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THE SOUTHWESTERN NEWS.

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VOL. III. NO. 2.

MARION, VA., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1891.

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can take Simmons Liver Regulator without loss of time or danger from exposure. It takes the place of a doctor and costly prescriptions and is therefore the medicine to be kept in the household to be given upon any indication of approaching sickness. It contains no dangerous ingredients but is purely vegetable, gentle yet thorough in its action, and can be given with safety and the most satisfactory results to any person regardless of age. It has no equal. Try it.

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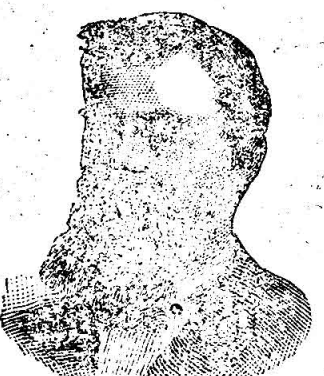
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THE ABSENCE OF THIS WEEK.

Since the day went, the place seems a strange and still. Why I miss the yell of "Crash" as I'd like to whizz-wizz!

And to think I used to scold him for his everlasting "bo!"

When I only recollect him as the best of the boys!

I wish a hundred times that day had never come to pass!

And all the while he ever made was twice as long as mine!

It'd seem like some soft music played on some fine instrument.

'Long as this kind of instrument, hence this, Wesley went!

Of course the clock ticked a tick or two more than it used to do.

And the "tick" time it takes like it will be 'till the end of the world!

Yit, yit a rooster, sudden-like some one's clock around.

And some with all the cattle when they had around the bars.

In the red of 'at night, or the dark and dawn and stars.

When the neighbors' boys 'at passes never stop, but just go on.

A-whizzin' kind of 'at the other's—a-stroke like Wesley's gone!

And then, 'at night when mother's settin' up her uncomfable bed.

'At the 'pears of soap, and I see a smoke and wail.

Tell the moon out through the window don't look bigger 'n a dime.

And things keeps gittin' stiller—stiller—all the while.

I've ketcht my 'at a-whizzin' like—a-chim on the cheer.

To wind the clock, as I have done for more'n fifty year.

A-whizzin' 'at the time had come for us to go to bed.

With our last prayers and our last tears, since little Wesley's dead!

—James Wilkinson in the Century.

THE ORIGINALS OF SOME CHARACTERS IN THIS CELEBRATED STORY.

Dickens considered "David Copperfield" as the best of his books, and the reason for his preference may be looked for in the fact that it is to a great extent autobiographical. The author has himself declared that many of the incidents in David's career are identical with those experienced by himself, so that, up to a certain point, he may be considered as the prototype of the hero of the story.

To a certain extent, also, Mr. Micawber was a portrait of the author's father, who, like him, was remarkable for rhetorical exuberance, a peculiarity which found frequent and always agreeable expression in many of the novelist's letters, written long before "Copperfield" was thought of.

"No one," says his biographer, "could know the elder Dickens without secretly liking him the better for those flourishes of speech which adorned his letters, and his cheerfulness, that it was difficult not to fancy they had helped him considerably in both, and had rendered more tolerable to him, if also more possible, the shade and sunshine of his checkered life."

"It delighted Dickens to remember that it was of one of his connections his father wrote a celebrated sentence: 'And I must express my tendency to believe that his longevity is (to say the least of it) extremely phenomenal.'"

There also existed in the personal appearance of Micawber a resemblance to that of his prototype. A friend and neighbor of Mr. John Dickens describes him as "a chubby, pleasant companion, possessing a varied fund of anecdote, and a genuine vein of humor."

His was a well-built man, rather stout, of very active habits, a little pompous, and very proud (as well he might be) of his talented son. He dressed well, and wore a goodly bunch of seals suspended across his waistcoat from his watch chain."

THE INVENTION THAT SPEEDILY SUPERSADED THE GRAY GOOSE QUILL.

The earliest notice of steel pens that I have met with is by Woodcock in 1580, in his book on the art of writing, where he occupies the house at Colchester during the absence of Sir George and Lady Beaumont, and in the month of December the poet wrote to the latter what he calls "the longest letter I ever wrote in my life," and with reason, as it fills eighteen pages. It begins:

"My Dear Lady Beaumont, There's penmanship for you! I shall not be able to keep it up to the end in this style, notwithstanding I have the advantage of writing with one of your steel pens, with which Miss Hutchinson has just furnished me."

The next mention that I have noted is by Dr. Kitchner, in 1821, when speaking of a friend above 60, he says:

"This strain of the eye, and occasion for spectacles of a high magnifying power, is particularly found in men of pen, so that he has a sufficient number of pens to prevent the necessity of mending any of them until he has finished writing."

