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West Side News, May 25, 1889

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Parrot Chorus.

The traditional “fish story” has many varieties, to which it seems only fair to add the following, even though the fish in this particular one, was only fair.

He was very fond of knowing about in out-of-the-way quarters of the world, and once left ship with a ship of comrades, in order to explore a Central American wilderness. During the course of several months, the entire ship’s company had devoted their leisure hours to singing to a parrot. The sailor had also lost no opportunity of teaching the bird all the nautical phrases they knew.

When the artist and his comrades had hidden the bird and the sailors good-bye, they plunged into the heart of the tropical forest, after great exertion in accomplishing twenty-eight miles, they had their camping-place for the night. Just as the sun was going down, they were startled to hear, in the principal silence, a familiar voice from the top of a tall palm:

“Avast there! Yo, heave, ho!”

It was found to be the ship’s parrot. Before they could quite believe in its presence, the faithful bird fluffed dowm to a dead stump near by, and, with a shrill cry, summoned the little green parrots of the country.

About ten thousand of them circled round the great gray African parakeet on the stump, and finally took their places, in good order, on the ground. The explorers looked on in dumb amazement.

When the feathered assemblage became quiet, the ship’s parrot broke into the familiar words of “Nancy Lee;” and, to the inexpressible amusement of the travelers, the surprise of the tropical world, and the delight of the feathered conductor, those ten thousand parakeets, with one mighty burst of song, executed “Nancy Lee.”

Obeying his Wife.

A clergyman, while marrying a certain couple required all his self-control to repose a smile at an amusing but prohetic interruption. The man was diffluent, and slow of speech, but the woman was self-confident and voluble.

“Will you take this woman,” asked the clergyman of the bridegroom, “for thy wedded wife? Will thou love, honor, and cherish her in sickness and in health, and forgiving all others, cleave only to her, so long as you both shall live?”

The minister paused for the response. The groom hung down his head, and was silent, but the bride, in a staccato tone, exclaimed, “Yes, sir, I’ll see to it that he does all that!”

It was evident who would rule in that household. But a Scotch clergyman once married a grooms whom insisted upon promising to obey his wife. The clergyman, while traveling through a village, was requested to officiate at a marriage, in the absence of the parish minister. Just as he had told the bridegroom to love and honor his wife, the man interjected the words, “and obey.”

He was going on with the service, when the groom interposed:

“ ‘Ay, and obey, sir—love, honor and obey, ye ken?’ and he seemed vexed because his amendment was not adopted.

A few years afterward the clergyman was riding through the same village, and was stopped by the hero of the wedding incident.

“ ‘D’ye mind, sir, yon day, when I was in the right. Whether ye wed or no, I hae obeyed her; and behold, I am now the only man that has a twa-story house in the hole town!’

That Scotchman went even further than Franklin, who said, “The man who would thrive must ask his wife.”

Chinese Logic.

A gentleman carried a bundle of clothing to a Chinese laundry, and said that he wanted it laundered as soon as possible.

The Chinaman took the package, and promised to have it ready on Tuesday evening. The gentleman was unable to call on Tuesday, but on Wednesday he presented himself, and asked for his linen, only to be told that it was not ready.

“Not ready!” he returned, impatiently. “Why, you promised to have it ready last night.”

“ ‘Ya!’ the Chinaman answered, with a smile as childlike and bland as his language was unresponsible in print, “but you didn’t come after it last night.”
Laura Bridesman.

Last Friday the wire brought intelligence of the close of one of the most remarkable lives of this generation. Laura Bridgeman, the celebrated blind and deaf mute, is dead. In her infancy she was taken sick with a violent fever, which utterly destroyed her sight and hearing and somewhat impaired her sense of smell and taste. Thus, with four of the five windows of the soul closed up, she seemed doomed to pass the rest of her life in perpetual solitude. She soon forgot that her condition had ever been different from what it then was, and lost all consciousness that it was possible for one person to communicate his thoughts to another. In this condition she lived for several years, her only communication being through a sense of feeling. Even to the day of her death she never saw her mother’s face or heard her mother’s voice.

