, my good fellow, as the director, I give you permission to let me pass."—Washington Star.

Scientific Uses of the Radish. An alcoholic solution of the skin of a red radish serves as an excellent indicator or test for acids and bases. In the presence of acids the colorless solution turns pink, while with bases—alkaline solutions—it turns yellow. It is well known that many plant extracts, such as litmus, and animal products, like cochineal, possess this property of developing marked colors with acids and bases, but no other indicator is so simply made.

Ready to Take a Chance. "John, I've just heard where you may buy a fine new automobile for half price."

"All right, dear. Now, if you can hear how we may be able to keep it going for half price I'll buy the thing."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Giving Him Away. "Ma," inquired Bobby, "hasn't pa a queer idea of heaven?"

"Why do you ask that?"

"Cause I heard him tell Mr. Naybor that the week you spent at the seashore seemed like heaven to him."—Boston Transcript.

Forebodes Trouble. When a woman rattles the dishes more than usual while preparing supper it's a sure sign that her husband will hear something drop when he comes home.—Atlanta Journal.

Slim Sarah. In the days when Sarah Bernhardt's extraordinary thinness was the joke of Paris, Rochefort wrote, "An empty can-drove up to the theater, and Sarah Bernhardt alighted from it!"

The worst thing about riches is the scarcity.

Be sure of yourself, but never be sure of a woman.

The egg trust at least is a spectacle that none can lay.

The average man never appreciates prosperity until after the parade has passed.

The man who is in society and wants to keep in must be continually going out.

It's a mean man who will gloat over the price of eggs just because he never eats them himself.

It is wonderful how easy a person can go to sleep in the morning after it is time to get up.

People wonder why nature did not put an ocean where Mexico and Central America now are.

Bichloride of mercury seems to be as handy in this country as arms and ammunition are in Mexico.

Some Burns manuscripts were recently sold to an American collector for \$25,000. Such are the glories after death.

Much as it displeases Dr. Redlich of Vienna, we are glad to know that the young Austrians coming to America are the cream of that country's population.

A famous English specialist says that fat babies are not the healthiest. Does the man want to turn the world upside down?

The people who could really tell us something about thrift are probably so busy practicing it they have no time to write essays.

The birth rate in England is said to be falling off. The hand that rocks the cradle is out trying to rule the world in another way.

A New Jersey boy of seventeen has not missed Sunday school in ten years which is more than any president of the United States could say.

It is impossible to devise a set of pure food laws that will prevent careless or irresponsible people from swallowing bichloride of mercury tablets.

While sitting in an office chair a man may feel just as young as he used to be, but after running a block to catch a street car he changes his mind.

Postmaster General Burleson has taken a stand against "freak" addresses on mail matter. It will be generally agreed that they are a cheap form of humor.

In spite of the complaints of American extravagance, the reports of the savings institutions indicate a pretty general preparation for "rainy day" possibilities.

From recent tests of his work in Virginia it appears that Washington was a competent surveyor. There are persons who even admit that he made a fair president.

A jilted British marquis spends his time knitting and making fancy work. Yet many ill informed persons talk about the idle, useless lives of the British aristocracy!

A Cincinnati man's malady, of which the most striking symptom is a growth of hair at the rate of one inch an hour, may put the doctors on the track of a cure for baldness.

Another angle in the proverb about the early bird and the worm is found in the story of the two Boston boys who were struck by a meteor at 3 o'clock in the morning.

Of all the dictators Yuan holds on with the least fuss and confusion. There are so many Chinamen that when a few of them are beheaded nobody else knows anything about it.

The tango has been barred from the Chicago schools. There is a movement on foot in many parts of the country to have spelling and reading and arithmetic take its place in the schoolroom.

A Cincinnati woman married her son's wife's brother, and unless something happens in Cincinnati soon to divert people's attention the problem is going to drive half the city to the asylum.

There is talk of a giant Zeppelin airplane to cross the Atlantic with passengers for the Panama exposition. Germans are not quite so reckless as all that. Zeppelin disasters have inspired them with caution.

Being a congressman is no fun. If you stay in Washington and introduce bills the newspapers talk of the harm you are doing, and if you go home they print tables showing how many roll calls you have missed.

The Emperor William on an income of nearly \$7,000,000 is reported to be having a hard time "to make ends meet." The cost of living has gone up for kaisers and secretaries of state as well as for the plain people.

Mexico should be one of the richest and most contented of all the nations of the earth. It has the resources to make a rich population of 100,000,000 people. It is discouraging to see it waste its birthright and turn back the hands of the clock of progress.

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