JIM WARDNER OF IDAHO.

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His Remarkable Lack and the Story of an Interesting Telegram Concerning Him.

"Jim Wardner of Idaho and all over," said a westerner just in town from the Pacific slope, "ought to be somewhere in New York city at this very minute, for I heard he had left for the east on a prospecting trip, just before I got down from Skagway. Wardner is a genius that cannot be downed, and, besides having one town named for him in Idaho and another in British Kootenai, he has made and lost four fortunes in mines, and is now starting in on his fifth. At least his fourth is gone, and he only makes a fortune when he happens to be out of one. His last venture was big, but it went wrong. He had two steamboats on the Kootenai, and started the town of Wardner, which went with a boom, and Jim started to win a

million. "There was a rival town across the river, but they had to depend on Jim's steamboats for their stuff, and naturally, under the circumstances, Wardner had the bulge on Steelton, the name of the other town. One day, when everything was coming Jim's way, both of his boats went on the rocks and sunk, and Jim wasn't yet in a fix to replace them. In other words, it busted him, and he got out of it the best he could, which was to go off to the town of Toronto and trade his town site for a stock of goods. These, to the extent of \$40,-000, he carried up to Lake Bennett and started on it down the river to Dawson. Evidently Jim's luck wasn't on the water, for his boat load of stuff was wrecked and he only saved enough out of it to bring him in \$9,000, when, if he had had luck his \$40,000 would easily have been sold for \$400,000 at the usual Dawson profit. That sort of thing would have knocked out most men, but Wardner went right on and now, I understand, he has got something to present to New Yorkers better than anything he ever struck.

"His 'black cat' farm was one of the things that gave him a reputation for wealth. This was a farm on an island in Puget sound, where he raised, according to his representations to an eastern journalist, such vast numbers of black cats that their furs brought him a fabulous revenue. Of course, it was a fabric of the fancy, but the story was told everywhere, and Wardner's black cat farm was one of the features of the coast—on paper at least.

"Another story is told of him at a time when he was between fortunes and wanted to get to New York for a grubstake. He was at Vancouver, and, as he couldn't swim, nothing was left him but to go on by the land, so he struck the Canadian Pacific railroad. He stated his case to the agent and asked him to telegraph Mr. Shaughnessy, the general passenger agent at Montreal, to the effect that Mr. Wardner was at Vancouver, and unless he got transportation he would have to walk. The obliging agent sent the message and asked: 'Shall I issue the transportation? Later the agent received a reply: 'Don't let Mr. Wardner walk,' and that same night Mr. Wardner was flying eastward on a C. P. train. Arriving at Montreal Wardner went to Shaughnessy to extend his thanks, and when the G. P. A. saw him he threw up his hands.

"'How did you get here so soon, he " 'Over the C. P., of course, responded

Wardner. "'But how? Didn't the agent get my telegram?'

"Yes, and it said: 'Don't let Mr. Wardner walk, and I didn't,' smiled

"'Great Scott!' exclaimed Shaughnessy, 'that telegraph operator left out a period. The telegram should have

read: 'Don't. Let Wardner walk.'" "Then Wardner gave Shaughnessy the ha, ha, and Shaughnessy gave Wardner a dinner and Wardner didn't have to walk on to New York, either. He's a great chap, is Jim Wardner, and he'll be on top again by and by, see if he

isn't."-N. Y. Sun. Potpourri. Crack the turkey bones and those left from the chicken pasty, add the chicken necks and backs and more undesirable portions of the turkey, cover with cold water and stew slowly three or four hours. Break enough spaghetti into inch lengths to make half a cupful. Cook till tender in boiling salted water, then drain and add to the strained broth. Cut celery into fine bits, enough to make two tablespoonfuls, and add this together with a teaspoonful of finely minced onion to the soup.

Housekeeping. Apples with Jelly.

