

**COBB WENT OUT OF HIS LINE**

**Fake Stories Are Accepted, But When Writer Sends in a True One He Is Dismissed.**

Years ago Irvin S. Cobb, the humorous writer, was a correspondent for various out-of-town papers while working in Paducah, Ky. Not a great deal of genuine news for out-of-town consumption is manufactured at Paducah. As Mr. Cobb needed the money, there was a period during which it appeared that Paducah had become the news center of the middle west. Not a day passed that some astounding story was not printed under a Paducah date. "We stood for them," said the former telegraph editor of a St. Louis paper, "because they were so good, even though we knew they were fakes. But one day the boss called me in. 'Who is this man Cobb at Paducah?' he asked.

"When I had satisfied his thirst for knowledge, he told me to fire Cobb. 'I know all the stories he has written are fakes,' said he, 'but I can't stand for that one he sent us yesterday. I like some sanity even in a fake story. It must sound as though it might, possibly, under certain conditions, be partly true.'

"So," said the ex-telegraph editor, "I fired Cobb. He made no protest about getting fired in a letter he wrote me. 'It served me right for getting out of my line,' said he. "That was the only story I ever sent you that was 'wholly' true." — Cleveland Leader.

**WORLD'S BIGGEST BABY FARM**

**Wonderful Foundling Asylum in Moscow Started Originally by Empress Catherine II.**

The biggest baby farm in the world, known locally as the "home of the phony card babies," is situated in Moscow. This wonderful foundling asylum was started originally by the Empress Catherine II, and is maintained, oddly, by a tax on playing cards. In all some 14,000 babies pass through the institution every year. The asylum, which is under the patronage of the royalty, consists of an institution standing in a hollow square round a garden, with lovely trees and lawns, where the children play. A great feature of this asylum is that all the servants there wear the red livery of the royal family, and its accounts are audited and kept by the Russian treasury department. Children of all sizes from wee babies are tended here, and they have the best attention and good, wholesome food. About fifty babies are received here every day, and after a sojourn of a month nurses take them to their own homes.

**The Blue Rose.**  
A nurseryman at Painesville, Ohio, has developed a blue rose. This has been a quest of horticulturists, so the new rambler is a triumph of science. The green rose and the black rose are interesting hybrids, but they are not beautiful. The blue rose, however, should be lustrous. It should have about it that velvet glow which makes the spell of roses. In the minds of poets and mystics the blue rose has long had a fragrance over the garden of dreams. It was said that whoever had been aroused by the wild sweetness of the perfume of the blue rose would never rest again until he had found the far clear heights on which this rose is blown. It was said that the blue rose cast a spell over all who loathed it, and that life was never again the same. Well, the blue rose will at last be common among men, but the dreamer will still lift his face to the stars.—Los Angeles Times.

**His Probable Fate.**  
"Waal, some ways I'd like to see some ways I guess I wouldn't," said honest Farmer Banters, when the suave dispenser of encyclopedias had passed in his siren song. "Ye see, if I was to sign for that 'ere cyclopedee in forty-seven parts, includin' the index an' alphabetical, I'm sorter afraid I'd hev to work so hard to pay fer it that I'd be too tired to enjoy readin' it; while if I read it at my leisure, as I'd ort to, in order to git the good of it, I wouldn't hev time to earn the price. So, all things considered, I guess I'll hev to deny myself the privilege, as it were. Looks sorter like rain off to the northwest, don't it?"

**NEW KIND OF SPEED FIEND**

**Explains to Gullible Friend How He Happened to Be Arrested Six Times.**

Many Dogs in France.  
There are more dogs in France than most countries. Thus it appears that to one thousand inhabitants there are 75 dogs in France and only 38 in England, 31 in Germany and 11 in Sweden. Still hydrophobia is extremely rare in the department of the Seine, the last case observed dating back to the year 1905. Doctor Martel says: "This good state of things has been brought about by the law for killing not only every mad dog, but also for killing every dog any mad dog may have bitten or played with. But since this law cannot work out to perfection the French also exterminate all stray dogs."

Fewer Fogs in London.  
"Twenty years ago there were 55 foggy days in London during the winter months, whereas in 1908-10 there were only 11 during the same period. The fog fiend has been scotched, if not killed," said Sir James Crichton-Browne at the annual dinner of the Sanitary Inspectors' association. The reduction in the number of fogs he attributed chiefly to improved sanitation.

