

Humorous Department.

Free At Last.—It is the custom among some of the New York theatrical managers occasionally to entertain the members of the local ball teams from the high grassed Giants one day and that night with his new teammates to a play as guests of the management.

Groundless Fears.—Senator LaFollette, discussing reciprocity at a dinner in Madison, said with a smile: "These fears are groundless. They are groundless to the point of being ludicrous. They remind me in fact, of Calhoun Clay."

Perfect Titles.—Franklin P. Adams, the New York Mail's paragrapher, has a fad. He collects appropriate names. He thought he had reached the ultimate limit when he heard that Constant Agency was a woodchopper in Clinton county, New York, who suffered from chronic rheumatism and had fourteen children; and that Judge Rainey Wells, living near Coldwater, Gallows county, Kentucky, was a leader of the Prohibition forces in the blue-grass state.

His Reason.—A banker in central Kentucky was in the habit of wearing his hat a good deal during business hours as in summer the flies used his bald pate for a parade ground, and in winter the cold breezes swept over its polished surface. A negro workman on the railroad each week presented a check and drew his wages, and one day as he put his money in a greasy wallet, the banker said:

Not Easily Stumped.—When the Reverend John McNeil was holding revival services at Cardiff a young man one night, thinking to perplex the preacher, sent up a note to the platform with the request that the following question might be publicly answered:

Seasonable Hints.—Frosted ears should be rubbed with snow until the circulation returns. A newspaper folded into an oblong shape and thrust under the back of the vest makes a good substitute for an overcoat.

Carried Too Far.—He had an invariable way of asking the wrong question or making the wrong comment. So it was, when at a dinner party his neighbor, a lady, said to him: "I am a thorough believer, you know, Mr. Smith, that men's clothes should match their hair; a black-haired man should wear black clothes, a brown-haired man should wear brown clothes. Don't you think so?"

Home Industry.—The retired coal dealer was selecting his library. "Will you please those books bound in Russia or Morocco, sir?" asked the dealer.

Had Been Both.—A clergyman who advertised for an organist received this reply: "I notice you have a vacancy for an organist and music teacher, either lad or gentleman. Having been both for several years I beg to apply for the position."

Miscellaneous Reading.

WITH NEIGHBORING EXCHANGES Notes and Comments About Matters of Local Interest. Gastonia Gazette, Sept. 24: Masters Hubert and Harry Huffstetter, Mr. Harry Dickson and Mr. Charles M. Robinson went to Raleigh Sunday morning where they will take the Pasteur treatment as a preventative for possible infection from rabies. They were accompanied by Mrs. L. C. Torrence, grandmother of the Huffstetter boys, who will remain with them during the three weeks they will be in Raleigh for treatment. Mr. Parks Huffstetter who returned to Gastonia yesterday morning. Last Monday one of Mr. Huffstetter's mules, which are housed when not working, in the barn at his home on South York street, began to act strangely. Dr. Parker, the veterinary surgeon, was called in and diagnosed the animal's trouble as rabies. The mule apparently grew worse and on the following day was paralyzed, following which it was killed.

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CAMPING IN THE WILDS.

No Danger From Bees or Reptile if They Are Let Alone. "That wild animals prefer to let man alone if man first lets them alone is the conclusion of two authorities, who have come in personal contact with the denizens of the wild."

It so happened that when Harriet Chalmers Adams, the intrepid explorer of South America, gave an interview a short time ago, Herkimer L. Adams, just a man of the same name and not related to her was passing through New York on his way back to his Arizona mines. It so happened too, that Mrs. Adams' conclusion concerning the fear that wild beasts have of men and the safety of men in their haunts when not meaning to harm the wild creatures, were also Mr. Adams' conclusion, and he desired to give testimony to the same effect.

Harriet Chalmers Adams bases her statement on her own experience rather than upon the records of hunters and the knowledge of writers. Mr. Adams is also guided by his experience in describing the tendencies of the reptiles in the Arizona desert and the mountains of the Rocky Mountains in the early days.

Mr. Adams spent a great many years as a mining prospector before he became a mine owner. This is what he said about his observations in the unpeopled country: "When I went down to Arizona twenty-five years ago I was quite accustomed to the thought that there was no danger to a man anywhere that he was on the ground. I had no apprehension of wild beasts, because I had been sleeping five years in the high places of Colorado, and I had felt perfectly comfortable after the first few months that I slept out in my blankets."

"At first I used to build barricades, sometimes almost a stockade, to protect me over night, when I was on my way back into the hills, but this got to be a grievous burden of labor. After a while I found that I had no fear of any animal, and I had no apprehension of wild beasts, because I had been sleeping five years in the high places of Colorado, and I had felt perfectly comfortable after the first few months that I slept out in my blankets."

"No danger came to me. I used to feel that at times, when I became accustomed to my surroundings, and I have seen the shadow, even the eye, of a bear in the night. I also found evidence of his presence when I awoke in the morning, but I got so that I really felt a sense of security all the time. Naturally, I felt a little uneasy when I felt something was moving in the thicket close to me, and sometimes I got up and moved about, or waited awhile to get an assurance that I was again alone, but in a little while the nervousness would wear off and I would drop peacefully to sleep once more."

