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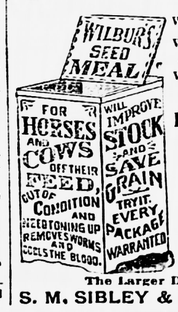

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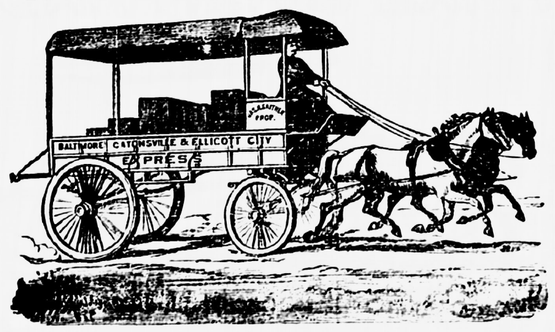

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PICTURES OF OLD MASTERS.

The Constant Duel Between the Experts and the Frauds.

In a vaudeville that used to be played at the Palais Royal an upstart is made to say: "Come see my gallery. I have got 10 old masters from the sale, or 16 old sails from the sell. I don't know which."

Many of our experts might say the same thing, because the imitation of old pictures is becoming a regular and flourishing business, with its workshops, its artists and its markets. The other day in one of the suburbs of Brussels a factory was discovered for turning out the works of old masters, and the specimens brought to light were well calculated to puzzle the most skillful experts. As a matter of fact, during the past 40 years Belgium has put upon the market hundreds of Hobbemas, Teniers, Metzus, Ruysdaels and especially Van Goyens, which they have made quite fashionable.

It is easy for skeptics to say that, in spite of their skill, the forgers can never deceive men of experience; that they always make feeble copies or wretched imitations; that the dash, the life and the evidence of the free hand in execution, which are clearly presented in the genuine works of the masters, are always absent in the copies. But unfortunately this is not the case. There are forgers in art whose skill is no less astounding than deplorable. To prove this a single example suffices:

All those who occupy themselves a little with the fine arts know, at least by reputation, the two famous portraits of Leo X., one in the Tribuna room of the Uffizzi gallery in Florence and the other in the museum of Naples. Nobody has ever been able to tell which is the original.

We are compelled to acknowledge the wonderful skill of these forgers who successfully seize, if not the details, at least the ensemble of a work. Then, as for the details, they have recourse to another method. There are moments when literary men, to avoid the trouble of consulting a dictionary, put a mark upon a word the orthography of which they are not quite sure, and leave to the proofreader the care of hunting it up. Well, the reproducers of old masters replace the ink mark by a "vegetation," which is obtained by rubbing with a wet rag the portion of the picture which is to be covered for cause. The water left upon the spot soon produces a reddiness and an infinite number of little spots. The whole forms a stain which, in the slang of the forgers, is called a chanci.

The methods of these swindlers are innumerable. For example, to destroy the proof that the canvas is newly painted, they simply bake it. In this way they obtain a rough and scaly surface. When the scales do not appear in sufficient quantity, the point of a pin is used to produce the desired additional number. A judicious employment of wet ashes and lampblack in varying doses suffices to give to the old or those beautiful somber and yellowish tones that time spreads upon the works of past centuries. Spanish licorice is also used to give modern canvases the appearance of old age. A decoction of wine must is sometimes poured upon the painting. It is spread with the palm of the hand and rubbed until it becomes dry. That is the method of giving to the canvas what is called the warm and golden tone.

Some time ago the experts discovered a very simple method of detecting the fraud. The copies, having neither the name nor the hardness of the old paintings, were unable to resist the attacks of alcohol, which made their colors fade rapidly. But in this eternal duel between the expert and the forger, the latter has the ripostes always prompt. To make his copies proof against the attacks of alcohol he covered them with a light coat of liquid glue. Over this the alcohol passed just as it might pass over a pane of glass.

It is noteworthy that these forgeries are well known to the amateurs who are still bold enough to purchase old paintings. The mania of the collector holds out against all disappointments and mishaps.—Paris Cor. Courrier des Etats Unis.

A LEGEND OF WORMS.

How the Prophecy of the Jewish Sage Was Fulfilled.

Rashi lived during the time of the first crusade, and one of the legends of Worms connects him with this event. He was one day seated with his pupils, when a knight, full panoplied, made his way into the schoolhouse and with threatening mien thus addressed him: "Rabbi, thy name for wisdom has reached me and fain would I learn my fate from thee. I have assembled a host wherewith I purpose to drive the infidel Turk from the Holy City, but before I set out I demand to know whether my undertaking will succeed. Answer me at once. I have no time for delay."