Cook till the celery and onion are ten-

der. Season with salt and pepper and

serve with heated crackers. - Good

Take six fine apples, pare and core them and put them in a saucepan with one pint of water, the rind of a lemon, and one-half pound of loaf sugar. Place on the fire and stew very gently until the apples are soft, then lift them out and lay on a glass dish. Boil the sugar and water with a little melted isinglass to make it set, then strain it and add a few drops of cochineal, and put it aside. When quite cold lay it in rocklike pieces among the apples and garnish the dish with pieces of angelicas and the whipped whites of eggs.-Cincinnati Commercial-Tribune.

Vanilla Souffle, Vanilla souffle is a dainty dish, but to be good it must be eaten as soon as it comes from the oven. Take four eggs, beat the yolks till they are pale and the whites to a stiff froth. Add onehalf pint of milk to the yolks and stir in gradually an ounce of fine flour. Lastly, stir in the whites lightly, flavoring all with vanilla. Pour into a deep dish (buttered), bake in a quick oven for ten minutes or a quarter of an hour, when it should be well puffed up and light brown; sift sugar over and serve. -Boston Globe.

A QUESTION FOR GIRLS.

Do You Drift or Has Your Life a Distinct Purpose as It Should Havet

Into every girl's life and into every woman's life comes a time when, consciously or unconsciously, she decides whether she will drift through life, or steer through it with a definite aim in view. To most that time arrives when the girl leaves school and the routine of the daily mental task and the daily going to and fro at appointed hour ceases to be obligatory.

The girl who must go to work to earn money when she is through school is not altogether to be pitied. She has her course marked out and is obliged to follow it, but it brings with it unconsidered benefit in the acquirement of regular habits, trained hands or trained mind, and the enlarged outlook upon life that comes from contact with the world outside of her own narrow domestic and social circle.

The girl of rich or well-to-do family is not forced into a course that leads to self-development, but can choose either to go on with the training of her mind by setting aside certain hours of each day for systematic study, reading, household tasks, music or art, as her taste may suggest, or to let herself drift, blown hither and thither by each caprice and fancy. Usually her one idea on leaving school is to have what she calls a "good time." She rises in the morning without any definite idea of how she is going to spend the day; she dawdles down to breakfast and dawdles over it. She waits for a suggestion from without to guide the current of her day. If no suggestion comes, she probably spends the time with a little fancy work, a little novel reading and a good deal of gossip. If she is fond of active amusements, and goes into society, she will lead a busier life; but, sooner or later, all this will pall upon her. Amusement as a spice to work is wholesome and even necessary; amusement as a pursuit is fatal to any strength of char-

The girl without regular habits and an untrained mind may marry. If she does, her household will probably be a scene of confusion, and her children illbred. She may, if she is naturally a sensible girl, pull herself up sharply when responsibilities are thrust upon her, but it will be a hard pull up a steep and stony road, and she will feel inclined to blame her parents even more than herself for her ignorance of the serious side of life. And what of the purposeless girl who does not marry? We all know what becomes of the unsteered boat. Are human lives of less account?-Philadelphia Press.

SOME VALUABLE HINTS.

How to Wash and Iron Tucked Lingerie, Clean Gloves and Silks, Etc.

The hemstitched handkerchief is always popular. Scalloped borders are also in fairly good demand, but the hemstitched, embroidered handkerchiefs are in the lead. They range in price from \$2.25 to \$5.75 a dozen, and they are offering three different sizes variously embroidered. The initials on the handkerchiefs are not as much used as formerly, though many orders come in for the single letter. Some women prefer to have their full name embroidered in the corner.

Unless a professional laundress is employed it is of the greatest importance that a woman know how to do up her own tucked yokes, embroidered and ruffled neck bands and daintiest lingerie. Iron fine tucks first on the wrong side, turn over, raise each tuck with a knife, dampen slightly and iron dry on the right side. Some prefer to raise them again instead of leaving them flat.

By the exercise of considerable judgment and patience a nice dress may be cleaned without taking it apart. To cleanse a challis trimmed with lace and silk, soak it over night in soap bark and cold water, and wash it next morning in the same, being sure to rinse it thoroughly. It can be ironed like any other goods, but it requires ingenuity to get at all the

out of the way places. Silks and gloves can be washed in gasoline, but never in the night time, because of the danger of explosion. The woman who put her gloves just out of their gasoline bath on her hands and held them over the stove to dry should be an example to womankind. The fluid caught fire and her

hands were disfigured for life. Delicately tinted mulls and nearly all delicate goods to be cleaned must be soaked over night in salt water and washed in soap bark and cold water. To wash white mull yokes place them in hot water, soap bark and ammonia, and leave them over night. In the morning they should have another bath of the same kind and then be rinsed in hot water.-N. Y. Tribune.

Hen's Nest.

Take four eggs, make a hole with a pin in one end, take out all the yolk and whites, fill the shell with a liquid blanc mange, stand each shell in an egg cup and put it away to cool; put some orange marmalade on a dish; when the blanc mange is hardened, break off the shells and stand the whole eggs in the center of the marmalade. This looks like a nest full of eggs and is a very pretty dessert.—Detroit Free Press.

The New Petticonts.

Petticoats are tighter than ever, shaped like skirts. The top is set on a simple bias or crosscut band, through which a ribbon is passed. There are no plaits, no gathers behind; they are placed beneath the corset fastenings almost at the bottom of the hips, so as not to enlarge the figure by a line. The flounces are shaped and covered with lace like those of last year.-Chicago Chronicle.

THE EARLY PRESIDENTS.

Sustained Closer Relations with the Senate Then Than They Do Now.

The concluding volume of the series compiled by Representative James D. Richardson, of Tennessee, under the title: "Messages and Papers of the. Presidents of the United States," has just come from the government printing office. Besides the appendix and index, it contains a number of the special messages purposely omitted from early volumes, and some on general topics, which were accidentally overlooked. These include a few which give us an interesting glimpse of our past national history, and throw side lights upon the more modern methods and events.

One of them calls to mind the fact that in the old times the relations of the president with the senate when acting in its executive capacity were rather closer than now. The record shows that, instead of sending a message by the hand of a clerk to the senate, which was to give its "advice and consent" to the matters detailed therein, "the president of the United States (George Washington) came into the senate chamber attended by Gen. Knox" (his secretary of war), and laid a statement of his policy before that body. One point after another was called up and made the subject of comment, and a vote was taken on it, after which "the president of the United States withdrew from the senate chamber and the vice president put the question of adjournment." This proceeding bore a distinct resemblance, in its own way, to the system under which, in the British parliament, the responsible administrative officers meet their legislative critics face to face and explain and defend government measures.

Other papers show the speed with which events in our early history vindicated the wisdom of Washington's warning, in his farewell address, of the fickleness of international friendships. In 1796 we find the official spokesman of the French republic greeting the American people as "friends and brothers," and saying of his country that, long accustomed to regard the American people as her most faithful allies, she has sought to draw closer the ties already formed in the fields of America, under the auspices of victory "over the ruins of tyranny," etc. Only two years later we come upon a circular of instruction issued from the navy department to commanders of armed vessels of the United States "to subdue, seize and take any armed French vessel sailing under authority or pretense of authority from the French republic which shall be found within the jurisdictional limits of the United States or elsewhere on the high seas," and more to like effect. Thus promptly were snapped the sentimental ties formed in the field between the French people and our own.

Official absenteeism had already drawn notice to itself as an abuse before our republic was a dozen years old as, appears from a circular issued to "the heads of the departments" by President Jefferson in 1801, concerning the machinery of official communication between the various officers of the government. After describing how letters on executive business had always been referred by President Washing ton to the several cabinet secretaries and the secretaries' reference of their proposed answers to him Jefferson tartly continues: "During Mr. Adams' administration his long and continued absence from the seat of government rendered this kind of communication impracticable, removed him from any share in the transaction of affairs and parceled out the government, in fact, among four independent heads, drawing sometimes in opposite directions. That the former is preferable to the latter course cannot be doubted."

And how quaintly, in view of the con ditions existing to-day, reads the letter of Gov. Collins, of Rhode Island, addressed in September, 1789, to "the president, the senate and the house of representatives of the 11 United States of America, in congress assembled, to explain the unwillingness of Rhode Is land to come into the union until she had some further assurances that it was not going to be merely a stepping stone back to monarchy." The people of his state, Mr. Collins took pains to emphasize, "know themselves to be a handful, comparatively viewed; and although they now stand, as it were, they have not separated themselves or departed from the principles of that federation which was formed by the sister states in their struggle for freedom and in the hour of danger. We are induced to hope," he added later, "that we shall not be altogether considered as foreigners having no particular affinity or connection with the United States, but that trade and commerce upon which the prosperity of this state much depends will be preserved as free and open between this and the United States as our different situations at present can possibly admit."-N. Y.

Kruger's Talking Tree. There is a wonderful elm tree in the Transvaal. The legend of its remarkable behavior runs thus: When under its branches a council of war was being held by the Boer generals during the Transvaal's last war with the English a shrill voice proceeded from the tree prophesying that the Boers should be victorious over their enemies and in the future should be unconquerable.+ N. Y. World.

Spoke Advisedly. Mrs. Swayback-Mr. Critchlow calls his wife "dearest."

Mr. Swayback-That is the proper form of the adjective to use. He has been married three times.-Judge.

A Financial Question. Gerald—Could you learn to love me? Geraldine-How much are you willing to spend on my education?-N. Y. AFRICAN DIAMONDS.

Appearance the Beauties Bear in Their Original Home-American Stones.

The "dry diggings" of the Kimberley district, in South Africa, afford the unique locality in which the diamond has thus far been found in its original home, and all our knowledge of the mineral has been derived from study of this locality.

The mines are located in "pans," in which is found the "blue ground" now recognized as the disintegrated matrix of the diamond. These "pans" are known to be the "pipes," or "necks," of former volcanoes, now deeply dissected by the forces of the atmosphere-in fact, worn down, if not to their roots, at least to their stumps. These remnants of the "pipes," through which the lava reached the surface, are surrounded in part by a black shale containing a large percentage of carbon, and this is believed to be the material out of which the diamonds have been formed. What appear to be modified frag-

ments of the black shale inclosed within the "pipes" afford evidence that portions of the shale have been broken from the parent beds by the force of the ascending current of lava—a common enough accompaniment to volcanic action-and have been profoundly altered by the high temperature and the extreme hydrostatic pressure under which the mass must have been hid. The most important feature of this alteration has been the recrystallization of the carbon of the shale into diamond.

This apparent explanation of the genesis of the diamond finds strong support in the experiments of Moissan, who obtained artificial diamond by dissolving carbon in cold water until a firm surface crust had formed. The "chilled" mass was then removed to allow its still molten core to solidify slowly. This it does with the development of enormous pressures, because the natural expansion of the iron on passing into the solid condition is resisted by the strong shell of "chilled" metal. The isolation of the diamond was then accomplished by dissolving

the iron in acid. The dissemination of information regarding the lake diamonds through the region of the moraine should serve the twofold purpose of encouraging search for the buried stones and of discovering diamonds in the little collections of "lucky stones" and local curios which accumulate on the clock shelves of country farmhouses. When it is considered that three of the largest diamonds thus far found in the region remained for periods of seven, eight and 16 years, respectively, in the hands of the farming population, it can hardly be doubted that many other diamonds have been found and preserved as local curiosities without their real nature being discovered.

If diamonds should be discovered in the mornines of eastern Ohio, of western Pennsylvania or of western New York, considerable light would thereby be thrown upon the problem of locating the ancestral home. More important than this, however, is the mapping of the Canadian wilderness to the southeastward and eastward of James bay, in order to determine the direction of ice movement within the region, so that the tracking of the stones already found may be carried nearer their home. The director of the geological survey of Canada is giving attention to this matter, and has also suggested that a study be made of the material found in association with the diamonds in the moraine, so that, if possible, its source may be discovered.

While the discovery of new localities of these emigrant stones and the collection of data regarding the movement of the ice over Canadian territory, it will perhaps be possible the more accurately and definitely to circumscribe their home country, and as its boundaries are drawn closer and closer to pay this popular jewel a visit in its ancestral home, there to learn what we so much desire to know regarding its genesis and its life history.—Popular Science Monthly.

LINGUISTIC PRODIGIES.

Some of the World's Learned Men Who Master Fifty Different Tongues.

When one considers the difficulty of acquiring even a "nodding acquaintance" with two or three languages, it seems almost incredible that some men should be able to speak with all the fluency of a native in 20, and even 50, strange tongues. It is only a few months since Dr. Gottlieb Leitner, the most famous linguist of this generation, died at Bonn, in Germany. Dr. Leitner, who acted as interpreter to an army in the Crimean war, could speak with equal facility in no fewer than 50 languages; and many of the more abstruse eastern tongues he knew as intimately as his native German. But there have been phenomenal lin-

guists in all ages, from the far-away days of Mithridates, king of Pontus, who could converse with the subjects in each of their 25 tongues; and from the days of Cleopatra, who never used an interpreter in her relations with the world's ambassadors. Picodella Mirandola, a learned Italian of the fifteenth century, was eloquent in 22 languages, and M. Fulgence Fresnel was familiar with 20, and in the seventeenth centruy Nicholas Schmid, a German peasant, translated the Lord's Prayer into as many languages as there are weeks in

a year. The greatest linguist of all time, however, was Cardinal Mezzofanti, who died half a century ago. Mezzofanti's linguistic range was so great that he could have conversed in a different tongue every week for two years without exhausting his vocabulary. In all he was familiar with 114 languages and dialects, and in most of them he could speak with such accurancy and purity of accent that he might have been, and often was, mistaken for a native.-Cincinnati Enquirer.

COLLOQUIAL NAMES OF COINS.

They Differ According to the Section of the Country-Some Familiar Appellations.

Referring to the word "picayune," it may not be uninteresting to give a sketch of subsidiary coinage and currency as used in the past, and the various names under which it was known. In Ohio in 1844 and previously there

was a good deal of foreign coin in circulation, mostly Spanish, with some of the old state coinage of different states occasionally making its appearance. One of the most plentiful of those foreign coins was a piece which passed for 61/4 cents. In Ohio this was known as a fipenny bit, a contraction, probably, of five-penny bit. The half-dimes of American coinage were also becoming frequent at that time, and as a distinction between the half-dime and the fipenny bit the former was contracted to the word "fip." The dime went under its lawful name, while the old Spanish double of the fipenny bit was known as the "bit," and the Spanish and Mexican quarter-dollars were nearly always referred to as "two-bits." The latter term, I think, still obtains in preference to quarter-dollar American pieces in some sections. There was also a New York state "two-bit" coin, as well as a "bit" of the same coinage, which was sometimes called the "York shilling." The Pine Tree State shilling, coming from Maine, was sometimes seen, but not much used. Its value was supposed to be 16 2-3 cents. The old-fashioned big copper cent of American coinage was plentiful, while occasionally an English halfpenny of copper was found floating around, generally passing on the same basis as the big copper cent. Queen Victoria's head was shown on the English halfpennies.

