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THE CONVERTED KING.

Once to a wicked King drew nigh,
On ill intent, a nonsing spy,
Who said, "I know a strange old man
Who calls you all that malice can—
A cruel tyrant, fired by hate,
Who grinds the poor and bleeds the state."
The king was vexed, and in reply
Declared the slanderer should die,
But when he came before the king
He answered "Yes" to everything
The spy had charged. "Look round," said he,
"On all your work of misery.
No subject stirs his lips from fear,
And speaking truth has brought me here."

The king, on finding one so bold,
Confessed to all the truth he told
And promised straightway to amend
And to his subjects be a friend,
Then gave to him who dared to die
Honors for his fine bravery.
—Joel Benton in New York Ledger.

CHATS WITH GYPSIES.

A Few Phrases With Which to Break Down the Romany Reserve.

The gypsy is generally talkative when you have broken down the barriers of reserve. For the benefit of the novice I will, however, remark that policemen (prastramengros) and hedgehogs (hotchiwichis) are both good subjects for discussion. The gypsy does not break the law more often than his neighbors, but a policeman, as the embodiment of all that is orderly and conventional, is antipathetic to him. As for hedgehogs, they are cooked and eaten by the Romany, who are wonderfully clever at tracking and capturing these very shy animals. The other day one of my gypsy friends informed me that as a cure for deafness there was nothing to equal a little melted hedgehog's fat applied to the ear.

The following few words and phrases, spelled as phonetically as possible, may be useful to any one paying his first visit to a Romany camp. By adroitly introducing them into his conversation the visitor may succeed in avoiding that appearance of inexperience and greenness which might tempt his hosts to receive him as an inquisitive gentile rather than as a future "Romany Rai:"

Good day, brother	Kooshto divvus, pal.
What is your name?	So see tooty's nav?
I, you	Mandy, tooty.
Give me	Del mandy.
To see	To dik.
A little beer	A kosol kvinor.
To smoke a pipe	To toor a swegler.
Tent, caravan	Tan, wardo.
Water	Paani.
Child	Chavvi.
Yes, no	Awa, kek.
Good luck to you!	Kooshto bok to tooty!

—Pall Mall Budget.

Growing Walking Sticks.

The cultivation of material for walking sticks is carried on in quite an extensive scale in some parts of Europe, and special attention is often paid to making the roots grow into shapely forms for handles. While in London last year I went in to a manufacturing establishment, the floor space of which covers nearly an acre. This concern has storehouses filled with native and foreign sticks, from which stock is drawn as wanted for the shops. The sticks as they grow are often very crooked and have to be straightened. A heap of sand is piled on the top of a hot stove, into which the sticks are plunged until they become pliable. The workman takes the crooked stick while it is yet hot and inserts it in a notch cut in a stout board, placed at an angle inclined from him, where he bends and strains it. When it has become perfectly straight, it is thrown down to cool, after which it becomes rigid and permanent in its lines. The same power which makes a crooked stick straight is applied to make a straight one crooked. All the various kinds of sticks that are required to be curled or twisted are, by the application of heat, made to assume almost any shape or form.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The Perils of Politics.

"My friend," said the candidate for sheriff of Cheyenne, drawing a one eyed stranger close to his means of livelihood, "do you want to make $5 easy tonight?"

"Yep."

"All right. When I say in my speech, 'Is there a man among you who will deny this statement?' you jump to your feet in the rear of the hall and shout: 'Yes, sir, I will. You are a liar, and I can prove it!' and read from this clipping. Then I will call you down and make you ridiculous, but you will get the V nevertheless. Is it a go?"

"Nope."

"Why not?"

"I tried the same thing in Butte City a year ago, and the candidate jumped on me so hard that the audience kicked me out of the hall and rode me out of town on a rail. I didn't get the $5 either. Try it on some one else. I've been there."—Boston Herald.

Feathers In Germany.

As soon as she is able to run about each daughter of a German farmer's family is presented with a linen bag marked with her own name, into which she put all the feathers she can pick up. Not the slightest downy bit escapes her, and the sooner the bag is filled the greater he praise she gets from the parents. The bag being full, it is emptied into a larger one, which hangs in the garret or elsewhere, and when there are feathers enough they are made into pillows or bolsters or beds or cushions for easy chairs. We waste a great deal in this country. Although we do not keep so many geese as Germans keep, chicken feathers are plentifully strewn about most farms and make good beds. —New York Dispatch.

He Was Hungry.

This one on a G street boarding house: A little girl asked if she might have a small piece of meat. A very small piece was placed on her plate, when she remarked:

"I want a piece to eat, not to look at!"

An audible smile traveled around among the boarders, and an audible frown settled on the brow of the landlady.—Washington Capital.

It is a crime to kill an American eagle in the state of New York, and it is also an offense against the law to have one of the noble birds in possession.

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MEN'S Good Serviceable Overcoats $3.19, worth 7.50.	CHILDREN'S Storm Overcoats age 5 to 15 $1.75, worth 3.25.
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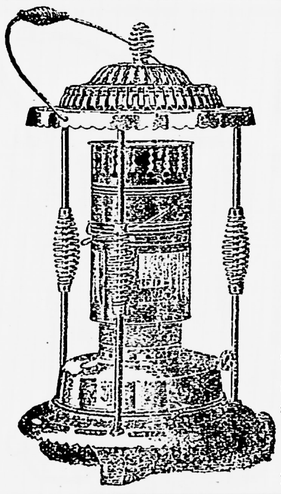
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