

SCHEMES OF "CHECK WORKER."

He is the Busiest of all "Grifters" And is the Hardest to Keep Track of.

Chicago Tribune. The check workers are the busiest of all the "grifters" and the hardest to keep track of.

Nearly all other classes of criminals have certain little peculiarities about their work by which they become known, but these fellows get up a new scheme every day.

The most interesting of this class, perhaps, are not really "check workers" at all. They are the ones who make it their business to get genuine signatures to bona fide checks, unknown to the signers.

It was at last discovered that the fellow first secured a signature, had a zinc etching made from it, took a matrix of the zinc engraving, and into this matrix cast a hard rubber composition which retained just enough of its elasticity not to show any traces of embossing on the paper receiving the imprint from it.

The modern idea is different. Not long since a new game was sprung on the chief actor in the little financial comedy drove up to the house of a prosperous farmer. He was dressed in a suit of sober black and represented himself to be a circuit minister of the gospel.

Nearly all the papers in the country printed the incident at the time, but none of them had the story of how the trick was done.

The genius "check worker" is a man who, by plausible story and glibness of tongue contrives to pass a purely worthless check. His operations are much more common and the sums involved are usually much smaller, though even in this line there are some "high rollers".

Of a similar nature was a more elaborate operation performed in Washington. A pretty and extremely vivacious young woman appeared one day with a handsome morocco-bound and gold-mounted album slung in an alligator carrying case.

The name was signed through an opening in the card, just as in the marriage certificate, and in every case a check was signed.

In no case large not much stir was made about the matter and, then, Senators didn't like to "squel" when they are gulled.

Extraordinary pains are taken by forgers and checkworkers to secure the bona fide signatures of wealthy men. Besides letters so worded that they have some chance of reaching past the inconvenient private secretary, and of being answered by the great man himself, every ruse that ingenuity can devise is tried.

As a rule, however, the signature is all that is wanted. If one of the "goodthing gents" can secure a real check written by one of his intended victims it is an occasion for rejoicing for then all the little peculiarities that distinguish a check signature from a name signed elsewhere are there to be copied.

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hind him scores of people who had paid dearly for the knowledge that it was easy to write checks.

It is just a good piece of advice to say that it is well to be on your guard for the fellow who wants a check cashed; they are dangerous people to deal with in seven cases out of ten.

STONEWALL JACKSON.

Miss Johnson Finds Some Criticism in Her Treatment of Great Hero in Her Novel.

Some of the soldiers who followed Stonewall Jackson in the war between the sections are well pleased with the pen portrait of the great Confederate Miss Mary Johnson has drawn in her novel, "The Long Roll," and it is said also that Mrs. Jackson who still survives, does not approve the likeness. The latter statement, however, is a mere rumor, no criticism of the book from Mrs. Jackson having been made public.

Mary Johnson was born after the war between the sections and her presentation of Jackson of course, comes of the study of his life and achievements as history records them, with such description of the man and such estimates of his character as she could gather from those who knew him, and the personal incidents they related.

Winston Churchill had the same trouble in the picture he attempted of Grant and Lincoln in "The colonial period he found general crisis." In what he wrote of the approval, but in attempting to paint men remembered by those still alive he brought forth resentful criticism.

Miss Johnson is entirely friendly to Jackson. More than that, she places him high in the list of the world's heroes, but the old soldiers seem to think she has exaggerated his eccentricities for the sake of lending interest to her story.

The difference between real history and the historical novel is very much the same as that between a photograph and an idealized portrait. The photograph may be more accurate but it does not appeal to the imagination. The portrait may bring something the artist discovers that the camera has failed to catch.

This is ventured merely as a suggestion why some of the old soldiers who knew Jackson are not pleased with his picture presented in "The Long Roll." But then the soldiers ought to know. Their acquaintance with him was much closer than that of Mary Johnson.

Stonewall Jackson was not a problematic character. Oliver Cromwell whom he in some respects resembled, has been for three centuries both loved and hated, lauded and condemned, but no one speaks ill of Jackson.