"This may sound peculiar, but it was not so. I found that there were those days. All the old prospectors did the same thing and I presume they are all doing it yet in the unbroken wilds. I could not, however, reconcile the thought to reptiles which the feeling with me was, that I expected to see the all-day desert flies on a table."

"I had a sort of friendly feeling for wild animals. I never harmed one as one never attempted to harm me, but I lost my nerve in the presence of rattlesnakes, tarantulas, centipedes, scorpions and Gila monsters. I was certain my life was in my hands, and I had to guard it every minute with those things about."

"When I first started back from the Gila river I kept my eye on the ground and constantly side-stepped. I found out something to 'come round' while I thought that a centipede or a tarantula was lurking behind every stone. I would have been afraid to kick a pebble in my walk, so I carefully chose my steps."

"I was surprised on my first day out not to have caught sight of a living thing, not even a coyote. I felt no greater assurance for that when night came and I built my little fire, preparatory to getting supper and making camp for the night. I thought those poisonous things were surely waiting for me to get settled before coming to the attack. I reasoned that they must lie dormant all day, and that their activity must continue through the night and that hence I would be surrounded by goodness knows what number and how many different kinds. I always had believed, and in fact I had been told that the desert was alive with reptiles, and I thought that I was heaving, braving a great and never-ending peril."

THE BLACK SQUAD.

Grimy Vulcans That Feed the Fires on Ocean Liners. An inferno, all smoke and heat and fire and nakedness, is the stakehold of an ocean liner. As you enter it, picking your way over the burning ashes, the hot blast of the furnace mouth strikes you in the face; it scorches your eyes and sears your lungs with every gasping breath you draw. Your impulse is to turn and fly. Life seems impossible in such an atmosphere.

And yet the inferno hums with life and strenuous, almost savage, industry. Opposite the huge boilers, quivering with suppressed power, like so many chained giants, are the figures of men as if carved in ebony, glistening with the sweat that streams from every pore. They are working furiously with muscles swelling and knotting as if they would burst through their sheath of skin—humans in quick succeeding poses of fierce labor which would delight the eye of the sculptor and baffle his skill.

Gathering up a shoveful of coals, each man propels them with a quick forward thrust of the body into the hot heart of the furnace mouth, and with a dexterous turn of the wrist spreads them evenly over the fire. Then quick as the eye can follow, another shoveful succeeds and another, as if life itself hung on the breathless swiftness of the sequence.

Such is the stakehold in which the vulcans of our mammoth liners and battleships feed the greedy furnaces, which keep the propellers revolving to the tune of twenty knots and more an hour—the men who "black gang" as their grimy bodies, and with a filthy "sweat rag" loosely knotted round their necks, toil thus for four hours at a stretch, until the last "ounce" is taken out of them, and they crawl back to their quarters for a well earned eight hours of rest.

If a fireman faints, overcome by the heat and exhaustion, he is quickly laid aside in some corner, with a little tepid water dashed on his face, and there he lies until he "comes round," while his fellows ply shovel and "slices" (the latter to clear the fire periodically from refuse) with a fiercer energy than before, adding the fallen man's labor to their own. The moment he recovers consciousness he struggles to his feet, seizes the shovel and is at it again. "Go off watch?" Not he! He's as good a man as any, and the fireman never knows when he's beaten.

To call such men heroes is no abuse of an often misunderstood word. They are not only the last word in human grit and pluck—for your fireman is dead rather than give in—they are heroes who face death every time they enter the stakehold, as lightlyheartedly as other men would sit down to their dinners. At any moment a fusible plug may fly, a boiler tube collapse, a gauge glass may splinter, and the captain may have occasion to "regret" that some good man or other has fallen a victim to his duty.

His ship may be sinking, the rushing water swirling knee deep over the plates on which he is standing, but no thought of the boats and an escape to life is for him. He must stick to his post until the last fire is drawn and if he has time to race up the escape ladder to the boat deck well and good. If not—the odds are all against him—he goes down, a "mute, inglorious" hero, to his death. It is all part of the day's work for which he draws his meager pay, with a cheerful acceptance of the

It is estimated that in Japan there are no less than two thousand seven hundred and fifty different species of vegetation. In 1907 there were four thousand six hundred and ninety-one miles of private railway, and three thousand one hundred and sixteen miles of government lines in Japan.

Magnummity goes no account to prudence or its motives. (Accountant.)

Attention, Farmers!

It is now time to prepare your land for Small Grain and Alfalfa. All Experimental Stations recommend Broadcasting with fine Ground Limestone Rock or Basic Slag, and turning it under, harrowing and rolling; then seed it, harrowing in lightly, and you will seldom ever fail to get good results. Alfalfa is now no longer an experiment in this section. We have several customers who have realized from \$75 to \$100 per acre already this year. Try it.

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Everybody in Yorkville is Eligible. Old people stooped with suffering. Middle age, courageously fighting. Youth protesting impatiently; Children, unable to explain; All in misery from their kidneys. Perhaps a little backache first. Urinary disorders, dropsy may quickly follow. Doan's Kidney Pills are for sick kidneys. Are endorsed by thousands. Mrs. L. J. Ramsey, Charlotte, S. C., says: "I had dizzy and nervous spells and my back and head ached. Finally I used Doan's Kidney Pills which I got at the York Store and they made me well. One of my children was unable to control the kidney secretions. Doan's Kidney Pills also brought relief in this case."

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