

Motley Musings. In Poetry and Prose, by Queque. (Copyrighted by Dawe & Tabor.) Like an elephant with a valentine or a merry-go-round playing Donizetti is the professional joker.

It must be fresh as an omelette, and bright as a child's smile. It can no more be made to order than brains.

Society has many pests—the tedious talker, the bad dancer, the amateur tenor; but the greatest of all is the would-be comic man.

He twists your lightest word to form the heaviest pun, and spoils your smartest story to drag in a play on words, which, like a joke on a Greek play, requires a foot-note to mark its whereabouts.

The man who, without any warning, greets you early in the morning:—"I've heard, my friend, your herd of deer. Is merely drinking in the mere. It staggers me to always find. They leave the ladies all behind."

Or he will supplement all his answers with some crooked simile. You remark innocently "I'm off to Naples." He replies at once, "Is it possible?" as the lady said when her lover sang "Fly with me now."

"You are very pressing," the joker cried; "As the nut remarked when by crackers piled. I much regret I'm unable to wait; 'As the butter said when he dropped a plate. 'In a hundred years it will be just the same; 'As the cactus said when its blossom came. 'It's the long suspense I chiefly fear; 'As the victim said in the hangman's ear."

Or he loves inversion and tells you that, like Esau, he has sold his pot-herb for a birth of messengers. Some times outraged etymology is feigned and brings in her anomalies inappropriately, like a dog in a church; as when the emotional and dramatic reciter declaimed:

"Go, thy liver loves," cried Cromwell, "Curfew shall not ring tonight!" or the eloquent preacher who extended his large hands over the edge of the pulpit and said impressively, "Pause, my brethren, pause!"

If you wished to speak of summer With its wealth of flowers and bees, How unfortunate the blunder Should you talk of bowers and fleas!

Or if walking in the garden Seeking out some cosy nooks, How sad to ask a lady To repair to nosey cooks!

Or if, contemplating beauty, You should feel some half-formed wish, How hard might go your wooing If you said some half-warmed fish!

Worse than all, if, as a poet, You described some weary bench, How very unpoetic If you said some beery wench.

Then there is the practical joker; so called because, like most practical people, he is particularly unpleasant. He pulls away your chair, puts paper in your pipe, places a hat for you to sit on, or passes you salt instead of sugar. You do not see the joke yourself; but other people do.

The unconscious practical humorist is the only specimen of this class who is really amusing. He who wears strange garments and eccentric head-gear; who carries an open umbrella when the rain has ceased, plays violin solos before he can tune the instrument, takes amateur photographs of his friends, wags in a railway car and forgets the tunnel has passed, gets married and responds to the toast of "the bride," rushes into the depot as the train moves out, tries to post a letter in the fire-alarm box, apologizes to the cigar store Indian, or holds a lamp in his hand when he goes out to see a comet.

Mirth and sadness are as closely allied as great wit and madness. The cannon of Waterloo broke the revelry at the duchess of Richmond's ball and the wise Egyptians brought round the corpse when the feast was at its height. It is but a step from grave to gay; a step farther from lively to severe, and a step-mother is worst of all.

The brightest song the Robin sings, Dies in a single breath; So close to pleasure sorrow clings, So near to life is death.

The maddest chorus men can shout, Sounds in a moment strange and hollow; So near to feasting comes the sput, So close to drinking headaches follow.

Honest laughter is the champagne of life that sets our blood dancing; our pulses throbbing and thaws the trouble-nerved nerves like summer sunshine. You cannot mistake the genuine laugh. The forced laugh imitates it as feebly as the rattle of theatre tin resembles the roar of the cliff-bound ocean.

"A man may smile and smile and yet be a villain," but he cannot laugh; for laughter is the foam of a clear conscience—bright and light and pure. It is the very elixir of life warding off old age, resisting trouble and anxiety, and happy is the man who when cares and sorrows on life's pathway throng, Can drive them off with honest jest and song And conscience clear, wherever he may roam "With mirth and laughter let the wrinkles come!"

QUERQUE. PEOPLE ALL ABOUT.

Judge Charles W. Walton, of the Maine supreme court, retires after thirty-five years' service on the bench. He is 73 years old.

President McKinley is to deliver an address at the unveiling of the Washington monument, in Philadelphia, next Saturday afternoon.

