

BYRON WAS BARRED.

Dean of Westminster Refused to Accept Statue of Poet.

Many years ago some admirers of Lord Byron raised a subscription for a monument to the poet, to be placed in Westminster abbey. Chantrey was requested to execute it, but on account of the smallness of the sum subscribed he declined, and Thorwaldsen was then applied to and cheerfully undertook the work.

In about 1833 the finished statue arrived at the custom house in London, but, to the astonishment of the subscribers, the dean of Westminster, Dr. Ireland, declined to give permission to have it set up in the abbey, and, owing to this difficulty, which proved insurmountable, for Dr. Ireland's successor was of the same opinion, it remained for upward of twelve years in the custom house, when (1846) it was removed to the library of Trinity college, Cambridge.

The poet is represented in the statue of the size of life, seated on a ruin, with his left foot resting on the fragment of a column. In his right hand he holds a style up to his mouth; in his left a book, inscribed "Childe Harold." He is dressed in a frock coat and cloak. Beside him on the left is a skull, above which is the Athenian owl. The likeness is of course posthumous. Thorwaldsen was born Nov. 19, 1770, and died on March 24, 1844.

A Model Surveyor.

The Kingman Leader-Courier tells of an early day county surveyor in Kingman county, Kan., who neither possessed any instruments nor could have used them if he had. His method of measuring land was to tie his ankles together with a cord that was just long enough to allow him to step one-fifth of a rod each time, and thus hobbled he would strike out, counting his steps until he had made a sufficient number to cover the desired distance.

The cord or string used by him in fastening his legs together, says the Leader-Courier, was made of rawhide, so that when he was traveling through the grass of a morning when the dew was on it would become wet and stretch nearly a foot, and so his steps were much longer of a morning than they were of an evening after the sun had dried the whang leather and shortened it. Consequently the man having his land surveyed in the morning would have much more in his quarter section than his neighbor who had his work done in the afternoon. These old surveys and corners then established cause-annoyance even to this day.

Thrifty Squanderers.

When Napoleon entered Genoa in 1805, the rich patricians of the city exerted themselves to gain the favor of the conqueror by all sorts of flattering attentions. The most elaborate of these was a banquet patterned after the famous one offered by Antony to Cleopatra.

The tables were set in an artificial garden, floating on pontoons, which were towed out to sea during the progress of the feast. At the conclusion of the banquet—again in imitation of Antony and Cleopatra—all the costly gold and silver plate was flung into the sea.

This little tribute of honor to the emperor was not so expensive as it seemed, for the floating garden was surrounded with nets, and the plate was subsequently recovered.

What Men Like in Men.

Men like in men these traits: The honor that ennobles, the justice that insures the right, the reasonableness that mellows and makes plain, the courage that proclaims virility, the generous instinct that disdains all meanness, the modesty that makes no boast, the dignity that wins respect, the fineness and the tenderness that know and feel. But when one thinks of it more carefully may he not sum it up in just a single sentence and accept it as the truth that all men like a gentleman?

The Real Thing.

"Is this your writing?" asked the merchant as he glanced over a written list of goods wanted.

"No," replied Mr. Meeker; "my wife wrote the list."

"Well, she certainly knows how to handle a pen," said the merchant. "Her diction is absolutely perfect."

"Yes, I suppose her diction's all right," replied Meeker, with a deep sigh, "but it's nothing when compared with her contradiction!"

Rough Diamonds.

There is a popular notion to the effect that rough diamonds are not bright, but this is a mistake. Even in that condition they are very bright, with a peculiar "adamantine luster," as it is called, which no other substance possesses. However, the crude diamond crystal is not transparent. One cannot see through it.

That Was What Annoyed Him.

Mrs. Homeleigh—There is one thing about our girls—they are always self possessed.

Papa Homeleigh (grimly)—Yes, they are too self possessed. I wish they'd get some one else to possess them.—Stray Stories.

