

GEEMANS GO TO THE OPERA.

They Are More Discriminating Critics Than the French and Dramas Are Cleaner.

The opera begins in Dresden at seven o'clock and closes at ten, writes Lilian Bell from Berlin to the Ladies' Home Journal. The best seats are absurdly cheap, and whole families, whole schools, whole communities, I should say, go there together. Coming straight from Paris, from the theatrical, vivacious, enthusiastic French audiences, this first German audience seemed serious, thoughtful, appreciative, but unenthusiastic. They use more judgment about applause than the French. They never interrupt a scene, or even a musical phrase, with misplaced applause. Their appreciation is slow, but hearty, and always worthily disposed. The French are given to exaggerating an emotion and to applauding an eccentricity. Even their subtlety is overdone. The German drama is cleaner.

The family tie is made much of, sentiment is encouraged instead of being ridiculed as it too often is in America, but the German point of view of Americans is quite as much distorted as the French. That statement is severe but true. It would be utterly impossible for the American girl to be more exquisitely misunderstood than by French and German men.

HE MIXED HIS TERMS.

But He Probably Appreciated the Force of the Law None the Less.

A daily observation of that part of the community that from either poverty or weakness gives employment to the criminal courts, furnishes opportunities for the study of humanity that few can enjoy, says the Louisville Commercial. These people usually have very limited education, many of them have none; yet the natural shrewdness of the race, sharpened by experience and by suffering, develops some extremely keen minds. What they learn, they learn "by ear," as it were; wherefrom come very amusing occurrences arise.

A lawyer, who is a close observer, said: "Some time ago I talked with a French negro from New Orleans, who was a prisoner in the county jail. This was when the police were charging persons who were arrested on suspicion, as 'suspected felons.' He was to be presented in the circuit court for indictment. I said: 'What are you in jail for?' He answered: 'They say I am a "respected fellow"!' 'Well, when do you get a trial?' 'I don't know,' he said. 'I go to the circus court tomorrow!'

"Wonder what the grave judges would think of that?

A CAMEL'S TWO AVERSIONS.

The Big Ungrateful Animal Hates Black Clothes and Does Not Want to Be Touched.

Camels very frequently wear muzzles made of rope, and this leads to a misconception, says a writer in London Sketch. It is merely to prevent them smacking at the trees along the way-side, and not on account of viciousness, for they are the kindest and most humane of animals, and, I feel convinced, could not find it in their hearts to hurt a fly. They are, moreover, not half so conceited and overbearing as they look.

Two great dislikes they have. One is to people wearing black clothes and the other to being jostled in the streets, or even touched.

I once went to call on a beautiful white camel, and, as it was Sunday, I put on a black coat. The camel looked at me, edged away, and finally turned his back to me.

Not understanding, I insisted on putting him, whereupon he repeated the same antics and gave a deep growl and the driver explained that a camel detests somber raiment, probably because he becomes accustomed to the bournous of the Arabs.

LOCKED IN DEATH.

Brave Buck Deer Whose Fierce Conflicts Often Result in Fatality.

Although it is generally known how the buck bear fight and how sometimes in consequence their antlers become intricately entangled, there are few persons who have seen them when so interlocked, says the New York Times.

At certain seasons of the year when the does are breeding their young the bucks are both very fierce and courageous in their protection of them and the approach of another buck is a signal for battle. In these conflicts it frequently happens that one or the other is killed and there are occasional instances in the course of these struggles of the stags becoming interlocked between each other, which results in the death of both animals. One instance is on record where three pairs of horns were found thus entangled together, the skulls and skeletons lying as proof of the deadly outcome of the battle.

It is in October and November that the buck becomes so combative and in a few weeks thereafter he loses his sleek condition, sheds his horns and retreats to the denser forest.

Drawn by Washington.

At a recent sale of autograph letters in London an original plan and survey entirely in the hand of George Washington and made by him in 1750, when a surveyor in the woods of Virginia, was sold for \$50. A fine letter written by William Penn, dated 1707, brought \$6.85.

