

UNITED STATES' NEW AMBASSADOR TO CHINA.



President Taft has decided to send William J. Calhoun, a lawyer of Chicago, to Peking, to represent this country.

HOUSE OF MIRRORS

Western Farmer's Home Dazzles with Bevel Plate Glass.

Structure to Outward Appearance Only Ordinary Dwelling in Pretty Country Town—Once Inside Everything is Changed.

Spokane, Wash.—Among the strange houses on record, perhaps, in the United States is that of Alexander Stuart of Waitsburg, a one-time farmer.

To outward appearance the house is an ordinary 2 1/2-story residence of the better type on an ordinary street.

Once within, however, the eyes are dazzled with the elegance which, even in the unfinished state, is everywhere apparent.

The sliding doors between hall and dining room are of plate glass panels of the finest grinding and polish.

A Masonic design on a tiny light placed in the front gable will also peep down at the passerby from its high nest.

In the basement heavy glass doors separate the apartments, which are well finished in cement floors and white, hard-plastered walls.

RETURNS AFTER MANY YEARS

Story Like That of the Prodigal Son is Revealed by Chance in New Jersey City.

Trenton, N. J.—Capt. Edward A. Waldt of the medical corps has been reunited with his family here after an absence of 20 years.

When only 13 years old Waldt ran away from home. Before leaving he confided to his playmate that he would return some day and marry her.

The runaway boy was more successful than is usual with prodigals. He reached Chicago and got a job with a doctor, who took a great interest in the boy.

When success crowned his efforts and when he was permitted to return to the states he visited his former home in Erie.

Last week he was sent to this city to examine a deserter. He was walking through State street when he came face to face with his mother.

It wasn't forty-eight hours afterward when Miss Alexander, who was still living with his parents, consented to become his bride.

London.—An amusing scene was witnessed at the corner of Oxford circus, near the Queen's hall.

A large bulldog, which had been trotting sedately along by the side of its mistress suddenly dashed at the window of Fashion for All offices.

Fortunately the window was thick enough to withstand the assault. The dog growled defiance at his placid enemy until, in response to the fearful representations of his mistress, the cat was withdrawn from the window.

High Heels Not to Blame. Camden, N. J.—Twelve gallant men, composing a jury in the circuit court in Camden, decided that high-heeled feminine shoes are no bar to the recovery of damages.

Miss McTaggart fell downstairs and was severely hurt at the company's plant.

TRULY A REMARKABLE BIRD

Wonderful Magpie Described by Oliver Goldsmith in Work on Natural History.

Brander Matthews, the brilliant critic, said at a dinner in Brooklyn of a dramatist:

"His success is due to his knowledge of melodrama, not to his knowledge of the human heart. His knowledge of the human heart, in fact, is no profounder than Oliver Goldsmith's knowledge of natural history was.

"Goldsmith's ignorance didn't prevent him writing a very popular natural history. In one part of it—a part will give you an idea of the whole—Goldsmith described an intelligent magpie belonging to a publican named Whiteingstall.

"One day while Whiteingstall's kitchen floor was being cleaned the magpie was considered in the way, and was ordered into his cage, which hung against the wall. He retired obediently.

"But he had no sooner been shut up than a cock from the neighboring farmyard entered the kitchen and strutted proudly about. This so angered the magpie that he vociferated:

"Let me out, Mr. Whiteingstall, let me out; I'll do for him presently!"

"Mr. Whiteingstall let him out and a combat immediately ensued. After a few goes the magpie was completely worsted. He lay helpless on his back, one leg broken. Then, cocking his eye at his master, he said, calmly:

"Take me up, Mr. Whiteingstall, take me up, for he has broken my leg."

MUMMY THAT OF ROYAL COOK

Importation That Has Interested Egyptologists Evidently Was Wrongly Labeled.

It develops that the mummy, the importation of which has aroused public interest, is not that of Rameses II., but of his cook:

The discovery need not occasion disappointment. Cook or conqueror, they are now alike, and, indeed, the desiccated remains of the chef of the monarch who from all accounts was the Louis XIV. of Egypt are in many respects a more valuable antiquarian possession than the mummified body of Pharaoh. Antiquity has bequeathed us a surplus of memorials of kings, but only too few of cooks.

The interest of the modern world in history is concerned less with the great conquerors than with the lesser lights, the artists and craftsmen who planned aqueducts and built cathedrals, even those who were charged with the preparation of Caesar's cutlets.

Praise for American Hubbles. Princess Duleep Singh, at a dinner in New York, said that she found the American woman a marvel of beauty and the American man a model of good looks and kindness.

"The American man," said the charming princess, "is rightly held up to the world as the pattern husband. In Europe they have a saying about Eve and the apple which shows how wretched a failure the European husband is. This saying is unknown in America, I am sure. It would have no point, no application, here in the land of pattern husbands."

A Virginia Casablanca. "The boy who stood on the burning deck," often is found in different sections of the country, and the famous Casablanca is emulated by men who are told to do certain things and never vary their instructions.

The first newspaper had short life. The first newspaper ever published in America never got beyond its first issue. It was called Public Occurrences and appeared in Boston, September 25, 1639.

The World's 50,000 Plays. Mr. Reginald Clarence, the well-known bibliographer of dramatic data, has been working for 20 years on a stage cyclopaedia which will contain a bibliography of plays of which it has been possible to find any record, from B. C. 500 to A. D. 1909.

Held Makers of Taxicab. In a recent case in Paris where a driver of a taxicab was charged with homicide and the representative of the company with responsibility toward the victim's family the court meted out a lenient sentence to the former and ordered the company to pay to the victim's widow a life annuity of 600 francs.

