

TWO NOTED MINSTRELS,

Who Have Won Fortunes, and What They Say About Stage Life.
[From Stage Whispers.]

"Billy" Emerson has recently made a phenomenal success in Australia, and is rich. Emerson was born in Belfast in 1846. He began his career with Joe Sweeney's minstrels in Washington in 1857. Later he jumped into prominence in connection with Newcomb's minstrels, with whom he visited Germany. He visited Australia in 1874, and on his return to America joined Haverly's minstrels in San Francisco at \$50 a week and expenses. With this troupe he played before her Majesty the Queen, the Prince of Wales, and royalty generally. After this trip he leased the Standard Theater, San Francisco, where for three years he did the largest business ever known to minstrelsy. In April last he went to Australia again, where he has "beaten the record."

"Billy" is a very handsome fellow, an excellent singer, dances gracefully, and is a true humorist.

"Yes, sir, I have traveled all over the world, have met all sorts of people, come in contact with all sorts of customs, and had all sorts of experiences. One must have a constitution like a locomotive to stand it.

George H. Primrose, whose name is known in every amusement circle in America, is even more emphatic, if possible, than "Billy." Emerson, in commendation of the same article to sporting and traveling men generally, among whom it is a great favorite.

Emerson has grown rich on the boards and so has Primrose, because they have not squandered the public's "favors."

INVENTOR OF THE BELL ROPE.

The First Bell in an Engine Cab Was a Cow Bell, and a Clothes-Line Jingled It.

"Did you know Capt. Ayers?" said a well-known railroad man. "Well, he was famous for two things. He was the conductor on the first through train on the Erie from tide water to the great lakes, and he was the inventor of the bell rope by which train men signal the engineer. He was familiarly known as Poppy. Trains on the Erie, when Capt. Ayers was first employed, were few and far between. Passengers never thought of buying tickets, but paid fares on the train. In case passenger was obstreperous and refused to pay up, there was no way of stopping the train to eject him, and so people were frequently carried from one station to another without paying anything for it.

Poppy Ayers was running a train between Piermont and Turner's, which was the western terminus of the road at the time. The engineer of the train was a big burly German, who, like all engineers in those days, regarded himself as the master of the train, the conductor being simply a machine to take fares. One day Poppy had been bothered more than usual on his train by stubborn passengers, and he got to thinking how he could establish communication between himself and the engineer while the train was in motion, and the idea struck him. When he got to Turner's he obtained a section of clothes-line long enough to reach from the engine to the rear of the train. He tied a stick of wood to one end of the rope, and fixed it in the engineer's cab so that when he ran the rope back over the train and pulled on it the stick would be agitated. Then he explained to the engineer the idea, and told him whenever he saw the stick move up and down he must stop the train, for there would be some one on the train who ought to be thrown off. This innovation was resisted by the engineer as an infringement on his rights and the dignity of his office. It was virtually placing the train at the order of the conductor—a thing that could not for a moment be tolerated. So when the train started he removed the stick of wood that dangled near his head, and tied the rope fast. Poppy Ayers persisted in tying on the rope and the engineer persisted in ignoring his authority, until one day Poppy, after tying the wood to the rope and hanging it in the cab, turned to the engineer, and, taking him by the throat, exclaimed:

"Now, you pig-headed idiot, which will you do: Let that stick alone and stop the train when I pull the rope, or will you take the d—dest licking you ever heard tell of?"

The engineer weakened and said he'd mind the signal, and he did. Shortly after that Poppy fitted a cowbell in the cab and threw out the stick of wood. Whenever that cow-bell sounded the train was brought to a stand in short order, and some passenger knew that he must either come down with his fare or get hustled out between stations regardless of circumstances. At one stroke Poppy Ayers subordinated the engineer and increased the revenue of the company."

—New York Sun.

Houses in the National Capital.

It is easy to obtain a home in Washington, because most of the real estate agents will take a small cash payment and arrange the remainder of the debt at a low rate of interest, in some cases as low as 5 per cent. Certain lot-holders have a very great advantage. Scattered throughout Washington there is a very large number of little plots of ground which belong to the public reservations. These bits of parking are given rent free to the lot-owners, who build up close to them. They have the practical use of them for nothing. They can fence them in, ornament them as they please, and enjoy everything about them except building on them. In many instances these little public strips are the only yards that certain house-owners have.—New York World.

An Early Eviction.

A little Austin boy, whose impious parents are always moving from one house to another, was asked by the Sunday school teacher:

"Why did the Israelites move out of Egypt?"

"Because they couldn't pay their rent, I reckon."—Texas Siftings.

Germany the Foremost Nation.

