

HOW A BISHOP CUT WOOD.

And How He Got a Little the Better of William the Conqueror.

Have you ever heard of the Great William, who built the cathedral at Winchester, and how he got the timber which is still in the roof of the cathedral? It is rather an old story, and I will tell it to you, as it was told to me by the verger when I was at Winchester—and told, indeed, while we walked in the loft among the very beams and rafters in question.

William the Conqueror was a king who loved his trees, and would hardly part with any of his timber. When the bishop was building the cathedral, he came to the king and asked leave to cut wood from the forest of Hempage to finish the noble work he had carried on for many years.

"Wood from my forest of Hempage? Nay, that you cannot have," said King William.

"But, sire, how can I make a roof for my cathedral without timber? Will your Majesty grudge the trees of the forest to the house of God?" said the bishop, tearlessly.

The king did not want to yield, but bishops in those days were formidable enemies, before whom many a king had trembled. The bishop urged his claims, and may even have used threats until at length King William said, "Go, then, my lord bishop, and take as many trees as you can fell in a day—but no more." The bishop went gladly, and coming to his domain, which was like a little kingdom, over which he had absolute power, he mustered his liegemen and retainers for a grand wood-cutting expedition. At the bishop's palace hundreds of men were daily felled, and he could bring thousands to the field in the time of war, for everyone in his see was subject to him—in mind, body and estate. He must have summoned all his subjects that day, for never was such a wood-cutting known in England. To the forest they went in an army and chopped from the rising of the sun till night descended—and at the end of the day not a tree was left standing in Hempage wood! Not a tree? Yes, one was kept sacred from the marauding axe, because under its boughs St. Augustine had preached to the Britons in days long gone by even then. The Gospel Oak, as it was called, still stands, protected by a iron railing, the sole relic of the ancient forest which the Bishop of Winchester laid low "for the House of God." Truly, the bishop was a "muscular Christian"—for all I know he laid aside his robes and mitre, and wielded the axe that day himself.

Hoist by His Own Petard.

The following "Fraud Upon an Insurance Company," in the Deutsche Tabak-Zeitung, is certainly just a little too good to be true: A cunning fellow, who wanted to smoke the best cigars at the cheapest possible cost, bought one thousand cigars of the highest quality and corresponding price, and immediately insured the whole stock. When he had smoked the last of them he demanded seven hundred and fifty marks from the insurance company on the ground that the whole of his insured stock, ten boxes of cigars, had been consumed by fire! The Solomonian court decided in favor of the plaintiff.

The company then brought an action of conspiracy against the smoker, accusing him of having intentionally set fire to his own cigars and deliberately destroyed his property. Hereupon the same wise court condemned the insured smoker to three months' imprisonment.

The Other Two Pounds.

The vendor of patient churns who told a Lewiston woman his churn would make two more pounds of butter than her old one reckoned without his host. He left the churn and promised to be around in the morning to test it. Before he came she did her churning in the old churn and put the buttermilk in the new one. The agent came and churned and surrendered with the exclamation, "There is no butter in this cream." "I know it," said the lady, "for I've churned it in my old churn. But I wanted to see you get that other two pounds." There was no sale.

How Deaf People Hear.

Deaf persons, as a rule, hear better in the meat of a din than when all is quiet round them. The noise of a moving train or the whirr of machinery in mills helps to make up the volume of sound necessary to reach their impaired organs. An amusing illustration was afforded by a very venerable deaf gentleman who lived quite alone. On the very rare occasions when he had a visitor, he used to keep on shaking down the ashes in his grate, so that by the help of the additional noise he might catch what his caller had to say.

Buying Dresses in Japan.

A Japanese girl says that when ladies go to buy a dress in her country they tell the shopkeeper their age, and if they are married or not, because there are special designs for the single and double relations of life, as well as for all ages. The consequence of this painful custom is you can tell the age of every lady you meet, and know whether she is married, precisely as though she was labelled, or you were a census-taker. But then, of course, as the ladies of Japan don't care who knows it, there is no fun in finding out.

The Dangers of Benzine.

A newly discovered danger lurks in benzine. It is so volatile that many fires in factories and shops where it is used have been attributed, rightly or wrongly, to the combustion of vapor therefrom, which had somehow come in contact with a light. It is now found that electricity is developed in the liquid sometimes in winter, and this alone will ignite the gas. The German chemist Kissling recommends mixing with benzine a small quantity of some sort of soluble soap to check the generation of electricity.

Gas for Cooking Purposes.

