

FAMOUS ILLUSIONS.

SOME SECRETS OF PROFESSIONAL CONJURERS REVEALED.

How the Mysteries Are Destroyed and the Tricks Shown of Their Charm by a Peep at the Mechanism Behind the Scenes.

A behind the scenes view of the famous illusions with which conjurers have mystified and delighted generation after generation has peculiar fascinations. There are few of us who value our own childish illusions so highly that we will not part with them for the fun of seeing how we have been fooled.

Here are examples of some of the best known tricks:

The box trick is as clever as well known and as old as any. A heavy, brass bound chest is exhibited. An assistant is placed in a large canvas bag, the mouth of which is securely fastened, and the bag is placed in the chest, which is locked and roped.

The box is concealed for a few seconds, and when it is revealed the occupant is sitting upon it, the closed and sealed bag beside him. The cords and seals on the box are intact.

This astonishing feat is accomplished thus: The occupant of the bag has inserted a wooden plug in the mouth while the tying is being done. When the chest is locked, he pulls it out, slips out his hand, pulls off the cords, gets out and replaces the cords over the top of the sack.

By the time the chest is roped he is free. The chest has a secret opening, usually at the end, and while it is hidden he crawls out. A slim man is usually employed to do the trick.

The vanity fair trick is one of the most baffling in the repertory of the black art. A woman stands before a large mirror about ten feet high and placed in a heavy frame. About three feet from the floor is a small shelf placed against the mirror, the bottom of which is about eighteen inches from the floor. The glass having been duly inspected, the young woman mounts the shelf. She then turns to arrange her hair by the mirror. She is asked to face the audience, but again and again turns her back, hence the name of the trick.

Finally, losing patience, the performer thrusts a small screen in front of her, fires a pistol at the spot where she was standing, snatches away the screen, and she has vanished.

The top, bottom and sides of the mirror have been in view all the time and only the center has been hidden for a few seconds.

The secret lies in the fact that the lower part of the mirror is made double, the bottom of the upper part being concealed by a second sheet of silvered glass placed in front of it.

The shelf fits against the line of junction, and enables the mirror to be examined by the audience. As soon as the screen is placed the mirror slides up about a foot into the top of the frame. The bottom of this mirror is cut away in the middle, leaving a hole about eighteen inches square, which was previously concealed from view by the double glass at the base.

Through this hole the lady instantly slips, and escapes by a board which has been pushed forward from behind the scenes while the vanity fair by-play was going on. The glass then slides down again, the screen is removed, and the mirror appears just as solid as it was before.

Another of the most astounding feats of modern magic is that of making a person or object apparently float in the air. A couple of ordinary chairs are placed on the stage—well toward the back, which is draped with black cloth—and upon these is laid a broad, thick plank. A young lady is then introduced and is assisted to place herself in a recumbent position on the plank.

He then draws aside the chairs, and the plank, with the lady on it, remains apparently suspended in the air. To prove that the plank is not supported, the exhibitor takes a large hoop and passes it backward and forward over and around the plank.

Yet there is an attachment. As soon as the lady is placed in position on the board a carriage, placed behind the black curtain and supporting a strong iron bar twice bent upon itself, is pushed forward by an assistant so that the iron bar, which is covered with black cloth, comes out through a slit in the curtain while the exhibitor is pretending to mesmerize the lady. The bar has at its end a very strong clip, and the performer, while making his hypnotic passes, guides this on to the board. The chairs are then removed, and the board remains suspended by the invisible iron bar.

The hoop is passed along from one end until it reaches the bend where the bar passes through the curtain. The performer passes it round the end of the board and himself walks behind, passing the ring along in the opposite direction. Next it is brought back again, and the effect is such that the average spectator is convinced that the hoop has really been passed over the lady and the board from end to end.

Another very effective illusion, arranged upon the same principle, shows the head and bust of a lady supported on a three legged stool resting on a small table. One can apparently see

not only between the legs of the table to the back of the stage, but through the space between the stool and the table.

In this case the three legged stool is arranged with mirrors precisely as in the tripod illusion, but the table, which has four legs, is managed differently. A large mirror is placed diagonally under the table, joining to opposite legs. Thus the spectators really only see three of the legs, the fourth being simply the reflection of the first.—New York World.

Lengthening a Bee's Tongue.

Man is often blamed for driving to extinction many sorts of beautiful creatures, but the account is far more than balanced by the amount of good he has done for those animals which proved useful and could be tamed.

Take the case of the bee. The bee lives by its tongue, with which organ it is able to extract the honey from flowers. Now, a bee's tongue is naturally about a twenty-fifth of an inch long. Clever beekeepers, by keeping only those bees with naturally long tongues, have succeeded in lengthening the tongues of a number of bee colonies to the extent of another hundredth of an inch. It does not sound much, but it enables those insects to do a quarter as much work again in the same time.

Man has done more than this for bees. He has given them ready made homes, where they are safe from wasps and other enemies; frames for making their combs without using large quantities of wax for outside walls, and food during flowerless weather.

Saving the Money.

In a certain parish in Scotland collectors were going round soliciting contributions for the kirk. On coming to a wretched little hovel they hesitated whether or not to enter, but finally decided to "try their luck." A hale old man greeted them, and to him they explained their errand, but he really had nothing to give them, he said.