The usual course of operation is to purchase goods after banking hours, and present a check calling for more than the amount purchased. The ruse is so often successful that it is a wonder merchants do not make an iron-clad rule against these deceptive bits of paper.

Valuable Land for Sale. Two miles from Creedmoor, good dwelling, good out houses, well improved, plenty of good water, fine tobacco farm, 125 acres more or less.

The Rev. Mr. Horsefield will hold services in school house in Berea next Sunday at 3:30 P. M.

JAPANESE DENTISTS.

They Use Natural Weapons in Assaulting Their Victims.

Japanese native dentists conduct their business in a manner which would undoubtedly cause any European practitioner to open his eyes in amazement. The victim is seated on the ground. The dentist bends over him and forces his left hand between the patient's jaws in such a manner that the mouth cannot possibly be closed.

So great is the skill of these native dentists that many of them are able to remove six or seven teeth per minute. Indeed, their skill is hardly to be wondered at when one considers the course of preparatory training they are obliged to undergo.

MAKING A LAWYER.

It Took Patrick Henry Six Weeks to Prepare For the Bar.

Patrick Henry when he was a young married man of twenty-three was a complete failure. He had tried clerking, farming and keeping a country store, all with equally negative or disastrous results.

"Best of all," he said cheerfully to himself, "I will become a lawyer." Six weeks he allowed himself as a matter of formality to prepare for the bar.

His examiners, Wythe, Pendleton, Peyton Randolph and John Randolph, hardly knew whether to be more amazed at his ignorance of law or his profound knowledge of history.

"Mr. Henry," John Randolph exclaimed enthusiastically after his examination of the young neophyte, "if your industry be only half equal to your genius I augur that you will do well and become an ornament and an honor to your profession."

Queen Bess' Wardrobe.

Royal annals have never recorded a more varied and extensive wardrobe than that which belonged to the "virgin queen." Even at the age of sixty-eight, when she might be supposed to have outlived her youthful vanity, she possessed 99 complete official costumes, 102 French gowns, 100 robes with trains and 67 without, 126 antique dresses, 130 bodices, 125 tunics, not to mention such trifles as 96 mantles, 85 dressing gowns and 27 fans.

Winter and Summer Sun.

The sun is nearer to the earth in winter than it is in summer. It is not distance that determines the amount of heat that we get from the sun, but the length of time the sun is above the horizon and the direction in which his rays strike us.

"Oh, Had I the Wings of a Dove."

The daily papers reported the other day a visit of the primate to a convict prison. The prison has been built by convict labor. Convict hands have done the carving.

Importance Recognized.

"Do you think that man fully appreciates the importance of the office to which we have elected him?" said one constituent.

Bean Ballots.

Greeks and Romans of the ancient world invariably used white and black beans for voting at trials, the white bean signifying acquittal and the black one conviction.

Particular Speech.

"My dear, do you love me still?" "I still love you, and I suppose I would love you still if I ever saw you that way."—Baltimore American.

History is indeed little more than the register of the crimes, follies and misfortunes of mankind.—Gibbon.

DIVORCE IN ANCIENT ROME.

One Woman Had Eight Husbands in Five Years.

"We are assured by Seneca," says the historical Inge, "that there were women in ancient Rome who counted their ages not by their years, but by the husbands they had had. Juvenal tells of one woman who had married eight husbands in five years. Divorce was granted on the slightest pretext. Many separated merely from love of change, disdaining to give any reason, like Aemilius Paulus, who told his friends that 'he knew best where his shoes pinched him.'"

"Rich wives were not much sought after by wise men. Their complete emancipation made them difficult to manage. Accordingly, since both rich and poor wives were objectionable, the large majority of men never married at all. In most cases a Roman bridegroom knew practically nothing of his wife's character until after marriage. Marriage for the Roman woman meant a transition from rigid seclusion to almost unbounded liberty. She appeared as a matter of course at her husband's table whether he had company or not.

