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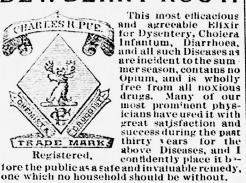
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TOOK BACK OLD PETE.

He Didn't Work, but His Singing Made the Others Work. "One of the fellows in my gang," said a foreman who has been superintending a section of conduit work, "is a strapping big negro named Pete, black as the ace of spades, perfectly good natured and incorrigibly lazy. His one accomplishment was in singing those queer, droning songs that all darkies set up instinctively when they do anything together, and in that particular line, I must admit, he was singularly gifted. He would start out with any old thing—for instance, 'My honey lives in Mooo-bile'—and keep phoric Acid and Nitrogen, and on improvising all day long in a voice as found as a fog horn. This, however, was all I ever detected him doing, and, as I

had no authority to pay out money for every soil and increase yield professional musicians in a dirt slinging gang, I gave him the grand bounce. "Next day the work lagged in a most unaccountable and mysterious fashion. I couldn't put my finger on any out and out shirking, but the men seemed listless and dispirited, and we fell short of our average by a good many cubic yards. It was the same the next day and the next, and I was getting desperate when my assistant, who is a pretty shrewd young chap, suggested that we take back old 'The black rascal won't work,' he said, but he certainly heartens up the men with his singing.'

"I was willing to do anything about

then, so I tried the experiment, and the

result was magical. He hadn't been on

half an hour before he began to bellow out one of his capstan 'chanties,' and all hands instantly joined in the chorus and struck their old gait. Since then Pete has been official balladist for the gang and is cheap at the money. "What reminded me of the incident was paragraph I saw in a technical journal the other day saying that the contractors on the Southern railway engage one harpist and one flute player to every 40 laborers. I would have laughed at that statement a month ago, but now I'm inclined to believe it." — New Orleans

Times-Democrat. An Independent Preacher. There are few cases on record wherein n minister owns his own church, refuses to accept a salary, performs the janitor work and furnishes light and heat for the church. Under these novel conditions the Rev. A. W. Hobson of Lyons, Neb., ministers with success to a large number of zealous followers. In the common parlance of the street "he is the whole thing." The Rev. Mr. Hobson is a regularly ordained preacher, at one time or another having been connected with the Methodist denomination and with the United Brethren in Christ. But at this time he professes allegiance to no particular sect. He prefers to be free to follow the dictates of a new dispensation which he declares may ere long be

given to the world. The Rev. Mr. Hobson is in many re spects a remarkable man, but his apparent eccentricities do not carry him so far as to cause his neighbors to set him down as a crank. He enjoys the respect of the whole community and has the reputation of being a sincere man, an original thinker, a fearless speaker and a worker of great energy. His appearance in the pulpit, clad in a red robe, has caused a great deal of comment, both favorable and unfavorable. Mr. Hobson says he is "not permitted to divulge the secret of his red robe at present, though it will gradually be done as the days go by."-Chicago Chronicle.

Mr. Leslie Larimer has lost his taste for eggs. Mr. Larimer is the spruce looking young man who gives money for paper at the Phoenix National bank. One evening in August Mr. Larimer drove out to Mr. Pickrell's ostrich roost and while prowling around the coop he "shooed" a hen off her nest and stole one of the eggs. He took the egg home and put it on tap in the cellar beside the beer keg. The next morning there was egg omelet breakfast in the Larimer house. At lunch there was egg, straight up, and for dinner there was egg, shipwrecked. The next day there was egg, sau-ta, sou-fla and fra-pa on the bill of fare. That evening Mrs. Larimer gave Mrs. Smith some egg. Mrs. Smith made two pound cakes and three pans of cookies ger of sherry.

the next day and had enough left for Mr. Smith to swallow as a prelude to a jig-After fried egg for breakfast on the fourth day, Mr. Larimer sounded the shell with a bung starter and found it empty. Mrs. Larimer had kept books on the egg and found it equal to 33 hen's eggs. The shell now swings in the dining room window as an "olla," and Mr. Larimer says it holds about as much as an "eighth"-whatever that is .- Arizona Graphic.

