

A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD LAWYER.

Kansas Has an Infant Prodigy in Byron Howse Gilbert.

The youngest lawyer in the world is Byron Howse Gilbert, of Atchison, Kan. At the tender age of seven he has successfully passed a rigid examination before the supreme court justices, and is the proud possessor of a certificate of admission to the bar, to take effect when he shall reach his majority. The precious document, to which is attached an immense gold seal, is guarded with the most jealous care by the infant barrister.

Little Byron is a son of Judge W. D. Gilbert, who astonished the learned jurors the other day by leading the boy before the judges of the supreme court and requesting that he be examined for admission. They all took the proposition as a joke, but Chief Justice Doster first a simple question at him, and he answered it so promptly and with such a confident air that the justices were startled.

By degrees more profound legal subjects were led up to. For about an hour the boy withstood a cross fire of the most technical and perplexing questions from all three supreme justices. His ready and correct answers caused the greatest surprise. Time after time did the justices endeavor to entrap the boy lawyer, but every such effort was futile. Not only did the questions embrace fundamental law, as treated by Blackstone and Cooley and as made by the general and covered the technique of the law practice.

The boy was asked how he would handle different classes of cases, being given statements of facts. Either by intuition or actual knowledge he seemed to readily and clearly grasp the case, and his idea regarding the proper mode of procedure was in every instance concurred in, not only by the judges but by the lawyers present. His judgment, as well as his knowledge of law, seemed infallible. By a unanimous court the boy lawyer was granted a certificate of admission to the bar, which was duly drawn up by the clerk of the court.

A visit to the Gilbert home reveals many reasons for the boy's advanced mentality. His environments have been of an elevated character, and he has been reared in a legal atmosphere. Judge Gilbert has in his home a large library, many of the books treating of legal subjects, and here the boy spends most of his leisure time.

Judge Gilbert says the first time he noticed his son's inclination toward the law was about three years ago. He went out into the barn one afternoon and there found that his son had organized a court with his playmates. A grain box had been converted into a bench and upon it sat the "judge." At one side sat the "jury." One of the boys was on trial for murdering a cat. Little Byron was defending him. The witnesses had been examined and Byron was engaged in making his argument for the defense, when the father was attracted to the scene. Through a small door he saw without being seen.

From that day Judge Gilbert began cultivating the child's natural gift. The judge has, he says, a habit of discussing his cases with his wife at home, at the table and in the sitting-room. Both noticed, after the incident of the barn, that Byron paid close attention to the conversation, frequent-asked questions in order to get a better understanding of the case under discussion. It was about this time that Judge Gilbert began taking him regularly into the library with him. He would go over all his cases with the boy and explain the law as it applied to the facts.—Boston Herald.

THE GERMAN CENSUS.

Population of the Larger Cities of the Empire.

The census of the German empire, ordered taken last summer by the imperial minister of the interior, has just been announced. One city goes beyond the million mark—Berlin, with 1,677,135 inhabitants. Hamburg has a population of 625,000; Munich, 407,000. Four cities have over 300,000; Leipzig, 399,969; Breslau, 373,000; Dresden, 336,000, and Cologne, 321,000. Three cities have over 200,000 inhabitants: Frankfurt-on-the-Main, Magdeburg, and Hanover. The five cities having 150,000 to 200,000 inhabitants are Dusseldorf, Konigsburg, Nuremberg, Schenenschmitt and Stuttgart. Thirteen cities have from 100,000 to 150,000: Altona, Bremen, Stettin, Eberfeld, Strasburg, (135,000), Charlottenburg, Harmen, Dantsic, Halle, Brunswick, Dortmund, Aix-la-Chapelle and Crefeld. Twenty-seven towns have from 50,000 to 100,000; and 47 have from 30,000 to 50,000. This makes a total of 102 cities having populations over 30,000. The entire population of the empire is 52,250,894, showing very little difference from the census of December 2, 1895, whose total was 52,279,901.

—She (reading)—"Mice are fond of music, and will get as close to it as they can." He—"Just cut that out and I'll send it to the girl in the next flat."—Yonkers Statesman.

JOKES BY THE YARD.

Professional Joke Maker Discusses Humor as a Business.

The common or garden joke in the comic papers of America and England has come to be as much of a mechanical product as any other of the minor articles of commerce.

Indeed, a well-known professional "joke manufacturer" (the designation is his own) has reduced his daily labor to the perfect system of the factory. In a brief talk with his business humorist he outlined his scheme of work as follows:

"My notebook is the storehouse for raw material. Therein are jotted down all suggestions, ideas and events which may be elaborated into jokes. I rarely have an inspiration, pure and simple. My family and friends, my chance acquaintances, and the people and sights I encounter supply the unrefined joke.

"Right here I want to acknowledge the debt that I owe to my hardworking and conscientious baby, aetad one year. This admirable child is one of the largest daily contributors of raw material for my joke factory. Before his arrival I had to get my infant humor at second-hand from other people's nurseries. It really pays a manufacturer to be his own producer.

