

STAGE SCENERY.

Modern Settings Tax the Ingenuity of the Builders.

The big scenic artists do little actual painting beyond making the model, unless they have a panoramic effect.

With the elaborate productions of late years the importance of the builder of scenery has increased, says Everybody's Magazine.

A DOGS' CLUB.

London's Luxurious Resort for Aristocratic Canine Pets.

London is the only city in the world boasting a dogs' club. The club is in a pleasant suit of rooms near the Trocadero and close to Regent street.

Ladies going shopping or to the theater leave their pugs and poodles at the club and give the attendant in charge at the time a few shillings for looking after it.

A Candid Critic.

"A criticism that has helped me a great deal in my work came from a man to whom I took a picture to be framed," said a young woman who spends much of her time copying in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

"Setting the River on Fire."

In old English times, when each family was obliged to sift its own flour, it sometimes happened that an energetic man would turn his sieve so rapidly as to cause it to catch fire.

Marriage Customs in Savage Africa.

The charge which is sometimes brought against white men of "marrying for money" cannot be used against their sex in Africa, for there it is the other way about, husbands having to purchase their wives.

Not Good at Riddles.

A lawyer was questioning a new client, a widow, the other day, about her history. "My history," she replied, "is simplicity itself. My first was the happiness of my life, my second was goodness itself, my third—"

THE PIGEONS WON.

In Spite of Clipped Wings They Got Back on Time.

The colonel was something of a pigeon fancier and had so much confidence in a certain strain of homers he was making a hobby of that when his friend the major proposed a wager the colonel removed the limit.

"We'll make it a supphah," said the major. "Yo' black boy will tote a palah ova to the cyahs an' ship them to St. Louay, whah they ah to be libahated on ahvral. I wagah they ah not back in two days, sah."

The colonel accepted, crated his finest pair and included a note to the express agent with the charges. Meanwhile the major communed with Joe, the colored boy, and after the tendering of a certain half dollar and promises of humanity from the consequences of the colonel's wrath later Joe agreed to clip the pigeons' wings sub rosa.

Two days passed, and the major presented himself duly at the colonel's. The colonel eyed him with suspicious narrowness.

"Have they ahvred?" asked the major gayly.

"They hev, sah," said the colonel, with dignity; "they hev, but those two pidgins, sah, hev the so'est feet I evah saw on a bird, sah."—Browning's Magazine.

BE SURE YOU'RE RIGHT.

Then Take a Long Think and Mind Your Own Business.

The other day a man traveling on a shore line train noticed, protruding from an overhead rack, a dress suit case which he recognized as belonging to a friend.

The man called the conductor and explained the case to him. After some discussion and a mild protest on the part of the conductor that it wasn't a part of his duty, the suit case was put off at the next station, with instructions to send it back on the first train the other way.

The man, feeling that he had done an able and friendly act, settled down for the rest of his journey.

But not for long. The face of his friend, who had been in the smoker and who happened on that particular afternoon to be going on to New London to attend a dinner party—loomed before him.

The moral of this is, of course, quite evident.

Be sure you're right and then mind your own business.—Life.

Fife Wheat.

Years ago, about a century, David Fife, a Scotchman of Otonabee, Ont., sent to a friend in Glasgow for a small bag of seed wheat to try in a cleared patch of the backwoods. The friend obtained some seed from a vessel just in from Danzig. Unfortunately it was a fall wheat and reached David Fife in the spring. Nevertheless David Fife sowed it in spring. One can guess how feverishly the backwoods farmer watched for the growth of his experiment.

Vanity of the Peacock.

Our favorite and much petted peacock, says a correspondent of the London Spectator, can be kept happy any length of time looking at his reflection in the window pane or in a looking glass. He comes in daily to tea, making no mistake about the hour, and spends much time in gazing at himself as he appears in the glass of the French windows by which he enters the room.

Influence of Mountains.

The influence of the mountain is pure and holy, giving strength and simplicity, encouraging the older virtues, discouraging the newer vices. In the hill men of Wales we see this clearly enough. Go where you will among the wilder and more mountainous parts of Wales and you will find that rare independence and self reliance which are not marred by a curiously defiant discourtesy. You find there those that are truly "nature's gentlemen."—London Standard.

Queer Old Book Titles.

These are some of the odd titles of old English books published in the time of Cromwell: "A Most Delectable Sweet Perfumed Nosegay For God's Saints to Smell At." "Biscuit Baked in the Oven of Charity, carefully conserved for the Chickens of the Church, the Sparrows of the Spirit and the Sweet Swallows of Salvation."

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DYNAMITE IN THE MAKING.

Workmen Who Are Encircled by Death In Gallons and Tons.

So thoroughly deceptive is dynamite in the making that you are apt to be disappointed on viewing the surface of things. You could more readily fancy thunderbolts leaping and crashing from tender blue skies than that the most fearful forces in creation are hidden under such a peaceful exterior.

