

### SLANG IN CLASSIC

Pages of Cervantes Full of Colloquialisms.

Variety of Terms by Many Thought to Be Modern Can Be Found in "Don Quixote" and in Rabelais' Works.

"They now spurred on toward the inn, and soon overtook on the road a young fellow, beating it on the hoof pretty leisurely." "No, no, it shall never be said of me, the eaten bread is forgotten, or that I thought it working for a dead horse, because I am paid in advance." Extracts from a recent western novel? By no means; quotations from a world classic written 400 years ago.

In a recent reading of "Don Quixote" I have been struck by the fact that it is a vast storehouse of what we fondly believe to be American slang. And this is not by any twisting of the sense; the terms are used strictly in their modern significance. It is true that I do not read the book in its original tongue, but the translation is that of Peter Anthony Motteux, and was made more than 200 years ago, so that it has a fair degree of antiquity. This Huguenot merchant, who settled in London after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, picked up a remarkable knowledge of homely, idiomatic English, and his language is always racy of the soil.

"Take it from me, you will lose your labor," says the Knight of the Sorrowful (not Rueful or Woeful in Motteux) Countenance to Donna Rodriguez, and this is one of his favorite phrases. "I had a mind to cabbage some of his cloth," confesses the tailor brought before Sancho as governor of his island of Barataria for judgment. When Altisidora sang her mock serenade to the incorruptible and unyielding knight, she declared herself a "virgin pullet," a "tender chicken," and thought that Dulcinea "well may brag of such a kid." "I had not cared a pin though she had died of the pip," was Sancho's philosophy, and he begs his master not to "die merely of the mulligrubs."

The squire complains that he had been "fibroasted by above four hundred Moors," and admitted that it was not for "such scrubs as myself" to be mentioned the same day with knights-errant.

Although by his own admission a mere clown, Sancho says, "I know what's what, and have always taken care of the main chance." He tells his master that the latter "had the wrong sow by the ear," his "belly cries cupboard," he is "cocksure," he believed that the giant in the adventure of the wine skins had "gone to pot," and he reproached the knight for not "going snacks" in his beatings. One of the galley slaves would have gone free for 20 ducats "to have greased the recorder's fist." The don chides his niece that she should "presume to put in her oar and censure the histories of knights-errant."

Motteux finished Sir Thomas Urquhart's partial translation of Rabelais. The Frenchman and the doughty Scottish cavalier had equal knowledge of Anglo-Saxon colloquialisms, and where can one find more racy, pungent, downright English than in these two master translations?—Frank W. Hoyt in New York Evening Post.

#### Flying Fox Australian Pest.

The flying fox has appeared in South Australia as a new fruit pest. Farmers have killed quite a number of these creatures. A correspondent at Port Wakefield writes: "This morning some crows, while marauding amongst the bushes near the rifle target, put up a flying fox, which took a direct course for the river, about a mile distant. The crows followed, but when the fox looped the loop amongst them they quickly flew in another direction. The flying fox appeared to be nearly 3 feet wide across the wings. It had a fair amount of speed on the wing and much resembled a bat. The flying fox, so-called because of its fox-shaped head, has been previously found in other parts of Australia and is sometimes known as the fruit bat."

#### An Everlasting Memorial.

Nature has a great part in this lasting and beautiful memorial, that is to be erected to the local service men in the city of Santa Monica, Cal. It is to be a large open-air theater, and will take the conventional Greek form, with seats arranged in concentric tiers, the orchestral area in the center and pillared stage at the bottom of the slope. As in the conventional theaters of ancient Greece, the site and background will be a beautiful wooded hillside.

The level area in the center will be floored with mosaic stone work. This beautiful tribute to the service men will, no doubt, be the pride of the citizens of this city for many years to come.

#### Division of Income.

"In my opinion," writes a wife, "there is only one satisfactory arrangement which a young couple can make, and that is to take the weekly income and divide it into separate sums, something on the following lines: rent and taxes, charities and church contributions, doctor, dentist, etc., holiday fund and savings, an equal sum for pocket money for each of the young couple, an equal sum for dress for each. My husband and I have been wedded over six years, and I have two bonny children, but we always divide our weekly income in this way."—Happily Married.

### BUTTONS FROM OUR RIVERS

Pearl Mussel Fisheries Are a Flourishing and Very Interesting Industry.

It should be remembered that in addition to their food value fishes are necessary in our rivers if we are to perpetuate the pearl button industry of the country, which employs some twenty thousand people and yields a product valued at more than \$5,000,000.

When the young mussels, which are of microscopic size, are thrown off from the brood-pouches of their parents at the proper season, the larval mussels slowly drift to the bottom and perish in a few days' time unless they come in contact with a passing fish of suitable kind and succeed in making attachment. Once this attachment is made, the tissue of the fish grows over the little mussel, until it has undergone a remarkable change of form and structure; then it drops from the fish to commence its independent life at the bottom of the stream or lake.