To this there is appended a note:

"To those who find the mending of pens rather a difficult job, I recommend the occasional use of a steel pen, especially when they wish to write very small and neatly."—"The Economy of the Eyes," London, 1824, p. 55.

The steel pen seems to have been still a novelty at that time, as my own schoolboy experience tends to show that it was. From about 1824 to 1834 I do not remember the use of steel pens in school, and in the earlier years 1825 to 1830 I have a distinct recollection of our using quills—Notes and Queries.

How Law Is Made.

It was in a Boston private school of fashionable repute, and the class of young ladies who had been studying the history and the Constitution of the United States were under examination.

"How is law made?" said the instructor.

"Oh, said a tailor-made dame cheerfully, 'the Senate has to ratify it, and then the President has to veto it!'"—Boston Beacon.

Rough on the Trump.

Emmett's trump (to business man)—"I'm a survivor of the Mexican war, and I want you to help me a little, Cap'n."

"Get out of this!"

"Lo! k here, Cap'n! what have you got against a survivor of the Mexican war?"

"All I've got against you is that you survived."—Harper's Weekly.

Angustus Popinjay (to his country cousin, who is on a visit to the family)—

"Do you object to the week, Bella?"

"Bella—'No, but pa does. He's 'at em with the hoe early and late.'"—Burlington Free Press.

If you want a cheap, medium or fine suit go to Weiler's.

If you want the very best boots and shoes, call on Weiler.

AT THE NEW YORK MORGUE.

A Orleans and Ghastly Tale.

"Now, mister, I'll just tell you some thin,'" said one of the officials.

"I used to drink considerable more 'n I do now (some years ago), and one night I was comfortably fast asleep in my room. I heard a noise—it wasn't rats; we used to have some of them, but we cleared 'em away and tinned up the places so they couldn't come any more. Besides, I knowed 't waz rats that made such a noise."

"So I grabbed my night stick, opened the door and went in. For a minute everything seemed all quiet enough. 'Twas kinder dark, but I could see that all the stiffs were all right, just as they was when I left 'em."

"But all of a sudden I see some thin 'n movin'! It looked like a full-sized man over yonder in the corner against the wall. I knew I'd been a holdin' in considerable whisky along in the evening, and I think I to myself (I guess I said out loud to myself), 'San, you're drunk and I reckon you've got 'em—snakes—bugs, and so forth.'"

"Well, I rubbed my eyes and scratched my head; then I looked again—more careful and pecker-like—and, by golly! sure pop-up mistakes, I did see some thin! It was just fast enough to be skered a bit, but, dare-devil like, I got it into my muddled brain that one of them 'stiffs' had kinder come to and was mounkyin' round when he had ought to lay down quiet. So, sez I:

"'Hello, there! What are you doin' there? Do you belong here?'"

"'Oh, yes! That's all right,' says he, kinder independent like."

"'That's what I think he should be, sheeky,' so says I."

"'Well, you go back and lie down in your own place, and be no foolin' around disturbin' other folks. Daye hear?'"

"'But instead of layin' down he came toward the door, and I went for him."

"'Let me out,' he yelled."

"'Not by a god-darned sight,' says I. 'You just go back and lie down. I'm responsible for every one that's put in here.'"

"'He grabbed me and I wheeked him until he yelled bloody murder."

"'Shut up,' says I, 'or I'll club the head off of yer. Ain't you 'shamed to raise such a rumpus this time of night. Besides, what'll the neighbors think? Thunder!'"

"'By this time I'd licked him, so he calced 'twas best to give in. So I laid him down on a slab covered him over and sez in' he was quiet. I looked the door on him and finished my snooze."

"'When the head keeper come in the morning and went inside, his eyes binged out and his hair riz up like a porkepine. Why? Gosh! one of the bodies on the slab in the far corner was startin' like a trooper. Then we counted up the 'stiffs,' and found there was one extra."

"'So I told the whole staff, and the upshot was that we found out that a drunkard tramp, not knowing the place, had sneaked in to take a sleep, and sure enough I made him comfortable, after all.'"

A BIG SNAKE AT DINNER.

Grande that a Favorite Dish, but Chickens Preferred.

It is not everyone who has seen a python take a meal. It is usually averse to dead food; but it is partial to a live rabbit or a chicken or a guinea pig or by preference a rat.

The python seems to know that the rat will try to escape, and he gives it no time or quarter. With a rapidity that can hardly be conceived he seizes the rat with his mouth and the fatal coils pass around the creature, squeezing all the life out of it and reducing the body to the form of elongated sausage, which the snake lubricates with his own slime and swallows entire.

If a fowl is put into a python's cage the snake sometimes seems to take no notice, and the frightened bird, finding that no harm comes to it, begins to ruffle its feathers and to peck about, occasionally trying its beak on the snake's skin. But after a while the end of the python's tail may be seen to quiver with a strange emotion, while the small, black, beady eyes is fixed upon the fowl.