It is making itself in big iron retorts, cascading down leaden gutters and merrily tumbling in minute Niagaras into immense vats, where the deliquescent yellow peril pursues its journey powderward. Out of one receptacle it fares furiously through special lead coils, driven only by cooling blasts of air, and is drawn off like draft ale and piped on to the next perfecting stage. Gaze with the nitroglycerin expert into one of these big drolous. The interior is brilliantly illuminated by electricity, the only illuminating agency permitted in or about the danger houses.

Around you are other houses at uniform distances apart and connected by a series of narrow gauge tracks wherein workmen are railroading nitroglycerin from here and pulp cotton from there to be compounded into dynamite and blasting gelatin. Greatest care is taken in rolling the product from house to house. As soon as a loaded cart is ready to pass out of the nitroglycerin house, for instance, a semaphore signals from an adjoining station, to which the consignment is carefully hurried.

Around you are long storehouses packed with pulp in tons of innocent whiteness. Presently this pulp will assume a tan color under the nitrating process, and then, suddenly becoming carbonite, red cross, harcules, Judson and giant powder, forcite or what you order, it develops the quasi virtues of dynamite—dynamite or blasting gelatin in which more natural forces are condensed to the cubic inch than exist anywhere else in creation. Death, curbed and sleeping, encircles you in gallons and tons. Annihilation threatens at every turn in the form of potential pulverizing forces. But the man and the mercury are there also, alert, responsive, reliable.—Leslie's Weekly.

LIBRARY SLOW POKES.

Time Killing Methods of Officials in Continental Europe.

"Americans who grumble about having to wait a long time for books when applying to a public library," said a Boston literary woman, "should try to work or study in a foreign library, particularly in Germany."

"The typical continental librarian takes no account of time. The reader, worker or student must turn in his or her application for books at least a day in advance. The men who search for the books applied for are aged, tottering creatures who have been shuffling around the dusty piles of books for years, and the word burry is not in their vocabulary."

"The most priceless books and manuscripts are kept in places which are perfect fire traps, and disorder predominates in every department. When you speak about the impossible methods employed the librarians tell you that they are too poor to introduce any modern indexes or catalogues. This is to some extent so, but as a matter of fact they would not change if they had all the money in the world at their disposal."

"They do not wish to encourage the common people to use books. The learned are among the aristocracy, and the spread of the knowledge which is hidden in these wonderful literary museums is far from the purpose of the men at the head of Europe's libraries."

"There may be some delay in our libraries, but our people in the lower walks of life are certainly ahead of the common people of the old world in the matter of getting books when they want them, and generally free of charge."—New York Telegram.

The Town to Be Born In.

In the German town of Kitzingenberg, near Aschaffenberg, Bavaria, in addition to having no rates to pay for the upkeep of the town, those actually born in the parish receive from the municipality a sum of £12 12s. a year. This sum, if invested regularly at, say, 3 per cent, would entitle the owner to receive about £1,500 at the age of sixty—a very handsome old age pension. Were it not necessary that the inhabitants should prove birth in the parish before becoming entitled to this payment the popularity of Kitzingenberg as a place of residence would doubtless be enormous.—Westminster Gazette.

Just Goes Out.

Juvenile—Mamma, when the fire goes out where does it go? Mother—I don't know, dear. You might just as well ask where your father goes when he goes out.—Town Topics.

Isn't This Rough?

Ella—A poet wrote a sonnet on my face the other day. Stella—Did he write it on the lines?—Bohemian.

The Return.

Magistrate—If I remember rightly, this is not your first appearance in court. Prisoner—No, your honor; but I hope you don't judge by appearances.—Harper's Weekly.

Mean Insinuation.

Long—They say, you know, that people can be killed by kindness. Strong—Is that why you are so attentive to your wife's mother?—Boston Transcript.

There is but one virtue—the eternal sacrifice of self.—George Sand.

SHORT CROP PREDICTED.

Speculators Say There Will Not be Enough Cotton.

New York, May 21.—Spinners may not care to buy cotton but the speculative world does and prices have further advanced with May and July the leaders, on the proposition that there is likelihood that the next crop will not reach the required size. If it is 13,000,000 bales it will be regarded as almost a failure. That is how the bulls look at it. Bears assert that even such a crop would be large enough, seeing that the last one was in their opinion nearer 14,000,000 bales than the bulls are willing to admit, and that a good surplus will be carried over to next season. But the believers in higher prices contend that the consumption is likely to be largest on record or certainly very much larger than that of last year. Texas, they think, has comparatively little moisture in the ground after the winter and spring drought and unless it has good soaking rains at short intervals it can not raise more than 2,750,000 bales if it can do that much. Some parts of that State recently had beneficial rains, but the western section is supposed still to need a good soaking. Meantime Louisiana and Mississippi have had, if anything, too much rain. Certainly some portion of the late advance was due to the fact that the delta has had what looked to many like an excessive precipitation. In fact the whole eastern section of the cotton belt during much of the past 30 days has had rain so frequently as to make it look like a wet May, something supposed to be of bad omen for the crop. Too much rain is supposed to interfere with germination and to necessitate re-planting. Indeed, some contend that higher prices will be due more to adverse conditions in the eastern section of the cotton country than in Texas itself, where they think that the outlook has notably improved. But nine out of 10 scout the idea that anything like a "bumper" crop or even a satisfactory crop can be raised under existing conditions, keeping in mind the winter and spring drought in the Southwest and the fact that in any case two big crops are not apt to come together.