All attempts to reach her mind failed, because she was not even aware that other persons possessed power which were lacking in her. She did not know that there was such a thing as seeing or hearing, or that one person could communicate thought to another. There was no way in which a knowledge of this fact could be impressed upon her mind. If she could only have known that they were trying to communicate with her, she could have easily learned a method, but the idea that they were attempting any thing of the kind never occurred to her. She remained in this condition till about ten years of age, when he was placed under the instruction of Dr. Howe of the Boston Deaf and Dumb school. She was given raised letters to handle and soon learned to notice a difference in their shapes. Then groups of letters were fastened to the object which they represented. For instance she would be given a cup with C U P fastened to it. After a time she became able to associate the letters with the object they represented even when they were separated.

It was, however, merely an ex- cerece of imitation and memory. She did it just as a dog performs tricks with no intellectual perception of what she was doing. But at last the truth flashed up on her that there was a method by which she could communicate her thoughts to others. The whole course of her life was changed.

The first step and the most difficult one had been taken, thereafter she rapidly progressed. She learned to spell easy words, then more difficult ones, and after a few years she was able to study geography, history and even algebra. She received and wrote many letters and at length surpassed in intellectual attainments many who had full use of all their organs of sense.

Her case became widely known and she received letters from all parts of the world from people of the highest standing. In the course of time, she became a teacher of the blind and met with the greatest success. And at last, after a long career of usefulness, she passed away at the age of sixty years.

LOCAL NEWS.

Home Ave. and Fifth street are to be lighted with gas hereafter.

Communion service will be observed at the Fourth Presbyterian church on Sunday, June 3rd.

Rev. J. H. Graybeil returned Friday from Pennsylvania where he had been to attend the funeral of his deceased wife’s mother.

Sunday, June 3rd, will be observed as Children’s Day in the United Brethren churches in this city.

Quite a number of West Side people went to Springfield this week to attend the G. A. R. celebration.

Rev. V. F. Brown is to preach the memorial sermon before the G. A. R. posts of this city, Sunday, the 26th.

Dr. Williamson was elected a member of the board of health at the meeting of Council, Friday night.

Mr. Salisbury of Brown County, the father of Dr. T. Om Salisbury has been visiting in the city for a few days.

Rev. Light, Dillen, Funkhouser, Hott, Wright, and Drury have returned from the U. S. General Conference at York, Pa.

Bishop Hott will soon start for the Pacific Coast to hold the conferences on his district. The first one meets June 12th.

Cappel and Turner have sold their bakery on Third street to Mr. Will Troup. Mr. Cappel expects to start a new bakery on Fifth street.

Mr. Henry Pruden has traded his property in Miami City to Mr. Chas. Freeman for a residence on the Main street.

Mr. Jaspur Hamilton, who recently went to West Virginia, has taken up his abode in a town called Big Skin Creek. He reports his health as being much improved.

Rev. G. M. Mathews, pastor of the Summit street U. B. Church, will spend a few days visiting New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington before returning home from the U. S. General Conference.

The street commissioner has had a gang of men at work spreading a layer of dirt off of Third street. If he follows it up with a gang of men with scrub brushes, the street will be in pretty good shape for once.

The game of base ball between the Fat men and Lean men will undoubtedly be the most interesting game played this year. It is to be played Decoration day, on the grounds across from the Fifth street school house.

The Improvement Association is having its effect. All Harries has beautified his show window by filling it up with flowers and plants.

All the young men in this part of the city are invited to attend the exercises at the Summit Street U. B. church next Friday night. The singing will be the special feature of the occasion. Do not allow yourself to miss it.

Mr. Buftz the carpenter who fell from a building over in the city this week was very seriously injured. His recovery will be very slow.

Mr. Jerry Patterson who has been living on North Broadway removed to Springfield this week.

Mr. Perry Winder and wife went to Brooklyn on last Friday morning to attend the county Sunday-school meeting.

Last Thursday Mr. and Mrs. Peter Raser celebrated their golden wedding. About one hundred and seventy-five of their friends called upon them at their home on the National road near Arlington and made the occasion one long to be remembered.

Miller and Drury have nicely sodded the part of the side walk, about their property, lying between the curbstone and the cement walk. It improves the appearance of the walk wonderfully. Mr. D. O. Kimmel will make the same improvement in front of his house on Third street this week. Who will follow their example? Let every one.

One of the best shows of the year came off this morning in Kuhn’s barn near the corner of Second and Summit. They performed “Ouster’s Last Ride” in hair lifting style, and concluded with a production of “Let Her Fly” brought down the barn. Another show next Saturday.