Suddenly there is a convulsion. The snake has moved and the fowl has disappeared, and can only be discovered by the end of a feather or two protruding from the coils in the python's neck, which have crushed the bird's life out.

In its natural state the python will catch a deer or will pig and crush it in the powerful folds of its neck.

There is a well-known story of a large python having caught two wild sucking pigs simultaneously, crushing both with the same coil of its neck.

In the case of a python which was said to have been killed by the horns of the buck it had swallowed, the snake must have been able to break all the bones of the body, but the stag's horns were probably too sharp anointed to be easily crushed, and the snake rashly took the chance of digesting it in its stomach.

Nostradamus of a python killing a man ever came to my knowledge, but one of the keepers at the Calcutta Zoological Garden had his arm much injured one morning by a python coiling itself on it and squeezing it severely before the man could be rescued.—Lor. main's Magazine.

A DOY'S REASONING.

A small boy who had happened to bruise his leg said to his mother:

"Oh, mamma, how awfully it must hurt—a to be a colored man."

"Hart, my dear! Why, what do you mean?"

"Why, don't you know, I tumbled down this morning and made that black spot on my leg, and it's just as sore as it can be all the time."

Alphabet of Precious Stones.

Some one has got up an alphabet of precious stones as follows:

Amethyst, beryl, chrysoberyl, diamond, emerald, feldspar, garnet, hyacinth, idocrase, kyanite (more commonly cyanite, a blue mineral), lyx-sapphires, milk-opal, natrolite, opal, pyrope, quartz, ruby, sapphires, topaz, tourmaline, ye. avianite (a species of garnet), water-sapphire, zambite, zircon, a (Cingalesc stone).

A Speaking Likeness Unobtainable.

Artist—"Yes, sir, I can enlarge this photograph and give you a speaking likeness."

Widower (whose knowledge of art terms is limited, but who has a very vivid remembrance of decease)—"A speaking likeness! I would 'n care for the portrait, but—but I—don't care to have it talk much."—Life.

THE WORLD'S HAPPENINGS.

They are eating human flesh in New Guinea.

The world uses 3,500,000 steel pens every day.

The ordinary watch gives 160,144,000 ticks a year.

There are more Germans than Irish in the United States.

I Bulgaria only 7 1/2 per cent. of the population can read and write.

We are wrong as to dates. The Chinese reckon this to be the year 7,910,341.

Africa has nearly 700 languages, and this fact presents great difficulties to missionary effort.

In 1803 there were 35 translations of the scriptures in existence. There are now nearly 300.

The United States is the first nation in the world's history to have three cities of over one million each.

A dinner to 28 people was recently given in the trunk of a tree growing on a Tacoma, Wash., farm.

It is claimed that Lake Erie produces more fish to the square mile than any other body of water in the world.

Some statistician has figured out that more than one-half of humanity die before reaching the age of 16 years.

Of 5,000,000,000 passengers carried last year on American waters and from American ports only 65 lives were lost.

A blacksnake was killed near Holden, Mo., recently, in the stomach of which was a porcelain nest-egg.

A Jewish club is to be formed in New York for the legal defense of resident Jews against the assaults of hoodlums.

A Michigan farmer is said to have had his house set on fire by the rays of the sun reflected from tin pails set out to dry.

THE WORLD'S HAPPENINGS.

line than any other nation in Europe—2755 miles—with Italy second, 2472 miles. Russia stands third and France fourth.

William Wilkins, of Osceola, Iowa, shot at a balloon, and was wounded in the shoulder by a shot bag of ballast the irascible aeronaut threw out at him.

A family living near Augusta, Me., have as a pet a tame crow, which accompanies them whenever they go to the city on Sundays or market days, flying above and a little in advance of the horses.

A St. Louis paper offered a prize for any one who could guess the name that Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland would adopt for little Miss Cleveland. Of the several thousand guesses made not one thought of Ruth.

Friends of Mr. Henry Brockenholz, who resides near Broad Axe, Montgomery county, Pa., believe he had taller corn than his brother farmers in the State. One stalk attained the extraordinary height of 20 feet 9 inches.

In the year 1888, according to the "Economiste Francais," there were 23,472 divorces in the United States or nearly 4000 more than were granted in France, England, Italy, Germany, Holland, Sweden, Norway, Roumania and Canada together.

They offer a bounty for the ears of rabbits in Idaho. The discovery recently of several live "bunnies" minus their ears has developed the fact that active bounty workers are trapping the jacks, clipping their ears, and then turning them loose to breed a future crop from which bounties can be obtained till the end of time.

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THE BEST SALVE in the world for Cuts, Bruises, Sores, Ulcers, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, Tetter, Chapped Hands, Chilblains, Corns, and all Skin Eruptions, and positively cures Piles or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction, or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by Dr. Dickenson, Druggist.

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