

FORETOLD HIS FUTURE.

Case of a Successful Character Delineation from Handwriting.

In 1888, shortly after the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Trust company was organized, and before President Stillwell had evolved any of the numerous railroad projects which have since made him one of the noted American railroad promoters, his attention was called to an advertisement which was appearing in various newspapers and periodicals at that time of one "Grapho," who claimed to send delineations of character to those who forwarded him specimens of their handwriting accompanied by a modest remittance. A friend of President Stillwell suggested it would be interesting to test "Grapho's" abilities in character delineation. His extensive advertising indicated he must be doing a thriving business, and Mr. Stillwell sent a specimen of his handwriting and the small amount required for delineation.

It was several days before "Grapho" replied, and when the delineation was received President Stillwell treated it as a joke, showed it to a few intimate friends, and laid it away, probably forgetting all about it in a short time.

Doubtless he has recalled it frequently since that time. One of his friends to whom it was shown when received, Mr. E. J. Davidson, at that time secretary of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Trust company, said the other day that the delineation was very much more in detail than those received by others who had written to "Grapho" at about the same time.

"It has been recalled to my mind a thousand times," Mr. Davidson said, "by reports of new projects in which Mr. Stillwell has been interested. As I remember the delineation, 'Grapho' predicted that Mr. Stillwell would become one of the great railroad promoters of the age. 'Grapho' said he would fail to engage in it and that with every success there would come more, until the eyes of the world would be turned upon a new Napoleon of railroading. He predicted that the plans followed would be original and that the results achieved would bear out the good judgment of a bold operator. I remember that 'Grapho' in his letter to Mr. Stillwell said it was unusual for him to care to continue a correspondence with those whose characters he delineated from their handwriting, but that he would be glad to carry on an extended correspondence with Mr. Stillwell without any additional charges, believing he would be richly repaid by a further insight into a remarkable character. I think President Stillwell did not take the matter up further, and that it soon passed from his mind. I have often thought of it since Mr. Stillwell has been leaping up the ladder of fame in financial matters. He is a remarkable man."—Kansas City Journal.

The Oyster.

The sentiment which annually greets the return of the oyster from its summer vacation may not be of an esthetic sort, but certainly it is as remote as possible from mercenary considerations of commerce. And yet the oyster not only stands for a great delicacy, but a great industry that will in time be vastly greater. It is shown by government statistics, for instance, that of the 35,000,000 bushels of oysters consumed throughout the world each year, 30,000,000 bushels are supplied by the United States and that the oyster fishery exceeds any other fishery in importance. Add to this that the industry is especially important in the states of New Jersey and Maryland—the latter alone producing one-third of the world's crop—and it will be seen that there are special reasons why Philadelphia should be cordial to the oyster, and should greet its advent with a degree of effusiveness not extended to any other thing in the adlibitum list with the possible exception of the Thanksgiving turkey.—Philadelphia Record.

Key West Has No Chimneys.

It is curious, though true, that of all the houses, dwellings, stores, hotels and other buildings that dot the island of Key West, from one shore to the other, not one of them has a chimney or anything that will answer the purpose of a chimney. Handsome residences and lowly hovels are alike in this respect, and from an eminence gazing out over acres of roofs on all sides one is struck with the want of something to complete the symmetry of the picture. Wood and coal or fuel of any kind are unknown quantities, as the tropical atmosphere furnishes all the heat required, and for cooking purposes sticks of carbon are used, which are sold by peddlers, who hawk their wares about the streets.—Atlanta Constitution.

Looking for a Title.

"Miss Gotrox is after a high-sounding title." "Going to marry, eh?" "No; she's thinking of writing a book."—Town Topics.

TRUTH THE BEST POLICY.

So One Man Found When Brought Up Before the Magistrate.

A squad of five discouraged-looking loafers were marched out before one of the city police magistrates the other day, with the grave charge of drunkenness confronting them, says the Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph. The magistrate looked serious, and the hearts of each of the offenders slipped down a notch or two as they thought of the penalty to be paid. Each groggy-looking countenance presented a picture of despair. The first man in the row of five was questioned.

