

STEDMAN'S LOST BOOK.

How the Post-Banker Paid For an Outburst of Temper. Edmund Clarence Stedman, the poet-banker, had a high temper and was exceedingly sensitive. One day, exasperated by the crass stupidity of a servant, he threw a book at his head. The book, which was a book of hymns, sailed out of the window. After it hurried the man, but he was too late; a passerby had picked it up and walked off with it. Stedman began to wonder what book he had thrown away and when he discovered that it was a quaint and rare little volume for which he had paid \$50. His chagrin was intense, as the work was almost unique and the prospect of replacing it was remote. Some time afterward when browsing in a second hand bookshop, his spleenetic poet-banker perceived to his great delight a copy of the very book he had lost. He asked the price. "It's very rare," replied the dealer, "but as you are an old customer I'll let you have it for \$40. Nobody else could have it for less than \$60." Stedman gladly paid the \$40, got home with his treasure as soon as possible and set down to gloat over it. A card dropped out of the leaves. It was his own. Further examination showed that he had bought back his own property. It cured him of casting books at servants' heads.—New York Press.

THREE DEADLY AGENTS.

Peculiar Properties of a Spider, a Grain and a Vine. What is the most terrible form in which death comes? Here are three, but which one of them is the worst it is hard to say. In Peru and parts of South Australia there is found a small spider about half as big as a pea. When this insect digs its fangs into its victim it inserts a poison which begins at once to act. It scorches up the blood vessels and spreads through the tissue, causing most dreadful agony. The worst part of it is that the victim usually suffers for two days, but death in the end is inevitable. Another fearful death results from eating "bhat," a vegetable which grows in the east, of which a few grains cause violent mania, ending in death. "Bhat" occasionally grows in among the rice crop, from which it is hard to distinguish until dry, when the poisonous grain is of a brick red color. There is a South American vine called the "knotter," which grips any living thing coming in contact with it. Its tentacles twine round the object seized, searing and burning the flesh like red-hot wires. Then the prey is drawn into the heart of the foliage and there crushed to death. The method is too horrible to describe in detail.—Pearson's Weekly.

A Sporting Judge.

After Baron Martin, who possessed a great horror of sporting "prophecs," had become partially deaf he was on one occasion trying a racing case, an exercise of his functions he reveled in. One of the counsel engaged in it was named Stammers, a solemn, formal, sententious personage, who seldom made a speech without quoting passages from Scripture. In addressing the jury he was about to pursue his old habit and got as far as "As the prophet says" when the judge interrupted: "Don't trouble the jury, Mr. Stammers, about the prophecs. There is not one of them who would not sell his father's sippet worth of halpence." "But, my lord," said Stammers in a subdued tone, "I was about to quote from the Prophet Jeremiah." "Don't tell me," replied the baron. "I have no doubt your friend Mr. Myer is just as bad as the rest of them."—London Graphic.

LIBRARY THIEVES.

Assorted into Four Classes by a Library Official. "Library thieves fall into four classes," said the librarian. "The first and most numerous is the umbrella class, gender, I regret to admit, feminine. "This lady lounges about your library with an unrolled umbrella in her hand. If she sees a book she wants, a magazine or a newspaper, pop it goes into the umbrella's capacious folds. Her type is well known. Never carry an unrolled umbrella into a library if you would escape the surveillance of the watchmen and attendants. "The second class—male—steals weeklies. This daring thief rolls a weekly into a cylinder, slips his hand through it and works it up his sleeve. Fancy running such risks for a five or ten cent weekly! "A rare genus, feminine again, is the partitive or installment thief, who steals a book a few pages at a time. Through this genus is known to librarians, I have met with two specimens in ten years. One stole a Hamlet and the other an H. A. Vachell volume in installments. Both were more or less daff. "The most numerous class of all is the open, daring one. These people bluff. They walk out with a stolen book or paper under their arms as if it were their own. And hang it, they escape, too, if they are careful that our label doesn't show. "Our percentage of thefts? Well, we count to have about two books in every hundred stolen."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

A BORN TRADER.

