

Thackeray's Career.

Thackeray was the son of an Indian civil servant, and his grandfathers were Indian civil servants, both on the father's and the mother's side. He was born at Calcutta, in July, 1811, and was thus but one year older than Charles Dickens. When he was five years old he lost his father, and his mother married again while he was a boy. From India William Makepeace Thackeray was brought to London as a child, and sent to the Charterhouse. He was gentle and sensitive, with a quick sense of fun then as in after years. He carried into manhood—as part of the strength of manhood—more of the charm of a child's nature than men usually keep unspoiled by the experience of life. Pains of life only added to his kindness. Much of his higher comic writing has its charm in a rare union of mature wit with a childlike playfulness. At the age of eighteen Thackeray kept a few terms at Trinity College, Cambridge. He did not stay to graduate. Then he went to Paris, to study art. When he came of age there was a little fortune for him of £500 a year. It was soon lost, chiefly by a newspaper speculation. He felt that he was not born to succeed as a painter, and was drawn, as he had been even when a schoolboy, to the use of the pen. His nose had been broken in a school fight at the Charterhouse. Michael Angelo, too, had his nose broken. But Thackeray was not to be a Michael Angelo; he dubbed himself playfully "Michael Angelo Titmarsh." In 1837 and 1838 he was writing in *Fraser's Magazine* "The Great Hoggarty Diamond," and in the year 1837 he married. After the birth of three daughters, one of whom died in childhood, there came into Thackeray's life an abiding sorrow. His wife's mind failed. He worked on, all sensitive tenderness within, and half afraid of the unchildlike people against whom he asserted himself by making them the victims of his frolicsome burlesque or satire. Not long after the establishment of *Punch*, in 1841, Thackeray found in that paper a playground for his wit. But there was no full recognition of his genius until the appearance of "Vanity Fair," when he was thirty-six years old. "Pendennis," another novel, followed, and while this was being written Thackeray had an illness which left him subject to painful spasmodic attacks. There was suffering enough in mind and body to bring the gray hairs before their time; but there remained the childlike heart, with the sympathetic insight of the man of genius, the ready play of humor, and the sociable yet sensitive nature, more of itself with three or four friends than with thirty. By his lectures on "The English Humorists" and "The Four Georges," in England and in America, Thackeray secured lasting provision for his family. He added to his first novels, "The Newcomes," "Esmond," and "The Virginians," before the *Cornhill Magazine* was established under his editorship. That was in 1859. He withdrew from the editorship in April, 1862, but continued to contribute. In 1863 all English Christmas days were saddened by the news that, on the day before, Thackeray had died suddenly.

The Schoolmarm of To-day.

The intelligent and successful schoolmarm of to-day is the beautiful flower of developing, growing, expanding, aspiring womanhood. No more significant fact could be pointed out as indicating the rapid changes that are taking place in the position and influence of women than to compare the schoolmarm of to-day with the schoolmarm of the past. The schoolmarm of the past was respected, but commiserated. But the schoolmarm of to-day is a totally different being. She is proud of her membership in a profession whose dignity and importance are every day being more widely recognized. She enters upon her work with enthusiasm, and performs it with the disposition and aims of the artist. She dresses well, and is cheerful and happy. Out of school she believes in seeing life and enjoying herself. And we may be sure that the American schoolmarm will soon be readily recognized by any close observers of persons and manners in that throng of new world travelers in the old world. She will be distinguished by neat, elegant, convenient and appropriate dress; by the absence of all unnecessary trappings and bundles; by her genuine, care-free and hearty interest in everything; by her quiet, composed, respectful and self-respecting manners. When she returns she will bring with her a few genuine treasures of remembrance, but will not probably attempt to smuggle kid gloves and lace. The American schoolmarm is, indeed, one of the most important and most admirable of American institutions. All hail the schoolmarm who goes to Europe for her vacation.—*Reading (Pa.) Herald*.

The Mikado.

