

**JACK SPRAT AND HIS WIFE.**

The Original Couple Were an English Churchman and His Mate.

You know all about Jack Sprat and his wife. You have had occasion more than once to call unkind attention to the lean husband and the fat wife, who contrived between them to devour all the meat on the platter. Do you belong with the large majority of those who have given any consideration to the subject, who are satisfied that Mr. and Mrs. Sprat came into existence in the fertile brain of old Mother Goose? If so you must rate it as an American production and the Sprats as a typical American couple. That they could have developed as a type in the early New England days, when the life of the women folk was particularly hard, seems improbable.

No; the Sprats did not grow in the soil of the colonies. Of this comforting fact there is the best evidence. Long before the pilgrim fathers landed on Plymouth rock a great English dignity had been made the victim of ridicule in bad rhyme. The verse, which began with the words, "Archdeacon Pratt could eat no fat, his wife could eat no lean," was included in a collection of ancient proverbs and folk songs that was published by James Howell, the famous London lexicographer, in 1639. The quaint ends with the enlightening statement, "Twixt Archdeacon Pratt and Joan his wife, the meat was eat up clean." James Orchard Halliwell revived the old satire in his "Nursery Rhymes of England," published in 1845.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

**THE WORLD'S LARGEST CITY.**

It is a Tumbledown Place in Mexico and is Called Naniquipa.

Naniquipa, in the state of Chihuahua, Mexico, has the distinction of being the largest city in the world. Its site covers an area of 144 square miles, or approximately 281,000 acres, its exact boundaries having been fixed some 300 years ago by a charter from the then king of Spain, who gave the land to some colonists from Castile.

The greater part of the city site, however, is built upon, and, as regards the built over portion, many of the houses, originally constructed of sun-dried brick, are in ruins.

Next to Naniquipa the biggest city of either ancient or modern times was undoubtedly Babylon. Recent excavations have uncovered the old walls and they are found to have measured fifteen miles each way, enclosing the city in the form of a perfect square. An easy arithmetical calculation shows us that the area of Babylon inside the walls, therefore, was 225 square miles, or 144,000 acres.

Compared with such figures as these Birmingham with 8,420 acres, Norwich with 7,472 acres and Glasgow with 6,111 acres are almost in the nature of small villages. Yet these are the three biggest British cities—that is to say, they contain within their civic boundaries the biggest area of ground.

The city of London proper contains no more than about 640 acres, approximately one square mile.—London Telegraph.

**The Druids.**

The druids were evidently of very great antiquity, for there cannot be much doubt that it was one of their customs that Vergil had in mind when he wrote in the "Aeneid," vi, 142, that the "only means of access for a living mortal to the world of spirits was the carrying of a golden twig which grew in a dark and thick grove." The resemblance of the story to the druidical rite is perfect. The druids practiced their rites in dark groves. If a mistletoe was discovered growing upon an oak a priest severed it with a knife, and a festival was held under the tree at which two milk white bulls were offered as a sacrifice. This was a sacrifice to the sun god, and the mistletoe, from its pale greenish yellow tint, was regarded as a kind of vegetable gold and was accordingly looked upon as being a fit offering to the sun.

**Birds of a Feather.**

Frederick Leveson-Gower in his reminiscences relates that when he visited Moscow in 1856 for the coronation of Alexander II, "opposite our house during the procession was drawn up a regiment called Panovski, formed by the Emperor Paul, all the men having turned up noses and therefore resembling him. It seems it was the fashion to compose regiments of men all having the same features. The late emperor had recruits sent to him and told them of according to their looks. There is one regiment of men all marked with the smallpox."

**Carpet Mills.**

The first carpet mill in America was not established until after the close of the Revolution. It was in 1791, at Philadelphia, that carpet making as an industry was born in the United States. Since then, however, this country has become pre-eminent in carpet making.

**Generous.**

"Some men say," remarked the beautiful heiress, "that I have no heart."  
"Oh, that doesn't matter," replied the poor but willing youth. "I'll give you mine."

**More Like It.**

"Now they say they can weigh the conscience."  
"By the ounce?"  
"I imagine by the scruple."—Kansas City Journal.

**That's the Place.**

Church—Your face looks as if it had been cut in several places. Gotham—No, only in one place—my barber's.—Yonkers Statesman.

**TWO DANGEROUS HABITS.**

Don't Scratch, Even With Clean Nails, and Don't Pinch.

Scratching oneself and picking at pimples or sore spots are dangerous habits, likely to result in infections more or less serious. This is proved by examination of the scrapings of nails under the microscope. Even hands and nails that are kept scrupulously clean by washing and brushing are not free from the germs of skin diseases.

Dr. Albert Schneider of San Francisco reports to the Journal of the American Medical Association the results of the microscopic examination of the scrapings of the nails of 143 students in a surgical college. There were found bacilli, cocci and spirillae of many sorts, especially those that produce pus.

These facts, he points out, may be of great importance in criminal trials.

Dr. Schneider cites one case in which a man was accused of killing a baby. In the scrapings of his nails were found the "frustules of fresh water diatoms and a few filaments of oscillaria." This led to the suspicion that he had buried his victim's body in a marsh. Careful search of the banks of a marshy stream near by disclosed the little corpse.

Dr. Schneider says such diseases as lupus, acne, boils and carbuncles are traceable to scratching. Nail biters frequently infect themselves.

"There is the case of the husband," he writes, "whose neck on the left side was never long free from one or more small pimples or boils, traceable to his wife's habit of playfully pinching his neck. He ascribed the trouble to starched collars, but several changes in the laundry brought no relief. During the prolonged absence of the wife on a visit with relatives the trouble disappeared entirely to reappear again on her return with a renewal of the playful habits."