The rabbi replied: "Thou wouldst learn the future from me? Alas, I am unable to foretell it. God alone can say what the future will bring forth. I have no powers of divination, and my faith forbids the assumption of them. Pray, therefore, forgive me if I am unable to accede to thy request."

"Rabbi," exclaimed the knight, in tones of passion, "I will listen to no refusal. Well I know that thou canst foretell the future if thou wilt. As truly as I am Godfrey of Bouillon, so truly do I promise to protect thee and thy community from all harm, even if thou shouldst foretell disaster to me. But if it is a successful issue that thou hast in store for me, I will right royally reward thee in addition on my return. What! Art thou silent? Speak, or, by heaven, my sword shall open thy mouth wide enough."

"My liege lord," answered the Jewish sage, "there is only one above who can penetrate the future. Unless I would deceive thee, which I dare not do, at most I can but venture an opinion of what will happen to thee. Thy undertaking will only succeed in part. Of thy immense host but three men and one horse's head will return in safety." With blanched countenance Godfrey of Bouillon turned to depart, exclaiming as he went, "Take care, Jew, if I return to find thou hast deceived me!" Godfrey of Bouillon went up to Jerusalem, captured it and became its first king.

But his success was short lived, and the tide of war turned against him. Defeat and disease decimated his vast host until there remained but four riders of them all who made their way to Worms. "The Jew has not spoken the truth," he remarked, as the gates of the city came in sight. "He said we should return with only three riders and a horse's head. He has lost his reward." They rode up to the gates and demanded admission. The massive door behind was raised and they passed through. But as the fourth rider was about to follow, it fell down again with a heavy thud, decapitating the horse and leaving its trunk and burden outside the city. "Conduct me to the rabbi," said Godfrey of Bouillon. "I must see him at once." But the rabbi had long since left Germany.—Birmingham Post.

The Universal American Typewriter.

American firms have practically a monopoly in supplying the world's market with typewriting machines. Firms in other countries make the machines, but they cannot be considered in the light of competitors to the American article, the superiority of which is generally conceded. To adapt the machine to universal use special keyboards are now made for various languages, such as German, French, Greek, Russian, etc., and when the home market is supplied there yet remains a worldwide field for the American article.—New York Commercial.

Some American Generals.

We had not seen the fight of the cavalry brigade, says Frederic Remington in Harper's Monthly, because we were not at the front. We would not let it happen again. We slung our packs and most industriously plodded up the Via del Rey until we got to within hailing distance of the picket posts, and he said: "Now, Frederic, we will stay here. They will pull off no more fights of which we are not a party of the first part." And stay we did. If General Lawton moved ahead, we went up and cultivated Lawton, but if General Chaffee got ahead, we were his friends, and gathered at his mess fire. To be popular with us it was necessary for a general to have command of the advance.

But what satisfying soldiers Lawton and Chaffee are! Both seasoned, professional military types. Lawton, big and long, forceful, and with iron determination. Chaffee, who never dismounts but for a little sleep during the darkest hours of the night and whose head might have been presented to him by one of William's Norman barons. Such a head! We used to sit around and study that head. It does not belong to the period; it is remote, when the race was young and strong, and it has "warrior" sculptured in every line. It may seem trivial to you, but I must have people "look their part." That so many do not in this age is probably because men are so complicated, but "war is a primitive art," and that is the one objection I had to Von Moltke, with his simple student face. He might have been anything. Chaffee is a soldier.

The Zandeh—Have They White Blood?

The Zandeh chiefs in the Sudan are a hereditary feudal aristocracy, and they rule generally with an iron hand, and with much judgment and good sense. They were ignorant of all civilization and all but naked till 1858, but they know how to rule. Many are "capable of discharging high administrative duties with tact and with advantage to the government," and Dr. Junker instances Semio and his brother and Rafai as examples. They are of pure blood, and all are cousins in the fourth or nearer degrees. Their pedigrees go back to the time of James I. Semio is in the eleventh generation; some are in the thirteenth. One hundred and seventy-seven are known by name and full pedigree up to that origin. There were six generations of chiefs ruling the united nation—a time evidently of war and conquest—after which the chiefs' pedigrees split.

They are a ruling race of high caste, something absolutely unique in central Africa for caste, self respect, trustworthiness and ruling qualities. They are not negroes, though copper colored, and the undoubted existence of individuals with blue eyes, red hair and an extraordinarily fair complexion still awaits an explanation. In time and presumable locality the first name in this Zandeh pedigree comes so close to the issue of that Elizabethan sailor Andrew Battel of Essex, who lived for years far up country in the upper Ogawai that one wonders if he helped to make this race.—Fortnightly Review.

Dried Locusts as a Fertilizer.

