

A TREE'S SOLILOQUY

I'm a funny proposition, from a human point of view, am I not?

I wear clothing all the summer when it is warm, and go in my bare limbs all the winter in the worst and coldest weather.

The harder my heart, the better I am considered.

Though not specially fond of jewellery, I get a new ring each year, which I carry in my trunk.

It is perhaps remarkable that, though never travelling, I have a trunk, and that my trunk is never opened until after my death.

My bark never disturbs the neighbors at night, and does not in the least frighten the squirrels that play about and upon me.

The best tree in the world is found to be slab-sided and club-footed upon taking it to a sawmill.

A wooden leg is necessary to my good health and standing in the community.

Wet feet really do me good.

My head is perfectly familiar with the higher branches.

While I myself am temperate, my leaves get blown off in various ways every autumn. This leads, I have always noted, to their fall and speedy decay.

Though I expect to leave in the spring, in all probability you will see me here next summer.

ODDS AND ENDS

Wellington druggist (to little girl customer): 'Did you say pills?'

Little girl: 'Yes, sir, please.'

Druggist: 'Antibilious?'

Little girl: 'No, sir, but uncle is.'

Taranaki farmer—So you've had some experience, have you?

New arrival—Yes, sir.

Farmer—Well, what side of a cow do you sit on to milk?

New arrival—The outside.

FAMILY FUN

The Money Game.—A person having in one hand a piece of gold, and in the other a piece of silver, you may tell in which hand he has the gold and in which the silver by the following method: Some value, represented by an even number, such as 8, must be assigned to the gold; and a value represented by an odd number, such as 3, must be assigned to the silver; after which desire the person to multiply the number in the right hand by any even number whatever, such as 2, and that in the left by an odd number, as 3; then bid him add together the two products, and if the whole sum be odd, the gold will be in the right hand, and the silver in the left; if the sum be even the contrary will be the case.

To conceal the artifice better, it will be sufficient to ask whether the sum of the two products can be halved without the remainder; for in that case the total will be even, and in the contrary case odd.

It may be readily seen that the pieces, instead of being in the two hands of the same person, may be supposed to be in the hands of two persons, one of whom has the even number, or piece of gold, and the other the odd number, or piece of silver. The same operations may then be performed in regard to these two persons as are performed in regard to the two hands of the same person, calling the one privately the right, and the other the left.

Am I able to tell you the word which I mean,

'Tis done—nothing more need be said;

Believe me, the word is as easily seen,

And as quickly as this may be read.

But lest you should wander for want of a clue,

My first is a part of to be,

My second, tho' never belonging to you,

Is appropriate always to me.

My third is an emblem of power and might,

And wisdom and strength it implies;

Should you be my third, with much eager delight

You would haste to remove my disguise.

But are you my whole? What adamant soul

Can resist your all-conquering sway;

The rage of the passion you softly control,

And charm the blue devils away.

Answer—Am-i-able.

All Sorts

She (looking away off)—How clear the horizon is?
He—Yes; I've just swept it with my eye.

The Egyptians used pencils of colored chalk, and several of these ancient crayons have been found in their tombs.

Reptiles seek the light, but independently of heat. In winter they often leave comfortable and warm retreats to seek the sunlight.

Things made wholly or in part of clay and baked, which are opaque, are called pottery. Those which are semi-transparent are porcelain.

Usually the silk is colorless on leaving the body of the silkworm, but sometimes it is a straw yellow or greenish.

The learning of the Japanese will be greatly facilitated by the abandonment of their peculiar way of writing and printing their language. Ten years ago the universities inaugurated the reform; this year the use of Latin characters will be begun in the public schools, and will soon lead to their general use.

The hostess had been coaxing a young lady to sing, but to no purpose.

'What do you think of a girl who can sing, but won't sing?' she asked of a bachelor guest.

'I think,' replied the bachelor guest, 'that she's worth a dozen girls who can't sing, but will sing.'

The discovery in Dunedin of a painting supposed to be by Watteau reminds us that a Murillo worth, according to experts, £10,000 at least, was recently bought at Geneva for 7s during a public sale of a bankrupt's furniture. The painting, which represents St. Vincent de Paul, bears the date 1669, and the signature of the famous Spanish painter. It was so black that both signature and subject were almost invisible. M. Berlincourt, a dealer in antiquities, bought it, and sold it again to a local doctor, who is an art connoisseur, for £2 7s 6d. The doctor had the picture cleaned and mounted in Paris, and has already received and refused an offer of £8000 for it.

Breaking all records, the total passengers landed at New York during last year by the ocean steamship lines from foreign ports, reached the huge number of 1,198,434, which is 208,369 more than for the previous year, and a greater gain than ever before recorded. In the figures given out the International Mercantile Marine Company, with four lines, carried a total of 226,663 passengers in 261 trips. With 128 trips the ships of the North German Lloyd Company took 193,553 passengers from north of Europe and Mediterranean ports, and with a similar service the Hamburg-American ships, making 132 landings, took 188,811 voyagers. The Cunard line, running ships to Liverpool, and the Mediterranean with 96 trips, conveyed 140,005 passengers, and the French line carried 77,250 passengers from the port of Havre. 'Of the enormous number carried, only 142,803 were citizens of the United States, and 1,055,831 aliens were landed. That the year has been a prosperous one for the steamship companies is well known, and the list of 998 steamship arrivals for 1905 is swelled to 1083 for the last year, which includes the establishment of several new lines from foreign ports.

We have often heard of War Office delays (says a Home exchange), but a delay of fifty years is rather beyond the ordinary limits of even Pall Mall dilatoriness. Yet such an instance has just been reported from Aldershot. It appears that an officer in the command of a battalion quartered there was amazed one morning to find on his parade ground a traction engine and several trucks of stones and gravel. The material was deposited on the ground, and in due course the engine and trucks returned with further loads. Going to headquarters for an explanation of the delivery, the Commanding Officer was informed that the instructions had come from the War Office. Not satisfied with this explanation, he caused further inquiries to be made, with the result that the original requisition for the material was produced, and it was found to be dated 1856. The explanation given is that in moving out of the old offices in Pall Mall to the new buildings in Whitehall a clerk had come across this requisition in a long-forgotten pigeonhole, and seeing it was for one hundred tons of road material for the laying out of roads, had the order executed.