

Humorous Department.

Didn't Understand Him.

There was a circus in a Missouri river town, and a drummer, who was in a town four miles further down the river, wanted to get to it. The steamer boat had left and there was no rig to be had. The drummer went to the river and found a negro sitting in a skiff. "That your boat?" he asked the negro. "Yassir."

"Want to rent it?" "Yassir." "How much for the afternoon?" "I want to go up to the circus." "But you got to be here." "What's that?" "Can you row?" "No, sassa. Deed, I can't do nuffin lak dat, boss."

"Well, dodgast you, get in the stern there. You can do that, can't you?" "Yassir."

The drummer took the oars, and after he had rowed about two miles against current was tucked out. He threw down the oars and said: "I can't pull this boat another inch. I don't care if I never get to that circus. You're a fine boatman not to be able to row."

The negro looked at the drummer with quickening intelligence. "Does you mean you wanted me to pull dem oars, boss?"

"Sure I do. I asked you if you could row and you said you couldn't."

"Deed, boss," said the negro, "I thought you done it me could I row like a lion."—Philadelphia Record.

Quite Harmless—Senator James B. Frazier, at a banquet in Chattanooga, said of a certain lawsuit:

"The discussion was misunderstood. Harmless, it gave an impression of harm. It reminds me of Mountain View Beach."

"A young matron, her unmarried sister and her little daughter sat at one side of the long table at a Mountain View hotel, and opposite them sat a meek young minister that the child, for some unknown reason, greatly feared."

"One evening the young mother wanted to go to the beach to see some fireworks with her sister, but the little girl refused to be left alone. She screamed and wept. So it was decided to frighten her into submission by means of a trick."

"For this purpose the young sister slipped out there came and knocked at the bedroom door, and said in a ferocious bass voice: "What's the matter in there?"

"The child stopped crying and looked frightened. Her mother said: "Hush. That's the parson. Now will you go to sleep?"

"This trick succeeded. Mother and sister got off to the fireworks. Every thing seemed well."

"But at dinner the next day, during silence that had fallen on the long table, the little girl looked over at the young minister and said tauntingly in her shrill, loud voice: "Ah, you knocked at mother's door last night and she wouldn't let you in!"—Detroit Free Press.

His Receipt.

A southern banker recently told the following about his 8-year-old son: The boy had been invited to spend a week with some little friends in the country. "Stay and keep me company, Jack," said his mother. "Father goes traveling this week, and I shall be all alone. Here is a \$5 bill for you instead of the visit."

Jack promptly closed with the offer, and the banker as promptly borrowed the \$5 at current interest, thereby keeping, as he observed when telling the story, both the boy and the money in the family. Some two months later Jack wanted to recall the loan.

"What \$5 do you mean?" asked the banker. "Why, the \$5 I gave you."

"I haven't any \$5."

"But I gave it to you. Mother, didn't I give him \$5? You saw me."

"I certainly did," she replied. "Where's your receipt, then?" demanded his father. "Do you mean to say you've been lending money without getting black and white to show for it?"

"Mamma," said the boy, appealing to his nurse, "didn't I give papa \$5?" "You pob' little lamb!" indignantly exclaimed the old woman. "Co'se you done gib it to him, honey."

Miscellaneous Reading.

THE COUNTRY EDITOR.

Interesting Appreciation By the Late John A. Johnson. Some time ago, Gov. John A. Johnson of Minnesota, news of whose sad death reaches us just as we are going to press, prepared an article for the "Youth" Companion on "The Country Editor," and it appeared in the issue of September 9, of that paper. He had written out of the practical experience of his own life, having been editor for years of a weekly paper at St. Peter, Minn. He says:

If I were asked the main point of difference between the rural and the urban editor, I should say it is largely a matter of personality. In the one case the personality is the chief asset; in the other it is no longer appreciable. Few of the great city newspapers print the names of their editors, and often no one knows their guiding spirits. The editorial page is regarded as the expression of the paper, not as the conviction of a person.