Gold and False Teeth.

The United States pension list has attained to such huge dimensions that the cost of publishing it would alone amount to \$200,000.

TEETH OF SOLDIERS.

The Kaiser Is Going to Have Those of His Troopers Put in Good Order.

Toothache has been lately a great source of annoyance to the kaiser. Not that the imperial molars are, so far as I know, threatened with premature decay. Were this the case, nobody would risk the penalties of less majesty by openly asserting it. The case is, however, from a public point of view, far more serious. It appears that the entire German army suffers from dental troubles to such an extent that it has been found difficult to find non-commissioned officers capable of giving the word of command. When they attempt to utter familiar formulae the "Ten-tion!" "Stand at ease!" "Shoulder arms!" and so forth, mere confused and inarticulate sounds issue from their toothless gums. Things are bad enough on the parade ground, but what would happen on a battlefield one hardly ventures to conjecture. Worse still, the boys in the training school for "non-coms" seem to be in no better plight than their elders. Nearly all of them, after inspection, seemed to have one or more hopeless tusks, while a large proportion can only be fitted fit for service by strict submission to the dentist's orders, and many are beyond the reach of art. His majesty has resolved to spend at once 11,000 marks on stopping the teeth of his Christian warriors or in providing them with false sets. This applies only to the Prussian contingent. Several of the subject states have not made up their minds to incur the expense.

PECULIAR CHICAGO HABIT.

A Great Many Citizens Always Go to the Left in Entering or Leaving Buildings.

Chicago enjoys the exceptional distinction of being the only left-handed city in the union. That is, the good people of this bustling metropolis violate all the "rules of the road," so far as the matter of keeping to the right is concerned when entering or leaving public buildings. A man, for instance, approaches a building where the entrance consists of two swinging doors, he will invariably reach out with his left hand, pull open the left-hand door and make a wild dash to get outside, running the risk of collision with anybody who remembers that to go to the right is the first law of navigation on land, says the Chicago Chronicle.

The habit of doing things the wrong way has taken such firm hold on the people that the man who uses the left-hand door and is run into glares in amazement at the "offender," utterly oblivious of the fact that he himself is the one who should be blamed. It makes no difference that there are two doors of equal width, one for entrance and one for exit. He, if going in, will seize on the exit door and reverse the proceeding if coming out. Half an hour's observation anywhere in the business district will demonstrate the truth of this assertion.

OLD-TIME POST OFFICES.

Some Points of Advantage About the London Mail Established in 1677.

The postmasters were free from all public offices, from liability to quarter soldiers, and they received gazettes free of postage, "wherewith they advantage themselves in their common trade of selling drink, and they have their single letters free to London."

The rates of postage in 1677 were comparatively low. A single letter—i.e., a letter consisting of one sheet of paper only—could be sent for any distance up to 80 miles for 2d., and beyond 80 miles for 3d. A letter weighing an ounce cost for 80 miles, and is beyond, says London Notes and Queries.

The mails were dispatched from London about midnights on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and were due to arrive in London early on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. They were carried on horseback at the rate of five miles an hour, and they were liable to a detention of not more than half an hour at each postoffice (stage) on the road. England was divided into six runnings, or roads, viz.: West, Bristol, Chester, North, Yarmouth and Kent, starting from Plymouth, Bristol, Chester, Edinburgh, Yarmouth and Dover, respectively.

Wales Wants Representation.

"Gallant little Wales," says the London Chronicle, "is putting forward a claim for representation in the royal coat-of-arms, as well as for inclusion in the union jack. With this object a provisional committee has drawn up a memorial to the queen, praying that the fourth quarter of the royal shield—which, as they, very truly say, is practically unfilled, since it is a repetition of the first quarter—be devoted to insignia for Wales. The claims of the principality to heraldic recognition are not to be disputed. It is the only nationality in Europe that has no distinctive blazon to exhibit to the world, although its history is associated with more than one symbol."