Many reports have been received from Argentina from time to time concerning the shipping of dead and dried locusts from that country to Europe. The preparation of locusts for use as a fertilizer now promises to become a regularly established industry in Argentina, according to The Review of the River Plate. A German firm, it appears, has obtained a concession to buy up dead locusts all over the country from the various commissions, paying $1.50 per ton for the same.

For a long time past many people have thought that dead locusts could be converted to some use and have puzzled their brains to hit on a solution of the riddle. During the last two years exhaustive experiments have been quietly made by agricultural chemists and practical men as to the value of locusts dried and ground to powder as a fertilizing agent.

The concessionaires are of opinion that the price they can obtain for it will enable them to do business with the expectation of making a substantial profit. The locusts are first to be roughly dried and sent to Rosario, which is to have the honor of being the headquarters of the industry. They are then to be thoroughly dried a second time and to be disinfected, and finally ground into powder and packed for shipment. The cost of drying is estimated at $3 per ton, in addition to the original $1.50, and to this will have to be added the cost of labor, carriage, freight and disinfectants.—Manufacturer.

His Neck.

Something was wrong somewhere. It was probably the gearing under the car. A strong odor as if from burning rubber permeated the atmosphere.

The passengers looked at one another suspiciously and turned up their noses. A man who sat near the stove looked at his coat sleeve to make sure that he had not caught fire.

An old lady in the next seat said:

"Dear me! I wonder what's wrong? I think I shall get out."

Everybody had some remark to make—some theory to advance. People who wore overshoes looked at them to see whether they were smoking or not, and the man who sat near the stove said:

"Rubber's burning somewhere; that's sure."

Then a small boy with a wise look called to him:

"Say, mister, you better feel of your neck. It's purty red."

After that the people were too busy laughing to indulge in any further speculation—all except the man near the stove. He was mad, unless looks are deceiving.—Cleveland Leader.

Diplomatic Discipline.

"That naval officer thinks he knows it all, doesn't he?" asked the German emperor.

"His conduct certainly warrants the suspicion, your majesty."

"He's getting haughty and imagines that he can have his own way whenever and wherever he pleases."

"It certainly looks that way."

"Well, I don't want to hurt his feelings personally, but we'd better do something to hold down his overbearing pride. I guess I'll put him in charge of one of our warships and send him to Manila."—Washington Star.

The Tables Turned.

M. Carre, the manager of the Paris Opera Comique, has just turned the tables very neatly upon a tenor in his company who refused to take part in a charitable performance on the ground that the music allotted to him was unfamiliar. M. Carre's contract with the tenor allowed him to sublet the vocalist to other managers, and taking advantage of this he has sublet him to a Bordeaux manager for four months, at a profit of 2,000 francs, which sum is to be given to the charity the tenor declined to assist.

A Moody Explanation.

Mr. Moody, the evangelist, publishes the following characteristic statement: "While in Denver recently I was anxious to get a home for the Young Men's Christian association of that city. There are 40,000 young men there, many of them broken in health and many from the east who should be looked after. Mr. Ross, a wealthy and benevolent man, was called upon, and he thought I was asking too much when I urged him to give $75,000. Then I wrote him, and he thought I was too persistent, and I think I was. I apologized, and we are good friends."

HORN BORING INSECTS.

Caterpillars That Perforate Antlers In Africa and India.

A curious fact which for many years has proved a bone of contention among scientific men has just been decided. Sportsmen and naturalists when hunting in India and Africa have from time to time had brought under their notice the horns of various species of deer and buffalo which have been more or less perforated by insects. On careful examination it was found that the little creatures which tunneled and made their home in the hard fiber of the horn were the caterpillars or larvæ of a moth, belonging to the same family as the common and all too familiar clothes moth.

From their diminutive size the moths belonging to this family have received the name of tineidæ, and it has been observed that they are all more or less given to making their homes in strange places during the larval stage of their existence. The little larvæ of our old enemy the clothes moth, for instance, make for themselves protective cylinders out of the cloth they so greedily devour.

Sometimes these tubes present a very curious appearance owing to their having been enlarged as the insect has grown and different colored materials used for the new portions of the old case. The larvæ of another branch of this family deck themselves out with floral garments, the calyx of the flower of the common marjoram being a very popular dress, while others are of a mining disposition and love to excavate elaborate tunnels in the leaves of the honeysuckle.

Strange as these habits appear, it is yet more wonderful that a species of these soft bodied insects should be capable of boring into so hard a substance as the antlers of a deer. During the 45 or 50 years that these horn devouring larvæ have been under observation the various stages of their existence have been carefully noted, from the laying of the egg upon the horn by the mother moth to the final appearance of her offspring as perfect male and female insects.

