

AWAY BELOW ZERO.

The Awful Cold That Comes With Eighty Degrees of Frost.
It is difficult to form any conception of the degree of cold represented by 80 degrees of frost that at times prevails in certain parts of Russia. Sir Leopold McClintock tells us how in one of his arctic expeditions a sailor was foolish enough to do some outdoor work at precisely this temperature. His hands froze, and when he rushed into the cabin and plunged one of them into a basin of water so cold was the hand that the water was instantly converted into a block of ice.

At 25 degrees, Dr. Kane says, "the mustache and underlip form pendulous beads of dangling ice. Put out your tongue, and it instantly freezes to this icy crust. Your chin has a trick of freezing to your upper jaw by the happy aid of your beard. My eyes have often been so glued as to show that even a wink was unsafe."

During a theatrical performance given by the crew of his ship at an inside temperature of 30 degrees "the condemnation was so excessive that we could barely see the performers. Their hands steamed. When an excited Thesplan took off his coat it smoked like a dish of potatoes. Any extra vehemence of delivery was accompanied by volleys of smoke."—Pearson's Weekly.

A Wrong Diagnosis.

The small boy with the big bundle of papers was observed to be moistening some of his stock in the street fountain.

"Ah, my lad," said a benevolent old gentleman, "it does me good to see such an illustration of cleanliness."

"What do yer mean, boss?" asked the boy as he stared up in wonder.

"Why, aren't you trying to wash the mud spots off the edge of your papers?"

"No, boss; you are way off. You see, some of dese papers is two weeks old, an' if I dampen 'em up a bit people will think they are just from de press an' never think of lookin' at de date. Good graft, old sport! Say, some day when I am a captain of industry I'll give you a job."

But the benevolent old gentleman had fled.—Boston Post.

The Order of St. Patrick.

The "most illustrious Order of St. Patrick" dates only from 1783, says a London writer, when it was founded by George III., and is not to be compared in age with "the most ancient and most noble Order of the Thistle," which, dating from a remote antiquity, was revived by James II. in 1687. The curious thing about the bands, or ribbons, of these two orders is that St. Patrick's is blue of the hue that may be seen in the "huckles," or plumes, in the bearskins of the Irish guards, though it suggests the blue bells of Scotland, while the sash of the thistle is a dark green, suggestive of Erin's verdant isle. On state ceremonies these two orders are frequently confounded.

What She Was Trying to Accomplish.
The other morning at the breakfast table three-year-old Jeannette was poking vigorously with her knife at a biscuit.

"What are you trying to do, Jeannette?" demanded mother. "Be careful; you will cut your hand."

"Said Jeannette, 'I'm trying to unloosen this biscuit; it's so tight!'"—New York Times.

Not a Matter of Choice.

Columbia Alumnus—That woman on the debate team is intolerable. You wouldn't like to debate with a woman, would you? Cornell Alumnus—Got so I don't mind it now. Been married five years.—New York Tribune.

Hard Lines.

"Does your wife make you explain all your acts?"

"Worse than that."

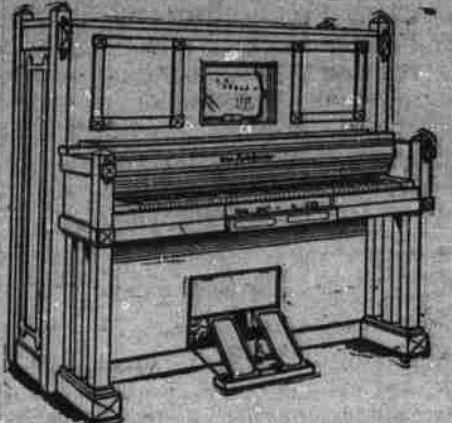
"Worse than that?"

"Far worse; she doesn't permit me to explain them."—Houston Post.

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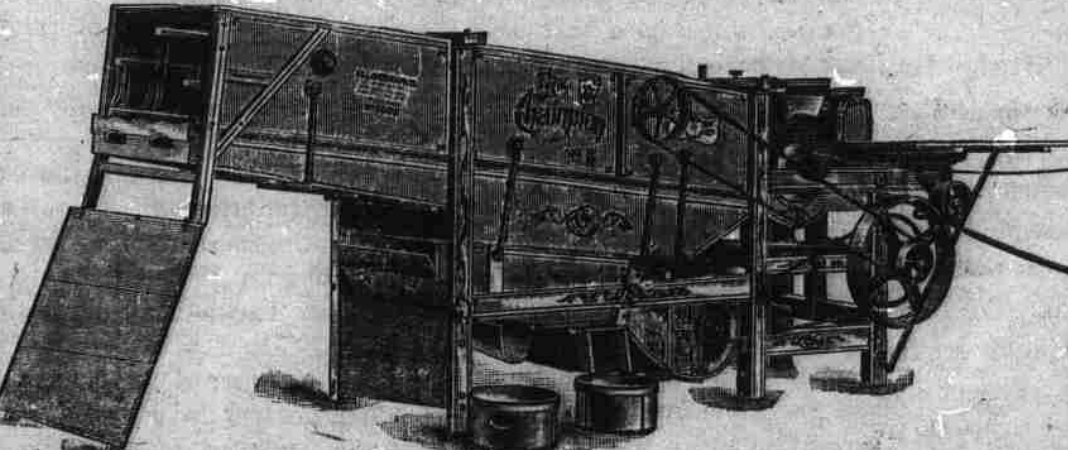
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