THEY ATE LEATHER.

The Way Morgan's Pirates Prepared Their Tough Food.

The infamous Captain Morgan and his piratical crew were sometimes in tight places at Panama and on one occasion were reduced to eating their leather bags.

"Some persons," says one of the company (Exquemelin, whose narrative is reproduced in "The Buccaneers in the West Indies"), "who never were out of their mothers' kitchens may ask how these pirates could eat, swallow and digest these pieces of leather, so hard and dry, unto whom I only answer that could they once experience what hunger—or, rather, famine—is they would certainly find the manner by their own necessity, as the pirates did."

"For these first took the leather and sliced it in pieces. Then they beat it between two stones and rubbed it, often dipping it in the water of the river to render it by these means supple and tender. Lastly they scraped off the hair and roasted or broiled it upon the fire. And, being thus cooked, they cut it into small morsels and ate it, helping it down with frequent gulps of water, which by good fortune they had right at hand."

Coquelin Made the Audience Wait.

The architect Binet was a friend of the elder Coquelin. He delighted to speak of a performance of "Cyrano de Bergerac" in which he went to praise the genial actor in his dressing room between acts.

"I admire you above all," he said to the actor, "in the couplets of the 'Cadets of Gascony.'"

"Wait, wait!" exclaimed Coquelin. "Leave me here alone with Binet." "My friend," he said to the architect, "it is with pleasure that I am now going to repeat the passage which has pleased you. For me your approbation is worth more than the plaudits of the whole house."

And while the audience waited he gave anew for Binet alone the "Cadets of Gascony."—Cri de Paris.

A Famous Walking Match.

Thomas Bailey Aldrich was one of the characters made notable in a celebrated walking match which was got up by Dickens during his second visit to America. The match was a stretch of about six miles over the Boston milldam toward Newton Center.

At the dinner given by the contestants at the Parker House, in Boston, after the fatigues of the match were over there were present besides the above: Hyperion.....H. W. Longfellow; Hosea Biglow.....J. R. Lowell; The Autocrat.....O. W. Holmes; The Bad Boy.....T. B. Aldrich.

Remembered the Accent.

"Queen Mary," said the teacher to the class in the history lesson, "loved France so much that she declared 'Calais' would be found written across her heart after she was dead."

Pausing a moment, the teacher looked at a boy steadily.

"Jimmy Smith," she said, "you were not listening." "Oh, yes, I was," Jimmy replied. "Well, what did Queen Mary say would be found written across her heart?"

"Kelly," was little Jimmy's triumphant reply.—Exchange.

Economizing.

"My dear, we simply have got to economize." "Mercy sakes! Haven't I been economizing! Instead of letting Willie have money for car fare I'm sending him in the automobile to his dancing class."—Chicago Record-Herald.

A Severe Test.

He—Yes, darling, when I am with you I feel inspired—as if I could do some perfect thing. She—Maybe you could order a luncheon that I would like without consulting me.—Puck.

"Good luck" results from well directed efforts to succeed.

HORSE CHEWS TOBACCO.

Learned the Habit From Its Master and Loves the Weed.

Whoa! Whoa there! Stop that horse!" shrieked a man at Eighth street and Grand avenue, as the animal was deliberately following another man upon the sidewalk. The second man had in his hand a small package, and when he turned at the sound of the alarm, it was seen that the horse was intent on getting to the package.

"Oh, now, don't get nervous, Kit," he said, soothingly, to the animal. "I'll give you a chew."

Then the man opened a package of fine cut tobacco, took an ordinary 'chaw' for himself, and divided the remaining part of a newly opened sack with the horse. The animal took the large quid and actually seemed to smile as it munched away on it rhythmically as would a cow on her cud.

The owner of the horse, William J. McCart, a claim agent for the Illinois Central Railroad, explained that "Kit" was very fond of her "chew," and whenever he took one where "Kit" could see him she would follow him even up a pair of steps and into a house but that she too, was supplied.