"My jokes, roughly jotted down, are, on each Monday morning carefully sorted. The Thanksgiving output is thus ready by July 4, and the Christmas supplies can be placed on the market by Michaelmas.

"With regard to the new perforated joke broadsheet—my own invention—I should like to say a word. I have had made to order a huge sheet of writing paper, perforated after the manner of postage stamps into rectangular subdivisions of equal size. Each subdivision is just large enough for a joke, and has my name and address printed for editorial use in the corner. I write in my jokes, one joke to a rectangular slip; and then, folding up the entire broadsheet, mail it to the best-paying and most desirable comic paper on my list.

"The editor looks over the jokes and picks out the ones he wants. These he detaches by tearing along the perforated lines, and sends back the remainder. Again I mail the broadsheet to comic paper No. 2, and the same process of selection is gone through.

"When all the humorous journals have been given a chance, my mutilated broadsheet is sent the rounds of the trade papers, and these publications having detached the best jokes remaining, I forward what is left to England, where I find a ready market for the remnant.

"The system is an excellent one, obviating the use of scissors. Latterly I have been covering the backs of my joke broadsheet with muckilage, agreeably flavored, so that the busy comic editor does not have to bother about his paste pot either.

"I have been thinking about incorporating my joke industry, and I really do not see why a great wit and humor paragraph trust should not be one of the events of the future."—Boston Globe.

THE FIERCE CARIBS.

Early Cannibalism in West Indies—Ate a Poor Monk.

We can picture the depredations caused by the incessant marauding of bands of these ferocious cannibals, and the terror they must have excited in the minds of the milder islanders. Peter Martyr tells us that in his time alone more than 5,000 men had been taken from the island of Sancti Johannis to be eaten. Even after the Caribs had abandoned cannibalism they continued a fierce and desperate people, shunned and dreaded by Arrowsauks and Europeans alike, and when cannibalism had ceased to be an everyday matter it would break out every now and then when occasion arose. The establishment of Spanish rule and the disappearance of the Arrowsauks must have been the main factors in the decline of cannibalism, but before such was the case Caribs seem to have given up the practice in some places. Thus Herrera says that "those of St. Croix and Dominica were greatly addicted to predatory excursions, hunting men," but not long before he wrote the Caribs of Dominica had eaten a poor monk, "and he so disagreed with them that many died, and that for a time they left off eating human flesh, making expeditions instead to carry off cows and mares."—Lady Edith Blake, in Popular Science Monthly.

A Youthful Scientist.

"The chief difference between the man with a lot of new-made money and the gentle zephyr," said the cordy philosopher, "is that the gentle zephyr blows itself quietly."—Indianapolis Journal.

A Timber Cut Out West.

A stick of timber 119 feet long and 22 inches square, without a knot or blemish, was cut in a mill at Hoquiam, Wash., recently.

—A person who doesn't like oysters or peaches and cream mixes half there is in life.—Washington Democrat.

STATE EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

Novel Experiment Works Successfully at Lincoln, Neb.

One year ago a public bureau of information and employment was established in Nebraska. The deputy state labor commissioner was placed in charge. Applications for positions of all descriptions were to be received from residents of the state. Another schedule was to be kept showing the names of individuals and companies desiring to employ certain persons. This was the first experiment of the kind in which the state was under the direction of the state and at public expense, as far as the west is concerned.

This study in political economy has proven very successful thus far. Three thousand and fifty-six people are registered for positions in the bureau and 1,831 have secured positions through this source. There have been 1,945 applications from persons desiring help of various kinds, and at present the bureau has a number of positions to be filled when the right person can be found. Farm work seems to be the most popular, and two-thirds of the positions filled have been on the farm in various capacities. The farmers favor the idea very much and their interests in it are promoted.

Many positions as school-teacher have been found in this manner, and clerks, railroad employes and even professional men have found desirable positions in this way. Some help has been furnished largely, though most of these positions have been help about houses.

Surplus labor in different portions of the state is equalized in this manner to the satisfaction of all those who have patronized the bureau. The only expense attached to the bureau has been postage and printing. About 100 letters a week are mailed by the bureau and the printing is for the classified lists of all those desiring employment and those desiring some form of help.

SNAKE CAUSED A WEDDING.

School-Teacher's Shrike Attracts Her Future Husband's Attention.

A snake as a cause for a wedding is the remarkable circumstance in the life of Mrs. William A. Furbush, of St. Louis. She had a deadly fear of crawling things, and this fear brought about her first meeting with her now wealthy husband. He tells the story thus: "I would not believe it, but I owe my wedded happiness to a snake, and a dead snake at that. One summer afternoon years ago I was driving along a country road when a piercing shriek was followed by a general exodus of pupils from the doors of the little wooden building. I hastily sprang from my buggy and entered the school, where I found the teacher, as pretty a girl as I had ever laid eyes upon, in a dead faint on the floor beside a desk, the lid of which was open. Inside the desk, as I saw by a hasty glance, was a snake, dead, but coiled up as if alive and ready for all sorts of funny business. I picked the young woman up and carried her out into the open air, where she soon revived. Then I took her home in my buggy, and six months later we were married.