Gas for cooking purposes is very largely used not only in London, but in country towns. At Maidstone, for instance, at least 28 per cent. of those who use gas have discarded coal for cooking purposes. The gas sent out during the daytime for cooking purposes is 40 per cent. during the summer, and just over 50 per cent. during the winter, of the total quantity of gas made at the works.

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A BOND WAS REQUIRED.

A Young Man About to be Married was in Temporal Agony

To get married seems an easy thing to the young man whose fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love. But when it comes to the actual ceremony there are a thousand and one terrors which surround and threaten to overtake him. Marriage in some states is easy; in others it is as difficult as obtaining a divorce.

A well-known Philadelphian was about to be married to a beautiful young woman who lived in the state of Delaware. He had no idea that the marriage laws of that state were of an appalling nature. He had secured his license and thought that was all that was necessary.

"Have you filled your bond yet?" said some one to him the day before the wedding.

"What?" gasped he.

"Your bond," repeated the questioner. "You know every man who is married in this state has to file a bond for the protection of the state."

The bridegroom was rather dubious, but was finally persuaded that this was a fact.

"I'll see a lawyer about it in the morning," said he. So he went to a friend who was a legal light, and said:

"See here. They tell me I have to give a bond to the state when I get married."

"Certainly. Haven't you done so?" in a surprised way.

"No; I never heard of such a thing before. What kind of bond is it?"

"Oh, any real estate will do."

The lawyer looked at him a moment. Then he solemnly said:

"Haven't you any friends who own property?"

"None that I care to ask to bind it up that way. I can't ask my bride's relatives, you know."

His friend looked at him pityingly.

"You can't postpone the wedding, can you?"

"What?" fairly shrieked the unfortunate.

"Of course not, of course not," said the legal light soothingly. But the poor bridegroom looked stricken.

"I'll tell you what I'll do, old man. I'll attend to the matter for you. Don't give yourself any more concern about it."

The young man about-to-be-married then grasped his hand, he could not speak for a moment, and then he poured forth his thanks. He picked up his hat in a relieved sort of way and walked to the door. Then he turned.

"By the way, I forgot to ask you how large is the amount of the bond required?"

"Fifty cents," said the lawyer.

Burglars in Sewers.

There is a band of thieves in Naples who frequent the underground sewers, and bore their way into shops for the purpose of robbery. One morning recently a leather dealer, on unlocking his warehouse, found a large hole in the floor and skins and money gone to the value of three thousand francs. He called the police, and several of them, together with some sewer-men, penetrated into the dark vaults with a lantern. They had not gone far when they discovered a man, and called to him to stop. But with a cry of "Madonna! Do not kill me!" the man fled along the sewer, the police after him. They followed him for at least a mile, passing under three or four streets, but without success. The police are now watching the sewers like cats, but there are many escape holes.

Prepared for the Hereafter.

It is just as well to be prepared for the hereafter, but everyone cannot be expected to go into the matter so systematically as did Mr. W. P. Prower, an undertaker of Bowmanville, Ont., who, being in ill health went to England in the hope of recovery, but finding his malady growing worse, cabled to his foreman to come at once with a coffin and all the necessary embalming instruments and materials in anticipation of his speedy dissolution. This the foreman did, and by now is probably with his master, assisting at the last sad rites.

The Wealth of the Rothschilds.

Le Signal, a French newspaper, quotes the wealth of the Rothschilds at \$2,000,000,000, the figures have doubled in the last twenty years. There may be quite a number of Rothschilds, it is true, but still the sum is a goodly one to divide. This immense fortune only dates from the beginning of the century. Two generations ago grandfather Rothschild was a nobody; now the descendants are powers in every country in Europe. It is astonishing what strict application to business based upon royal patronage will do.

Holmes and Thackeray.

Once when Thackeray was lecturing in "the States" he was taken violently ill at the close of a lecture, and his host, James T. Fields, summoned Oliver Wendell Holmes, his friend and neighbor, to attend the distinguished guest. Evidently the doctor conquered him as well as his ailment, for when he had departed Thackeray looked up and said, "Fields, who was that funny little cuss?"

Political vs. Domestic Economy.

Friend—How is it yeh ain't got that position yet? Lost yer pull?"

Mr. Wheel—Oh, I've got the pull, plenty of pull. My application is signed by all their political leaders in the party."

"Then wot's tier matter?"

"Can't git any of 'em to go on me bond."

The Good Work of Ants.

The most formidable check to the increase in tropical regions of serpents and venomous insects is the abundance of the ants, which, attacking in thousands, will kill and devour animals often of considerable size.

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THEY GREW IN CHURCH.

