

The San Francisco Call

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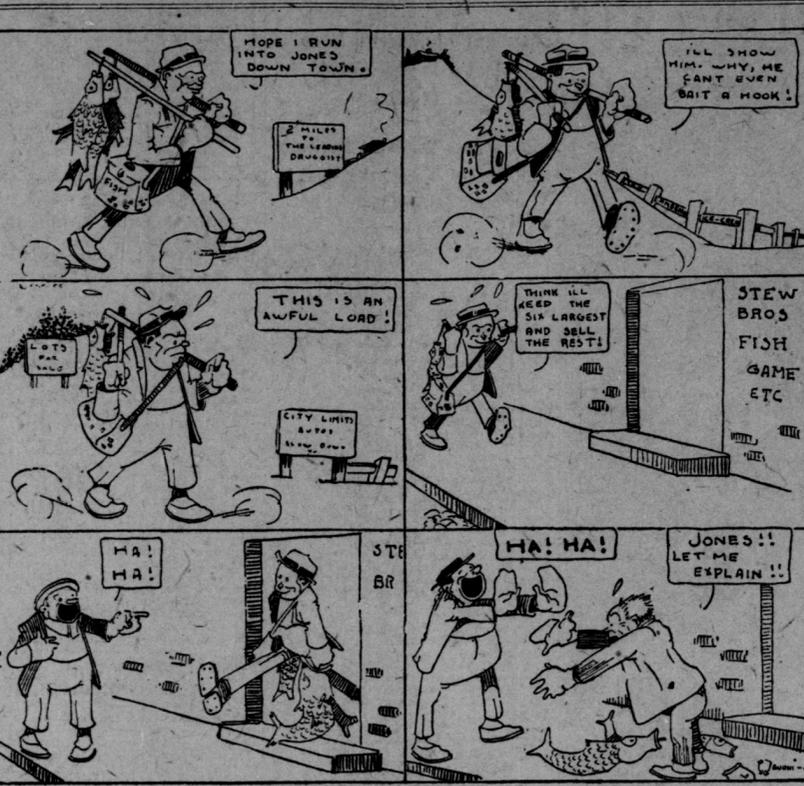
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He Wasn't Believed Even When He Had Caught 'Em



Uncle Walt THE POET PHILOSOPHER

He's savage as a jib-jub bird that flops around with broken wing; he never says a friendly word, you never see him dance and sing. He has a dark, forbidding scowl, he has a fierce, aggressive jaw; and when he speaks it's in a growl that jars you like a cross cut saw. He looks around upon mankind as though he'd like to slay the race; the thoughts that fester in his mind reflected are upon his face. If money makes a man like that, and makes him hate to sing and dance, I'm glad I'm wearing last year's hat, and have large patches on my pants. If money freezes up the soul, and makes one hate his fellow man, the rich man's welcome to his roll—I would not be a money fan. When I go humming down the street to buy a volume of "Old Sleuth," the greetings of the friends I meet warm up my heart, restore my youth. I would not give their friendly smiles, the shaking of their kindly hands, for all J. Pierpont's golden piles, and all his railways, yachts and lands.

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A Bible Lesson As Expounded By PASTOR RUSSELL

MOUNT LAKE PARK, Md., Sept. 10.—Pastor Russell was the principal speaker today before the International Bible Students' association convention, which has been in session here for more than a week and has been addressed by many able Bible scholars. Pastor Russell took for his text, Isaiah 41:2, but included in his discourse the remainder of the chapter. He declared that in the symbolic language of the Bible, the Mountain of the Lord's House means the Kingdom of the Lord, ruled over by Messiah and His House, the Church. The promise of the text, that some day Messiah will reign over the kingdoms of earth, the speaker believed will soon be realized. It is for this Kingdom that God's people have been praying; "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is done in heaven."

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"Does your husband turn his salary over to you?"
"Yes," she sadly replied.
"Then why are you so downhearted?"
"Oh, it doesn't do any good. He often makes a few dollars extra, which he spends for his own pleasure, without letting me know about it."—Chicago Record-Herald.

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Betcher there's one little girl due to hear the biggest lion stories from Grandpa Teddy that ever scared the sandman from a body's eyes.—Pittsburg Sun.

No Cause for Alarm
Nervous Angler (near fort practicing at target)—I—I say! This is awfully dangerous!
Old Salt—Oh, it's all right, sir. There'd be an awful row if they sank us.—Punch.

Misleading
First Illustrator—Great Scott, man, you're painting that apple an awful size!
Second Ditto—I know it. It's to be used in a nursery stock catalogue.—Judge.