"Can't ye gie up your whisky?" one of the visitors asked. "No," he said, "I don't drink 'whusky.'" Perhaps then he could forego the pleasures of snuff. No, he didn't use snuff.

The collectors prepared to move on. "Stop a bit!" cried the old fellow. "I pay Sandy, the barber, twopence every Saturday night for shaving me. Tell the meenister he can have the twopence if he'll come and shave me himself!"

The Student's Prayer.

There was long ago a divinity hall presided over by a most amiable and dignified professor. On certain days the senior students opened the proceedings of the day with prayer. One morning a raw youth from a remote region performed this duty, and it was a memorable occasion. None who were present can forget how the venerable professor turned and gazed on the untutored lad, who prayed for him as follows: "Lord, have mercy on our professor, for he is weak and ignorant. Strengthen his feeble hands, confirm his tottering knees, and grant that he may go out and in before us like the he goat before the flock."—"Twenty-five Years of St. Andrews."

What Carlyle Wrote of Tennyson.

Tennyson in his prime was thus described by Thomas Carlyle to Ralph Waldo Emerson on Aug. 5, 1844: "One of the finest looking men in the world. A great shock of rough, dusty dark hair; bright, laughing, hazel eyes; massive aquiline face—most massive, yet most delicate, of fallow brown complexion, almost Indian looking; clothes cynically loose, free and easy; smokes infinite tobacco. His voice is musically metallic, fit for loud laughter and piercing wail and all that may lie between; speech and speculation free and plentiful. I do not meet in these late decades such company over a pipe."

When the Cat Was Sacred.

In the middle ages brute animals formed as prominent a part in the devotional ceremonies of the time as they had in the old religion of Egypt. The cat *Aelurus* was embalmed after death and buried in the city of Bubastis because, according to Herodotus, Diana Bubastis, the chief deity of the place, was said to have transformed herself into a cat when the gods fled into Egypt.

Watch Owner's Pride.

"Then you do not regard him as trustworthy?"

"I should not go so far as to say he is not trustworthy, but he is the kind of man who will set his watch at 11:30 o'clock and then call your attention to the manner in which it keeps time when the 12 o'clock whistle blows."

No! No! No! No!

This word is used four times by Prof. W. Hodgson Ellis, Official Analyst to the Dominion Government, in reporting the result of his analyses of Sunlight Soap.

"No unsaponified fat"; that means no waste.

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AUCTION SALE

—OF—

Timber Licenses.

NOTICE is hereby given, that there will be sold at public auction, at Chubb's Corner, in the City of Saint John, in the Province of New Brunswick, on THURSDAY, the sixth day of November next, at the hour of twelve of the clock, noon, certain Crown Land Licenses, situate on the Tobique River and vicinity in said Province, containing about three hundred square miles, being numbers: 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570 and 571.

And also a one-third interest in thirteen square miles of Timber Lands held by Michael Welch, and the title or interest formerly belonging to Hale & Murchie in the Limits or License held by T. B. Winslow for F. H. Hale and Adams, Burns & Co. For further particulars apply to:

MESSRS. CURREY & VINCENT,
Solicitors, St. John, N. B.

St. John, N. B., Oct. 6th, 1902.

Oct. 7—dimo

Intercolonial Railway.

Tender for an Engine House, etc., at Chaudiere Junction, P. Q.

Sealed Tenders addressed to the under signed, and marked on the outside "Tender for Engine House, Chaudiere Junction," will be received until FRIDAY, 17th October, 1902, for the above work.

Plans and specifications may be seen on and after the 30th instant at the office of the Station Master, Levis, P. Q., and at the Chief Engineer's Office, Moncton N. B., where forms of tender may be obtained.

All the conditions of the Specification must be complied with.

D. POTTINGER,
General Manager.

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Many people, especially children, are suffering from sore throat and coughs, caused by the damp, cold weather. It is easy to slip from sore throat or a slight cough into serious illnesses. A few doses of

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No. 1 and No. 2 are sold in Fredericton by a responsible druggist.

INTERCOLONIAL RAILWAY

On and after Sunday, October 12th, 1902, trains will run daily (Sundays excepted) as follows:

TRAINS WILL LEAVE ST. JOHN

No. 2 Express for Halifax and Campbellton	7.50
No. 134 Express for Quebec and Montreal	18.00
No. 26 Express for Point du Chene, Halifax and Pictou	12.15
No. 8 Express for Sussex	17.10
No. 4 Mixed for Point du Chene	13.15
No. 10 Express for Halifax and Sydney	23.25

TRAINS WILL ARRIVE AT ST. JOHN

No. 9 Express from Halifax and Sydney	6.20
No. 7 Express from Sussex	9.00
No. 133 Express from Montreal and Quebec	13.50
No. 25 Express from Halifax and Pictou	17.40
No. 1 Express from Halifax	18.40
No. 81 Express from Moncton, (Saturday only)	24.35
No. 3 Mixed from Point du Chene	16.50

All trains are run by Atlantic Standard Time. Twenty-four o'clock is midnight.
Moncton, Oct. 10, 1902.

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