He Was a Bit Unlucky, but Then He Had No Dull Times. "One hundred dollars seems an awful high price to pay for a typewriter machine," said Mr. Jettinson, who had just bought one. "It may seem so to you," answered his friend, Mr. Hankinson, "but I have one at my house that cost me \$750, and I don't suppose it's half as good as yours." "You needn't tell me such a—" "It's a fact," broke in the other. "Why, how in the world?" "Well, I'll tell you. A year and a half ago I bought an automobile for \$600. After I had paid \$150 for repairs, storage, fines and other expenses connected with it I traded it for a suburban lot. "The lot proved to be in the middle of a swamp, and when a real estate man offered me a horse and buggy for it I took him up. "The horse ran away one day and smashed the buggy into kindling wood. I traded the horse for a gold watch. "The watch wouldn't keep good time, and I swapped it for a bicycle. One day I fell from the bicycle and put a finger out of joint. Then I exchanged the machine for a second-hand typewriter. "I see." "And I've no use for the typewriter. Do you know of anybody that would give me a good dog for it?"—Youth's Companion.

FIXED THE PIANO.

An Unmusical Variation in One of Gottschalk's Concerts. Gottschalk, the pianist, was noted for his enormous physical strength almost as much as for his brilliance as a pianist. On one occasion he gave a practical illustration of his strength which, while it did not display his disposition in the most amiable light, undoubtedly afforded him much satisfaction. He was in concert playing on a piano that was built on a new model, one of the peculiarities of which was that the lip of the keyboard cover projected farther over the keys than in most pianos when the instrument was open for playing. Gottschalk, who was accustomed to throw up his hand to a considerable height during the performance of brilliant passages and was unused to this new form of keyboard, constantly hit his knuckles against the projecting lip. This repeated rapping of his knuckles at last began to have an irritating effect on him, as the audience could plainly see. Suddenly after a particularly hard rap he stopped short in the middle of his selection, wrenched the offending cover out of the instrument by main force and hurled it across the platform with great violence. Then, with a smile of the greatest satisfaction, he reseated himself at the piano and continued his playing.—Chicago Record-Herald.

CIRCUS RIDERS.

They Were Kings of the Show in the Old One Ring Days. Riders at one time were the chief attraction of the circus and were billed as we now bill our "death defying acts." In the old one ring days the whole performance was practically divided between the rider and the clown. When the rider was not riding the clown had the ring all to himself, even the band ceasing to play until the clown sang or got off his jokes, after which the rider resumed the performance. All riders in those days were champions in the show printing, writes Tody Hamilton in the Washington Star. When the late James A. Bailey made his tour of Australia he had Jim Robinson, the great rider, at \$500 a week, payable in gold. The showman became sick of his bargain and tried to scare Robinson out of it by dwelling on the unhealthfulness of the climate. He told Robinson that it was very risky; that few people could stand it. But Robinson was wise and wouldn't scare and insisted on the terms of the contract. It used to make Bailey turn cold to approach Robinson on the long voyage \$500 in gold coin the same as if the rider were at work, but Jim held Bailey to his contract. No rider before or since has ever received such a salary.

Fasting as a Sacrifice.

The origin of the religious practice of fasting is very obscure. Herbert Spencer collected a considerable body of evidence to show that fasting may have arisen out of a custom among savage peoples of providing refreshments for the dead. These offerings are often made in a lavish manner as necessarily to favor the survivors in temporary starvation, and it is no uncommon thing for a man to ruin himself by a funeral feast. It is suggested that the fasting which was at first the inevitable result of such sacrifice on behalf of the dead may eventually have come to be regarded as an indispensable part of all sacrifice and so have survived as an established usage long after the original cause had ceased to operate.—New York American.

Where Politeness Doesn't Pay.

"French and German hats," said a hatter, "only last half as long as ours. It isn't the poor quality of the hats, but the fine quality of the manners, that causes this. Lifting the hat in salutation is the hardest work that falls on the headpiece, and the French and Germans lift it to men and women equally, thus giving it twice as much labor as we do. Naturally, then, it wears out twice as quickly. It goes in the bin in no time over the water."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

But Yet a Man.

"I suppose I have about the most thoughtful, kind and considerate husband in the world," she was saying sadly. "When he comes home at about 2 of the morning, turns all the lights on and wakes me out of a sound sleep, he always says in the most polite way imaginable: "Don't let me disturb you, dear. But will you please help me unfasten this collar button?"—New York Press.

Different Now.

"It's funny how marriage will change a man," said Flogg the other day. "The Mouser, for example. Before he was married a glance of May Taintor would intoxicate him, so he used to say. Now when he comes home late at night and meets Mrs. Mouser, nee Taintor, the sight of her actually sobers him."—Boston Transcript.

Never Worked Before.

