

READS TO WORKMEN.

THE NOVEL OCCUPATION FOLLOWED BY A NEW YORK MAN.

Cuban Cigar Makers Pay Him Well For Translating and Reading About Newspapers and Books While They Work—His Audience Sometimes Critical.

The Spanish speaking cigar makers in this town employ a man to read to them while they are at work. In no other industry is this thing done, though it would seem that other workers "by the piece" could imitate the Cubans to advantage. Not only do they keep in touch with all the news, but it keeps them from talking, and there isn't a minute of their time wasted.

The Cubans are great talkers, and this is what probably started the custom in the cigar factories of Havana. When the men were brought to this country to make their cigars in Key West and the lower part of New York city, they wanted a reader more than ever. They are very bright, intelligent fellows, these Cubans, and they are also interested in the news of the world as well as the latest intelligence from their own little island. They all subscribe to a fund to pay their reader, and they work all the harder for keeping their mouths closed and their minds employed as they roll and pack the Cuban cigars. It is probably the most popular of the young men who earn a good living by amusing and instructing the cigar makers. He is a native of Porto Rico, where he learned the English language as well as a great many other things. He has had a college education and can translate the English and American newspapers into Latin and Greek as easily as in Spanish.

He is employed just now in two factories, that of Lozano, Penitas & Co., at 209 Pearl street, and another one at William and Platt streets. When Barreda first came to this country, he could not speak the language very well, though he knew it theoretically and could read and write it. He is a skilled electrician, but could get nothing to do in his line and so went to the dressing envelopes at \$3.50 a week. There was a vacancy in one of the Cuban cigar factories after awhile, and by that time Barreda had mastered the speech of this country.

He walked to the factory one day, and mounting the table which served as a rostrum for the reader he made a little speech to the men, the purport of which was that he thought he would make a good reader for them.

They told him to go ahead and show what he could do. He pulled a paper out of his pocket and began reading a tariff editorial to them. They demanded more when he had finished the editorial, and he read to them for an hour, translating the cable news, the sensations of the day and the Washington dispatches into their mother Spanish. The trial was satisfactory, and he was engaged at once for four hours a day. There were 80 Cubans in the factory at that time, and each agreed to give him 25 cents a week. Then Barreda made an arrangement on the same terms with another factory, which employed 40 men, and he was in receipt of a good income at once.

He reads for 1 1/2 hours at each factory in the morning and for 2 1/2 hours in the afternoon. He has his evenings to himself, but he occupies a couple of hours then in reading the papers to a Spanish club. The trial was satisfactory, and he was engaged at once for four hours a day. There were 80 Cubans in the factory at that time, and each agreed to give him 25 cents a week. Then Barreda made an arrangement on the same terms with another factory, which employed 40 men, and he was in receipt of a good income at once.

"The best in the world. They are working all the time, and they are anxious not to miss a word. They work faster when some one is reading, and they realize that if they ever get to talking together their bill at the end of the week will be so much less. They are nearly all revolutionists, you know, and there is great chance for argument among them, because they all belong to different factions.

"I have to be very careful in reading the Cuban papers and those published in Spanish in this city that do not miss an editorial representing some particular shade of opinion. No matter how radical it is, it is sure to have some adherent and some sympathizer in the shop."

Barreda has learned to be a very discriminating newspaper reader. He knows when to skip the dry part of an article, and he knows just what newspaper is the one to begin on in the morning.

None of his hearers speaks English, and their desire to know about the country and the city they live in makes the employment of the reader not only a luxury which few workmen enjoy at their occupations, but an absolute necessity.—New York World.

Simple Diet.

A woman who writes for newspapers said the other day in the course of a discussion on modern cookery: "I have a family of three growing boys as well as a hungry husband to cater for, and my experience has been that I can do it most effectively on the simplest diet. I do not mean by that unpalatable food, or that which is poorly prepared. I mean a good deal of steaks and chops, with well prepared vegetables. I have no time myself to see after the affairs of the kitchen, and I cannot afford to hire what is called a 'fancy cook'; but I have come to the conclusion that my family thrives best on what is thus given them, substantial but not rich nor varied dishes. At any rate, they are always well and strong and happy, and what more can I ask than that?"—New York World.

Old authorities taught that a pear, if he wasted his property so as to be unable to support the dignity, could be degraded by the King. It is now held that degradation can be effected only by vote of his peers.

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ARMS OF THE VENUS.

AN ENGLISH SCULPTOR'S SOLUTION OF THE MYSTERY.

John Bell Thinks That She Stood in the Vest Amphitheater at Melos Typifying a Great Goddess Confering Honors—A Problem in Art.