Liverpool's spot market has been active if the spot business in this country has been slow.

Manchester has reported a big demand, especially from China. Meantime, however, the receipts in this country continue large, spinners have fought shy of the market and some think there are too many bulls. Chicago, Wall street and the South have sold freely. The most orthodox bulls have lately been looking for a reaction and have advised their followings to take profits. They look for at least a temporary setback after the recent advance and think that the market would thus be put in all the better condition. Bears contend that the bulls are going ahead too fast; that they are ignoring the legitimate side of the cotton business. They lay stress on the slowness of the cotton goods business in this country and the sluggishness in trade in the actual cotton at the South. But it must be said that the dominant sentiment is bullish. Most people look for a smaller moderate crop, a big consumption and a further and perhaps material rise in prices this summer.

The government report to be issued June 4 is very generally expected to be bullish, especially as its data will come down no later than May 25.

The worst of it for others means the best of it for the undertaker.

When two women exchange compliments the recording angel is kept as busy as when two men trade horses.

The dead body of an unknown man was found near the tracks of the Atlantic Coast Line road near Charleston. The supposition is that he fell from a train while stealing a ride.

John Y. Gaillard, ex-president of the Semihole Securities Company has filed a claim against the company for \$24,000, which he alleges is due him for stock sold during the year 1908.

It wants to be understood that Mr. Manning's friends are not asking it just because Mr. Manning happened to be Mr. Kitchen's manager during the campaign.—Durham Herald.

A remedy for faulty acoustics proper in large halls has been discovered by Gustave Lyon after long research. The great hall of the Trocadero, the largest in Paris, is a notorious bad example, and the echo heard in some parts of the hall, especially at the president's box, made it almost impossible to understand a speaker. The treatment applied has given a wonderful improvement. The surfaces giving the echoes were first located by an ingenious method and then received a double covering of pieces of cloth spaced a few inches apart. While the double cloth was found to be effective, the reason that the single cloth does not deaden the echo is yet to be learned.

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SAVING ON A SYSTEM. Figures Showing How Competency May be Accumulated. From the Bookkeeper. A young man who would have a competency at the end of 10 years must make sacrifices for the first two or three years. Say that you, for instance, are earning \$30 a week. At the present time you may be spending nearly all of this, as thousands of others are doing. Now, during the first year, you must save \$1,000. "Why," you exclaim, "if I should save \$1,000 a year that would make \$10,000 at the end of 10 years, without counting the interest! You are off in your figuring!"

But wait. We are supposing now that you are having your share of prosperity and that at different times within the next few years you will have doctors' bills to pay and may even be without employment at times. These things must be taken into consideration if you would save \$10,000 in 10 years.

So the first year you save \$1,000. This leaves you a little less than \$11 a week upon which to live during that time. Perhaps you will have to move out of your present home and rent one that is cheaper. For a time it will also be necessary for you to contract fewer tailoring bills, and in all probability you will get your wife to add you in economizing; but you must save \$1,000 during that year, and you will find that you can do it.

In the second year your load will become lighter, and then you will see why it was necessary for you to save \$1,000 during the first year. The \$1,000 you can easily place out at 5 per cent interest and at the end of the second year it will have earned \$50. So during this second year you have to save only \$950. In other words you have \$1 a week more to spend on the comforts of life during the second year than the first. In this way your load continues to get lighter and lighter. You begin your third year with \$2,000 out at interest, and during this year you need save only \$900, which leaves you \$2 a week more to spend than during the first year, and so it goes until at the end of your fifth year you are saving only \$750 a year, or less than one-half of your \$1,500 salary. Each year you have more to spend. At the end of your eighth year you are saving just \$12.50 a week, while you have \$17.50 to spend. At the end of your tenth year you have \$10,000, which is earning you \$500 a year, and which may even bring you \$600 or \$700 a year if you invest it well. If you were only 30 years of age when you began saving you are still too young to retire on \$50 a month; but now you can spend all that you earn, and at the end of another 10 years, if you do not gather the "honey" which your \$10,000 is making for you, you will be worth a little over \$17,000, which, at 6 per

Foley's ORINO Laxative. Is Pleasant and Effective CURES Constipation, Stomach and Liver Trouble. by stimulating these organs and restoring their natural action. Is best for women and children as ORINO does not gripe or nauseate. SIEBERTS DRUG STORE.