

During the last few weeks a perfect novelty in the art of swindling has been brought out in a town in Italy, and as a result the use must be played upon the very sharpest wits in London, on account of the mode of proceeding, and of interest to the residents of Bond St. and other parts. Some time since a very gentlemanly looking man, accompanied by his daughter, a good-looking young lady of about 18 summers, alighted at the chief hotel of the town. They gave themselves out to be English, and had, among other luggage, four large boxes, containing two complete sets of drawers, like those used by officers in camp. They chose a salon and two bedrooms, one of which opened into the salon. As soon as they were settled these drawers were unpacked, and one set was placed against the door in the salon, the other on the other side of the door in the gentleman's (like-chamber, the door in question being like most of those in continental hotels) very thin. In some time all went on very satisfactorily. The gentleman was not extravagant, but liberal, and was most particular in calling for his bill every week and paying it to the moment. Before he had been many days in the town he paid a visit to the principal jeweler and made some small purchases, in each case paying cash and showing that he was well provided with money. The jeweler was most anxious to please his new customer, and brought out all kinds of beautiful articles to tempt him, but at first his purchases were moderate, though liberally paid for. At the end of a month the gentleman paid a visit alone, and, after making another purchase, observed that his daughter was about to be married, and that he thought of sending to Paris for a set of diamonds. The jeweler could not resist the chance to sell through his fingers. He had the most beautiful set in Europe, the property of a princess; he was sure that only a Milord could buy them, and he begged his customer just to inspect them. The price was only 400,000. The inspection was made, but no decision was come to that day.

The next day another inspection was made, and Milord agreed to take them. The jeweler was delighted. He thought it would be best to ask if he should send them round that evening, but he received a perfectly straight-forward answer. "I do not keep so much money about me. I must draw upon my bankers in London. I will give you 5000, to close the business, and the jewels you can clear against cash in the course of next week." The deposit was paid, and the jeweler was satisfied beyond all doubt that he was dealing with a most perfect gentleman. Eight days after, he was requested to call the same morning at 11 and bring the diamonds, for which he would be paid. He arrived at the moment and found his customer in his dressing gown, sitting alone at the set of drawers referred to, a front flap of which turned down so as to form a writing-table. The jeweler advanced respectfully, and laid the casket open on the flap in question. "Milord" just examined the jewels, remarked that of course he did not wish his daughter to know anything of the transaction at present, and then proceeded to take out a large handful of beautiful crisp notes. At that moment the door opened, and in bounded the young lady in question, and the jeweler afterwards said, "Just like a god-damn!" Nothing was more natural than that Milord should close up the flap, and ask the young lady to go away, as he wished to be alone. She had come to tell "papa" that the tailor was waiting for him in the next room and he must go, and that she was quite sure the jeweler would like her company better than his, besides, she had a lock of hair she did not open, and the jeweler must help her.

The jeweler was not proof against the playful charms of the young lady; he saw his goods safe, not exactly under his eyes, but next door to it. So he begged her father to go, and he would wait. "Milord" left the room and the poor Jew enjoyed half an hour of delightful flirtation with the young lady. There was something very winning in her ways, and then she was a young bride, and the time passed like a dream. At last the young lady passed off to go and hurry her father. The jeweler sat in meditation; his thoughts were at first all engrossed with the sweet girl who had just left. Then he began to wonder how long his customer would be. Then he went and tried the flap of the drawers. It was "all right"; it was locked. So he waited and mused again. After some three hours he began to think that he must be forgotten. So he rang the bell and requested the waiter to just remind "Milord" that he was waiting, but do it very politely. The waiter replied that Milord and the Signorina had gone out an hour ago. There was nothing to do but to wait, and wait he did. Neither returned. Table d'hôte passed, and although the poor man began to have a presentiment that something was wrong, the landlord was consulted, but was sure that his guest was a real gentleman, whose only fault was forgetfulness. So again he waited until past the small hours of the night. At early morning the landlord again returned and he also began to think the case suspicious. The jeweler was furious. He made a dash at the drawers, and, with the aid of a poker, broke open the flap. His next move was to take the casket. He thrust his head into the compartment, and sank back in the arm-chair. He saw before him nothing but a square open void, leading into the set of drawers in the next room. The landlord did likewise, and so did the waiters. Then they sat and looked at each other, and at last ordered restoratives for the jeweler, who had fainted.—*Fancy Fair (London).*

That delightful old gossip, Lord Albermarle, says in his "Fifty Years of My Life," just published, that on returning from India by way of the Persian Gulf, he met at Kerman a man named Moolah Ali, an intelligent mid-eyed man with a pleasant smile, confidential cut-throat to David Pasha, who, he said, killed his victims as he found them—some in battle, some asleep. He had just "removed" sixteen inconvenient persons by inviting them to a banquet, at which they were seated, alternated with as many of his agents. At a signal Moolah Ali stabbed the most beautiful men at the banquet, and his agents followed his example, simultaneously. The mild mannered man expressed much disgust at the proposition of two Europeans who had quarreled, to fight a duel. "How foolish it is," said he, "for a man who wishes to kill his enemy to expose his own life, when he can shoot him from behind a rock."

