

AT BIRTHPLACE OF DICKENS

Almost a Shrine, Where Many of the Hudding Crowds Pause to Do Reverence.

A great signboard partly covers the little house where Charles Dickens was born. "Charles Dickens' Birthplace," it says, and all the hurrying world entering old Portsmouth pauses to look at it.

NEVER LACKED FOR SOLDIERS

How Japanese Forethought Supplemented Military Skill in the Great Struggle With Russia.

Brig. Gen. Robert K. Evans, says the Army and Navy Journal, told of meeting, just after the Russo-Japanese war, a friend who had been a military attaché with Oyama's army in the Manchurian campaign.

Turned Joke on Inspector.

This curious incident comes from Suhr, Switzerland. An inspector of schools, without any previous warning, visited the village school.

Looked Antlers in Glacier.

Mute evidence of a sporadic contact that may have occurred centuries ago was revealed to J. E. Magnusson, a timber cruiser on the slopes of Mount Baker, says the Portland Oregonian.

Why Will.

"Didn't you think that was a beautiful girl with me today, Will?" "What girl, my dear?" "Why she was with me when you met us outside the church."

YOUTH, TIME OF ANOMALIES

Springtime of Life is Full of Contradictions, But is Great Flood of Energy.

How shall I describe Youth, the time of contradictions and anomalies? The fiercest radicalism, the most dogged conservatism, irreparable gaiety, bitter melancholy—all of these moods are equally part of that showery springtime of life.

ORIGIN OF A POPULAR DOG

Ancestors of the Scottish Terrier Were Used by the "Todbunters" of the Highlands.

In ancient times each district in the Highlands had its "todbunter," whose duty it was to see carefully that the then flourishing firm of fox, otter and company did not do a too flourishing business in lamb or poultry.

Dressed Chicken.

She wanted to surprise her husband with a chicken dinner, but after she had gone out into their little chicken run and captured a luscious-looking young rooster there, she lost her nerve.

Inconsiderate Knot.

The drydocking of the schooner Forester, which put in at San Francisco the other day in distress, revealed the fact that the leak, the source of the schooner's distress, was merely a knob-hole.

Wonderful Kano.

In many ways is Kano a wonderful place to find in central Africa. This native city has great enclosing walls, twelve miles in circumference, pierced by thirteen deep gateways with platform and guardhouse and massive doors heavily clamped with iron.

Strange Things in the Wash.

The women are in such a hurry these days to get to their clubs that they are rather careless in wringing up their family washing which goes to the laundry.

Marrying for Money.

"Why do you prefer Mr. Jombet to Mr. Wipidde?" Mr. Wipidde has the most money.

PLAYED CARDS IN GRAVEYARD

Old-Time Practice Was Until Recently Indulged in at Least One Place in the United Kingdom.

There is a churchyard in the Borough of St. Marylebone, London, in which a tombstone is pointed out to visitors as the one on which Hogarth's "Idle apprentice" threw dice.

FAMOUS LEAPS OF BYARD

Hoof Prints Near Newmarket That Mark Jumps of the Legendary Blind Horse.

Near Newmarket, in Lincolnshire, England, there are three marks of a horse's hoofs, and each mark is seven yards distant from the other.

Snake Charmers of Old

Homer and Virgil Mention Them and Ancient Tablets Show the Tamed Serpents.

Snake taming is mentioned by Virgil, and Homer refers to the snake owned and specially favored by Ajax. That the Macedonians were on intimate terms with reptiles is shown by tablets bearing images of women feeding serpents.

PAID WELL FOR HIS BOAST

Probably in the Future Dubleigh Will First Find Out Identity of His Listener.

"That's a derved fine-lookin' car o' yours, mister," said the old man with a chin whisker, as he inspected Dubleigh's motor standing in front of the Eagle House at Topus.

MRS. SMITH HAD A SURPLUS

Undeniable Fact That Made Her Admiring Stranger Might Be Right in Her Claim.

A woman who may be called Mrs. Smith placed her umbrella against the counter at which she was making some purchases in a department store the other day, and when she finished picked it up and started away.

TO USE MUSIC ON CRIMINALS

Teacher of Instrumental Melody to Work at New York Reformatory Indorsed by Council.

BABIES ARE THIEF'S NEMESIS

Man Arrested for Jewelry Theft Gives Tots Great Credit for His Capture.

Spokane, Wash.—Babies are the best protection against burglars, according to James Burke, under arrest at Missoula, Mont., who has confessed the theft of \$11,000 in jewels from the Thatcher residence at Pueblo, Colo., and the taking of some worth \$5,000 from B. L. Gordon of Spokane.

Dog Puts Out Fire.

Louisville, Ky.—After extinguishing a fire caused by hot coals falling from a grate, the prize-winning collie of W. J. Atkinson awoke its master to have a look at its blistered paws.

Great Sea Monster.

While one of the gardeners in Broomhall gardens was digging a trench recently, says the London Globe, he came upon an ancient sand bed. On further excavations being made for the purpose of securing sand for gardening purposes, a huge bone was discovered.

Appropriate Course.

"So we're short on space? What shall I do with this appendix story?" "Cut it out."

SOME OLD TIME PREACHERS

In Pioneer Days in Missouri Every Divine Carried a Gun With Him to Church.

Nearly every pioneer preacher in Missouri was as expert in the use of the rifle as any of the laymen, says a writer in the Globe-Democrat. Services were usually held in a neighbor's cabin. Notice of a "meeting" was promptly and generally circulated, and the settlers attended, uniformly bringing their rifles to guard against possible surprises or to obtain game on the way to or from the service.

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