**HOW TO READ SHAKESPEARE**

**Suggested Trains of Thought Ought to Rise Above Reader's Viewpoint of Author.**

You talk about reading Shakespeare, using him as an expression for the highest intellect, and you wonder that any common person should be so presumptuous as to suppose his thought can rise above the text which lies before him. But think a moment. A child's reading of Shakespeare is something and Coleridge's or Schlegel's reading of him is another. The saturation point of each mind differs from that of every other. But I think it is as true for the small mind, which can only take up a little, as for the great one, which takes up much, that the suggested trains of thought and feeling ought always to rise above—not the author, but the reader's mental version of the author, whoever he may be.

I think most readers of Shakespeare sometimes find themselves thrown into excited mental conditions like those produced by music. Thus they may drop the book to pass at once into the region of thought without words. We may happen to be very dull folks, you and I, and probably are, unless there is some particular reason to suppose the contrary. But we get glimpses now and then of a sphere of spiritual possibilities where we, dull as we are, may sail in vast circles round the largest compass of earthly intelligence.

**Land of the Free**

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From the Blue Bird.  
In Maeterlucck's "Blue Bird" little Tyltyl goes to some far-off heavenly place to learn that love abides with him at home. There he meets Mother Love and says his wishes to stay with her always, where she looks so beautiful to him. She answers, "But it's just the same thing; I am down below, we are all down below. . . . You have come up to results, and to learn, once and for all, how to see me when you see me down below. . . . Do you understand, Tyltyl, dear? . . . You believe yourself in heaven, but heaven is wherever you and I kiss each other. . . . There are not two mothers, and you have no other. . . . Every child has only one; and it is always the same one and always the most beautiful; but you have to know her and to know how to look."

**The Highest Kite Flights.**

The art of flying kites is carried to its greatest perfection at the large aerological observatories, and the best records of altitudes up to date have been made at Mount Weather, Va., and Lindenberg, Germany. The former station is 525 meters above sea level, the latter only 120, a circumstance that should be remembered in comparing the records made in the two places. The following list of the highest flights, recently published by Dr. Assmann, gives the altitude above sea ground, not above sea level. 1, Mount Weather, 5,740 meters; 2, Lindenberg, 6,660 meters; 3, Mount Weather, 6,519 meters; 4, Lindenberg, 6,484 meters; 5, Lindenberg, 6,380 meters; 6, Mount Weather, 6,373 meters.

**Mortification Well Earned.**

An Englishman, alone with Richardson, the novelist, said to him: "I am happy to pay my respects to the author of 'Sir Charles Grandison,' for at Paris, and at The Hague, and in fact at every place I have visited, it is much admired."  
Richardson appeared not to notice the compliment, but, when all the company were assembled, addressed the gentleman with: "Sir, I think you were saying something about 'Sir Charles Grandison.'"  
"No, sir," he replied. "I do not remember ever to have heard it mentioned.—From Arvine's Encyclopedia of Anecdotes.

**Quartz Mills in Alaska.**

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Alaska has produced more than 200 million dollars in gold since 1858. So far only placer gold has been mined, except at Treadwell; but new quartz mining has assumed first importance, and quartz mills are going into Alaska in great numbers. For more than a decade the trail to the Interior was lined with weary men carrying their packs and stumbling along over rocky ledges now found to contain more gold than the distant placers. As the great quartz mines in the Sierra Nevada succeeded the placer camps of California, so the quartz mines of Valdez are succeeding the famous placers of the Interior. There is no healthier, happier nor more promising prospect for a young man of energy than the quartz ledges of Alaska.

**His Bones Easily Broken.**

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Known as the "disease boy," James Lortch of Caldwell, N. J., kept up his record when he fell on the sidewalk in front of his home a few days ago and broke his arm. This is James' eighth bone-breaking feat in the eight years of his life and his third within the last five months. In September he broke his right leg in kicking a football. In November when he was standing in a wagon, the horse moved unexpectedly and jolted him to the wagon bed. The jolt did not roll him from the wagon, but broke his left arm.

**Great in More Ways Than One.**

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"One peculiarity of automobiles that I don't remember to have heard mentioned," said a man who had just sent a suit of clothes to the cleaner, "is found in their great bility as jud and slush splashers."  
"An ordinary narrow rimmed wheel cuts into mud and slush and doesn't scatter either so much, but the broad, round faced tire of an automobile moving rapidly throws wide sheets and sprays far out from its wheels. When you see an automobile coming swiftly along a muddy or slushy street you want to stand back—way back. This I have learned by experience."

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**For Sale**

A two-story brick business place in Redford Village. Very desirable location, large size building in excellent repair and with all conveniences. This property, being centrally located, is bound to double in value and will make money for the man who buys it. Pays 10 per cent net on low rental.

**FOR SALE**—A brick dwelling house in the fast growing village of Redford. A new building on a corner lot is a very desirable locality. Is a modern residence in every particular and for good reasons is for sale at a low price. A snap for either a home or for an investment.

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