Almost unconsciously the great newspapers have undergone a process of elimination of the individual. As a whole they have not deteriorated in literary quality; on the contrary, we have better newspapers. The editorials are just as sound and the news features just as interesting—but the man behind is no longer visible. In the country the editor lives "near to nature's heart." He is part and parcel of the community life. Everybody knows him. When he chronicles the arrival of the "marching boys," or when he extends condolences to "the bereaved family," those interested feel the gentle touch of a friendly hand. He records triumphs and successes in the spirit of participation; his chronicle of vicissitudes and struggles and sorrows has the element of personal sympathy.

In its general aspect the country town is not different from the large city. Here there are the same divisions and strata of society, the same social and political problems; the same surges of ambition; the same world-wide combat of greed and power with civility and self-restraint. But in the country town a common bond of sympathy runs through all the elements of social life. In the last analysis the newspaper is a mirror, reflecting the hopes and aspirations, the trials and tribulations of the community it serves. The country community is sound in its outlook, the intimacy, and for that reason the attitude of its newspapers is necessarily more provincial and paternal.

No Mystery About Him. The environment and the duties of the country editor tend to make him a fair critic and safe judge of men and measures, for the nature of his work accustoms him to weigh opinions in the even balance. Unlike the lawyer, always a special pleader, or other professional men confined by a narrow outlook on a single phase of life, the editor is the impartial recorder and reviewer, seeking the truth.

The lawyer has an easy road to fame compared with that of the editor. As ex-President Cleveland set forth in his last article in the Companion, there is an air of mystery surrounding the intricacies of the law. The exigencies of the profession required the lawyer to be a ready and fluent speaker, and this power is an aid to prominence in public affairs. There is nothing mysterious about the country editor—unless it be the source of his income! The school teacher, the minister, the young college graduate, and numerous other people about the town know, or think they know, how to run a newspaper better than does the editor. He is not always given the opportunity for training as a public speaker, and the nature of his work in a measure unfits him for quick thinking and clear expression before people. His composition is of slower process and is done in the quiet of the sanctum, where only the rhythmic throb of the presses and the gentle click of the type are heard.

But the influence of the writer is more lasting than that of the orator, and even for temporary purposes is often as great. The degree of success in either case is, of course, largely a matter of ability, but frequently when a community itself is in position to confer the mark of greatness upon one of its number, it will lay the laurel crown at the feet of the editor—provided the lawyers; all busy, or do not happen to be looking when the call comes.

Then, too, the lawyer has the advantage of a professional training, which seldom is vouchsafed to the editor. There is no school for country journalism, and the editor usually acquires his knowledge and experience in the hard school of the country printing office, advancing to the successive stages of the work as ability and opportunity allow.

But, after all, prominence and applause are not always a just measure of the success which men attain; there are victories along "the cool sequestered vale" no less important than the victories achieved in "the maddening crowd's ignominious strife."

Although the average editor is prone to regard himself in the light of "a mute, inglorious Milton," the profession has contributed very largely to public life. It has often been said that Minnesota is governed by the country editor. This may not be strictly true, but certainly the "fourth estate" is more numerously represented there in public places than in any other commonwealth.

A State Where Editors Rule! The governor, his private secretary and executive clerk are country newspaper men; so are the labor commissioner, the executive agent of the game and fish commission, the state oil inspector, the state librarian, the secretary and assistant secretary of state, the assistant labor commissioner, the state fire warden, the assistant fire marshal, the deputy public examiner, the secretary of the dairy and food commission, the assistant clerk of the supreme court, the secretary of the board of control.

Both political parties have recognized the capability of the country editor for official position from the earliest history of the state, and he has always been an active force in legislative councils and in the minor places under the national and state governments.

Then, too, there is glory enough in just being an editor. What young journalist has not held up to his flushed and eager eye the editorial page of his first issue and gazed proudly upon the name next preceding the words, "editor and proprietor?"

When the years roll by, and the struggles of adversity are not always

Selected Poetry.

WHEN OLD AGE COMES.

