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Mainly About People.

In a rural justice court in Georgia, recently, an old negro, whose testimony had been questioned by a lawyer, said in his own defence: "Judge, I'm a good man. I been a-livin' 'round here ten or more years. I ain't never been lynched; and I never has I ever stole th'owed me an' broke my two legs!"

A writer in the "Nineteenth Century" gives an example of the camp gossip that is considered seriously by some and even serves as material for profound historians. After complete inaction for six weeks at Madder River, two men were overheard talking as they were taking an after-dinner smoke in the sun. "Ave you written 'ome, Bill?" Bill had written "ome." "An' 'ave you told 'em the truth, Bill? 'Ave you told 'em that we're up to our knees in blood?" Bill had.

Rowland Hill once read from his pulpit an anonymous letter reproaching him with driving to chapel in his carriage, and reminding him that this was not our blessed Lord's mode of traveling. He then said: "I must admit that it is not; but if the writer of this letter will come here next Sunday, bridled and saddled, I shall have great pleasure in following our blessed Lord's example in that as in all other matters within my power."

One of the best repartees of Dr. Richard Busby, from many points of view the greatest English schoolmaster that ever lived, was provoked by one of the perverses of the time of James II., the famous Father Petre, who had been under him at Westminster. Busby asked him why he had changed his faith. The quondam pupil replied that "the Lord had need of him." "I have read the Scriptures pretty diligently," said Busby, "and never read that the Lord had need of anything but once, and then it was of an ass."

Once, in the course of a speech which was punctuated by interruptions, in Parliament, John Bright was saying: "Personally, I do not feel disposed to wage war against the Philippines," when an unruly member of his audience shouted, "Hee-haw!" "If, however," Mr. Bright continued without pause, "my friend at the back of the hall will lend me one of his jaws, I shall be encouraged to reconsider my attitude in view of the historic success of Samson when provided with a similar weapon."

The Paris letter in the Philadelphia "Post" tells of two blessings of Western civilization it is the adoption of an educated Japanese girl to take home to her land. It was at one of M. Delcasse's receptions in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. She came with the Japanese ambassador's party, and she was winsome as a flower, this delicate Japanese girl—oh, an amber girl!—dressed in the silken splendor of her race. Therefore was it almost uncanny to hear her talk with a Doya East accent. When you gasped she said, "Why, I'm a Wellesley girl, you know." "And you are going home?" "Yes, back to Japan." The small face grew very serious. "I want to teach my people two things when I get back," she said—"ice cream and the Gospel."

Rumors that the Archbishop of Canterbury, who made such a muddle of King Edward's coronation, is about to retire recalls stories of the aged prelate's brusqueness of manner. On one occasion he received a deputation of schoolmasters, who complained that an inspector did not treat them like gentlemen. "Well, what of that?" replied the courteous "Temple," "you aren't gentlemen." One night he was dining with the late Queen Victoria at Windsor Castle. The conversation took a clerical turn, and Her Majesty recalled the rather unusual episode of two bishops of the Church of England being consecrated at the same time. "They were Lord Arthur Herring, Bishop of Bath and Wells and—and—" she continued, the Archbishop having prompted her, "Dr. John Mackarness, Bishop of Oxford." "What a marvelous memory Your Majesty has!" exclaimed a courteous courtier, who was sitting at the table. "No, she hasn't," retorted the polite primate, "I've just told her."

When Browning was once asked for the explanation of an obscure passage in one of his poems, he is said to have referred the enquirer to the Browning Society, who could tell him all about it. Some Gottingen students who had a keen admiration for Klopstock—the "German Milton"—found one of his stanzas unintelligible, and begged him to explain its exact meaning to them. The poet read the stanza—then carefully read it; then read it again, while all looked on with bated breath. At last he spoke: "I cannot recollect what I meant when I wrote it, but I do remember that it was one of the finest things I ever wrote, and you cannot do better than devote your lives to the discovery of its meaning." This was pretty good for a modest man, but the finest repartee of the kind is that attributed to old Jacob Boehme, the shoemaker and mystic. Certain disciples came to him on his deathbed, imploring him to expound a difficult passage of crucial importance in his philosophical system. "My dear children," began Boehme, after wearing in spirit for a time, "when I wrote this I understood its meaning, and no doubt; the omniscient God did. I have still remembered its meaning, but I have forgotten."

Bird-Mad.

Many persons not "to the manner born" are embarking on nature study, to the weariness of their friends. They sit in parks and fields with opera-glasses, and see birds that never were "on sea or land." And sometimes their bored friends rebel. "In a town where untrained observation rages an elderly lady met an acquaintance in a shady avenue, and asked her: "Do you know anything about birds?" "No," said the other. "I'm sorry, but I don't." "Sorry! Oh, you're such a relief! I just met Mrs. C., and she grasped my hand, gazed upward, and said, 'Oh, did you hear that perfectly lovely spike-beaked, purple-eyed tickle-bird?' "I hadn't gone a block before I met Mrs. K. 'Hush!' said she, ecstatically. 'Don't move a muscle! Right up there on that branch is one of those rare, exquisite, speckle-winged, ring-tailed screamers.' "You and I seem to be the only sane people. Let us rejoice in chorus."

TO LET

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Infatuation.

Berlin.—The Crown Prince's infatuation continues. His Highness insists that he will marry an "American" or die in the attempt. Yesterday an adventurous eluded the vigilance of the guards and eluded gum noisily under the Prince's window. His Highness at once called down to her: "I perceive you are an 'American.' Will you be my wife?" "Why, cart," replied the woman. It was pointed out to the Prince that a genuine "American" girl would have said: "Aw, shawz y' self!" But his Highness is quite blind to the imposture. The Kaiser is much prostrated, his total output during the past twenty-four hours being only six tragedies, fourteen comedies, two symphonic poems, twenty-three tragedies and eighty-five historical novels.—"Life."

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