Mrs. Jones—Your husband looks completely tired out, poor man! Mrs. Smith—So he is, my dear. He has never done any work in his life before. You know he always had a government job.—Punny Cuts.

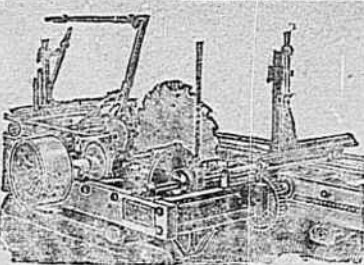
A Popular Book.

She—What would be the most appropriate book to give a bride? He—A bank book.—Illustrated Bits.

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THE JEWISH BADGE.

Distinguishing Mark That Was Required by European Countries. To the Jews of today it is fairly well known that their ancestors in Europe were forced to put up with a great deal of humiliation. One of the most insulting methods was to require the wearing of a badge which would stamp the wearer as an "infidel Jew." The wearing of a badge was made a general order throughout Christendom in the year 1215, but it must have been required in isolated places before that date. The most usual form of badge was that of a ring of distinctive color attached to the upper garment. Any one of French-Jewish ancestry will know that his forbears wore a ring of this sort, varying in size and in color—now red, now yellow and white, according to the whims of municipalities and monarchs. It was generally worn upon the breast, and at one time it was ordered to be worn likewise upon the back, so that a Jew might be known "fore and aft." When a Jew was found without the badge, he was fined. Evidence of the wearing of this badge is found as late as 1592 in France. The forefathers of the Spanish Jews carried a yellow and red badge—the men on their breasts, the women on their foreheads. The wearing of the badge was not so prevalent in Italy, but the municipalities almost all required it. The badge was known as the "co" from its shape, resembling probably the ring in France. English Jews should feel the distinction of having had a peculiar sort of badge forced upon their ancestors. It was first in the form of a band, first white and then yellow, and later Jews were required to wear a badge with the shape of the tables of the law. In Germany yellow badges were worn, but here the hat was the chief means of identification. In Austria and in Poland there are few traces of the badge, but in Hungary Jews wore a badge on their hats. It is interesting to know that in Crete at the present day some houses of Jews are marked with the "co"—American Hebrew.



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Election Notice. There will be an election held in the court house in the town of Edgfield, S. C., on Tuesday, April 14th, 1908, for the purpose of electing a mayor and six aldermen, to serve the town of Edgfield, S. C., for the next ensuing two years. Polls open from 8 o'clock, a. m. to 4 o'clock, p. m. Managers, C. P. DeVore, E. J. Norris and J. P. Bates. W. W. Adams, Mayor, W. H. Harling, Clerk. Edgfield, S. C., March 9, 1908.

Insurance. I represent the following American Fire Insurance Companies in territory 30 from Edgfield in all directions: Aetna \$14,884,569.00 Continental \$16,399,452.00 Hartford \$18,920,604.00 Home \$20,862,697.00 Phenix \$ 8,719,795.00 Total assets \$79,787,117.00 I ask for a continuation of the appreciated business given me. E. J. NORRIS.

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THE I.H.C. ENGINE RUNS LIKE A TOP. I. H. C. engines are so practical and so simple that when you start them they run until you stop them whether you are watching or not. Never out of repair, don't waste fuel. Call on us and we will gladly explain the good points of the I. H. C. engine. E. J. Norris,

Large stock of mattings in many beautiful patterns. A small sum invested in pretty matting will add to the beauty and comfort of home. Ramsey & Jones.

Spring Season. My fine black stallion, MONTE CARLO, will stand at the stables in the rear of the court house during the spring season. He comes from the best Kentucky stock. His sire, Monte Christo, Jr., was a noted saddle and combination horse. He took hundreds of Blue Ribbons at Kentucky fairs, winning a \$1,000 cup at the Richmond fair. Standard bred on his dam side, with best records. This is Monte Carlo's third season in Edgfield and he is well known here. Breeders can see him in harness at any time. J. E. MIMS.

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ERENCH COACP STALLION. The Celebrated French Coach Stallion, CALEMBOUR, will make the Spring Season at Edgfield at the stables of Messrs. B. L. Jones & Son. The French Coach Horses are in the front rank of excellence among the carriage breeds of the world. Call and inspect this celebrated horse. Edgfield French Coach Horse Co. J. P. Nixon, Sec. and Treas. Clark's Hill, S. C.

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