It is seventeen years since the real Mikado was brought into power by revolution. He was then but sixteen years of age. The empire was then a military encampment and he found a feudal system wherein 60,000 men were maintained for war. He immediately began reforms. He made the dependent the free, and the feudal rulers the subordinates. He made men freeholders, in perpetual tenure of their lands. He insured as great protection to life and property as may be enjoyed. His code of laws he modeled after those of England and the United States, establishing a sufficient judiciary. He gathered about him broad, sound, and progressive counselors. He rules an empire already having 500 miles of railroad,

6,000 miles of telegraph wire, unsurpassed postal facilities, with a postal savings bank system worthy of imitation in this country. He has built a navy and can repair ships with the best. As great, if not greater, than what he has accomplished is what he has proclaimed he proposes to do, and that is, in 1880, to convert his empire into a constitutional empire, with a Parliament exercising the delegated authority of the people. It will be seen from this that the Mikado is really a progressive ruler, and that he has no idea of allowing his country again to relapse into semi-barbarism.

Bad Effects of Drinking Water.

Sanitary matters are as bad in Bokhara as they used to be in England; but the people are far less to blame than our fathers were, for England is by nature blessed far more than Bokhara in regard to matters of health. Some London water is even now—well, let us say, trying to the constitution—after it has been stored for a month or so in a filthy water-butt. But no length of storage will, in our happy climate, breed the "rishta," that horrible worm found also in parts of West Africa, and taken long ago over to the New World. Old Jenkinson, who in 1558, being in the Russian service, sailed over the Caspian and made his way to Bokhara, says: "The water is very bad, breeding in the legs worms an ell long. If these break in being pulled out, the patient dies. For all this inconvenience, they are forbidden to drink any liquor but water and mare's milk; and those who break this law are whipt through the market; yea, if only a man's breath smells of spirits he shall have a good drubbing." It is not quite so bad as Jenkinson said; but if the "rishta" does break, all the little worms inside it spread through the body, and the sufferer gets full of ulcers, which take months to heal. The native barbers use a needle and their thumb to squeeze it out. The Russian doctors wind it out on a reel, so much a day, till the whole is extracted. It varies from three to seven feet in length! How does it get in? Why, the little pools are full of a very small gray crustacean (the "cyclops"), whose color makes him almost invisible. Men swallow these, and they are pretty sure to be infested with "rishta" germs, which, finding in the human stomach a good place for their development, develop accordingly, and work their way to the skin. I wonder if Dr. Lansdell gave the Bokhariots a hint about boiling their water, not once only, but (as Prof. Tyndall recommends) twice at least, so as to kill the germs which have escaped the first boiling.—*All the Year Round*.

Sciatica Relieved by Cocaine.

Dr. W. B. Menz, of Vidalia, La., writes to the *Medical Record* that he was called to see a lady 55 years of age, who had been a constant sufferer from sciatica for ten years. The pain was very severe, and extended along the entire length of the nerve. She has run the whole gamut of anti-neuralgic remedies, and had never obtained anything more than very transitory relief. Having with him a vial of a 4 per cent. solution of cocaine hydrochlorate, Dr. Menz determined to try the efficacy of a subcutaneous injection. The hypodermic needle was inserted deeply over the sciatic foramen, and about twenty drops of the solution were passed into the tissues. The pain ceased almost immediately, and during the six weeks that have since elapsed has not returned, although there has been no further treatment, and one injection only was practiced. The relief given by other remedies had never been of more than from two to four hours' duration.—*Scientific American*.

Mr. G. E. REARDON, Baltimore, Md., Commissioner of Deeds for all the States, suffered for a long time with rheumatism, which yielded promptly to St. Jacobs Oil.

Not Great After All.

The recent French surveys have shown that the magnitude of the Algerian sea project has been greatly exaggerated. No large part of Northern Africa can be flooded, the Desert of Sahara proving to have an average height of eleven hundred feet, and the only area below sea level being comprised in two "chotts" commencing about one hundred miles due west of the Gulf of Gabes and covering only about thirty-one hundred square miles—less than one-half the area of Lake Ontario. The flooding of the depressed region would give a lake averaging seventy-eight feet in depth. The creation of a new sea of such size could hardly produce the great effects upon the world's climates and upon the depth of the ocean which have been foreseen in the speculations of some scientific writers.

Well Named.

Balston, the grocer, calls upon Juckles, and, while in the drawing-room, Juckles' little boy comes in and says: "You ain't got a bird like we have," (pointing at a cage).