So far as military power and political influence goes Germany to-day is confessedly the foremost nation of the earth. When Russia had almost destroyed the military power of the Turks and Constantinople was within her grasp, she was deprived of the fruits of her victory by Germany. Bismarck formed an alliance with Austria and England, and these two latter powers profited more by the discomfiture of the Turks than did Russia. But Great Britain in turn has been made to feel the power of Germany. When the project was under way for opening Congo land to the commerce of the world, England made a treaty with Portugal, which would have given those two powers a monopoly of the trade of Central Africa, England, of course, to have the lion's share; but Bismarck promptly interfered, and insisted that a congress should be held in Berlin to settle the question as to the rights of the various powers in the new scene of trade enterprise. Great Britain submitted humbly, and in the conference subsequently held matters were so arranged that all nations would have equal rights in any new commerce that might be created. Should Bismarck die, Germany in all probability would lose her pre-eminence. He is the state. But with him, as with all great men, his successors will probably seem small and feeble by comparison.—Demorest's Monthly.

Living Monuments.

On the tomb of Sir Christopher Wren, architect of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, is the inscription in Latin: "If you ask for his monument look around you." The thousands and hundreds of thousands of people whom we see to-day free from rheumatism and kindred diseases are living monuments to the power of St. Jacobs Oil—the Conqueror of Pain.

A Dollar a Year.

"Doctor," he said as he entered the veterinary's office, "I am about to sell a horse to a grocer, and he wants you to pass on the animal's age."

"How old is he?"

"Sixteen."

"How old does the grocer want him to be?"

"Seven."

"Ah—I see. A dollar a year for nine years is nine dollars. What an abstemiate fellow the grocer must be! He might as well have wanted a horse nine years old, and thus save you \$2!"—Detroit Free Press.

Don't Lie Abed.

One of the most dangerous habits people can indulge in is that of lying in bed. Nine-tenths of all the deaths occur in bed. Nearly one-half of all those who are murdered are murdered in bed. It is while you are in bed that your house is robbed and your chickens stolen. It is while you are in bed that the bugs bite you and the bad dreams haunt you. Therefore, dear reader, never go to bed.—Punxsutawney Tribune.

"Golden Medical Discovery" will not cure a person whose lungs are almost wasted, but it is an unfailing remedy for consumption if taken in time. All drugists.

It is hardly probable that there are any telephones in heaven. And yet every angel will be recognized by his halo.

Put up at the Gault House.

The business man or tourist will find first-class accommodations at the low price of \$2 and \$2.50 per day at the Gault House, Chicago, corner Clinton and Madison streets. This far-famed hotel is located in the center of the city, only one block from the Union Depot Elevator; all appointments first-class.

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Memories of the War are solicited for publication in THE CHICAGO LEDGER, from both "Yank" and "Johnny." Send along the facts, boys, and they will be put in shape to print. THE LEDGER is one of the best papers going for the soldier's family. Full of Original Stories, Humor, Army Incidents, Etc. Every issue is a gem. Only \$1.50 per year. 271 Franklin street, Chicago. Sample copy two cents.

Pain and Dread attend the use of most Catarrh remedies. Liquids and snuffs are unpleasant as well as dangerous. Ely's Cream Balm is safe, pleasant, easily applied with the finger, and a sure cure. It cleanses the nasal passages and heals the inflamed membrane, giving relief from the first application. 50 cents at druggists. 60c. by mail. Ely Bros., Owego, N. Y.

PURE Cod-Liver Oil, made from selected livers on the sea-shore, by CASWELL, HAZARD & CO., New York. It is absolutely pure and sweet. Patients who have once taken it prefer it to all others. Physicians have decided it superior to any of the other oils in market.

I have had catarrh in head and nostril's for ten years so bad that there were great sores in my nose, and one place was eaten through. I got Ely's Cream Balm. Two bottles did the work, but am still using it. My nose and head are well. I feel like another man.—Chas. S. McMillen, Sibley, Jackson Co., Mo.

Mr. John Hews, our neighbor, was very bad with rheumatism last winter, and was not able to work or even get out of his room. One bottle of Athlophorus cured him almost entirely of the disease. Rev. Samuel Porter, Crete, Illinois.

From Col. C. H. Mackey, 32d Iowa Infantry: I have now been using Ely's Cream Balm for three months and am experiencing no trouble from Catarrh whatever. I have been a sufferer for twenty years.—C. H. Mackey, Sigourney, Iowa.

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WIFE—Do you think Jeff Davis aimed at despotic power? Husband (henpecked)—I think so. He was found dressed in woman's clothes.

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A NEW magazine is called the *Woman's Age*. It contains a good deal of fiction.

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