Any number of attempts have been made to restore to her original perfection the Venus of Melos, who has stood in artless beauty for the admiration of the thousands of art lovers who visit the Louvre. But the original design is so problematical still as the meaning of the monster that guards the pyramids, and so accustomed have people become to the Venus as it emerged from the ruins of the Melos amphitheater that no sculptor has yet been able to effect a restoration which satisfies the sense thus evoked. John Bell, an English sculptor, has made the latest restoration.

As no mention appears in ancient records of art, there is no knowing what percentage of deity the so-called Venus has been intended to represent. She has been entitled a Venus Victrix, and one of her lost hands is supposed to have held the apple, the award of Paris, while another speculation has been that she formed part of a group with Mars. As a result of the restoration, the Venus is now a nude nymph, the special protecting Nereid of the sea. By some she has been said to be a Nereid, in connection with the Athenian massacre of the islanders, about the time of the Peloponnesian war. By others she is represented as a Nike or Victory. Others have assigned to her the names of Sappho, Phryne or a mourning Electra, while yet another version has been that she was a Iyre playing muse. The most general view, however, has been that she was an Aphrodite or Venus, which is highly probable from the almost universal worship of that goddess throughout the coasts and islands of the Aegean archipelago, and it has been suggested that she had a harp in her left hand while she played on it with her right, which the position of the torso and the remains of the arms admit of. But the most favored and at the same time the least dignified of the floating speculations is that she is coquettishly holding and looking in a mirror. The argument in favor of this view is that the bronze statuette has been discovered in Poppeii which much resembles it, and it is holding and gazing in a mirror.

To very many archaeologists this last seems the most probable solution of its mystery. Certainly the pose is appropriate in accordance with the theory too. But Mr. Bell is incapable of entertaining this notion of its "mirror," and having addressed his thoughts to some mission that seemed to him more worthy, he has decided that a great goddess conferring honors is more in keeping with the dignity of the sculpture.

Though small, the island of Melos must at one time have been very populous. It was famous for its catamounts, famous for its cyclopean ramparts and another factory, which employed 40 men, and he was in receipt of a good income at once.

Mr. Bell thinks the world was found. Mr. Bell thinks its original situation was in the amphitheater; that it posed as the goddess of the structure, and that at some time of commotion it was removed to the grotto for protection and concealment.

"Methods I see her there," he says, "in the vast amphitheater thronged with adores of the great goddess, the central object of some high festival."

"Under this aspect the species of motive is open to us for the restoration of this noble work consonant with its grand form and majestic presence? She stands with the utmost firmness and dignity, and a benign smile is on her face, and the slight bend of her head, the principal fractures indicate that her left arm and hand was raised and her right advanced before her. The amphitheater in which I assume her to have stood was no doubt the accepted site for the holding of high public festivals and for the bestowal of the many honors for public services and for literature, philosophy, poetry, music and the drama, and for victories in athletic games, which formed so integral a part in the culture of the Greek race. From the above considerations has sprung my conception of what it is possible she may have represented and the mode in which the lost arms and hands may have been held and employed."

In pursuance of this conception Mr. Bell has invested his attempt at restoration with the character of a great goddess conferring honors. "One hand bestows a wreath of glory; the other holds one in reserve and there you have a Venus Dematrix.—Magazine of Art.

What a Woodpile Indicates.

What a satisfaction it is to see a generous, whole-souled woodpile! It gives one a better opinion of the world and brings up a rich flood of memories and associations. One has no need to be told that the owner is the father of half a dozen boys and girls, and that the neighbors like to gather under his roof during the long winter evenings, when the snow and wind outside but emphasize the warmth and cheer within.

One has no need to call on the imagination to see the great pile of extra logs in the corner, waiting their turn at the fiery carnival, dancing and glowing in the fireplace, or the half circle of merry story tellers gathered about the hearth, eating apples and cracking nuts and exchanging experiences of farming and hunting with each other.

What an open large hearted hospitality such profusion of wood suggests! It never occurs to one that the owner may be niggardly or churlish. Such a pile of wood can only belong to a man whose heart is large enough to take in the whole neighborhood. It is a sign that across the way—a few sticks that even the house dog refuses to step behind. No wonder the boys are thin and sickly and the girls weak and discontented. One can scarcely imagine a smile, or a bit of laughter, or a jest passing through a door that overlooks such a pile.—Donahoe's Magazine.

SETS HIMSELF ON FIRE.

Some Past and Prospective Experiments of the Electrician Nikola Tesla.

Mr. T. C. Martin, editor of The Electrical Engineer, writing on the work of the Serbian-American electrician, Nikola Tesla, says:

Mr. Tesla has advanced the opinion and sustained it by brilliant experiments of startling beauty and grandeur that light and heat are produced by electrostatic forces acting between charged molecules or atoms. Perfecting a generator that would give him currents of several thousand alternations per second and inventing his disruptive discharge coil, he has created electrostatic conditions that have already modified not a few of the accepted notions about electricity.