Paul Francis is wearing his cap very well down over his cheek just now. Last Wednesday saw him “just fooling” when one of them threw a rock at Francis and struck him in the cheek. The stone was thrown from a distance of only about ten feet and it struck him with such force that the skin was cut, and one of the blood vessels was broken. His father soon fixed it up and he is around the streets again.

The crossing over Broadway, on the South Side of Third street, is in bad shape. At everything rain and the water in the gutter spreads over the crossing and quite a distance along Broadway, so that persons walking to pass are compelled to go nearly down to Fourth street. Even then they have to jump over the gutters along Broadway. The council should be urged to attend to it at once.
Prof. R. Hull is organizing a brass band on the West Side. The enterprise should meet with great success.

A movement is on foot to extend Home Ave from Mound to Williams streets, thus joining the two sections of the street.

Dr. Arthur Payne, who has been studying medicine with Dr. Williamson has returned to his home in Marietta, Ohio.

If you don't understand just what the Improvement Association is for, you should be present at the meeting at the Republican club rooms, Thursday June 6.

The flower thieves are at work. This time it was the flower beds of Mrs. Bellville and Mrs. Haylin on Fifth street that suffered. The rascals will try it once too often some of these days and get themselves in trouble.

GENERAL NEWS.

In Paris they call Inventor Edison, “The King of Light.”

The French continental buildings cost about $4,000,000.

Four Million of New England's dollars have just been put in the New Alabama town of Fort Mound.

Joseph Pulitzer, of the New York World, is off again for Europe.

Robt. Lincoln and Andrew Carnegie left for Europe on the same steamer, Wednesday.

Walt Whitman is moving about Camden, N. J., in a wheelchair, calling upon friends.

Rear-Admiral Edward Donaldson, U. S. N., aged seventy-eight, died at his home in Baltimore Wednesday. His physician said that old age and liver complaint were the causes.

Wednesday, the Illinois House passed a bill appropriating $40,000 for a monument to the late Gen. John A. Logan.

An Italian boy having fourteen years passed asleep on a Philadelphian doorstep a few evenings ago.

The mild winter and overstocks of canned goods are said to be peculiarly disastrous to the retail grocery trade.

Up to the present time the Canadian government has given 40,000,000 acres of lands to railroad companies.

"It will strain the crop liar this year," says the Salina, Kansas Gazette "to keep up with the procession."

The fruit crop of Pennsylvania is uninjured by the frequent late frosts, and more abundant than for several years past. The grain harvest also bids to be bountiful.

The Senate Commission on trade relations with Canada arrived at Los Angeles Tuesday afternoon. Senator Hale had his right leg badly injured in a collision of trains near San Jose, Monday.

A determined effort is to be made in a few days to evict the Polish and Bohemian squatters on what are known as the "Upper Flats" in St. Paul. The papers are now being prepared and two thousand people will be evicted.

The count of the money in the New York Sub-Treasury revealed a shortage of $85 in a total of $184,000,000. The shortage resulted from the acceptance of a few counterfeit bills in the hurry of business, and by the loss of a few pieces of silver. Ex-Treasurer Hyatt made good the loss.

In 1888 the United States sent abroad $2,000,000 worth of sewing machines, and $6,000,000 worth of steam engines.

More than 1,000,000 empty patent medicine bottles were in the hands of a rich bachelor who died at Knoxville, Pa., lately.

About one hundred and fifty colors are now obtained from coal tar, which has almost supplanted vegetable and animal dyes.

A ton of rope made from the hair of devout women of Japan has been used in building a $5,000,000 temple to Buddha at Kio.

Repairs to Pennsylvania fences cost about $5,000,000 each year. In some cases the enclosures are worth more than the land they protect.

The watermelon center of the world is at Quitman, Ga., a town of 2,500 inhabitants. Last year 1,000,000 watermelons were shipped from Quitman.

Thus far the attendance at the Paris exposition has averaged 71,000 a day, which is said to fall a long way short of the expectations of its management.

Rats in Chinese cities sell at two shillings a dozen, and in the butcher's shop the hind-quarters of the dog hang side by side with those of the sheep and command a higher price per pound.

