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# POMPEIIANS ALIVE TO VALUE OF PUBLICITY

## Inscriptions on Walls Reveal Customs and Thoughts.

Let us go into one of the completely uncovered Pompeian streets. The first detail that attracts our attention is the varied decoration of the house fronts. Frescoes, caricatures, illustrated signs, drawings, inscriptions—this extraordinary imagery gives what one might call malicious eyes to every wall and a most persuasive tongue. It is evident that gayety once reigned in this popular thoroughfare, and from the variety of texts inscribed on the walls we understand that, among the passions of the epoch, politics held an important place, writes Edouard Schneider in L'Illustration, Paris. (Translated for the Kansas City Star).

Here women freely confess their preferences for this or that candidate for the triumvirate, edleship, decemvirate or some other public office. A number of the inscriptions are plainly of nocturnal origin: "Thou with the lantern, hold my ladder firmly."

Three gladiatorial notices appear on the front of a house once occupied by Trebio Valente. "Gneus Allelus Nigidius Malus, at the quinquennial games, without expense to the public, will stage combats between twenty pairs of gladiators and their substitutes, Pompeius, Savellius, Tigillus and Clodius."

The second informs us of a similar combat, adding the information that "there will be a combat with ferocious beasts and the velarium will be stretched across the amphitheater to keep off the sun."

The third, still more picturesque, invites the public to a spectacle which will be given in the amphitheater to celebrate the dedication of the public archives in the Forum of Pompeii. It tells us that Gneus Allelus Nigidius Matus's gladiators will fight; that there will be a procession, an animal hunt, and that the amphitheater will be protected by the valerium. One odd detail is that the man who wrote the notice has inscribed his name, Ocella, in the "o" of the word "Dedicatione" and winds the whole thing up with a salutation to his beautiful and beloved Nigra, whose likeness he has painted above the salutation.

In another place a hopeless lover laments: "Marcellus loves Proenestina and hath no relief from it." Here also is the wise advice of a moralist: "One should imitate and not envy." Another touches us as evidence of the warm friendships of the ancients: "On this spot we two have become brothers, very dear and forever."

But perhaps the most serene of all and the most despairing beneath its profound wisdom is this, written by some unknown philosopher from the depths of his experience. "Nothing can last for eternity. The moon at its full may disappear the next instant; and behold how the sun, which but now arose, is vanishing into the sea."

### Moral Effect

It was at the end of the third race and the bookmakers had been doing very badly. Having paid out practically all he had, one bookie found himself confronted by a left-looking individual, who presented a demand for payment of 5 to 1 in tenners, and just behind this individual was another little man to whom the bookie's liabilities amounted to more than \$100. The bookie jumped down and rushed at the bigger fellow:

"I'll see you hanged first!" And with that he hit the claimant a terrific blow which stretched him out.

"An', now, wot do you want?" he yelled, turning to the meek man.

"I—I, spluttered the little chap, as he slipped his ticket back into his pocket. "I—I only came up to say that I thought it served that other chap jolly well right!"

### Step on It

Kathryn, aged four, was enjoying her first big trip with her parents. After travelling by automobile, train and boat, they arrived on a Sunday at Mackinaw Island. Her parents decided to go to the little white Mission church to rest and meditate. Kathryn was restless and fidgety. The minister mounted the steps of the pulpit, then stood lost in thought for a moment, as he looked over the waiting congregation. A small impatient voice broke the deathlike silence with this question:

"Mother, what's the matter with the engine? Why don't we start?"

### Plant Bankhead Highway

The soldier dead of Jefferson county, Alabama, will be honored by the planting of 800 trees along the Bankhead highway. The trees will be water oaks, and each marked with a tablet. The American Tree association of Washington, D. C., says this planting at Birmingham will be but a starter for the highway's beautification plans. The association sends Tree day programs and tree-planting suggestions to all organizations planting trees.