CALLING UPON A FRIEND.

The Way in Which Two English Actors Once Paid a Visit.

Here is an amusing story of Messrs. Toole and Brough, the English comedians. Having appeared conjointly in a drama, "Dearer Than Life," in which they wore very ragged, woebegone costumes, they visited the well known artists Fradelle and Marshall to be photographed in their rags. While waiting "between the plates" Toole, who was fond of a lark, suggested to his brother comedian to sally out and call upon a certain mutual acquaintance, who would be horribly shocked at receiving visitors in such a garb. Brough at once assented, and, popping on their battered hats, out into the street the pair slipped and made for the house of their friend. Of course the neat housemaid and the neater Buttons were horrified and declined even without being asked to purchase matches or the like.

"I axes your pardon," said Toole in an assumed tone. "You're making a slight mistake. We want to see your master." And he mentioned the gentleman's Christian name and that of his wife.

"We have important business with him," chimed in Brough.

The girl's face wore a dazed aspect, and she said: "Master never sees the likes of you at his house. He's most pertickler, ain't he, Charles?" appealing to the page. "You must be making a mistake."

"Oh, no, we ain't!" responded Toole with supreme gravity. "But I'm sorry William"—the Christian name of the gentleman—"is out. I haven't got a card about me," pretending to fumble among his rags, "but tell your master that his two cousins from the work-house called as they were passing through London."—London Tit-Bits.

PENNY POSTAGE.

The Incident That Led to Its Establishment in England.

Many years ago, when Queen Victoria first began to reign, it cost ninepence to send a letter from one English city to another. In those days the postage was not paid by the sender of the letter, as is now customary, but by the receiver. So, of course, there were many poor people who could not afford to pay ninepence when their mail arrived, and it often happened that they were obliged to forfeit the letters.

One day a man named Rowland Hill was riding on the outskirts of a city, and he saw a postman bring a letter to a young girl and demand ninepence for it. The girl took the letter, scrutinized it carefully and then handed it back to the man, saying she could not afford to pay the postage. Thereupon Rowland Hill, being a kind hearted man, rode up and insisted upon paying it himself. When the postman had gone, the girl confessed to her benefactor that the letter was from her lover, and to avoid paying ninepence on every letter he made certain marks on the envelope which she alone could decipher.

"But," said Rowland Hill, "don't you know you are doing something very dishonest in thus cheating the government?"

The girl admitted she did, but there was no other way to do.

Hill rode away and meditated over this little incident, and his far famed idea of "penny postage" was the result. At first he was laughed at by every one, but he fought bravely and finally was rewarded by seeing his idea in practice all over the land.

A Japanese Retraction.

The art of retracting without taking anything back—if the bull may be allowed—seems to be understood in Japan. A young orator at a political meeting called a public official a thief. A policeman on duty gravely rose and addressed a remark in a low tone to the speaker, who thereupon said, "The chief of police requests me to retract the word which I have just spoken. Although the word of a sage should never re-enter, let us make a concession; let us take back the word and keep the idea." Great applause and cries of "Bravo!" greeted the orator's escape from his dilemma.

Why Tennyson Wrote No Letters.

Tennyson once told Sir Henry Taylor that he thanked God Almighty with his whole heart and soul that he knew nothing and that the world knew nothing of Shakespeare but his writings and that he knew nothing of Jane Austen and that there were no letters preserved either of Shakespeare or of Jane Austen; that they, in fact, had not been "ripped open, like pigs."

Breathing Disease.

Infectious diseases are breathed into the system from those affected with disease or from bad smells; yet how many women breathe daily the offensive steam from common soaps made from rancid fats, and keep their hands for hours in such solutions, and the clothing from such soap suds is worn next the tender skin. No wonder disease and eczema are prevalent! Users of Sunlight Soap—Octagon Bar—know the difference between that and the pure, healthful smell from the vegetable oils and pure edible fats in Sunlight Soap.

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