About Telegraph Poles.

The number of poles used for telegraph wires per mile varies from 20 to 22 on minor lines, to 26 to 30 on main lines. These poles are of regulation height, in order that the lowest wire shall not be less than 12 feet from the ground, and as the poles are set into the ground from four to six feet, they measure from 20 to 22 feet in length. The sag or dip varies, of course, with the number of poles per mile, and the condition of the atmosphere, but the average is about 14 feet.

Our Pension List.

The United States pension list has attained to such huge dimensions that the cost of publishing it would alone amount to \$200,000.

L'ABEILLE DE LA NILE-ORLEANS

Est très réna due en Louisiane et dans tous les Etats du Sud. Sa publicité offre donc un commerce des vêtements exceptionnels. Prix de l'abonnement pour l'année: Edition quotidienne, \$12 00; Edition hebdomadaire \$3 00; Edition du Dimanche, \$2 00.

A CHANGE OF OPINION.

And Percy Found the Indignant Young Lady Soon Ready to Retract.

"I have nothing more to do with him," declared one of the belles of Detroit, with a pout, according to that city's Free Press. "He's a perfect stick. The idea of him coming here regularly every week and then dropping off suddenly to come at long intervals, just when it suits him. I'll show him. Remember, mamma, if he calls I'm not in, and if he asks me to go any place I'll tell him that I have a previous engagement. I never did care a snap of my finger for him, anyhow" and there were tears in her eyes, just as an evidence of good faith.

"Never mind, dear," consoled the mother, who had been through the mill herself. "It's not worth worrying over."

"I'm not worrying, and don't you dare to think that I'm worrying, either. The best Percy will ever get from me is a cold bow of recognition when we happen to meet. As for our being friends any more, that is simply out of the question. There goes that telephone," and the mother could not help hearing the home end of the conversation.

"Oh, hello, Percy, I knew your voice. Have a cold, haven't you? That's too bad. This unseasonable weather has made so many people sick. Saturday night? Won't that be charming? Nothing could please me more. At eight o'clock I'll be ready. It's awfully kind of you. Good-by."

Then she whistled her own accompaniment to a waltz as she danced back to her mamma, who made innocent inquiry.

"Oh, that's Percy. Wants me to go to the theater Saturday night. How thoughtful, and what an old dear he is!"

ANCIENT POLITICAL "RINGS."

Monopolists Flourished Centuries Ago in Rome and Egypt as They Do To-Day.

The evil of monopolies and rings was known to the ancients, Aristotle, referring to them in his "Politics," and, as now, it was found necessary to hold them in check by legislation. The monopolist was in Roman law called a Dardanarius, and published under the Lex Julia de Annona, says London Answers. Monopolies of clothing, fish and all articles of food were prohibited by Emperor Zeno under pain of confiscation and exile; so far as the "rings" of the ancient days were as mischievous as those of to-day. At Athens a law limited the amount of corn a man might buy. The earliest recorded instance we have was a corn ring.

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GOLD BRICK IN DISGUISE.

A Silver Pitcher Presented by Citizens to a Steamer Proves Only Pewter.

It has been discovered that a once magnificent testimonial which was presented by the citizens of Baton Rouge to the steamer City of Baton Rouge, nearly 20 years ago, is nothing but a gold brick, reports the St. Louis Republic. Recently the assets of the St. Louis and Anchorage line were sold at auction. Among the goods was what appeared to be a silver water pitcher, on which was considerable handsomely engraved, showing that it had been presented to the steamer by the citizens of the town after which the boat was named. Shortly before the sale commanded an officer pilot told a story about the pitcher that caused spirited bidding when it was offered for sale. The pilot's story was that 168 citizens of Baton Rouge, nearly 20 years ago, is nothing but a gold brick, reports the St. Louis Republic. Recently the assets of the St. Louis and Anchorage line were sold at auction. 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