Herman M. Shaffer, a professor in the Rochester (N. Y.) theological seminary, was accidentally killed by falling out of a window at his home in Rochester.

Two hundred and fifty-seven Chinamen have arrived in San Francisco to take part in the Nashville exposition. All but twenty-one will be returned to China.

Mrs. William D. Noble, of Washington, D. C., has given \$20,000 to Harvard university to establish a lecture course on religion as a memorial to her husband.

The New York Stock Market. New York, May 15.—Chicago Sugar and Gas absorbed over one-third of the total sales at the stock exchange today, the dealings being about equally divided between them. There was so little to encourage selling in Chicago Gas that the motive for it must be attributed to doubts of the value of the stock being equal to the price. There were evidences of heavy liquidation based on apprehensions that the consolidation measure will fail in the Illinois legislature and with it the arrangement for division of territory with a rival company. Stop orders were reached on the way down, bringing large blocks of stock on the sagging market. Sugar also showed weakness through the pending proceedings against members of the company for contempt of the senate, but recovered the loss. The Grangers also were subjected to special attack by the bears on account of the weakness of the wheat market. There was little encouragement to buy in the course of the London market, where Americans were largely neglected and prices were weak. There was manifest apprehension also, as to what phase the Cuban question may have taken on the time trading is resumed on Monday. The impression prevailed that the intentions of the administration towards Cuba were in a formative state with a possibility of taking on an aggressive tone. The anti-trust coalescences of some firmsness due to covering of shorts over Sunday and only trivial changes occurred in their prices. The Gould shares also manifested a continuance of the strength they displayed yesterday, but it did not outlast the day and their prices declined in the later dealings, involving them in net losses. There was a general evening movement at the close of the session which rallied prices slightly, nearly all through the list from 1/4 to 1/2 per cent. from the lowest, the latter in Chicago Gas. Some of the extreme declines were: Chicago Gas 2%, Burlington and Quincy 1%, Northwestern 1/2, St. Paul 3/4, Rock Island 1/2, Omaha 7/8 and New York, Chicago and St. Louis second preferred 1/2, the latter without rallying.

Prices generally of securities are substantially lower than a week ago, but there have not been lacking encouraging features in the trading. The subsidence of the fears engendered by the war between Turkey and Greece led to a notable revival of activity in the foreign markets for securities and, although Americans were given less attention than other securities, their prices in London improved and there were many thousands of shares bought in the New York market for foreign account. The subsidence of the buying from this quarter was apparently due to New York's persistent failure to reflect the confidence manifested by foreigners in American securities. Commission brokers lay stress upon the dealings in bucket shops to account for the loss of interest by the outside public in the market and the stock exchange is trying to stamp out bucket shops by legal proceedings, and they withhold the quotations from them and from the public at large.

That the balance of internal merchandise credits was affected by the recent heavy import movement is shown by the April trade statement which reports an excess of imports of merchandise over exports of \$25,128,134. This still left for the ten months of the fiscal year an excess of merchandise exported over imports of \$61,005,751. The enormous import movement seemed to be in full force last week but this week's imports of drygoods and merchandise at New York showed a total of \$12,058,694. This is still abnormally large, but is \$2,623,225 less than last week's total. Net declines on the week are general. The early strength in the market resulted in gains of over a point in the Grangers, Cotton Oil preferred, Chicago Gas, Tobacco, Tobacco Scrip, Louisville and Nashville and Leather preferred. Fractional gains being general. Subsequent declines established net losses in most of these except Tobacco Scrip, which maintained its gain. Norfolk and Western preferred gained 3/4. The bond market was quiet during the week and suffered some sharp declines in the usually dormant bonds. The undertone of the general market was fairly good, with purchases for foreign account exerting quite a sustaining influence. The dealing included a large number of issues, but the variations in the speculative lines were trivial. The principal losses were: Peoria, Decatur and Evansville seconds 1 1/2 per cent., the first 5, Northern Pacific Terminal firsts 7/8, Louisiana and Missouri River firsts 5/8, Western New York and Pennsylvania incomes 4 1/2, Missouri Pacific consolidated sixes 3/4, and Union Pacific sinking fund eights and Galveston, Houston and Henderson firsts 3 per cent. Governments were quite largely dealt in and displayed general firmness, with the new fours gaining slightly.

