

A DANGEROUS TRAITOR.

The Result of Pechantre's Plot to Kill the King.

Probably no well meaning poet was ever more taken by surprise than was M. Pechantre, a gentle and mild-mannered French dramatist of the seventeenth century, who was one day arrested for high treason as he was peacefully eating his dinner at a village inn.

The landlord of the inn where he was in the habit of dining discovered on a table a piece of paper on which were written some unintelligible phrases and below in a plain, bold hand, "Here I will kill the king."

The landlord consulted with the chief of police. Clearly this clew to a conspiracy ought to be followed up. The person who had left the paper had already been remarked for his absent air and gleaming eye. That man was Pechantre.

The chief of police instructed the landlord to send for him the next time the conspirator came to dinner.

When Pechantre was shown the evidence of his guilt, he forgot the awful charge against him and exclaimed:

"Well, I am glad to see that paper. I have looked everywhere for it. It is part of a tragedy I am writing. It is the climax of my best scene, where Nero is to be killed. It comes in here. Let me read it to you." And he took a thick manuscript from his pocket.

"Monsieur, you may finish your dinner and your tragedy in peace," said the chief of police, and he beat a hasty retreat.

Scarabæus, Egypt's Sacred Beetle.

Scarabæus, "the god beetle of the lower Nile," has been worshipped, petted and feared by several benighted sects of Egypt since the time "when the mind and history of man runneth not to the contrary." Like the other sacred creatures of idolatrous countries, several mythical fancies are woven around this entomological rarity.

The number of its toes, thirty, were supposed to symbolize the average number of days in a month. On each new moon day it deposited a ball containing 360 eggs, which the Egyptian priests assured their followers referred to the number of days in the year, the brilliant golden color of the ball itself personifying the sun. In ancient times this curious beetle was declared to be of but one sex, the male, but modern investigation has exploded that one myth at least.

In connection with the Egyptian nations the Gnostics as well as some of the early Christian fathers speak of Christ as the scarabæus and symbolize him as a man with a beetle's head. The Egyptians always embalmed this sacred insect.

Two Sickroom Warnings.

In a recent lecture on first aid to the injured the speaker emphasized two cautions that are so commonly disregarded as to be well worth repeating in print. The first is, never rub a person with liniment that has been put on a flannel cloth, for the roughness of the flannel and the friction on the skin, with the penetrating ingredients of the liniment, will easily make an abrasion of the skin, producing a condition that may take weeks to heal. The second warning is that in any condition of unconsciousness the hot object applied, bag, bottle, brick or whatever it may be, must be wrapped in flannel or cloth before it is brought into contact with the flesh of the person to be treated. A severe burn is often made by a thoughtless attendant who puts a too hot water bottle next to the skin while the patient is unconscious or unable to move away.

Teaching a Parrot.

"There are two ways," said a bird dealer, "of teaching a parrot to talk. One way is to put him in a darkened room, to sit in a corner and to repeat over and over again the word you want him to acquire. A clever parrot will learn a word or a phrase after some 400 or 500 repetitions, while for some it takes a week or more. You must keep still in the room. No sounds from within or without the house save your voice, monotonously repeating the phrase to be acquired, must reach the parrot's ear. Some people teach their birds in a well lighted room, speaking from a place of concealment in a closet or behind a door. This method is not so good, because in the light the parrot's attention is distracted."

One of O'Connell's "Bulls."

Some extremely amusing mistakes have been made by even the most practiced speakers in their desire to carry their audience with them. O'Connell once in an election speech in Conciliation hall told his followers that if measures injurious to Ireland were brought into parliament he would go over to England and "die on the floor of the house of commons in opposition to them," and when he came back he would say, "Are you for repeal now?"—London Standard.

Palestine Violin.

The rehab of Palestine is a sort of violin. The body is a square frame covered with parchment. The instrument is played with a bow. There is but one string, a thick, coarse horse-hair, but expert performers can, it is said, get considerable variety of tone from this primitive instrument.

JINGLES AND JESTS.