If God grant me old age, I would see some things finished; some outdoors; some indoors; some prepared for builders. Nor would I be the aged, weary sage, Who sees no strange new wonder in each new dawn.

And with me there on what men call the shelf, Crowd memories from which I cull my life. And live old strifes, old kisses, some old jest.

For if I be no burden to myself I shall be less a burden to the rest. If God grant you old age, I'll love the record writ in whitened hair. I'll note each wrinkle wrought by patient care.

As oft as one would scan a treasured page, Knowing by heart each sentence given there, I'd have you know life's evil and life's good. And gaze out calmly, sweetly on it all. Serene with hope, whatever may befall.

As though a love-strange spirit ever stood With arm about you, waiting any word. If God grant us old age, Letting our waning senses first grow dim, Toward such things youthful zealots can engage.

While we hug closer all the good we find, I'd have us worldly foolish, heaven-wise, Each standing each frail succor to withstand. Ungrudging, every mortal day's delight, While life's loved lovers gaze in our old eyes.

And go forth bold and glad and glad in hand.—Burgess Johnson, in Harper's.

BIG JOB FOR FREEMASONS.

The suggestion to rebuild Solomon's Temple. The suggestion coming not long ago from Boston, that the Freemasons of the world should unite in rebuilding the Temple of Solomon at Jerusalem, moves whether the originators of the scheme have counted the cost.

Of course the interest of the Masons is due to the belief that their order was founded by King Solomon and that he was its first Grand Master. But that claim would perhaps not seem very weighty to the Moslems, to whom the site of the great temple now belongs.

It is now occupied by the Haram-El-Sherief, "the noble sanctuary." To the Moslem this place is only less sacred than Mecca and Medina, for it is believed to hold the bones of him regarded by them as the centre of the earth, the spot from which Mahomet started when he visited Heaven.

Aside from the difficulty of persuading the Moslem world to yield one of its most sacred spots to the Boston Freemasons, there would seem to be something too stupendous even for a man of audacity in the idea of building another Solomon's temple. Just by way of showing what the suggestion involves, it may be remarked that Solomon had 30,000 men out cutting timber for his new church.

They were divided into three shifts. Ten thousand went to Mount Lebanon for one month and were two months at home. There were 70,000 men who carried the stones and there were 80,000 stone cutters in the mountains. These men had 3,000 foremen. Stonecutters quarried enormous blocks, several cubits each way, for the foundations, and fitted them together before they were taken to Jerusalem.

In this work they were aided by workmen sent by Hiram, King of Tyre. The Temple was divided into two portions—the main building, "the House of God," and the subsidiary buildings by which it was surrounded. The main building was rectangular in shape—60 cubits long, 20 cubits broad and 30 cubits high; taking the cubit at 18 inches, 90 feet, 30 feet and 45 feet respectively. The walls of the first story were between 9 and 10 feet thick; those of the second 7 1/2 feet, and those of the third 7 1/2 feet and of the fourth 7 1/2 feet.

On three sides, north, west and south, the Temple was surrounded by a side building in three stories containing side chambers. The height of each story from floor to ceiling was 7 1/2 feet. The number of side chambers is given by Ezekiel as 30 or 33 for each story. They were small, used for the storage of Temple furniture, etc. The Temple was surrounded by a court, the inner court. This was surrounded by a wall of hewn stone courses of cedar beams. The entire citadel was enclosed by the great court. In front of the Temple stood the two pillars made by Hiram of Tyre and called Jachin (meaning "to establish") and Boaz ("in strength"). They were about 35 feet high, hollow and of brass four fingers thick.

Round about them was network interwoven with small palms made of brass, to which were attached 300 golden bells. They were made hollow that they might be used as receptacles for documents, etc. Such columns were quite common in the temples of Baal.