Russia is not in that strong and healthy condition which would enable her to fight Turkey forever. Her customs receipts have steadily fallen off for three years, and in 1876 they were only \$2,125,000, and the import of gold only \$2,000,000, while the export of gold was \$1,400,000. Turkey, to be sure, is worse off, but she will fight at home, where the money comes with the little, while Russia wages war at arm's length.

The official report of Capt. Nares' expedition says: The long arctic winter with its unparalleled intensity and duration of darkness produced by an absence of sunlight for 142 days, was passed on board with much cheerfulness and contentment; the time, in reality, passed with great rapidity; and in January, when the first glimmering increase in the middle twilight began to be perceptible, until the day of any one, and not noticed until he actually returned on the 1st of March did we in any way realize the intense darkness we must have experienced for so long a period. On five evenings in the week a school, formed on the lower deck under Commander Markham and several of the officers, was well attended; each Thursday being devoted to lectures, songs in character, and readings, with occasional dramatic representations, and the whole admirably arranged and conducted by Commander Markham as to keep the pleased interest of all for the whole period. The health of the officers and crew, with only one exception, was excellent; and the habitable deck, as dry as possible in these regions, in a ship without an extraordinary expenditure of coal. Although we had frequent visits of strong winds prevailing in Robeson's bay, the weather at our winter quarters was remarkably calm; indeed, we may be said to have wintered on the border of a Pacific sea. The prevailing wind was from the westward; we never experienced and easterly winds; it always blew off the land. Had it not been for intervening calms the persistent westerly winds might have been called a trade wind. On the two days were we prevented from taking exercise on the ship. This quiet state of the atmosphere was productive of the severest cold ever experienced in the Arctic regions. During February the mercury remained frozen for fifteen consecutive days; a south-westerly gale, lasting four days, then brought warmer weather; then immediately the mercury remained frozen for a further period of fifteen days.

The French Assembly was recently the scene of an exciting episode that is worth recording. Every one has heard of "Chocolat-Menier," mostly without knowing that the second portion of this compound chocolate who has the advantage of being a member of the Chamber. The other day, while speaking on the Budget, he was interrupted from the Bernaparts division of the Chamber by cries of "cocoon" and the imperialists were so pleased with their petty outcry that they repeated it again and again through their mouths. M. Paul do not know the name of the rowdy of that little party. Even Lamou, the President, rang his bell to call the rowdy to order, but the louder and outwiter the ringing the greater became the outcry. At last M. Menier was able to put in a few words. "It is true," he said, "that I sell chocolate. I am not ashamed of my trade, and I am bringing up four ounces of it. It is also true that I have sold chocolate to the honorable member who has interrupted me which has not been paid for, and fixing his earnest gaze on his opponent, and holding his hand as if to receive the money, "I shall be very glad if the nephew will discharge the debt." These are simple, common place words, but they drew down the house more successfully than a lightning flash of eloquence could have done, and when the laughter had subsided, M. Paul de Casagnette showed by his silence and manner that he was "shut up."

Often have we admired the fashion of naming a man in after life according to his personal characteristics, which prevails among the Indians. In this way a man is named after all his attainments, his biography and to some extent a letter of introduction. A list of Sioux chiefs before us contains such cognomens as No Heart, Rattling Ribs, Bull's Ghost, Fire Heart, The Thief, He-don't Know, Walk-out-of-the-way and Calfskin Shirt. Apply this principle to our own chiefs, and what an attractive array we would have in our list of public men. Senator M. S. Sillit, Senator name ready-made in Sillit. Senator Boutwell would be dubbed Hole-in-the-sky; General Butler, Widow-with-many-children; Governor Chamberlain, Young-man-who-cries-for-troops; Mr. Taft, Old-man-that-bull-dozed-Halestad; Mr. Blaine, Wait-and-see-how-the-cat-jumps; Mr. Thurman, Take-a-pinch-of-snuff; Mr. Hewitt, Sem-mules; Mr. Baroum, Old-man-who-does-not-grant; Follow-me-into-sing-sing-places-for-self-and-family; Mr. Sherman, Anything-for-a-place-in-the-Cabinet; Mr. Robeson, Shiver-my-timbers; Mr. Chandler, Anything-to-beat-Tilden, and so on. True, these names don't sound very well in English, but in Sioux or Choctaw none could be more euphonious.—*Ex.*

Professor Seelye, a few days ago, was making a very learned argument in Congress upon that part of the Constitution which says that "the President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates and the vote shall then be counted." Mr. Seelye, who is a Republican, was making a name, and saying that Mr. Ferry, the President of the Senate, had the clear and indisputable right, not only to open the votes, but to do the counting. At a particularly vigorous and eloquent point in his argument, Mr. Proctor Knott, the chairman of the committee (so the story goes), remarked: "Professor, I do not wish to interrupt you in your eloquent Constitutional argument, but I want you to explain to me as invited by me to come to dinner, the interpretation of which perplexes me a good deal. It is as follows: "The pleasure of your company is requested at dinner to-morrow evening, at 7 o'clock, to meet Professor Seelye and other distinguished gentlemen. The fishes will be uncovered by the steward precisely at seven o'clock, and the dinner will then be eaten. "Now, what I want you to interpret for me, Professor," said Mr. Knott, "is who is to eat the dinner—the steward, or you and I and the rest of the guests?"