Summer Hotel Amenities
She (coming out on the piazza)—What! Only you here? Where have all the nice boys gone?
He (bittingly)—They've gone off strolling with all the nice girls.—Boston Transcript.

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Commercial Changes Consequent on Canal

When the commercial influence of the Suez canal began to be felt one important effect was to increase the use and importance of the English language. It was said then that English was in the way to become the commercial language of the whole world. This tongue became the medium of communication in all the seaboard towns of the Asiatic continent and the language was taught in the schools of the orient. At present English is spoken by 130,000,000 of people and these do more than their share of the industrial and commercial work of the world.

There was a time when Spanish was spoken by a greater number of people than any other language. In 1801 English was spoken by 20,520,000 people and Spanish by 26,190,000. Now the English speaking peoples number upward of 130,000,000, whereas Spanish is spoken by less than 50,000,000.

In point of numbers the Spanish speaking peoples still come second to those which use the English tongue, and it seems probable that the opening of the Panama canal will greatly increase the value of Spanish as a means of commercial communication. In fact the New Orleans board of trade is urging the school board of that city to make the teaching of Spanish compulsory and a similar demand is made in Charleston.

In California we have rather neglected this branch of education, but the time is coming when we are likely to need it in our business. Thirty or forty years ago a majority of the people in this state knew enough Spanish to make themselves understood in that language, but that generation has passed away.

The difficulty of acquiring Spanish is less than that of any other foreign tongue and there is no investment that will pay a young Californian better. The Panama canal is certain to make revolutionary changes in trade routes and relations and chiefly in the way of contact with the Spanish speaking peoples of South and Central America.

The Persistence of Dramatic Talent

The persistence of theatrical or dramatic talent through succeeding generations of stage folk constitutes one of the interesting facts of heredity. Thousands and probably millions of Americans of a past generation watched and welcomed Frank Mayo in his portrayal of Davy Crockett and his heroic battle with the wolves. It was pure melodrama, but its appeal was honest and sincere. Frank Mayo was an actor of very considerable talent and versatility, but the American public were so fond of his frontiersman that they did not seem to care for him in anything else, with possibly the exception of Puddin'head Wilson.

Frank Mayo's daughter seems like to become as popular as her father with playgoers, although her line of effort is somewhat different. Miss Mayo has already scored two remarkable dramatic successes in her plays, "Polly of the Circus" and "Baby Mine." One of these is pure farce with a fine quality of irresistible humor. The other makes a strong appeal to the emotions and touches the half hidden springs of human nature.

An instance of the same sort of theatrical persistence was afforded by the personnel of the Sothern-Marlowe troupe that recently held the boards in this city. The older generation of playgoers welcomed the appearance on the bills of that troupe three names of noted actors who, in the middle of the last century, made the backbone of the famous Haymarket Theater company of London. These names were Sothern, Buckstone and Chippendale. In "The Servant in the House," Tyrone Power, who made so great a success, was a descendant of a famous Irish character actor of the same name.

Most people know that the circus is one large family in which the same names persist generation after generation. The talent and the qualifications are hereditary and the young people grow up in the sawdust.

Stageland is inhabited by a special caste that carries on the traditions of an older day.

A Wedding Celebrated Under Fire

The agony of the Astor wedding has been at length concluded and the honeymoon will be prosecuted at sea far from the maddening crowd of reporters and camera men. Colonel Astor, the happy man, unbent at the final moment so far as to issue a brief statement to appease the news hunger of a ravenous press. He did not say very much beyond declaring that "remarriage should be made possible once" in the common interest of the individual and the community. It is an opinion as to which apparently there is a decided difference of sentiment, and the difficulty which a wealthy and powerful man has experienced in getting a clergyman to perform the ceremony supplies proof of the influence that public opinion exerts in the conduct of American affairs.

We learn from the voracious correspondents and historians of the ceremonies, civil and religious, that the bridegroom appeared to be "nervous," whereas the lady was apparently unconcerned. But that state of mind in the groom is by no means unprecedented, and might seem to accord with the eternal fitness of things for such occasions of ceremonial works and pomps.

It appears to be a settled fact of human nature that on occasions of ceremonial fuss and feathers it is always the man who is the bad actor.

Alarm due to the diplomatic process described as "rattling the sabre" has produced conditions on the Berlin bourse verging closely on panic.