Russell Sage's Generosity. "You often see it stated in the New York newspapers that that great hearted, open handed man, Russell Sage, is disposed to be close in money matters," said a New York capitalist who was in town last week. "Don't you believe any such stuff and nonsense. I'll tell you a little incident that happened right under my own eye, only last week, that will disprove all such assertions. I was in Mr. Sage's office waiting for him to finish a little work on his desk before having a talk with him, when a messenger boy whom he had rung up came in. "'Take this note down to "Steen Wall street," ' said Mr. Sage to the boy. 'No pswer necessary. How much will that

"Twenty cents,' replied the boy. "Mr. Sage pulled a handful of goldpieces of large denomination out of his rousers pocket. Carefully turning over shiny silver quarter.

the gold coins, he got down to a new, "'You are a bright looking boy,' said Mr. Sage to the lad, handing him the quarter. 'You may keep the change and buy yourself a pair of shoes." -- Wash-The Decline of Faith.

The unusually small increase of mem-

bership during the last church year in nearly every evangelical denomination is receiving attention. Men are seeking for the cause of the seeming decline of interest in religion, and ministers' meetings, conferences and various local Chrisian organizations are determining to engage in more earnest endeavors to win ouls to Christ. It is well to remember that often a decline of religious interest s more apparent than real, is the result not of antagonism, but of indecision. The fact must be conceded that there are not a few influences today to cause indecision. The new theology and the new criticism of Scriptures are alone sufficient to produce doubt and hesitation .-Christian Intelligencer.

Married on a Street Car. A unique wedding occurred in one of the suburbs of Columbus when Eugene Smith and Miss Lillie Satcher, young people of East Highlands, were married on a street car. The preacher who was to wed them, the Rev. J. W. Simmons. was on the car hurrying to meet an appointment and did not have time to leave the car. Accordingly the car stopped for a minute or so at Wildwood Park. The young people stood up in the car, and the minister married them in the presence of the passengers. The marriage was followed by congratulations all the way round, as the motorman turned on the full current to make up for lost time, and the car whizzed through space. It was not a runaway match, the couple merely failing to meet the pastor at his house in

time as by appointment.-Atlanta Con-Free With Ice. The stores of ice at Windsor, Osborne and Balmoral are very large. At Windsor there is a storage room for about 500 tons. There the supply is obtained from the lake beneath the north terrace, from Frogmore and from the lake between Frogmore and Virginia water. Ice is not only lavishly used in the royal kitchen, but also for reducing the temperature of her majesty's apartments in hot weather. Then it is packed in pretty wooden buckets and stood in the fire-

MISS ALICE RHODES.

The Most Pecaliar Specimen of Femininity in South Africa. The most interesting woman in South Africa next to Olive Schreiner, the auhoress, is Miss Alice Rhodes, whose individuality entitles her to consideration aside from her being "Cecil Rhodes' sis-

Miss Rhodes is masculine in appearance. She resembles the typical English squire, being florid and squarely built and having a deep, powerful voice. She generally sits with her feet apart and lacks feminine mannerisms. Miss Rhodes has been her brother's onstant companion, and is devoted to him-the only man, it is said, for whom she has any toleration. At her home, Groote Schuur, near Cape Town, Miss Rhodes has collected a

wonderful assortment of nearly all the wild animals of South Africa. A passenger on a steamer going to Cape Town recently says that Miss Rhodes was foremost in directing athletic games on shipboard and in umpiring contests. During the games on board ship Miss Rhodes sat on the promenade deck with the captain, officers and a lady companion and regulated handicaps for the running matches, umpired the cockfight and was active in adding to the interest of the tug of war. Twelve brawny Cornishmen were pit-

rom the ship's crew. Miss Rhodes sided with the Cornishmen, but offered an additional prize to the winners. Then the training of the sailors told, and slowly but surely they were hauling the Cornishmen over toward the fatal line; then Miss Rhodes came to the rescue. Springing to her feet, she cried: "My faith, Cornishmen, take off your shoes! That's why the sailors are beating you!" The committee on rules decided that this was a fair action, and then the tug began again, this time to the advantage of the Cornishmen.