### Canadian Farms

The number of occupied farms in Canada has increased from 511,073 in 1911 to 711,000 in 1921, according to an agricultural census bulletin recently issued. The acreage of occupied farms has increased from 63,422,838 in 1901 to 108,968,715 in 1911 and 140,887,903 acres in 1921. In 1921 there were 63,602 more farms of 200 acres than in 1911, or an increase of 47.90 per cent.

### Youth May Well Spare

#### Thought for the Old

Courtesy is not only a matter of speech; we may observe the forms of politeness in what we say and yet miss its essence, perhaps because we are not willing to listen to others.

For instance, when old people are speaking the majority of us are frankly impatient. Grandpa perhaps is about to launch an anecdote. It may be as ancient as the hills—it probably is, but that is no reason for our scarcely concealed boredom. If we were truly courteous we would listen with a good grace, as though we really were interested.

But youth, nowadays, seldom stops to consider other people's feelings; and sometimes the old folk—and middle-aged folk, too, for that matter—are hardly allowed even a share in conversation, observes London Answers.

If they do attempt to take part in the talk some one says: "Oh, please spare us that story—it's so ancient." Whereupon aunt or granne lapses into a hurt silence, while the young people prattle merrily on. More pain than one would imagine is given by remarks of this kind, for by such means those older than ourselves are made to feel their age, to realize that they are "out of things."

Willing or unwilling, the old are thus relegated to the background, and the knowledge that they are superfluous hurts. For, dull as we may think them in some ways, they are not slow to discover when they are not wanted.

The other day, in a boarding house, an old lady of eighty-four, who was all alone, said, rather wistfully: "You see, the old people don't matter."

Can we not make the old feel that they are wanted—can we not try to make old age a time of happy and peaceful waiting for the end which comes so very soon? This would be showing true courtesy and, perhaps, it would not be so very boring after all. For those older than ourselves have a wider store of experience than our own and some of them, at least, can talk very charmingly of what they have seen and the people whom they have met.

### Fertilizing Experiments

That grain fertilized by manure produced by living creatures has more nutritive value than grain fertilized by the best known combinations of artificial fertilizers is indicated by experiments recently carried out at an agricultural station in India. Grain from land artificially fertilized was found to be lacking in vitamins as compared with grain grown from soil fertilized with animal manure. The report of the work is published in a recent number of the British Medical Journal. The experiments were conducted with pigeons, fed a diet of natural millet. The birds fed with millet grown from artificial fertilizer tended to develop the characteristic paralysis resulting from vitamin deficiency and they also suffered loss of weight. It was found that the efficacy of grain in promoting nutrition and preventing beriberi bore no relation to the yield an acre, for although land well fertilized by artificial materials gave twice the yield of well-manured soil, the grain from the latter was decidedly the best in the content of vitamins.

### Puzzled Oriental

Visiting in Indianapolis recently was a man who had returned from an extended visit in the Orient, the Indianapolis News reports. With him was a Mohammedan servant. Manog's calm face remained expressionless and he had scarcely a word to say until the day of their departure. Then he said: "Master, if I may dare, why do you Christians boast of your great land and send your governors to prison? The little Christian girls expose their bodies to the casual passer-by through thin clothes, and your youths are unforgivably rude. Is this because of too much freedom in your country? Or too much religion?" Manog is still waiting for his answer.

### Something Lacking

Verification of this one may be obtained on applying to Park Superintendent C. L. Brock.

A young lady recently arrived from a northern city, and who had never gone in much for zoology, was being shown through the Hermann park menagerie last week. She had never seen a kangaroo, and when she came to the cage containing a number of the species, she stood deeply interested for several minutes.

"But where," she finally asked her escort, "are their shoes? All my life I've been hearing about kangaroo shoes."—Houston Post.

### Not a Native Product

The old lady in this colloquy from Punch is not the first to assume a knowledge that she did not have.

"Have you ever tried Swedish massage, Mrs. