

RUINED BY TRIFLES.

Little Things That Changed English Millionaire into Beggar in a Short Time.

It was a common penny postage stamp that brought Hobart, the great British "iron king," to his ruin.

Hobart had frequent fits of irritability, and he had been receiving a lot of understamped letters of no importance, on which he had to pay double postage.

Consequently, knowing nothing of the existence of the letter, or the all-important private news it contained, Hobart pledged himself next day for more iron deals than even his mighty credit was good for.

Geoffrey Pack, once the prince of London's stock exchange, was famous for being most punctual, never arriving a minute late, although he always walked to the city from Sloane square every day.

Cobbett had a poor memory. In a fever of anxiety he tried to reconstruct his plans from a note.

Something similar, but still more romantic, was the moment of forgetfulness that wrecked the career of the great railway contractor, Purbeck Jones.

It was not till the morning that the Indian mail went off that he arrived to dispatch the securities under special guard to India.

Julia - Fanny married a very wealthy man, you know. She tells me she has absolutely nothing to wish for.

Gertrude - Oh, Julia! What a dreadful state to be in. - Brooklyn Life.

CAR FOR LIVE FISH.

Railway Company Builds One for the Express Purpose of Stocking Ontario Lakes.

Owing to the thousands of tourists and anglers who each year make the districts in northern Ontario their summer resort, the fish in several of the lakes have suffered to some extent; and to obviate any depletion or extermination the Grand Trunk railway, in conjunction with the Ontario government, has formulated a scheme for restocking many of the waters in the Highlands of Ontario, not by depositing eggs, fry or fingerlings, but by transplanting the parent fish early in the spring, in time to take advantage of the spawning season.

Heretofore the stocking of lakes has been hampered for the want of the proper means for the transportation of the fish. Young fish, fry and fingerlings, were carried by messengers in baggage cars on regular passenger trains.

The Ontario government has already contracted for 10,000 parent bass. The first shipment has been planted in the waters known as the "Lake of Bays," situated in northern Ontario, about 145 miles from Toronto.

The other lakes which will be restocked are Lakes Joseph, Muskoka, Couchiching, Simcoe, and the Kawartha lakes. Though the fishing in all these waters has been good in the past, the lover of the rod and the amateur angler will be assured now of unlimited sport in any of these districts.

NOAH'S ARK A MODERN SHIP.

Proof Has Been Found That the Ship-building Industry Flourished Before His Time.

Another popular notion has been upset. For centuries it has been supposed that Father Noah was the first shipbuilder of the world and that the ark in which he saved his family from drowning was the first vessel that "plowed the raging main."

They are constructed of three-inch acacia and sycamore planks, dovetailed together and fastened with trenails. They have floors, but no ribs, and, though nearly 5,000 years old, they held together after their supports had been removed.

Acquisition of Knowledge. "Well, and what have you learned at college, Charlie?" we asked, anxious to know how our niece had profited by her residence at a distant institution of learning.

"She says her face is her fortune," said Maud.

OUR AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS.

Countries Which Supply the United States with Products of the Farm.

A bulletin has been prepared by the chief of the section of foreign markets of the department of agriculture showing the sources of the agricultural imports to the United States from 1896 to 1900, says the Washington Star.

The leading articles of farm produce imported by us in 1900 were, in the order of their importance, sugar, hides and skins, coffee, silk, vegetable fibers, wools, fruits and nuts, tobacco, tea, wines, vegetable oils and cocoa, the value of each of these exceeding \$5,000,000.

Cuba and the Netherlands sent us practically all the tobacco received, their figures being \$7,616,000 and \$4,569,000, respectively. China sent us \$4,733,000 worth. France, Germany and Spain furnished wines to the respective amounts of \$3,845,500, \$1,179,000 and \$339,000 in 1900.

What Was Due the Professor. "She was a normal school girl and had taken the regents' examination in Latin. Comely, well-dressed, alert, and rather 'proper' in her manners, she would no doubt take great offense if told that she was so addicted to slang that she dropped into it without having any more than a subconscious knowledge of the fact.

Miss - said the chief examiner to the young woman, "did you not look on Miss -'s paper for answers to these questions?"

He Had the Last Word. She had talked to him for two long, weary hours.

Woman's club, woman's aims, woman's work in the world, and woman's general superiority to man—all sprang with a capital "W" these were the theme of her conversation.

SAILORS LOVE BASEBALL.

Jack Turns of Brooklyn Navy Yard Always on Hand to Witness Championship Games.

How ardent a lover of our national game is Jack Turn! Never a baseball game is played either at the Polo grounds in this city or at the Brooklyn baseball park without a liberal sprinkling of the uniforms of Uncle Sam's Jackies.

Every man-of-war has its ball team, and regulations and traditions are winked at in so far that the officers often doff their dignity to take a hand in the game with the men before the mast.

That is the reason why the sailor is so constant an attendant at the ball games when he is in this port. So when the ball season is on even the Boverly with its attractions has to suffer, as "Jack" blows in his spare change for a chance to see the crack pitchers of the various league clubs.

MARGHERITA'S MANY VIRTUES.

Italy's Former Queen Deserves the High Esteem in Which She is Held.

There is no more popular woman among the royalties of Europe than ex-Queen Margherita, the widow of King Humbert of Italy. She has been justly designated as the most virtuous and most intelligent of queens.

The Marianna Dionigi Royal Technical School for Girls contains a fine collection of photographs of leaves, flowers and fruits, which the girls use as copies for their lace and embroidery. These photographs were a gift from the queen.

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Value of the Apple Crop. Wheat is a great crop in the United States, but there are several others that beat it in value, and among them is the apple crop.

Pa, what's the difference between sport and pastime? "People make money on sport, Jimmie; but pastime has to be its own reward." - Chicago Record-Herald.

WAR ON SEA LIONS.

Salmon Fishermen of the Northwest Would Exterminate Them.

The Voracious Amphibians Destroy Vast Numbers of Star Fish Along the Washington and Oregon Coasts.

Fishermen of the North Pacific coast are undertaking a movement for the destruction of the sea lions, the inveterate enemies of salmon and other food fishes, and which annually make incalculable ravages in the schools of chinooks, steelheads and other varieties of salmon that hover off the Washington and Oregon coasts.

How many salmon each day of these monsters kills each day is purely a matter of conjecture, but instances are known where a single sea lion has killed and eaten 18 salmon within a very few minutes, and it is certain that many hundreds of thousands of royal chinook salmon are killed every year by these pests.

It is during the summer months, that the lions do the greatest amount of damage. They are numerous at many places along the Pacific coast.

but their favorite rendezvous appears to be in the neighborhood of the mouth of the Columbia river. Thousands of them congregate at Seal Rock lighthouse during the breeding season. These rocks are situated well out from the beach, and can be reached only during the extreme low tides of the summer months, thus rendering the retreat of the lions comparatively safe from attack except during isolated periods.

This coupled with the extreme difficulty of securing the carcasses of the animals, as the lions take to the water as soon as they are shot, makes the hunting of them a precarious means of livelihood and renders it absolutely necessary that a bounty be paid if the lions are to be exterminated. The hides, which weigh when green about 70 pounds, sell for half a cent a pound. The whiskers of the male sell for from ten cents to 13 cents for the largest, which are from 10 to 12 inches in length.

A vast amount of valuable fishing gear is destroyed each year by the lions. A big male lion, while in pursuit of a salmon, will become entangled in a gill net or trap, and before it can possibly be released will by its desperate lashing and biting tear the web into shreds.

Insects Are Born But to Die. The life of a perfect insect is usually very brief. Of all the myriads of butterflies and moths, bees and wasps, flies and beetles, which make up one of the most marked features of the summer, the vast majority will die before the season is over.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

"Father," asked 12-year-old Mabel, looking up from her book, "what is repurpose?" "Back talk," answered father, "but so smart that you wish you'd said it yourself." - Philadelphia Press.

Downie (referring to the pleasant-faced lady who has just passed) - "Ah, my boy, I owe a great deal to that woman." Dorking - "Indeed! She's not your mother, is she?" Downie - "No, my landlady." - Glasgow Evening Times.

"I'll have to leave your service, sir," said the coachman to the trust magnate. "I'm sorry to hear that, John. Why?" "Every time I drive you out, sir, I hear people say: 'There goes the scoundrel, and I don't know which of us they mean.'" - Philadelphia Times.

Robbers and Robbers. - "Henry, Henry," whispered the wife of the good citizen, "there's a robber in the house." "Lots of 'em," replied Henry, sleepily, "in the house and senate, too, but they ain't a circumstance to those in the city councils." - Philadelphia Press.

Time - 100 Years Hence. Scene - Liverpool. - Aged British Inhabitant (pointing to liner steaming out of harbor) - "That boat, sir, is one of the most remarkable vessels in this country." Stranger - "Indeed! How is that?" British Inhabitant - "It's the only British steamship that doesn't belong to an American syndicate." - Fun.

The New Styles. - "Henry is a brute," said Mrs. Justwood to her mother, to whom she had gone for sympathy. "Why, what has he done, my poor child?" "Why, he - he says that my new bonnet - the one that is trimmed with those lovely cherries and things - boo-boo - he says - he says it looks like a bolted dinner." - Baltimore American.

FEMINE INSOLENC.

It Flourishes in the Office Where the Female Confidential Clerk is Employed.

A long established rule of this office is to say nothing but what is nice about the women. But it is sometimes allowable to tell the truth about "a" woman. My editor allows no one to generalize from specific cases, and that is a perfectly safe course to pursue.

In ordinary commercial life women never assert themselves. They are in a class with bookkeepers. They take dictation and typewrite what they take, and that is about all. I do not refer to saleswomen in any dry goods houses. But in an office a woman assistant is soon spoiled by the polite attentions of her employer. He may never transgress, but she inevitably absorbs the notion that she is the boss. She begins to take account of his goings and comings. She is interestedly inquisitive about his habits during the day. If he goes out for a cigar she has her suspicions. If he goes for a drink she feels at liberty to reprimand him. She assumes a responsibility for the proper conduct of his business that is out of all proportion to the salary she receives for diligently attending to her legitimate duties. She takes liberties that would cause the instant discharge of a man.

A man called yesterday at an office in Union Square in one of the tall buildings that now crown the place, and found therein a youth of some 20 years and a woman of 25 or 30. "Is Mr. Grimsall in?" he inquired, lifting his hat to the lady. "He is not," she said. "This is his office, I believe?" "It is," "I have called to see him on a matter of business, can you tell me when he will return?" "No." She threw herself indolently into a chair. The visitor began to grow warm. He was not there for favors. "You must know something about his business, madam," he said jolly. "When will he be here?" "I can not say, but I am here!" He bowed down to the floor and said, "I beg pardon, but who on earth are you? I have not the honor of your acquaintance, but are you employed here, or do you own the business?" "I am in control of the business at present, and if you want to talk business you must talk it with me." Without a word he opened the door and ran away.

Paris Messenger. The life of a perfect insect is usually very brief. Of all the myriads of butterflies and moths, bees and wasps, flies and beetles, which make up one of the most marked features of the summer, the vast majority will die before the season is over. A mere handful will survive into next year, while few, indeed, are those that will live to see a second summer. The duration of the larval stage is much longer. The dragon-fly nymph, as it is called, lives 11 months in the water. The perfect insect that emerges from it has only a few weeks, at most, of sunshine and the upper air. There are flies which live only for a single day, taking in that time no food, having, indeed, no mouths by which to take it. - Paris Messenger.