How the Heat Generated a Flower-garden on a Bonnet.

A comical experience of a friend of mine may be cited as a warning to other women who meditate defying the milliner by original methods of bonnet trimming.

Looking from her window one Sunday morning when the tulip trees were in bloom, it flashed upon her mind that one of those yellow and green striped buds would be just the touch of color needed at the back of her new black lace bonnet, the present somberness of which did not please her. Two buds were finally secured, and nestled down in the lace, where the effect was eminently satisfactory.

Pleased with the result of her expedient, the bonnet was donned, but my friend serenely made her way down the aisle to her pew in blissful unconsciousness of the sensation she was to create ere she left the church. As the service progressed all thought of the tulip bud passed from her mind as completely as though it had never existed to tempt her errant fancy.

Gradually, however, she became conscious that a great amount of suppressed laughter was going on in her immediate vicinity during the sermon. Annoyed that she should have her attention distracted, my friend turned upon the offenders with a look of stern disapproval.

All to no purpose, however, for after each such silent rebuke the evidences of mirth seemed to increase. She returned home at the conclusion of the service, and, while decanting to her family upon the irreverent behavior of the people behind her in church, she took off her bonnet.

As she did so she gave a gasp, for the mystery was explained. There on the back of her lace-bonnet, where she had pinned a couple of sleek, closed tulip buds, were two gorgeous flowers, which, in the warm atmosphere of the church, had gradually opened to perfect bloom.

Calling in China.

When a Chinese makes a call on an acquaintance, he sends in his ordinary visiting card or billet, on which is written, "The tender and sincere friend of your lordship, and the perpetual disciple of your doctrine, presents himself to pay his duty and make his reverence even to the earth." The master of the house meets his visitor at the door, who firmly refuses to enter first; the host then makes him a profound bow, and they go in together. There is a similar scene at the foot of the stairs. After a long exchange of formalities, they go up side by side, but the visitor is obliged to step on the first stair with his right foot, while the master of the house puts his left foot first. Any Chinaman who omits these formalities is regarded as very ill-bred.

In a Brigand's Cave.

During a recent brigandage trial at Trani, Italy, Baron Arrigo, who was carried away from Naples and held for ransom, narrated his experience in the cave of the brigands. He was kept a captive for several weeks in a cave, the floor of which was running with water, and where there was not even a stone to sit down upon. He stood until he could stand no longer, when fatigue compelled him to lie down in the water to sleep. For more than sixty hours after being taken into the cave he was given nothing to eat, and then only a limited amount of the coarsest fare. It cost 10,000 francs to obtain his liberty.

Perpetual Sunshine.

This occurs on the coast of Peru, where, although it may be misty occasionally, the blue sky is always visible through this whitish veil. Perpetual sunshine, when the sun is above the horizon, also exists in the Sahara, the great desert of Africa, and in the other rainless regions of the earth—namely, the high lands of Iran, various tracts of Turkestan and China, the plateau of Gobi, and also in Australia, between the southern colonies and the Gulf of Carpentaria. Should clouds appear in any of these districts the heat of the sun is so intense that they are dispersed almost before they have formed.

A River of Fire.

Any one who has been in Chicago and seen its notorious river will not be disposed to discredit a despatch to the effect that one day last week vessels navigating the south fork of that evil-smelling stream sailed through spouts of fire, narrowly escaping destruction, caused by gases generated in immense volume from the refuse matter emptied into the river by the rendering and tanning works along the south fork banks. The flames rolled up four or five feet high, in the wake of each vessel, which stirred up the mud and putrid water.

Origin of the Walking Stick.

Probably the patriarch's staff was the first adaptation of the walking stick and from its first inception to the present day it has undergone almost endless changes. In 1701 footmen attending gentlemen were forbidden to carry swords, these being replaced by a porter's staff. Thirty years later gentlemen were forbidden to carry swords, but allowed to carry large oak sticks. Before many years varnished and polished woods with ornamental heads came into use and in one form or another have held their own in public popularity.

Casimir-Perier Won.

It is told of President Casimir-Perier of France that when he returned to his chateau at Pont-sur-Seine, last year, while president of the Chamber, one of the men at a country fair asked him if he remembered when he used to run races with the children of the neighborhood. "Yes," replied the future president, "and I have not forgotten how I bet you 20 sous," taking off his coat, "that I can beat you to yonder pole." The bet was accepted, and M. Casimir-Perier won it with ease.

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11—Croup, Laryngitis, Hoarseness.....25
12—Salt Rheum, Erysipelas, Eruptions.....25
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