Alarm due to the diplomatic process described as "rattling the sabre" has produced conditions on the Berlin bourse verging closely on panic. Probably, almost certainly, there is no real cause for this alarm. It is not a new game that is being played, and, according to a French journalist, this crisis over affairs in Morocco constitutes the ninth time that Europe has been trembling on the brink of war since 1875. He does not speak of minor scares, but of occasions so tense that munitions of war were being hurried to the frontier and any trifling accident might have precipitated a conflict. He believes the present to be such an occasion. Yet the significant fact in all these crises has been that diplomacy was able in the last resort to keep the peace.

The first of these crises occurred in 1875 when Bismarck, alarmed by French military reorganization, desired to crush the republic once and for all time. But the firm attitude of Russia and Great Britain stood in his way and Emperor William did not favor the Iron Chancellor's plans of aggression.

Another grave crisis over the Fashoda affair in Africa almost precipitated war between Great Britain and France and the delivery of an ultimatum by the former power was narrowly averted. Another dangerous affair was the firing on British fishermen's boats by the Russian fleet off the north coast of England. It was a case of pure stupidity and fright on the part of the Russians, but the attack was so unprovoked that it caused a storm of indignation in the United Kingdom. French diplomacy intervened in time to produce a saner frame of mind.

These are a few of the instances occurring in the last 35 years where Europe was on the brink of war. Diplomacy was able in all these cases to bring about a peaceful solution, but the game is dangerous and at any time a spark may set fire to the magazine. As long as the matter is left to diplomacy the danger need not be regarded as serious, but it is incidental to this process that appeals to popular passion in the jingo press create a state of mind among the people that may easily result in an explosion.

The present dispute between France and Germany can readily be adjusted by a division of the spoil and this is what will probably happen if a chapter of accidents does not break in to make trouble.

Secretary Fisher, returning from his journey of exploration and investigation in Alaska, told the people of Seattle something concerning the plans that he will recommend to congress for legislation designed to develop the resources of that region.

Among other things Mr. Fisher intimated that he did not find Controller Bay to be particularly desirable as a harbor, and he asserted that there were other and much superior shipping points for the Bering river coal beds. It is clear that no monopoly of water frontage has been created.

With regard to the development of the coal measures Mr. Fisher did not commit himself definitely, except in positive disapproval of the former plan of exclusive private ownership. Mr. Fisher is quoted: "The first solution proposed is unrestricted private ownership. I shall waste no time on this remedy. The hands of the clock do not turn back. The day for such ownership is gone. Second, leasing the coal lands. This remedy deserves consideration because it has the approval of the president."

Doubtless, if congress can spare the time from making politics, the question will be settled shortly on either the leasing plan or by the enforcement of a royalty on coal production. The exploitation interests have by this time come to realize that the ancient plan of exclusive private ownership will no longer be tolerated. President Schurman of Cornell university, who may be taken to represent the sense of that element, said recently as the result of a visit to Alaska that "development should be under the control of the government and I would advocate that for every ton of coal mined the government receive a royalty."

This utterance represents a very different frame of mind from that which was wont to actuate the force of exploitation. It shows what progress the conservation idea has made in the last five years.

HIGHER STANDARD OF LIVING IN PARIS

The association of general statistics in France recently has published a volume on the cost of living in Paris. The working classes as well as the middle classes have not been faced with any sensible increase in the cost of food during the last 40 years. But new necessities and the desire for increased comfort and luxury, have raised the standard of living in Paris as well as in London, while taxation has increased. The price of bread and meat is higher in Paris than in London, and this is due to the import duty on wheat, which increased the price of bread except in years of bountiful harvest and to the prohibition of the entry of dead meat, which is justified on sanitary grounds, but which is really a protective measure. On the other hand the price of sugar, owing to our signing the Brussels convention, has materially decreased. Sugar is a food of the first class and if the duty has decreased, the amount of sugar available for France is much greater, so that the price is considerably lower. This has given an impetus to the various industries which use sugar as a raw material, and for the first time France has taken her place among the jam producing countries. The price of wine also has diminished owing to over production and while the South of France has suffered Paris has gained. There has no doubt been a gradual rise in rent and the working classes of Paris have to pay more for lodging in proportion to the protective taxes on the raw material of the building trade) than our working classes. But on the whole it is reassuring to learn that the cost of living in itself has not risen to any appreciable extent in Paris. Indeed, it is likely to decrease in the near future, owing to the general movement against tariffs. At the same time these statistics make it abundantly clear that the English workingman, both in the cost of food and necessities generally, is much better off than his contemporary in France. This, no doubt, is due to free trade.—London Exchange.

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Abe Martin



When a new trimmer comes 't' town 'th' commotion is all among 'th' boys. Some girls are born with big feet an' others wear white shoes.