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"In the course of a conversation with
Madame Campan, Napoleon Bonaparte re-
marked: 'The old system of instruction
seems to be worth nothing; what is yet
wanting in order that the people should
be properly educated?' 'Mothers,' replied
Madame Campan. The reply struck the
Emperor. 'Yes!' said he, 'here is a system
of education in one word. Be it your
care, then, to train up mothers who shall
know how to educate their children.'"
—Aimé Martin.

PRESENT DAY FILMS.

SOME WONDERFUL PRODUCTIONS.

The world's output of films is rapidly
approaching that of printed fiction. Am-
ong them are good, indifferent, and frank-
ly bad, the two latter categories vastly
predominating. So far as real merit goes,
many are no whit superior to films made
ten years ago, but so lavish is the expen-
diture on scenery and costume, and so
perfect are the photographs, that the un-
critical part of every audience, practically
ninety-nine persons in a hundred, never
dream of cavilling at the story.

This type of picture-play serves but to
glorify the superior craftsmanship of the
stage-manager, the dressmaker, the car-
penter, and the photographer, and, were
it really the best the screen were capable
of giving us, then indeed would the out-
look for the cinema be black. Fortunately,
this is not the case. The possibilities of
exploiting what is, after all, an invention
of yesterday were soon realized by many
hard-headed American business men.

BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS.

They took up the manufacture of films,
as they would anything else which held
out a promise of lucrative returns, and
their expectations have not been belied.
Nothing has yet occurred to convince
these wholesale film manufacturers that
they may not march on indefinitely from
success to success.

In spite of the sneers of the "high-
brows," the demand for their wares has
gone on increasing by leaps and bounds.
There appears as yet no limit to the pos-
sible extension of enterprises, at the head
of which are men who would, probably,
be genuinely surprised were they told that
oleographs executed with sufficient dexter-
ity are not equal to old masters.

But these men are not the only ones
engaged in what they themselves signifi-
cantly describe as the "film game." There
are others who see in the screen not a
game, but a medium for interpreting a
new conception of the highest form of
dramatic art, and a few have proved that
they are right. In "The Birth of a
Nation" and "Intolerance" the American,
David Wark Griffith, made two great
films, which immediately convinced all
who had eyes to see that the "silent
drama" was a new force with which civil-
ization would have to count. Both these
films, though not the final word, are stu-
pendous creations which genius alone
could have conceived and carried out.

D. W. GRIFFITH'S TRIUMPH.

Quite recently, no later than a few
weeks ago, in fact, Griffith has shown in
New York a film, called "Broken Bloss-
oms," which has put the final seal on
his reputation. It is based on a brief
sketch, "The Chink and the Child," in
"Limehouse Nights," by Thomas Burke,
which were published in London a few
years back, but passed almost un-noticed,
except by the elect. It is as unlike the
ordinary screen-story as could be imagin-
ed, yet it has had a longer consecutive
run than any film before.

Another comparatively recent American
film, which may claim to be a milestone
in the evolution of the cinema, is "My
Four Years in Germany," by Mr Gerard,
ex-American Ambassador in Berlin. This
visualised chapter of contemporary history
was the most effective propaganda film
ever made. Another extraordinary good
picture that interests and educates at one
and the same time is "Adventures among
the Cannibals."

America, however, notwithstanding her
enormous output, has no monopoly of the
films that count. She has, it is true, in
David Wark Griffith, Thomas H. Ince,
and Cecil B. de Mille three directors, as
they are called, who are probably un-
equalled. She has also a number of screen
artists, both men and women, who are
comparable to, if they do not surpass, the
most talented on the legitimate stage.

TWO GREAT PICTURES.

"Quinnys" is another English produc-
tion that is worthy to live. Henry Ainley's
impersonation of the chief part is a mas-
terpiece of acting. Perhaps, however,
the English film has reached its highest
point in two picture-plays which will not
be seen by the public for some months,
"Faith" and "Hope," or, as they have
been rechristened, "In Bondage" and
"Sweethearts."