"Do you drink?" asked the magistrate.

"No, sir," was the reply the man gave in a trembling voice.

"What a liar!" thought the magistrate; and, looking at the next man, he inquired:

"And you, sir; are you a drinking man?"

"No, sir; this was my first offense. I never was drunk before."

"No, 3, there," again spoke the official presiding over the court.

"What are your habits?"

"I just took some whisky for medicinal purposes, yer honor, and I guess I had a drop too much. I never drink, sir; that is, as a usual thing."

But his honor would hear no more. The fourth culprit was put through the ordeal.

"What have you to say for yourself?" asked the magistrate, with the emphasis on "you."

"Not guilty, yer honor."

"Hem!" said the magistrate, adjusting his glasses and looking earnestly at the arresting officer. "It's a shame to arrest such innocent, intelligent-looking gentlemen as these. I am surprised at you." Then, turning to the fifth man in the row, he said:

"Well, my friend, would you take a drink if you were offered one?"

"I never refuse, sir," replied the fifth, with a military salute.

This so startled the audience and so gratified the truth-loving magistrate that he ordered his clerk to go out and bring the prisoner a drink of whisky. The latter drank it with a relish, while his four neighbors looked on with wary eyes. The man was then discharged, after receiving the compliments of the court.

The other four were sentenced to prison for 30 days each, as a gentle reminder that truth is stranger than fiction.

THE FABLED HYDRA.

Had its Origin from the Strange Faculty of Some Lower Animals.

The strange power that many creatures of low organization possess or reproducing members or portions of the body that have been removed has been the subject of much interest and curiosity to scientists. Everyone knows that the lobsters and crawfish rarely have both claws of the same size. These animals are very quarrelsome, and frequently lose their claws in battle. Only a few weeks are required to grow fresh members, and the disabled lobster or crawfish, aware of his deficiency, generally keeps in retirement until again able to cope with an adversary on equal terms. Many denizens of the water possess this power in an equal degree with the lobster, but none are so tenacious of life, under adverse circumstances, as the polyp. One of these queer bag-like creatures may be cut in two, sliced like a tomato, or otherwise mutilated, and almost every portion will become in time a complete animal. The polyp may be turned inside out, like the finger of a glove, and will eat and perform all the functions of life as naturally as before. Strange monsters have been made by hard-hearted anatomists, who, by dividing and reuniting them with sutures, have produced animals with five or six heads, the severed parts of the different creatures growing together and the wounds healing far more quickly than a cut in a man's finger. Inkings of this power among the lower class of animals, no doubt, gave rise to the fabled hydra of mythology which was able to reproduce its severed head. The tenacity with which a snake clings to life, after being severely injured, may have something to do with the fable, but it clearly had its origin in the reproduction of lost members by some of the lower-class animals.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Grant's Name.

Would it have made any difference in history if Grant's initials had not been emblematic of his country—"U. S." United States? They also stand for Uncle Sam and Unconditional Surrender. Suppose he had gone to West Point as Hiram, and the boys had called him "Hir" for short? Suppose he had gone there as Hiram Ulysses instead of Ulysses Hiram, and the cadets had called him "H. U. G." Hug? Would not that have made a change in his career? We never had a public man to make so many changes in his name as did Grant. Hiram Ulysses, Ulysses Hiram, Ulysses Sidney and Ulysses Simpson, were the variations.—N. Y. Press.

BREVITIES OF FUN.

—Mrs. Files—"Did you take your pet dog to the country with you?" Mrs. Styles—"Mercy, no! The table was miserable!"—Yonkers Statesman.

—The Joke on Brown—"You know what a hatred Brown has for a crowd?" "Yes, indeed; what of it?" "His wife presented him with triplets yesterday."—Indianapolis Journal.