Degrees.

Commencement days are over, and many a noted man
Is proud at being honored with a coveted degree.

Perhaps it is an A. M., or it may be that he can
Subscribe himself, "Yours faithfully,
John Hopkins, LL. D."

Such men are very lucky, and we envy them, of course,
The Ph. D. or other plume, whatever it may be,
But most of us are still today plain citizens perforce,
And the only tag we ever get is C. O. D.

Her Opinion.

He—But don't you think girls often decline proposals without sufficient consideration?

She—Not very often. I think proposals are apt to be carefully considered before they are made.

Pingpong Shots.

The Tourist—Things don't seem very progressive out this way.

Buckskin Ben—What! Why, we have got their finest pingpong club in the country right here, stranger.

Suit Yourself.

If A-r-k. means Arkansas
And likewise means Arkansas,
Pray tell, should N-e-w-a-r-k
Then be pronounced Newarkansaw
Or simply Newarkansas?

Defined.

"Pa," said the little mosquito, "what does 'perseverance' mean, anyway?"

"Perseverance, my child," replied the wise old insect, "means finding a hole in a wire screen."

Interview With Little Eva.

"How old are you, my pretty, fair maid?"

"Well, I'm over seven, sir," she said.

"Is your mother with you, my pretty maid?"

"No; but my granddaughter is," she said.

Her View.

Cholly—Miss Pepprey, how do you pronounce "g-o-l-f"?

Miss Pepprey—I pronounce it perfectly idiotic.

Whom She Pleases.

She would not, though I coaxed and teased
And begged of her my bride to be.
She said she'd marry whom she pleased;
Yet, goodness knows, she pleases me.

Quiet Wedding.

"It was a quiet wedding, I presume?"

"Oh, yes. The groom acted as if he had been hypnotized."

No Quarrel With It.

The weather sure is trying,
But to blame it we are loath,
While the mint is in the julep
And the straw is in 'em both!

Tit For Tat.

Porcupine—You carry your head pretty high.

Giraffe—Well, if I do I am not stuck up as you are.—Judge.

Unqualified Approval.

The openwork stocking.
Ah, what could be neater?
'Tis especially admired
By the hungry mosquito.

As They Reckon Time.

"How long has she been on the stage?"

"Only about three divorces."

The One She Married.

He vowed with all his heart and soul
He loved her. Still she took
The one who loved her with his whole
Cash bulging pocketbook.

Matter of Form.

"Does she wear corsets through necessity?"

"No. It's merely a matter of form."

The Bluestocking.

Clorinda's newest great delight is
To show that she
Can trippingly
Pronounce perityphilitis.

Pigpog.

Jaspar—How did you catch such a cold?

Jumpuppie—I got overheated playing pigpog.—Judge.

A Clothesline.

'Tis not the clothes that make the man,
Though he may have a stack of them,
But 'tis quite frequently the case
That man's made mad by lack of them.

A Great Combination.

"If necessity is the mother of invention, what is the father?"

"Insanity, of course."

How to Get Rich.

Take a quantity of silica costing one-fourth the price of oil; mix it with oil, and sell the compound to the public at the price of pure oil; offer "prizes" with the compound to make it sell. It is such a compound the public get when they buy common soaps. In Sunlight Soap—Octagon Bar—the public buy a pure and well-made soap. Sunlight Soap reduces expense by prolonging the life of the articles washed with it, which is much more profitable to the public, than common soaps with "prizes." 204

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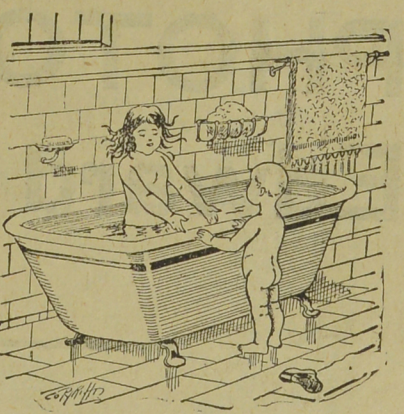
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