Both the theme and treatment of these
critics, while the acting of Miss Sidney
two plays should satisfy the most exacting
Fairbrother, in the first, and Miss Isobel
Elson, in the second, is beyond praise.
Each has created a part that may well be
recognised as a classic. The most signifi-
cant and encouraging aspect of these two
picture-plays, however, is that the man
who is responsible for them should have
had the discriminating courage to get
away from the beaten track. It is note-
worthy, in its way, as David Wark Griff-
ith's choice of "The Chink and the
Child."

STORIES FOR ALL MOODS.

WIT IN WIG AND GOWN.

Judicial humour may, as Lord Loreburn
once said "proverbially occupy a low place
in the classification of wit," but at least it
serves a useful purpose in relieving the
dullness of our Courts of Law; and cer-
tainly no humour, however clever, is more
assured of its tribute of laughter.

Probably no man has a more deserved
place "on the list" of judicial humorists
than Mr Justice Maule, whose flashes of
wit illumined many a dreary case in Vic-
torian days. On one occasion, a witness
whose evidence was so doubtful that the
judge had been obliged to caution him,
protested, "My lord, you may believe me
or not; but I have not uttered a word
that is false, for I have been wedded to
truth from my infancy." "That sir,"
answered Maule, placidly, "I am prepared
to believe; but the question is—how long
have you been a widow?"

On another occasion, when a prisoner,
who had been found guilty, exclaimed,
"May God strike me dead, my lud, if I
am not innocent," Maule paused for a few
moments, and then said, "Prisoner at the
bar, as Providence has not seen fit to in-
terfere, the sentence of the Court is—"

KNEW MORE THAN THE JUDGE.

When a little girl once appeared in the
witness-box, Mr Justice Maule proceeded
to ask the necessary questions to discover
whether she understood the meaning of an
oath and believed in a future state. "Do
you know what an oath is, my child?" he
asked. "Yes, sir," was the answer; "I
am obliged to tell the truth." "And if you
always tell the truth, where will you go
when you die?" "Up to heaven, sir." "And
what will become of you if you tell
lies?" "I shall go to hell, sir." "Are
you quite sure of that?" "Yes, sir, I am
quite sure." "Let her be sworn," said
Maule, "it is quite clear she knows a
great deal more than I do."

MR JUSTICE WIGHTMAN'S WIT.

That Mr Justice Wightman had a pretty
wit is proved by many a story, of which
the following are typical. When a witness
once described a man as "forty or forty-
five years old, and an independent gent,"
the judge inquired: "Do you mean a
gentleman?" "A gent, my lud," repeated
the witness. "Ah," said Wightman, "I
see. That's something short of a gentle-
man, isn't it?"

On another occasion a counsel, notorious
for his long-windedness, had been explain-
ing his arguments at prodigious length to
a Kentish jury, when Mr Justice Wight-
man interposed: "I think you have told
us that before, Mr—." "Have I, my
lord?" said the barrister. "I am very
sorry. I had forgotten it." "Oh, please
don't apologise Mr—," was the smiling
answer, "it is quite intelligible—it was
such a long time ago."

THE UNCONVENTIONAL BRAMWELL.

Probably no Judge was ever more un-
conventional in his judgments and sum-
mings-up than Lord Bramwell. In an
Equity case in the Court of Appeal he de-
livered himself thus: "I agree that it is
not necessary to reserve judgment in the
matter, for I have listened attentively to
the learned and lucid arguments of the
very eminent counsel without, unfortun-
ately, being able to understand one of
them; and I have just listened to the most
profound and luminous judgments of my
learned brethren with still greater atten-
tion; but, I regret to say, with no better
result. I am, therefore, of the same opin-
ion as they are and for the same reasons."

PRISONER AND VERDICT.

It was Lord Bramwell, too, who is cred-
ited with the shortest and also the most
startling summing-up on record. He had
been trying a prisoner on a charge of
stealing a ham. The day was oppressively
hot; counsel had been provokingly lo-
quacious; the very ham was perspiring in
the crowded, stuffy court, and the Judge's
patience had reached breaking-point.
When at last it was his turn to address
the limp and exhausted jury, he epitom-
ized the case thus: "This gentlemen, is
the prisoner; and there gentlemen, is the
ham. Consider your verdict."