Out of the Picture. "How pleasant it must be to sit before a blazing fire while the wind vainly rages outside."

"Yes," answered Farmer Comptossel. "I suppose it would be right pleasant." "Why, you ought to know. You live in the country."

ROMANCE OF THE MISSIONARY

Nothing in History Finer Than the Work Done by These Civilization Pickets.

About the missionary of to-day—and I have ridden with him, boot to boot, in a score of lands—there is scant remainder of the somber-garbed, psalm-singing, nasal-voiced, narrow-minded proselytizer who has been made the butt of jokes in comic supplements from time immemorial.

The American missionary of the present, clean-cut and college-bred, comes from another mold. He is as carefully trained as the consul or the commercial traveler, though on broader and more comprehensive lines. When he starts for his new field, he is something more than a theologian and a preacher.

History shows nothing finer than the way in which these pickets of civilization, scattered over the strange portions of the globe, have distilled a grim humor out of their desolate situations, turning not only a bold but a laughing face upon the perils which their lives may bring.

WORTHY OF GREAT PAINTER Graphic Description of the Beauty of Most Prominent of Restoration Ladies.

Of all the pictures that Lely painted, and of all that wondrous group of Restoration ladies who ever sat to him, Miss Hamilton, Countess of Grammont, was the finest. As for the picture, Lely himself "bestowed all his art upon it, and confessed that he had taken a special delight in painting it."

Porcupines Kill Alaskan Trees. Milo Kelly says that porcupines kill more timber on the coast of Alaska than is used for commercial purposes.

Maryland Town on Odd Hunt. This town resembled a harvest field the other day, when men with rakes and hoes searched and scraped every nook and corner for a set of gold false teeth belonging to Dr. Elwood Woodrow of West Nottingham.

Bath Street, Bath, in Danger. Some time ago great indignation was expressed by antiquarians and artists throughout the country at the threatened destruction of one side of Bath street, Bath, with its Georgian colonnade.

To Help Needy Inventors. The Royal Wurttemberg Chamber of Commerce is organizing a state exhibition of inventor's models, to be held next year at Stuttgart.

The Slaughter of the Innocents. From 200,000 to 400,000 children in the United States die every year from preventable causes.

Progress of Cremation. Considerations of modern sentiment have operated generally to maintain the custom of interring instead of incinerating the dead.

Mine Life-Saving Corps. It is hardly less important that the mine operators should bear the small cost of expert direction in accidents than that the government should maintain its elaborate marine life-saving service.

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STIRRED HIS CHINESE PRIDE

Why Li Hung Chang Altered Style of His Luncheons Given to Sir Robert Hart.

The book which Miss Juliet Brodon has written about her uncle, Sir Robert Hart, the "Grand Old Man" of China, for many years in charge of the Imperial customs service, is full of characteristic and entertaining stories. Among them is the following:

"One of the most influential of Sir Robert's Chinese friends was the great Li Hung Chang. The diplomat liked Li's household because of the simplicity he found there—no wearisome courses at dinner, but fish and, perhaps, a chicken with rice. Incautiously, as it turned out, he praised this frugality to his own Chinese servant, for the remark reached Li's ears in a distorted form.

"You shall not have the chance to go away and say that you have been fed like a coolie in my house," said the viceroy, proudly, at the end of the banquet.

"Nevertheless, the very simplicity of your hospitality was what I most appreciated," Sir Robert replied. "But if you believe that I could have made any such remark, and if you persist in altering the style of my reception, I shall not come to lunch with you again."

LITTLE TALK ON HUMORISTS

Writer, Evidently Himself Among the Number, Succeeds in Saying Some Funny Things.

A humorist is a man who succeeds in getting a joke onto an editor. Humorists are not numerous. They would say he is less numerous if they were not so hard to catch. Killing a man who tries to tickle you to death is justifiable homicide, and this right is recognized in America, where it is called the unwritten mother-in-law.

Humorists mispend their lives in digging up petrified puns, which they revive, remodel and retail. A new tall on a joke often makes it salable, and a new joke in a tall often makes it available.

When a joke is available, the editor usually promises to pay on publication. That is the joker in the acceptance, and if the humorist doesn't live until the joke is published it is the editor's joke. So, being a humorist is no joke. Neither will being a joke make you a humorist, though humorists are usually jokers.

A humorist is known by his joking, and a good joke doesn't die young. A good joke is an old joke made to look like new. A new joke—well, new jokes are born, not made, and humorists seldom have twins.—Judge.

KNEW NOTHING OF DICKENS

Englishman's Strange Ignorance, That Resulted in Somewhat Humorous Incident.

If the average person were told that there exists in England to-day a man of good ordinary education who has never heard of Sam Weller he would probably be politely incredulous, says the Dickensian. Yet, such is the fact, and, marvelous to relate, the man's own name is Pickwick!

Several people were in the room and there was a shout of laughter when some one exclaimed: "Put it down a we, my lord; put it down a we!" But, so far from seeing the joke, Mr. Pickwick looked surprised and hurt that his ignorance as to how to spell a name which he had not heard before should produce such hilarity.

CONSTANTLY SOUGHT TO KILL Peculiarity of Knife Owned by Rudyard Kipling, as Described by Robert Barr.

My mind has flown back down the years to London, and into the large corner room, on the second floor, Villiers street, Embankment Gardens, writes Robert Barr in London World.

What a villainous weapon! "Fisht," replied Kipling, and I found the name he gave it; also the sect of India from which it came; "The knife has tried to kill me several times. It's always on the watch when I got it there was affixed to it like a button on a foil, one joint of a man's backbone. The knife had been run into the vertebrae, given a savage twist, and brought away with it a piece of human framework."

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