Balston—That's a fact, my little man.

Boy—His name uster be Jim tell we gunter trade with you, an' since then pa has been callin' him Balston.

Balston—Ah, and why does he do that?

Boy—Pa says he calls the bird Balston because he's always got such a big bill. Funny, ain't it?

Balston says that it is very funny, but he knows that when the next monthly account is made out somebody is going to suffer.—*Arkansas Traveler*.

DIPHTHERIA is frequently the result of a neglected sore throat, which can be cured by a single bottle of Red Star Cough Cure. Price, twenty-five cents a bottle.

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Freezing the Gases.

Since the scientific world was surprised, in 1877, by Cailletet's and Pictet's announcement of the production of liquefied oxygen, several experimenters—especially Wroblewski and Olzewski—have successfully attacked the problem of liquefying the so-called permanent gases. It was at first thought necessary to employ great pressure in addition to great cold, but in the later researches both oxygen and nitrogen, as well as atmospheric air, have been made liquid by intense cold at very moderate pressures. Among the interesting results obtained are the following: At 152 degrees below zero Fahrenheit chlorine forms orange-colored crystals; at 175 degrees below hydrochloric acid is a solid; at 200 below ether solidifies; at 202 below alcohol freezes; at 299 below oxygen boils; at 312 below air boils; and at 377 below air boils in a vacuum. These extraordinary temperatures were measures by means of a hydrogen thermometer and by a thermopile. The lowest temperature yet measured is 373 degrees below zero, which was produced by the evaporation of solid nitrogen on suddenly reducing the pressure. From these results it appears probable that every known substance within the reach of man will be eventually obtained in solid form by the mere withdrawal of heat.

Prompt Reform of Bodily Evils.

The prompt reform of those bodily evils, enfeebled digestion, incomplete assimilation, inactivity of the liver, kidneys and bladder, as well as of the nervous symptoms which these ailments are especially prone to beget, is always accomplished by the use of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, a medicine accredited by physicians, pronounced pure by analysis, and eminently wholesome and agreeable. Surely such a restorative is preferable to unpalatable and indigestible mineral drugs and unsanctioned nostrums. The nation at large assuredly thinks so, judging by the unprecedented demand for the article from Maine to the Pacific, a demand now supplemented by immense orders for it received from tropical America, Mexico, the British and Spanish Colonial possessions, and elsewhere. Both at home and abroad it is recognized as a standard remedy and preventive, the decisiveness of its effects recommending it everywhere.

Speech Photography.

Descriptions of the new apparatus of Prof. A. G. and Dr. C. Bell make it appear quite as wonderful as the telephone. It is based on the remarkable discovery that a jet of falling water or a flame of gas reproduces every sound within a given distance, and it seems to accomplish by more sensitive means what was attempted by the speaking phonograph. By arranging a descending film of colored water between the sunlight and a moving sensitive tablet, the vibrations produced in the film by speech are instantaneously and continuously photographed. Other arrangements cause the photographed irregularities corresponding to air pulsations to be retraced into air waves, making the voice heard again. If the anticipated success is achieved with such speech records, the aid of the photographer's art will be of more value to the future reporter than a knowledge of short-hand.

AN invention which, it is claimed by gas engineers, will revolutionize the present system of gas-lighting has been perfected by Dr. Auer in the chemical laboratory of the Vienna University. Briefly described, the invention may be said to consist in rendering a cotton wick incombustible by impregnating it with a metallic liquid. Thus treated the wick, instead of burning, merely glows, emitting a radiance not unlike that of the electric light. The whole process is very simple; and the great advantage of the invention is that it may be applied to any gas-burner.

Another Life Saved.

About two years ago, a prominent citizen of Chicago was told by his physicians that he must die. They said his system was so debilitated that there was nothing left to build on. He made up his mind to try a "new departure." He got some of Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery" and took it according to directions. He began to improve at once. He kept up the treatment for some months, and is to-day a well man. He says the "Discovery" saved his life.

We hear a great deal of talk about the consumption of fish. We wonder they don't try cod-liver oil.

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—Hamlet.
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KING KALAKAUA is reported as wishing to dispose of his kingdom. Perhaps he wants to buy a horse.—*Lowell Citizen*.

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