When a member of the Bar once re-
marked to Vice-Chancellor Bacon that a
certain barrister, who was commonly said
to have a twist in his mind, was very
clever, "Yes," dryly remarked the Judge,
"he's a very clever young man. If he
swallowed a nail he would vomit a screw."

A THOUGHT FOR TO-DAY.

Let us try to be sensible, let us try to
be good-natured; let us try to be fair.—
Dickens.

SCIENCE NOTES.

USEFUL TELEPHONE DEVICE.

There are times when one or two extra
hands would come in very handy, but
none so much as when telephoning and
trying to jot down facts and figures.
Numerous devices have been developed
to free both hands while telephoning, and
one of the latest consists of an adjustable
arm for holding the receiver to the ear.
The receiver is left permanently in the
clamp, so as to be ready for instant use.
When the telephone is not in use, the
arm is turned away and back from the
user, which act pulls down the receiver
hook.

DRIVING TRAINS WITH OIL.

The silent war upon Old King Coal
continues with astonishing fervour. One
of the English railway companies has now
perfected a locomotive on the internal
combustion principle, with fuel oil for
power, just like a motor-car, a submarine,
or an aeroplane. Already the new model
has hauled a heavy goods train at thirty
miles an hour. This loco is quite differ-
ent from the oil-fuel engines of the
Yankee lines. It will cost barely half the
outlay on the old coal engine, being a
crude oil-fed Diesel, or an adaptation of
that type. Britain is wading into fuel
oil at a great pace. Even in the Argentine
where scores of millions of English money
are invested, the British-owned railways
are beginning to use petroleum in their
engines, instead of coal at £6 a ton.

FARMING BY ELECTRICITY.

It is well-known that in Canada, elec-
tricity is comparatively cheap and is used
extensively on farms. One of the most
complete electrical services on a farm in
Ontario is to be found just outside the
city of Peterborough. Water is pumped
to house and barn by electric power,
separator, churn, and washing-machine,
are operated in the same way, and in the
house there is an electric-range; ironing
is done electrically, a vacuum cleaner is
operated, and there is a fan to cool the
rooms, with lights all over the house in
addition. The most remarkable feature is
the low cost at which all these conveni-
ences are obtained. The highest monthly
bill in the year was a trifle over 24s, with
the general run of about £1. The electric
current is developed from the splendid
water powers of the province, notably
Niagara Falls, and is supplied by a de-
partment of the provincial government,
which has constructed and operates long-
distance transmission lines and trans-
forming stations.

SIMPLE ELECTRIC PROCESS FOR CLEANING SILVER.

In these days, when servants are most
difficult to get, housewives will welcome
any expedient which reduces the time tak-
en to keep the house and its contents in
order. One of the income-producing tasks
about a house is cleaning the silver, and the
process we are about to describe greatly
lessens the time and the labour involved.
The new method is a very simple one,
and without explanation many people
would never realise that electricity enter-
ed into the process at all. The only article
needed which will not be found in every
household is an aluminium bowl. Into
such a bowl pour a quart of boiling water,
and add a teaspoonful each of
salt and washing soda. Then dip
the tarnished silver articles into this solu-
tion, and leave them in for a few seconds;
after which the articles can be wiped, and
then polished with an ordinary polishing-
cloth. With this process it is quite un-
necessary to use any powder or paste for
polishing. What really happens is that the
aluminium bowl, the silver article, and the
salt and soda solution form an electric
battery, and the tarnish, which the silver
sulphide, is taken from the silver article
and deposited on the side of the bowl. The
action is similar in principle to that which
takes place when the process of electro-
plating is carried on.

"The prosperity of a country depends,
not on the abundance of its revenues, nor
the strength of its fortifications, nor the
beauty of its public buildings; but it con-
sists in the number of its cultivated citi-
zens, its men of education, enlightenment,
and character; here are to be found its
true interest, its chief strength, its real
power."—Martin Luther.

"Character is moral order seen through
the medium of an individual nature . . .
Men of character are the conscience of the
society to which they belong."—Emerson.



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