Later, when as a boy, I removed with my mother to Illinois, I met my first stumbling block in money names. There the fipenny bit was the picayune, while the fip had its proper name of a halfdime, or five cents. But the larger coins retained the old names, as did the copper cents. As near as I can learn, the term picayune originated with the French, who had settled St. Louis and had settlements at points all the way from New Orleans to St. Louis and the further northwest, and their names for money predominated in that region.

Still later, when I had strayed away to New York state, I again encountered new names for money. There everything was based on the "shilling," which represented 12 cents. A quarter of a dollar was always "two shillings," and all sums under \$100 were calculated on the same basis. When I asked the price of board I was told it ranged from 16 to 30 shillings a week. The price of a suit of clothes was generally stated in shillings. That was all right for the natives, but I confess I had frequently to brush up my arithmetic to get at what 33 shillings, 22 shillings, 17 shillings, or some other higher number amounted to. It was all clear enough when it was two, four or six shillings, but when it got above the dollar it required some "ciphering" on the part of the stranger to get correct results.

The three-cent piece, originally coined in silver, came into general circulation in the north about 1850, and was later made in nickel, being coined in that metal about the same time as the present nickel five-cent piece.

Some time before the civil war the old-fashioned copper cent was replaced at the mint with the present small copper cents and two-cent pieces. Later the first nickels were made, but almost went out of circulation during the war, and were succeeded by the fractional currency of that day, issued in 5, 10, 25 and 50-cent bills. These were never very popular with the masses, and were looked upon by the government as a temporary expedient. The most popular designation of them was "shinplaster," though in Memphis and some other parts of the country they were referred to as "chicken feed."--Galveston

HEREDITARY NERVOUSNESS.

A Child Who Readily Adapted the Theories Entertained by Her Mother.

"In every child there lies a wonderful deep," says Schumann, and so there does, but few people realize how capable the child mind occasionally is of grasping theories and problems, which, being considered to be too abstruse for its comprehension, are discussed with more or less freedom in the presence of children by their elders. An amusing instance of this capability was recounted recently by Mrs. Almon Hensley, president of the Woman's Society for the Study of Life. It was furnished by her little daughter, who is six years old. Mrs. Hensley is a firm believer in the theory that heredity is largely, if not chiefly, responsible for physical and moral defects in persons possessing them. It is her pet hobby. She has made a deep study of the question

and is never weary of discussing it. A few days ago her daughter was riding in Central park in a buggy that was being drawn by a couple of spirited horses. The animals were more than usually hard to control. They reared and plunged and manifested a disposition to bolt. The little girl, greatly terrified, clung to her mother, but remained silent until the horses ceased rearing and started off at a brisk trot, when, to the astonishment and amusement of her mother, who had been trying to reassure her and make light of her fear, she exclaimed:

"Oh, mamma, why did I have a nervous grandmother!"-N. Y. Times.

Horse Prices.

In 1888 the average price of a horse was \$74.64; in 1897, \$31.50. In the 13 years from 1884 to 1897, while the number of horses in the United States had increased by more than 3,000,000, their total value had decreased nearly \$400,-000.000.—N. Y. World.

PITH AND POINT.

A man isn't always cool when he chivers in the hour of danger.-Chicago Daily News.

The life which is an open book reminds us chiefly that an open book is not a handy thing to carry around .-

Miss Dimple-"Reggie, did you ever smell powder?" Reginald-"Oh, often." Miss Dimple-"Manila or Cuba?" Reginald-"Sachet."-Ohio State Journal. He-"Do you know that for the last hour I have been looking for a chance to steal a kiss?" She—"What bad eyesight you must have!"-London Punch. "You say that figures don't lie. Well,

permit me to flatly contradict you." 'May I ask your business?" "I'm a dressmaker."-Cleveland Plain Dealer. It is a swift age; an Indian squaw walked down Commercial street this; afternoon smoking a pipe, while her husband followed meekly, carrying the baby.—Atchison Globe.