**PICKED AN ODD NAME.**

An Author Had a Long Search and Then Faced a Surprise.

When Abdon W. Tourgee wrote "A Fool's Errand" he named one of his leading characters Theron Pardee. An early copy of the book fell into the hands of the Rev. Luther Pardee, an Episcopal clergyman of Chicago, whose father was named Theron Pardee.

The name is such an unusual combination that in amazement the rector showed the book to his father, and they were both puzzled by the coincidence. They decided to write Judge Tourgee and ask him what had led him to use the name.

He replied, in equal amazement, that he had not supposed there was such a man living as Theron Pardee. Then he stated that he had a prolonged search for a suitable name for the character of his story—one that would express just what he imagined this character to be.

In the course of the hunt an old copy of the curriculum of Union college had fallen into his hands. It was dated 1825, or something as far back, and among the names of the students was one Theron Pardee.

The Judge said it had impressed him as being one of the richest, most solid and most satisfying names he ever had heard, so he decided to adopt it for his character. The curriculum was so old that he had no hesitation in using the name, and he was astonished to learn that the rightful owner of it was living.

His explanation was accepted, and the resulting acquaintance was pleasing all around.

**One Letter You Never Wrote.**

My Dear Wife—Since you've been away visiting your mother I've been having the time of my life—in fact, I haven't known what it was to live before since we were married. I fired all the servants the morning after you left so I could be free. I get my meals anywhere. The house looks as if a tornado had struck it. But, oh, what a lovely time I'm having! Don't come home until I send for you. Cordially.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

**Emptying a Bottle.**

To empty a bottle, especially a large one, quickly it should be held inverted over the receptacle into which the contents are to be turned. Then while the neck is held in a steady position the bottom of the bottle should be given a rotary motion. This will form a small whirlpool that will admit air to the space vacated by the liquid and cause it to run freely from the bottle.—Exchange.

**Mandy's Compliment.**

The morning after the coming out party Mandy, the cook, thus greeted the young girl for whom it was given: "Miss Annie, yo' sho' did look sweet las' night! My, I hardly knowed yo'! Dey wasn't a thing erbout yo' dat looked natchel!"—Youth's Companion.

**Famous Sentences.**

Thirty days!  
I pronounce you "husband and wife." You'll not stir a boot outside this house tonight!  
Johnny Doc, you'll stay after school and write "obey" 500 times!—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

**Very Reprehensible.**

"Well, ma, I gave young Mr. Smithers his conge last night."  
"Law sakes, Amelia, no girl ought to be giving young men presents like that."—Baltimore American.

**Poor Consolation.**

"Your dog always howls when he sees me coming."  
"Yes. He is rude enough to express what most people feel."—Baltimore American.

**LIVER TROUBLE.**

"I am bothered with liver trouble twice a year," writes Joe Dingman, Webster City, Iowa. "I have pains in my side and back and an awful soreness in my stomach. I heard of Chamberlain's Tablets and tried them. By the time I had used half a bottle of them I was feeling fine and had no signs of pain." Obtainable everywhere.

**CLEAR BAD SKIN FROM WITHIN.**

Pimples, muddy complexions are due to impurities in the blood. Clear up the skin by taking Dr. King's New Life Pills. Their mild laxative qualities remove the poisons from the system and brighten the eye. A full, free, non-gripping bowel movement in the morning is the reward of a dose of Dr. King's New Life Pills the night before. At your druggist, 25c.

**Cooperation.**

Mr. Lee Spoon, who lives on the county line of Laurens and Newberry and hard by the Liberty Hill grave yard, had read, somewhere, that "Cooperation is the order of the day," and he thought he would see if there was anything to it, so he sent out word for the neighbors to meet on a certain day, and "cooperate" in cleaning off this old grave yard, which is in plain view from the point where the old

**Ninety Six road crosses the Newberry and Laurens road.**

Mr. Spoon also hinted to his neighbors to bring their families with them, and that meant well filled baskets of good things to eat.

The men with some of their hired help were on the job early, and in a few hours this old grave yard, where some of our brothers and sisters, and parents and grandparents, are buried, was nicely cleaned off, and Lee says he can walk out there now at the setting of the sun, without any misgivings, as there are no weeds and bushes there now, in which he had been accustomed to see spooks long about dusk.

When the work was finished, we all went down to that old historic spring that nature so artistically walled around with granite, and where it is said soldiers were camped at the close of the revolutionary war, and on the hill above, they erected a liberty pole. Hence the name: Liberty Hill. At the spring, where seats had been made, we found a great crowd of young people, old people, and children, just enjoying themselves hugely. And this lit-

**the sketch of a social event, would be incomplete if I failed to mention my two old friends: Cousin Mary Johnson 82 years old and Aunt Rachel Bonds who is some older, they were there, and seemed to enjoy themselves very much.**

After spending several hours in real social enjoyment, some one proposed to "set the table," and when that long table had been fairly loaded down with all the good things to eat that could be thought of, we saw a wagon coming down the hill, and then several big pots of hash was lifted out. Just such hash as only Tom Riser and Edgar Johnson know how to make. It was fine, and the dinning was fine and was greatly enjoyed by all present. There is no church building at this place now. The Lutherans established a church there many years ago, just how long since, I cannot tell, and I can look down through the vista of life more than 70 years. There are no Lutherans in this section now, and it is nice in Mr. Lee Spoon to have this old grave yard cleaned off now and then. We couldn't do without Lee anyway.

"One Present."

**Piles Cured in 6 to 14 Days**  
Your druggist will refund money if FAZO OINTMENT fails to cure any case of Itching, Blind, Bleeding or protruding Piles in 6 to 14 days. The first application gives ease and Rest. 50c.

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