"How did the snake come to be in the desk? Why a couple of mischievous boys pulled a trigger for a holiday, had killed it on their way to school and placed it there, well knowing what the consequences would be. Before that little episode I never was much of an admirer of snakes, but since then—well, I can't say that I feel so harshly toward them."

INJURES THE TRADE.

A Texas Cotton Dealer Sent Poor Goods to Russia.

Vice and Acting Consul Smith, at Moscow, Russia, has written to the state department in regard to certain shipments of cotton that have recently been made from the United States. It appears that an importer in Moscow, after making inquiries from several banks in Texas and obtaining indorsements as to his correspondent's reliability, the Russian bought 200 bales of cotton, paying for them in advance. When the goods arrived it was found that instead of cotton the bales contained only wadding, having almost no value and entailing a loss to the importer of about 12,000 rubles (about \$6,100, taking the value of the paper ruble as 51 cents, according to the statement of the United States director of the mint October 1, 1897; if the gold ruble was the Moscow dealer has brought the matter to the attention of the United States consul and intends to take legal proceedings against the exporter.

Mr. Smith incloses samples of the cotton actually bought and of the goods received. Attention is called to the matter because of the evident injury to United States trade in foreign countries resulting from shipment of goods which do not correspond to sample.

An Enterprising Minister.

A Berrien county (Mich.) minister discovered that his salary was not large enough for the support of an increasing family, and, having had some experience in carpentering, he began doing odd jobs for his members. His business grew rapidly, and soon he hung a sign bearing the word "carpenter" in front of the parsonage. But recently he thought himself of the coming spring and the early spring weddings, and added another word to the sign. It now reads: "Carpenter and Joiner."

Birth Statistics of Prussia. In Prussia during the last 70 years 58,388,782 children have been born; these include 696,531 pairs of twins, 7,731 sets of triplets, 106 cases of four children at one birth and three instances of five. The Prussian statistics are carefully kept, so that the figures given afford some ground for the computation of domestic possibilities.

Wheat Thrashing in India.

India when it is still thrashed by being trodden out by bullocks and buffaloes.

Bulletin Financier. Bulletin Commercial

Mercredi, 16 mars 1898.

COMPTOIR D'ECHANGES (CLEARING-HOUSE) DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS.

Change of gold... 7,003,271 00 878,704 00

MONNAIE MONETAIRE.

Nouveaux-Orleans... 7 40

MONNAIE AMERICAINES ET STRANGERS.

Souverains Victoria... 84 80 80 90

MONNAIE LONDRES.

Taux de la Banque d'Angleterre... 3 0/0

PARIS.

Argent en lingots (par 1000)... 100 00

CHANGES.

Le Sterling est faible... 47 3/4 3/4

LE CHANGE A VUE SUR NEW-YORK.

Le change est calme... 100 00

VENTES A LA BOURSE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS.

Entre les appels de 10 A. M. et de 2 P. M. 3,300 City 48... 103 7/8

ACTIONS ET BONS.

Derivatives de la Bourse d'Orleans... 100 00

Canal et Banking Co... 120 120

Canal National... 100 100

Canal de la Nouvelle-Orleans... 100 100

Canal de la Nouvelle-Orleans... 100 100

Canal de la Nouvelle-Orleans... 100 100

Canal de la Nouvelle-Orleans... 100 100

Canal de la Nouvelle-Orleans... 100 100

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Mercredi, 16 mars 1898.

COTON.

Marché de la Nlle-Orleans.

Le Coton Exchange a rapporté aujourd'hui des ventes de 7,700 balles et 500 à arriver.

Le marché est ferme. Les cotons les plus beaux de la Nouvelle-Orleans...

Low Ordinary... 4 1/16

Good Ordinary... 4 1/16

Medium... 4 1/16

Low Middling... 4 1/16

Good Middling... 4 1/16

High Middling... 4 1/16

Low Middling... 4 1/16

Good Middling... 4 1/16

High Middling... 4 1/16

Low Middling... 4 1/16

Good Middling... 4 1/16

High Middling... 4 1/16

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Good Middling... 4 1/16

High Middling... 4 1/16

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Low Middling... 4 1/16

Good Middling... 4 1/16

High Middling... 4 1/16

GRANDES.

Le Board of Trade donne les cotes suivantes pour les lots de chargement de café.

Job lots 1/4 1/2 plus élevé.

Low Fair No 4... 7 1/2

Good Ordinary No 5... 7 1/2

Ordinary No 6... 7 1/2

Low Ordinary No 7... 7 1/2

Strictly Good Ordinary No 8... 7 1/2

Good Common No 9... 7 1/2

SANTOS—Inactif.

Fair No 3... 7 1/2

Good Ordinary No 5... 7 1/2

Ordinary No 6... 7 1/2

Low Ordinary No 7... 7 1/2

Strictly Good Ordinary No 8... 7 1/2

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