"What are you looking so glum about?" "Oh, I was trying to make a man take five dollars." "You don't mean to say he wouldn't take it?" "Yes. I do. You see, he's my tailor, and I owe him \$50."—Philadelphia Record.

Quinn-"Which is the swiftest animal?" DeFonte-"Well, I've heard of an elephant making a mile a minute." Quinn-"Preposterous! Where was this wonderful elephant?" DeFonte-"On a circus train."—St. Louis Republic.

INTELLIGENT PACK MULES

In the Course of Their Army Experience They Learn a Good Many Things.

"In the government service," said an ex-soldier, "the pack trains are led by a bell mare and the mules learn to follow her with a blind confidence that is astonishing. After the surrender of Santiago the army of occupation had several pack trains that were kept in a big corral near the camp. One day Gen. Breckinridge came to visit Gen. Shafter, who at that time had shifted his headquarters to a point near San Juan hill, and how to provide him with a saddle animal was a serious question. The climate of south Cuba had proven very hard on our horses and they were nearly all dead or disabled. In fact, the only respectable looking animal we could scrape up was a bell mare belonging to one of the trains, and the order was accordingly given to saddle her up.

The general mounted and was riding away toward headquarters, when suddenly a most hideous and unearthly tumult broke loose from the corral. The mules had caught sight of their leader and were frantically endeavoring to get out and follow, each one braying at the top of his lungs in a different key. It was the most horrible noise ever heard in the province since the bombardment of Morro castle, and for the time being it looked as if the crazy mules were going to tear down the stockade. Gen. Breckinridge was startled and reined up to investigate. but meanwhile a dozen packers had jumped into the corral and went-to work on the brutes with clubs, trying to get them running around in a circle, so as to distract their attention. At last they succeeded and the general fortunately disappeared down the road before the drove came to a standstill again. He would have cut a unique figure if he had ridden up to Shafter's tent leading a solemn cavalcade of 64 government mules, and that is exactly what would have happened had it not been for the presence of mind of the packers.

"A pack mule that has seen service gets very cunning. I remember we, had one old fellow who had been in the army for 12 or 15 years, and he knew as much as most of the men. He was occasionally used as a leader and was very fond of the job, because in that case he had no load to carry. To see him maneuvering to get to the front was very comical. The regulation pack weighs 200 pounds and the mules soon learn to size it up to a nicety, refusing to carry anything more. For that reason they are blindfolded while being loaded, otherwise they would be continually looking around to see whether the pack was inside the fimit.

"On one occasion we received a coffin to be sent to Siboney and the old mule-I referred to was selected to carry it. The coffin weighed only 25 pounds, but . the mule must have concluded from its size that it weighed a ton, and he immediately began to groan in the most pitiful manner, exactly like a human being. When the coffin was put on his back he pretended to stagger and sagged down as if he was carrying a teninch gun. At the same time he turned his head and looked at me with a mournful expression that was as easily read as so much print: 'Good heavens!' he seemed to say, 'are you going to allow' me to be crushed by this enormous burden?' We were all shricking with ! laughter and tried to make him take his place in line, but not an inch would he budge. Finally he deliberately rolled over and knocked the coffin off. That settled it. We let the old rascal take the bell and I could almost hear him chuckling as it was looped around his neck. Another mule was then blindfolded and took on the coffin without trouble."-N. O. Times-Democrat.

Britain's Popular Surnames. In England and Wales the name of

Smith appears 253,600 times and Jones reports "present" 242,100 times. Then follow, in the order of their strength, Williams, Taylor, Davies and Brown. In Scotland Smith is in the lead, and then come McDonald, Brown, Thompson, Robertson, Stewart and Campbell. In Ireland Smith ranks only fifth, and the Murphys take the first place, to the number of 62,600, and then come Kelly. 55,000 strong; Sullivan, 43,600; Walsh, 41,700; Smith, 37,000; O'Brien, 33,400, followed by Ryan, Connor, O'Neil and Reilly. The Reillys number 29,000.-N.

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