Near the columns was the Molten Sea, so named on account of its size. It was 15 feet in diameter and just half as high. It was said to have been capable of containing 2,000 "baths" or 16,000 gallons. It was made of brass or copper captured by David from Tibhath and Chun, cities of Hadarazur, King of Zohab. The brim was wrought "like the brim of a cup with flowers of lilies"; that is, curved outward like a lily or a lotus flower. It stood on twelve oxen over life sized, three turned to each corner of the heavens and all looking outward. It was a hand breadth thick, about four inches. How the "sea" was filled or emptied is not stated.

There were ten lavers, quadrangular in shape, supported on wheeled wagons 6 feet long, 6 broad and 4 1/2 high. The lavers were used for the water with which the entrails of the beasts used for burnt offerings were cleaned, and also their feet. The lavers on the wagons came nearly up to the level of the great brazen altar. In the foreground—due east from the temple entrance—stood the great altar of burnt offerings. It was made of brass, was 30 feet long, 30 feet broad and 15 feet high. To the service of the altar belonged a great many utensils of brass. It is stated in Chronicles that the whole temple was overlaid with gold. The quantity of gold for the most holy house—the oracle—was 600 talents. If the same system was adopted in the outer part 2,700 talents must have been required. It is difficult to estimate the value of the gold, for the Babylonian gold talent was worth \$6,150 if "heavy," and \$3,075 if "light." If "heavy," the gold used in the oracle was worth \$3,690,000; and that in the other part of the temple, \$15,695,630. The value of the whole of the gold used in the temple, the thickness of the gold on the wainscoting, and the value of the precious stones used are unknown.

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Australian Dingos.

Treacherous and Destructive Animals That Can Feign Death.

There are some who believe, though the evidence seems against them, that certain wild dogs, like the Australian dingo—"yellow dog dingo, always hungry, dusty in the sun"—are reversionaries to the wild state of a race once tame, just as the pariah dogs of various countries have traveled half the globe toward becoming wild animals again.

As one sees the dingo here in the gardens it looks not merely like a domesticated dog, but like a dog of a distinctly engaging and amicable kind. The dingo's character betrays its gentle looks. "Quarrelsome, sly and treacherous," an Australian naturalist has called it. So sly is it that, according to Mr. Beppard, in "The Cambridge Natural History," it feigns death "with such persistence that an individual has been known to partly feign before moving" and so treacherous that in the days when dogs were more commonly kept as pets by the colonists than, as a result of bitter experience, is the case today it was not unusual brought up with every tenderness from puppyhood to turn suddenly on its master or mistress, or what was more frequent, when left in temporary charge of an empty house to seize the opportunity to raid the sheepfold or the poultry runs.

On such occasions it "ravens" even as the wolf, killing not to satisfy its hunger, but in the unrestrainable fury of a brute instinct, so that, given time enough, it will not leave one fowl or one sheep alive. That it does not need much time, moreover, is shown by the statement of Thomas Ward that "one dingo in the course of a few hours has been known to destroy several scores of sheep." For its fighting ability the same authority declares it to be a match for most domestic dogs of double its size.

When wild it hunts in packs, which are said sometimes to include as many as a hundred individuals, though from six to a dozen is the common number, and the only Australian animal which it is uncertain if the pack can ever let down is (in spite of Mr. Kipling) the "old man" kangaroo—London Times.

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MONEY THAT'S LEGAL TENDER.

Paying Debts With Certificates—Greenbacks and Foreign Coins.

Officially, there are just ten kinds of money in circulation in the United States. Do you know which of those are legal tender and in what amount? It may be that "all money looks alike" to you, but there's a difference, and below is the list: Gold coins, standard silver dollars, subsidiary silver, gold certificates, silver certificates, treasury notes (1890), United States notes (greenbacks), national bank notes, nickel coins, and bronze coins.

Looking upon this formidable classification of United States money as given by the treasury department, it becomes more formidable when it is considered from the highly technical point of view as a legal tender. Some of the most imposing of this paper currency is not a legal tender at all, while as to the minor coins they are legal tender in such small amounts as to startle the average layman. It may be well to recall to this layman that the term "legal tender" owes its significance to the fact that in payment of debt or obligation of any kind it can be forced upon the creditor "in full" of the demand.