The disease of quicksilver mirrors must be regarded as a great sanitary advantage. Ordinarily, mirrors have been coated with tin foil amalgamated with mercury; this mercury gradually evaporates into the atmosphere of the room, and must be received in infinitesimal quantities into the system, and not without injury—at least, it is known that the workmen who are engaged in the manufacture of such mirrors, suffer severely from the effects of the mercury. In coating mirrors with pure silver, the metallic substance is first precipitated upon them—a coat of 1-400,000th of an inch being sufficient. Metallic copper is then precipitated on it to strengthen it, and varnish is applied to preserve the copper from oxidation.

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Antonia von Appenig came to this country from Germany accompanied by her brother, to whom she was greatly attached. The brother fell overboard from the steamer, and was rescued by Christopher Josephson. During the rest of the voyage, and on their way across the continent to California, Josephson became a suitor of Antonia's. She did not desire to marry him, but she was very grateful, and her brother urged her to consent. She said that she would be miserable as his wife, because she did not love him, but that she would marry him, if he insisted on it, as a recompense for saving her brother's life. He took her on those terms, and they were married in San Francisco. Her show of repugnance was noticed by the clergyman, and he asked her if the ceremony was against her will. She said that she had of her own accord consented. On the following morning Josephson was found dead in his bed, having been shot, and Antonia's body was taken out of a dock where she had drowned herself. The supposition is that, frenzied by the hateful union, she killed him, and then hurried to the water to kill herself.

The Raleigh (N. C.) papers give graphic accounts of the recent snow storm in the western part of that State. A train on the Western North Carolina railroad occupied five days in making its way from Henry's to Salisbury, a distance of one hundred and seventeen miles, the depth of snow on a level being three feet, and at one point the railroad hands had to carry water for the engine a quarter of a mile through this depth of snow. In many places the snow was drifted to the depth of fifteen and twenty feet. The cuts of the railroads on top of the snow were filled with all kinds of birds, which had frozen to death and dropped down the banks. While waiting on the road a whole covey of quail was seen frozen to death, and some of the crowd reached them and broke off the heads of some, their necks snapping like corals. At Catawba river a yearling was seen some little distance out in the stream, its hind legs having sunk through the ice, leaving its head and forelegs upright. It was frozen to death.

Chicago papers have called attention to the fact that the completion of a short piece of railroad in Michigan will make the Grand Trunk Railway a through line from the coast to that city, which will, from its location, be outside of any combination which the lines terminating in New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore more may enter into respecting through freight. It is now stated that the remaining link in this new line will be completed so as to be ready for business early in the spring. The Tribune predicts that this new line will be of great advantage to Boston, Portland and Halifax, the coast termini of the line, and will also protect Chicago from the exactions of the other lines, some of which are considered to be hostile to the interests of that city.

The Black Hills Pioneer is warmly advocating the establishing of a new Territory, with the Black Hills as its centre. The proposition is to take for the Territory about 25,000 square miles from Dakota and 14,000 from Montana, and Wyoming, making a Territory about one-third the size of the present Territory of Dakota. It is supposed to be an auriferous country, and hence the new territory is to be called El Dorado. It is probable that the Pioneer is in need of official advertising.

This is the way they collect old debts in Monksden, China: The creditor cast the debtor's father, age 70, into prison. The son had no money; the father had much. The jailors tied the old man, band and foot in stocks, to a post two feet high, so that he could neither sit nor lie down, and he had to pass several days in this position. The process did not wring a penny out of the old miser. They then cranked his foot into place between his cramped hands and left him one night. On the next morning they found a corpse in the stocks.

The San Francisco Chronicle, referring to Secretary Robeson's statement that "the navy was never in a more efficient condition than at the present time," calls attention to the fact that the immense stock of live and white oak timber stored within the past four years at Mare Island navy yard, is being rapidly consumed and converted into stovewood, and that the officials, who are supposed to protect the people's property, are selling this thing being a piece of firewood, which costs over \$300 per cord.

A filibustering expedition is said to be fitting out at San Francisco for the invasion of Mexico. The force is to comprise 300 to 400 Mexicans and an equal number of daring Californians. Two Mexican gunboats now on the Pacific coast are to be captured by the filibusters to insure the success of their bold scheme. They are to take possession of a portion of Lower California and organize an embryonic government.

A Chinese mandarin, wearing a bright and intelligent look; a very long yellow feather, and a sort of curious yellow button on his cap, which the Russian Minister said imitated something extrajudicial in the way of a mandarin, was one of the New Year callers at the White House. He came as the herald of a Chinese embassy which State Department officials say is to maintain a residence in Washington.

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