The larvæ on emerging from the egg bore down into the horn, and when they have eaten their fill and are ready for their chrysalis sleep they tunnel up to the surface, so that they may have a convenient exit by which to make their escape when the pupal sleep is over and they have become perfect moths.

But, although so much of their life history was known, there still remained one problem unsolved. This knotty question was that no one knew for certain whether these larvæ attacked the horns and antlers of the buffalo and deer while the animals were alive or only after death. After many years of speculation and conflicting opinions it has at last been conclusively proved that these insects do infest the horns of living quadrupeds, for the news has just come to hand that both the larvæ and chrysalis have been taken from the horns within an hour of the death of the animal to which they belonged.—London Mail.

Indiana's "What Is It."

Princeton, Ind., has a little animal unlike any other animal known. It belongs to T. C. Braselton and was captured in the northern portion of Mexico, 600 miles from the American line. He is called Pedro, and this is as near classifying him as any one has been able to come.

In consequence of the presence of this little fellow Princeton has become a Mecca for hundreds of persons inspired with curiosity to see Pedro. In size he approaches the minimum growth of the mountain lynx. The color is like the cinnamon bear, dark brown. He has dark brown eyes, and his head, ears and feet are in formation exactly like those of a bear. His tail is very long and large, and he uses it as no other animal has ever been known to utilize a tail. Anything that he cannot reach with his hind feet is gained by means of his tail.

Pedro's fur is short and thick and is now becoming quite soft, although when first captured it was very rough. In his ways Pedro is much like a monkey. He likes to be petted and minds his owner very well. When Mr. Braselton holds him, Pedro will grasp his owner's finger in his paw and indicate just where he wishes to be scratched. When he yawns and stretches after sleeping, he runs his tongue out of his mouth fully five inches.—Exchange.

Chinese Ethics.

A Chinese phrase, for which we shall hardly find an exact equivalent in the English language, will help us to separate truth from error—or at least the probable from the unlikely—when we read such dispatches as those recently published in regard to the flight, assassination or suicide of the Chinese emperor. The phrase may be literally translated, "to save his face." Any high official of the empire may apply it to himself in certain contingencies, and may think that he defends his personal credit and that of his office by committing suicide when threatened with removal. In the case of the emperor his sense of propriety and the rule of etiquette would leave him no choice. If his successor has been chosen, or it becomes quite certain that a successor is to be appointed immediately, he must "save his imperial face." It will not be necessary to murder him.—Harper's Weekly.

Our Commissioners' Wives.

It is interesting to note that the American peace commissioners, now in Paris, are accompanied in every case by their wives. All the ladies are said to be delighted at the prospect before them and quite aware of the importance of the peace commissioners. Mrs. Day, wife of the ex-secretary of state, is a very striking brunette, but the most noticeable woman in the group is the wife of Senator Davis, who is young and famed for her good looks and crossed from Alaska to catch her husband's steamer. Mrs. Gray, the wife of the senator from Delaware, is an extremely dignified woman. Mrs. Whitelaw Reid is, of course, no stranger to Paris. Mrs. Frye expects a pleasant time in Paris, but she is not going to buy a cent's worth of clothing there. "No shopping for me; I have got everything with me. I believe in my own country."—London Chronicle.

Not What He Meant.

The London Times says: "A good story of the 'things one would have expressed differently' type is being whispered about Gloucester. Some crank has been writing to the local papers complaining that during the festival he is not admitted to the cathedral free, that being a place of worship. The crank turned up at the cathedral the other day and was told he could not be admitted without a ticket. 'Do you mean to tell me,' he excitedly argued, 'that I shall require a ticket to enter the kingdom of heaven?' 'Well, no,' explained the polite steward, 'but you won't hear Mme. Albani in heaven.' And then, when the enormity of his remark dawned upon him, that steward turned and fled."

A Much Titled Woman.

The Duchess of Devonshire is perhaps the most enviable of all the queens of English society. She is chatelaine of six of the most palatial houses in England and Ireland, of a town house whose rental value is equal to the yearly salaries of half the British cabinet, of a chateau in France and a "lordly pleasure house" on the Riviera. She has won two ducal coronets by marriage, has borne ten titles of peerage and is a French countess. Although she is still regarded as one of the loveliest women in society, she is grandmother of a duke, who is himself meditating matrimony.

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PAID-UP CAPITAL	$1,000,000.00
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RESERVE REQUIREMENTS AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS	661,290.75
TOTAL	$2,661,290.75

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HERMAN E. BOSLER, Secretary and Treasurer.
EDWIN WARFIELD, President.

LIVERY AND UNDERTAKING
The Livery and Undertaking business of the late Chas. A. Easton will be continued by the undersigned, who is to take charge of FUNERALS in Howard and adjoining counties attended to on the shortest notice and at any distance on the most REASONABLE TERMS.
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