It is a further fact that the young of particular kinds of mussels require the gills of particular kinds of fishes as nurseries. The black bass is host for several sorts of mussels, while the kippack, a kind of herring, is the only known host for the best of all mussels. As this last mentioned fish is far from being abundant in American rivers, it is plain that much care should be exercised in its maintenance.

The mussel fishery that supplies the fresh water pearl button industry is actively conducted in at least twenty states in the Mississippi river basin, the raw production of shells now has a value of about \$1,000,000. The fresh water pearl button is now recognized as among the cheapest durable buttons that can be procured. The mussel beds have been rapidly depleted, chiefly because the fishermen in past years would retain only the very best shells and discard as culls all shells that were of an inferior grade.

Necessary action in the way of government legislation to protect the mussel fisheries has been so long delayed that this unique and rather important industry is now sure to experience considerable difficulty in perpetuating itself.—Floyd W. Parsons, in the Saturday Evening Post.

### WHERE BOARD IS NOW CHEAP

Girls in the Mission Schools in China Pay Only \$18 Year for Their Meals.

It is refreshing in these days of high prices to learn that somewhere it is possible to get one's daily bread and its accompaniments at a low figure. The place is China—Tengchow, in the province of Shantung. There, in the mission school, a girl may have three meals a day for \$18 a year.

The menu sounds strange to the school girl of the western world, but to the Chinese student it is highly satisfactory. Steamed corn bread and raw turnips that have been kept in brine and then chopped quite fine compose the regulation breakfast almost all the year. For dinner there is usually millet cooked dry like rice, and some hot vegetable. Twice a week the vegetable is cooked with fat pork instead of in bean oil as usual. Supper is the same as breakfast. Perhaps half a dozen times a year, however, they celebrate with more luxurious fare.—Christian Science Monitor.

#### Make Four Speeches for One.

William Lyon Phelps, professor of English literature at Yale, declares he gets credit for only 25 per cent of the after-dinner speeches he actually makes. "Every time I accept an invitation to speak I really make four addresses. First, is the speech I prepare in advance. That is pretty good. Second, is the speech I really make. Third, is the speech I make on the way home, which is the best of all; and fourth, is the speech the newspapers next morning say I made, which bears no relation to any of the others."—Boston Globe.

#### Taking After Mother.

Bert just came home from college and he had a "shadow" on his upper lip. He stopped to say "Hello" to his grandfather.

His grandfather looked him over and said: "Why, son, you look more like your mother every day."

"What makes you think so?" asked Bert.

"Why, because your father had a mustache that came down to his chin. Just look at that one of yours; you must take after your mother."—Indianapolis News.

#### Not Like a Lawyer.

Mirandy, of dusky hue, made a poor witness. In answer to every question put to her by the attorney she invariably replied, "I think so." The attorney finally became disgusted.

"Now look here," he warned. "I want you to cut out that thinking and answer questions. Now talk!"

"Yes, sah," quavered Mirandy. "But, mistab, you see it's liko dis. Ah ain't like you lawyers; ah can't talk without thinkin'."

#### A Long Time to Wait.

"Will you please" impudently the young musician. "May I see your composition please?"

"Well, I think" replied the older man. "It may be to sleep be played when Mr. and Mrs. Mandel's band members are last forgotten."

"But, mister, you see it's liko dis. Ah ain't like you lawyers; ah can't talk without thinkin'."—Houston Post.

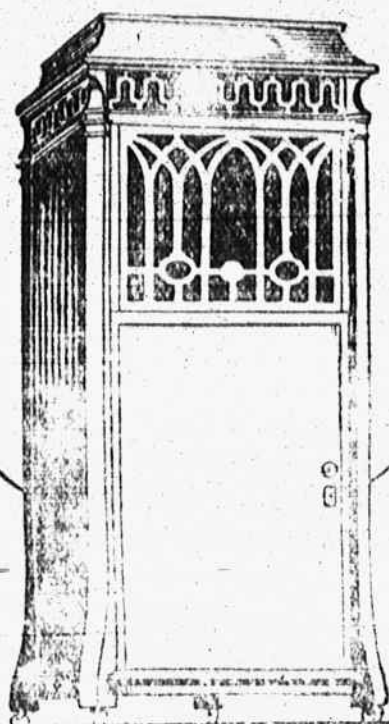


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### EXTRACTS FROM LANCASTER NEWS.

The Sparks shows are soon to be in Lancaster. This show is one of the cleanest I ever saw. I do not hesitate to recommend it to the public.

R. S. STEWART,  
Mayor of Lancaster, S. C.

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