—Solicitor—"Yes, madam, we shall have to put down your correct age in the deed." Client—"Put 45, then, if you must have it, but for goodness' sake write it as illegibly as possible."—Tit-Bits.

—Chat on the Boulevard.—Saddler—"That was a wonderful performance of Star Pointer's, wasn't it? I tell you, a mile in less than two minutes is going pretty fast." Wheeler—"You bet it is. What gear did he have, I wonder?"—Cleveland Leader.

—A Fellow-Feeling.—Disappointed Suitor (savagely)—"What's that, you little imp? You say you just overheard your sister tell me she would be a sister to me, and that you are glad of it?" Small Brother (meekly)—"Yeth, thir—mitherly loves company, thir."—Judge.

—Elucidated.—"Whut do it mean," said Miss Miami Jones, "when dey taunks in dis here novel book 'bout er young man payin' his addressee to a young lady?" "Doesn't you know?" exclaimed Erastus Pinkley. "I sho'ly doan." "It means dat he done put de postage stamp on de love letter."—Washington Star.

—Necessarily Large.—"Oh, not at all," protested the Turk. "Ask any question you like. Yes. My trousers? Oh, they are rather large to be sure, but you should see the harem that goes through them every night after I'm asleep." As for the travelers, they were much bewildered by the strange things they were encountering.—Detroit Journal.

—Tompson—"Was Locke much of a fighter when he was in the army?" Hammer—"No, hardly that. In fact, he managed to keep out of battle altogether. But then, you know, he was full of fight before he got to the front, and he has been full of it ever since the war was over. In the nature of things, a fellow must have a rest some time or other."—Boston Transcript.

AGE OF TREPANNING.

Ancients Practiced the Art—Proficiency of Native Chaouias.

The curious custom of trepanning—that is, of removing small pieces of bone from the living head—is very ancient and widely spread. In his recently published book, "Prehistoric Problems," Dr. Munro has devoted a chapter to "Prehistoric Trepanning and Cranial Amulets." About the same time Drs. H. Malbot and R. Verneau published in the Anthropologie (tome vii) a memoir on the Chaouias and the trepanning of the skull in the Aures. The Djebel-Aures, "Mountains of the Cedars," form the southeast border of the Algerian plateau; here and in the neighboring Djebel-Chechar is the center of trepanning. The natives are carefully described; they belong to the Berber stem; a portion—perhaps one-eighth—are fair; thus, the external, as well as the cranial, characters show them to be a somewhat mixed people.

The method of trepanning is very fully described, and a native doctor showed Dr. Malbot a skull with over a dozen circular holes, two slits, and a large irregular orifice, all of which had been pierced when the man was alive! The skull, though taken from a grave, was kept hidden, and it evidently was used as an example by the local doctors. The enthusiastic French doctor says: "The Chaouias respect their tombs, and on no pretext will rife them; the love of science alone can explain this profanation on the part of trepanning. It is the same sentiment which has led to our possession of the specimen." Dr. Malbot describes how he acquired the specimen which is now in the Museum d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris. The natives have recourse to trepanning for blows or wounds on the head; it does not matter how long before the blow may have been given, if only a sick person can remember that he has had one. The operation is by no means a severe one, as the people have a most remarkable recuperative constitution. A woman, tired of the conjugal yoke, has been known to call in the services of a trepanner in order to procure a divorce from her husband by producing a piece of her skull, which she affirmed had been broken by his ill-treatment.—Nature.

X-Rays Will Not Do.

One objection to the use of X-rays in examining baggage is that these rays will spoil any photographic plates the traveler may have picked up. Glass or metal bottles can be detected by the rays, but not their contents. One cannot tell, for instance, whether they contain orange water or cognac. It is expected that the application of the rays will have to be abandoned.

Bulletin Financier.

Mardi, 12 octobre 1897.

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

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MARCHE MONTAINE.

Nouvelle-Orleans 708

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Bulletin Commercial.

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GRANDS ET LAQUEURS.

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