It has been supposed that ordinary currents of 1,000 or 2,000 volts potential would surely kill, but Mr. Tesla has been receiving through his hands currents of a potential of more than 200,000 volts, vibrating a million times per second and manifesting themselves in dazzling streams of light. This is not a mere tour de force, but it illustrates the principle that while currents of lower frequency destroy life these are harmless. After such a striking test, which, by the way, no one has displayed a hurried inclination to repeat, Mr. Tesla's body and clothing have continued for some time to emit fine gimmers, or halos, of splintered light. In fact, an actual flame is produced by this agitation of electrostatically charged molecules, and the curious spectacle can be seen of pumant, white, ethereal flames that do not consume anything, bursting from the ends of an induction coil as though it were a torch.

With such vibrations as can be maintained by a potential of 2,000,000 volts, Mr. Tesla expects some day to envelop himself in a complete sheet of lambent fire that will leave him quite unharmed. Such currents as he now uses would, he says, keep a naked man warm at the north pole, and their use in therapeutics is but one of the practical possibilities that has been taken up.—Century.

Artesian Wells in South Dakota.

Mr. Duncan McFarlane of South Dakota is talking of the great artesian wells here. It is supposed, by snow from the Rockies, following the porous sandstone at a depth of from 800 to 1,500 feet below the surface of the ground, and told many interesting stories. He instanced one case of a town's having been watered after hard work having secured a well from which the water would hardly rise to the surface. One Sunday, though, the well broke loose, and as the water flowed away under the snow its course could be marked by the steam rising into the air. The water made its way to a farm a few miles from town and there settled. The owner came post haste to town, and consulting a lawyer was told that he had a first rate basis for damages.

The suit was instituted. The snow disappeared, the water had been confined finally to the town, and the farmer remained a great maulhead. The farmer was almost in despair, but finally decided to put in a crop anyhow. Hot weather came, and the country suffered for rain. That maulhead contained a great deal of moisture, and the crop was in the condition. The farmer made his way again to town.

"Say, Jim," he remarked to his attorney, "how is that suit getting along?"

"Oh, it is coming along all right," was the reply. "I believe the lawyer will deduct the amount of the damages from the price of your crop and award the rest of your profits to the town."

Washington News.

The Lottery in Spain.

The great prize in the Spanish National lottery was won by a butcher at Stargossa, who seems to have borne his stroke of fortune in a very proper spirit. His total gain would have amounted to about \$350,000 had he taken the whole risk himself, but he had split up his ticket among a couple of hundred partners in varying proportions, so that his own share is not so considerable. However, he generously gave \$400 to the official who paid the money, and \$200 to a blind man who shouted out the lucky number at the door of the office.

His next care being to distribute the goods to everybody living in his quarter of the town. Not a few stories are told in the Spanish papers as to the effect on different individuals of this sudden bit of luck. One of the beneficiaries was a nurse in the family of a poverty-stricken infantry captain who rarely paid her wages. On the receipt of the \$10,000 that fell to her share she at once handed the amount over to her master, exclaiming, "You shall not know what after today. We can all live on the money."—Paris Herald.

Hard Times and Economy.

It is a great mistake for people who can at all afford to spend liberally to practice economy in hard times. On one occasion during the second empire, when there was a great financial panic, Louis Napoleon commanded his ministers to open their houses and entertain profusely, and the court circles, taking the hint, began such a round of gaiety that trade revived, while the manufacturers, plucking up courage, opened their mills, and a crisis was averted. Spending is as much a duty with the rich as saving is with the poor, and it takes both attributes to make a prosperous community.—New York Tribune.

Variety Necessary.

The man who thinks a newspaper should be made up exclusively of reading matter suited to his particular whims and prejudices is pretty hard to please. He forgets that there are others interested in subjects which he does not mention. All kinds of people read newspapers, and there must be variety in the kinds of news published.—Franklin (N. Y.) News.

Thomas E. McClelland, of Elliptic City, is selling the best patented and priced spring steel bread, cake and put knives one of each making a set, at \$1.00, very useful articles as every house wife knows who has tried them.

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A STRANGE CASE.

How an Enemy was Foiled.

The following graphic statement will be read with interest and cannot describe the most sensational sensation that existed in my arms, hands and legs. I had to rub and beat those parts and they were very sore. I was in a measure the dead feeling that had taken possession of them. I had a great deal of trouble in my stomach. Physicians said it was a case of paralysis, from which there is no relief. Once it fastens upon a person, they say, it can never be cured. I was in a measure a vital point and the sufferer died. I was in a measure a vital point and the sufferer died. I was in a measure a vital point and the sufferer died.

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