Kangaroo leather has become so important an article of commerce that the Australians have set about protecting the animal by forbidding the slaughter of it from January 1 to May 1.

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1103 West Third St.
Justice.

An old darky who had no work for several months was offered fifty cents a day as a farm hand. Determined to assert his worth under all circumstances, the ignorant old fellow indignantly remarked:

"I want no man or woman fifty cents a day, nor an 'water-million.'"

Imported.

Colonel Tom Reynolds was shot through the leg, and the surgeon was discussing the necessity of amputation.

The colonel overheard what was said, he was of Irish birth, and looking up suddenly, he remarked:

"Save it if you possibly can doctor; it is very valuable; it's an imported leg, you know."

The doctor concluded that such a man would pull through, and he did.

Fond of Fishing.

Let any one go into that "country town down in Maine" for a little competitive sport, and he will soon find out how rare a specimen of the universal Yankee nation is the unsophisticated creature described in the Boston Herald. If he ever existed he became extinct soon after Bar Harbor became a fashionable resort.

Not long ago a party of young men went from Boston to a town down in Maine, for a few days' fishing. They had a full outfit of "tackle" and by and by upon arriving at their destination, stood in need of but one thing—and that was bait. After consulting their local adviser, they proceeded to the residence of an ancient resident, who started out to dig the wanted worms. He was gone three or four hours, but to good purpose, for when he returned he had a water-bucket full of a wriggling mass of earth-worms.

Now this was more than the boys had bargained for, and thought of what such an unheard of wealth of bait would cost began to trouble them. To end their suspense they appointed one of their number, a popular spokesman, with plenary powers, but with instructions to make the best bargain possible.

"How much do we owe you?" he asked, approaching the venerable bolt-digger, and taking out his wallet.

"Well, I don't know," rejoined the old man. "The ground is kinder solid, and the worms are few doz and it's hard on my back to dig 'em. But I've half a notion to go fishin' myself to-morrow and if you'll give half the bait we'll call it square."

WEST SIDE NEWS.

A Magician's Tricks.

A stout man, with black moustache, seen to be very barren of form, fell to the ground when his hat was removed, accompanied by a younger companion, passed through Washington market to-day and created greater commotion than was ever deemed possible by the astonished bystanders from simple walking through the aisles.

The command to the very beginning of the tour. At Washington and Vessev streets the elder of the two visitors accosted an old lady who keeps a vegetable stand with: "Madam, I would like to borrow some oranges from you for about half an hour."

Not even the blandness of the tones prevented her astonishment at the unusual request from a well-dressed gentleman in a shiny silk hat. She said she had no oranges.

He declared she had. A crowd gathered at the hot talk, suddenly the man turned to a tall young man with a red mustache, who stood in the crowd, and, pointing him by the coat, exclaimed:

"Look here, my man, you should not do a thing like that."

Before he had time to answer, the gentleman had pulled from the young man's pocket a large carrot.

"You're a pretty fellow to be taking the old lady's carrots," exclaimed the other, as he threw the carrot on the stand.

"I didn't take her carrot," said the young man angrily.

"Listen to him!" exclaimed the accuser, addressing the crowd. He says he didn't take it and his pockets are full of her vegetables now." And without more ado the conjurer grabbed him again and proceeded to relieve him of a large bunch of turnips, which were in the man's inside coat pocket. This made the young man more angry than ever, and he was just about to hit the other when the latter grabbed the man's hat and lifted it off his head.

Then the crowd hustled and yelled with delight, for as soon as the young man's hat was lifted there rolled from the inside of it a dozen or twenty large white potatoes. This was too much for the young man. He gave him a look of horrid wonder and fled in dismay.

"It's Kellar, the magician's some one shouted, and the news spread with lightning rapidity.

After this, pandemonium reigned throughout the market. Stand women fetched money unaccountably left their till and saw its way to the magician's pockets; vegetables and poultry left their shelves and were dragged from the pockets of the abashed bystanders. His outward march was met with curiosity mixed with dread. The atmosphere seemed filled with unseen mischievous demons who accompanied Kellar on his journey, and when, as he emerged with hundreds of wondering spectators at his heels, he took a live flutering chicken from the inside of a policeman's coat and handed it back to its owner, the crowd cheered him to the echo.

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143 West Third St., West Side. bet Williams and Broadway.