The total sales of stocks today were 77,810 shares including the following: American Tobacco Company 1,200, Chicago Gas 12,000, American Sugar 14,000, Burlington and Quincy 8,700, St. Paul 8,200, Southern Railway 500, Southern Railway preferred 1,100.

Two Lives Saved. Mrs. Phoebe Thomas, of Junction City, Ill., was told by her doctors she had Consumption and that there was no hope for her, but two bottles of Dr. King's New Discovery completely cured her and she says it saved her life. Mr. Thos. Esq. 139 Florida St., San Francisco, suffered from a dreadful cold, approaching Consumption, tried without result everything else then bought one bottle of Dr. King's New Discovery and in two weeks was cured. He is naturally thankful. It is such results, of which these are samples, that prove the wonderful efficacy of this medicine in Coughs and Colds. Free trial bottles at R. R. Bellamy's Drug Store.

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FUN. Uncle Ned—Instead of coming to me, why don't you borrow from your friends? Dick—Why, because they are my friends. Uncle—New York Tribune. "What is your opinion about the airship out in Kansas?" "I don't know. Probably it is only Mme. Dostoyevsky looking round for a location." —Detroit Free Press. "Miss Ruth Cutler, of New York, recently cleared a high jump bar at five feet four inches. It is not stated whether the animal just behind her was a cow or a mouse.—Yonkers Statesman. "Didn't Move Him."—"Well, did the boss give you a raise?" "No." "Not even when you told him you had grown gray in his service?" "No, Uncle. He me the name of a good hair dye." —Puck. "The Difficulty."—"Well," said the Greek general glumly, "we have learned a lesson." "Yes," was the reply. "The thing I'm afraid of is that it's going to be a long time before we get another chance to recite 'Washington'." —Washington Star. Mrs. Hornback—I wonder what we'd better give Cousin Emily for a wedding present? It ought to be something cheap that will make a big show. Farmer Hornback—Guess we'd better give her a load of hay, then.—New York World.

Young Lady (to married sister)—"Do tell me an appropriate present to give a new baby." Married Sister—I know just the thing—these little jeweled safety-pins. Baby, darling, had one given him six months ago and I have worn it ever since.—Harper's Weekly. An Impression.—"Did the lawyer get a clear view of the case?"—inquired the litigant's friend. "No; I'm afraid he didn't. I told him that my trouble was about money, and he seemed to be proceeding on the theory that by relieving me of my money he would cause the trouble to disappear." —Washington Star. Mr. Belfield—I don't like Spittins. He has wheels in his head. Mr. Bloomfield—Don't you think that an expression to be condemned? Mr. Belfield—Indeed, I don't. I know that Spittins has wheels in his head. Mr. Bloomfield—How do you know? Mr. Belfield—By the spokes that come out of his mouth.—Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.

Yarns About Alligators. (Jacksonville, Fla., Cor. New York Sun.) The latest alligator yarn from Dade City reached here this morning. It says that some excitement was caused at Twin Lakes, west of here, on Wednesday last by the pranks of a big alligator near Hampton Creek. Mrs. Henry Thomas died the day before and the body was being taken to the cemetery across the creek. The creek is about three feet deep. As the hearse reached the middle of the water an alligator dashed from the bank and began circling around the horses. The horses ran away, broke loose from the hearse and dashed to the bank, leaving the hearse and driver in the middle of the stream. The alligator then attacked the horses in one of the buggies behind the hearse. Saul Jackson's black horse showed fight and the alligator bit his leg. The horse overturned the buggy, throwing Mrs. Jackson and two girls into the water. They managed to get to the shore in safety. One of the men went back half a mile and borrowed a rifle. They were then came back, and after six attempts, shot the alligator dead. It was nearly fifteen feet long.

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Take JOHNSON'S CHILL & FEVER TONIC. "Did Herself Proud." (The Commonwealth.) Wilmington "did herself proud" generally in entertaining the large number of visitors. There were no complaints and no disappointments, but everything passed off like the rendition of a programme at a May-day. When it was decided a year ago to hold the session in Wilmington, there was some doubt expressed as to whether or not Wilmington could accommodate such a gathering. But any one who attended the convention in that hospitable city, had personal proof that no more royal entertainment has ever been given any assembly than the good people of Wilmington gave the Baptist hosts of the south. The Washington Post says that Steve Crane is trying the blank verse style of war news. It strikes us that it's a blanked sight worse than that.—St. Louis Star.

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