Gold certificates, silver certificates and national bank notes, of which such enormous numbers circulate everywhere, are not legal tender. If you have plenty of money, and if you have forced Jones to sue you in order to get judgment, Jones can turn down every one of these bills tendered in payment and force you to dig up something better.

Should Jones do such a thing, you might conceive the idea of fixing him up with a whole lot of silver coins upon him. But you want to know what you're doing there, too, for he'll take only \$10 worth of halves, quarters and dimes, while as to nickels and copper cents, only 25 cents value is legal tender.

But as to the standard silver dollar, there's no limit upon your shovelling them out to Jones. This old "dollar of our dads," still is the real thing in all business transactions unless some other contract has provided otherwise. Jones may refuse the silver certificates, but when you dig up in metal dollar, they go unquestioned at their face value. And 1,000 of them weigh 58.22 pounds.

Treasury notes of the act of 1890 are legal tender to their face value in payment of all debts, public and private, unless expressly stipulated in the contract.

Strictly speaking, the United States notes or greenbacks are legal tender, with the exception of duties on imports and interest on the public debt. Practically, however, since the resumption of specie payment in 1875, greenbacks have been received freely and without question by the government, though the law respecting them hasn't been changed.

While the gold and silver certificates are not legal tender as between individuals, both issues are receivable for all government dues of whatever kind, in this respect legally more acceptable than is the greenback.

National bank notes, while not legal tender and not receivable for duties on imports, still may be paid by the government for salaries and all debts of the government except interest dues and in redemption of the national currency.

By special enactment no foreign coin of any kind or denomination is legal tender in transactions with the United States, so that if sometimes the street car conductor does balk at the chance Canadian dime fished from your pocket, keep cool and dig for something that is United States—Chicago Tribune.

Largest Animal in the World.

According to the London Globe, what is claimed as the largest animal in the world is represented by a colossal skeleton in the museum of Christ Church, New Zealand. This is the remains of a large, specimen of the blue whale stranded on the coast of that country. This whale is probably the largest of all living animals. The length of the skeleton is 87 feet, and the head alone is 21 feet. The weight of the bones is estimated at nine tons. This gigantic whale gets its name from blue whale from the dark bluish gray of its upper surface. The tinge of yellow on its lower part has led to the name "sulphur bottom," by which it is known on the western side of the Atlantic. It is otherwise known as Sibbald's roqual (Balenoptera sibbaldii).

The chief food of this gigantic animal is a small marine crustacean (Thysanopoda inermis), known to the whalers as "krill." Another species of the same shrimplike group has been obtained in thousands from the stomachs of mackerel caught on the Cornish coast. The nearly related "possum shrimps" found in enormous numbers in the Greenland seas form the chief food of the common whale. Some of the thysanopoda are phosphorescent and contribute to the luminosity of the sea.

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But as to the standard silver dollar, there's no limit upon your shovelling them out to Jones. This old "dollar of our dads," still is the real thing in all business transactions unless some other contract has provided otherwise. Jones may refuse the silver certificates, but when you dig up in metal dollar, they go unquestioned at their face value. And 1,000 of them weigh 58.22 pounds.

Treasury notes of the act of 1890 are legal tender to their face value in payment of all debts, public and private, unless expressly stipulated in the contract.

Strictly speaking, the United States notes or greenbacks are legal tender, with the exception of duties on imports and interest on the public debt. Practically, however, since the resumption of specie payment in 1875, greenbacks have been received freely and without question by the government, though the law respecting them hasn't been changed.

While the gold and silver certificates are not legal tender as between individuals, both issues are receivable for all government dues of whatever kind, in this respect legally more acceptable than is the greenback.

National bank notes, while not legal tender and not receivable for duties on imports, still may be paid by the government for salaries and all debts of the government except interest dues and in redemption of the national currency.

By special enactment no foreign coin of any kind or denomination is legal tender in transactions with the United States, so that if sometimes the street car conductor does balk at the chance Canadian dime fished from your pocket, keep cool and dig for something that is United