"She don't seem to want tobacco unless she catches sight of some one in the act of taking a chew, and then she will have hers, no matter who the man may be who exposes the weed," he explained.

"What got our horse into the habit, how was it acquired?" asked a dignified appearing man who was in the little coterie which was watching "Kit" enjoy her wad of fine cut.

"I did it," replied McCart. "I began by nipping off a little every time I took a chew in the animal's presence, and handing it to her, as she always was curiously nosing about to see what I had. It was not long until she would take a chew of tobacco in preference to a lump of sugar."

"Does the animal expectorate?" asked the dignified person in all seriousness. "Well, not so as to be noticed," replied her owner. "The horse swallows the juice from the tobacco, and finally the quid itself. And I am here to tell you that I have found the tobacco far more healthy for a horse once in a while than sugar every day, as is given to trick horses."

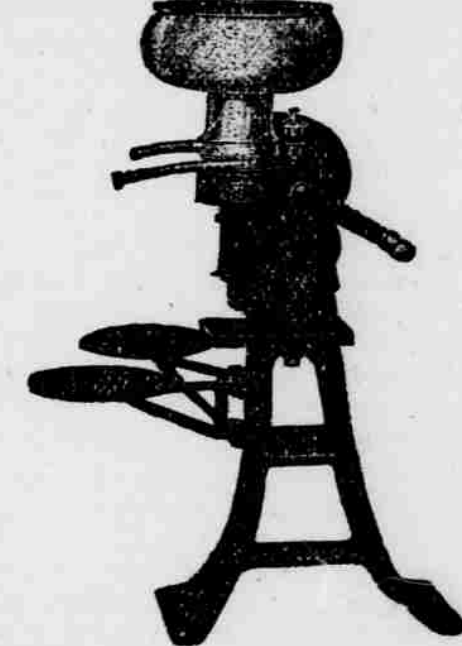
Arthur McKnight, an old race horse man and official starter at most of the big race tracks in the country, chanced to be present when the tobacco chewing horse was under discussion.

"I was born and reared down here in the West Bottom," said McKnight, "and I recall 'Old Tim,' a tobacco chewing horse that used to be on the truck in engine house No. 1, down on Union avenue. Chief Hale will remember 'Tim.' Why, he was so vicious after a chew if he saw any one with a plug that he would almost break his chain to get to you. And if you took a chew and passed him unnoticed Tim would reward you with a kick. Yes, Tim was a confirmed chewer, and I have known of several good race horses which had the habit. They are just like human beings; when once they get the desire for nicotine it sticks with them."

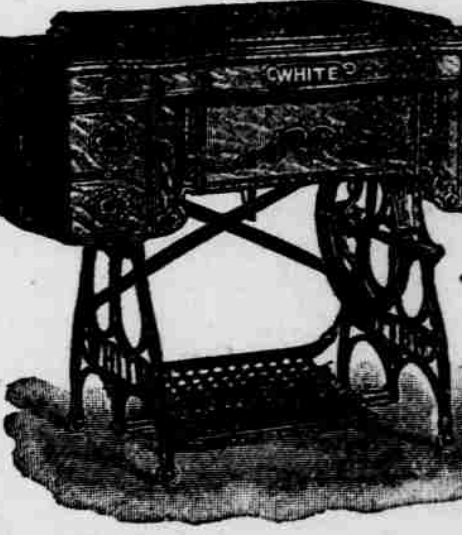
"How dreadful," sighed the ministerial looking spectator, "it is a pity that human beings could not keep their injurious habits without tempting innocent domestic animals."

"Tobacco at intervals is good for a horse," replied McKnight. "It prevents many of the ailments from which they suffer."

PREMIUMS WON AT FAIR.



This Cream Separator offered for the best display of dairy animals and products was won by S. A. Fleming, of Hester.



This White Sewing Machine offered at the County Fair by A. J. Kittrell, for the best display of plain and fancy sewing was won by Mrs. Elijah Jones, of Stem.