ted against a team of crack athletes

A Rich Man's Worries. According to his own admission, Henry Willard, one of the two surviving brothers of the three who were famous in Washington hotel history for a third of a century, is in failing health, although he is active as a cat on his feet and has every appearance of robust vitality. Henry Willard is one of the wealthy men of Washington. He retired from active business several years ago-that is to say, he retired as much as he could. A day or two ago a friend met him on the street and inquired about his health. "I am feeling bad," was the reply. do not sleep well. I toss all night long and wake up unrefreshed. I do not know what I am going to do." Thinking to "jolly" him, the friend remarked: "If I were as comfortably worry.'

fixed as you I think I would sleep soundly. I certainly would not lose sleep from "I am not so sure of that," rejoined the old man, and his voice took on a querulous tone. "I am not so sure what you would do if you were in my place. Why, just think of it! Supposin you had from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 idle in bank all the time and had to worry about investin it. Maybe you would not find it so blamed easy to sleep as you think. Just think of it-all that money not earnin a dollar." The friend closed the incident by remarking that he would try valiantly to struggle against insomnia under similar horrible conditions.-Washington Letter in Chicago Post.

A Defiant Postmaster. In speaking the other day of the great progress which has been made in the postal service of the country within recent years Postmaster Merritt told a story to illustrate that there were still parts of the United States which had not been touched by the spirit of improvement. "I stopped in at the postoffice depart ment the other day," General Merritt said in reciting the story, "and in looking over some of the communications I chanced on one that took my fancy mightily. It came from the head of one of Uncle Sam's offices way out in the Rocky mountains, in an almost uninhabited section, and appeared to have been sent partly as a note of information and partly as an ultimatum to the government at Washington. It read as follows: " 'Notice.-This office will be closed for the next three days while the postmaster goes on a bear hunt. You can discharge me if you want to. but I warn you beforehand that I'm the only man that can read and write in the neighborhood." Washington Post.

The Bishop's Tramp. Bishop Leighton Coleman (Episcopal) of Delaware has just finished his annual summer tramp, which he made this year to Virginia. He went clad in heavy dark clothes, with big shoes, soft hat, wearing a linen "duster" and carrying a cane. He journeyed about 220 miles, or an average of 22 miles a day. His highest record was 32 miles in one day. The bishop toured through the Blue Ridge mountains, sleeping in taverns, farmhouses and hotels. He did not tramp on Sunday, neither did he attend church, as that would have aroused suspicion, but on Sunday he retired to a wood in the mountains and, erecting a rude altar, said the Episcopal service. The bishop has been making these tours for about 40 years, and on this trip he was recognized for the first time As he was walking by a station in Vir ginia a little girl ran up to him and shouted, "Hello, bishop!" He paid no attention to her, but remembered that she was in a congregation that he had

addressed during the summer. Cardinal Gibbons. Cardinal Gibbons is a great pedestrian. and his tall figure, which is now bent by age and cares, is familiar on the streets of his native city. He always appears in a frock coat, and he usually carries stout cane. He was provided with handsome carriage, and he could ride it state should be so elect, but he prefers to walk. His constitutional on Charles street on a fair afternoon is a pleasant feature of his routine life. Everybody knows him by sight, and he has to ac knowledge many salutations from pass ersby. His rambles used to extend several miles, but in recent months the walks have been shorter. The cardina is advancing in years, and no better evi dence of his growing feebleness is ap parent than in the length of his consti tutional. His eminence is of course in demand at social gatherings of note, and he is often besought to officiate at wed dings. He responds to as many of these requests as he consistently can.-New

Ventilating the House In Summer. "Admit sunlight at least a part of the day in as many of the rooms as is possible, especially in the sitting room, dining room and kitchen," says the writer of "Five Minute Talks on Good Health" in the Ladies' Home Journal. room should be aired daily and given the benefit of the sunlight if not of the sunshine directly. Should you close the house or a part of it during the day, do not do it so completely as to shut out the open windows at the bottom and after its mission of purification is accomplished give it free egress through the windows opened at the top. The dust may find its way in also, but better some dust and some air than no dust and no air. Bear in mind that a cool room in summer is not desirable or healthful if the coolness has been purchased at the expense of fresh air and sunshine. Do not fail to have every window of every living room lowered from the top, if only a few inch-

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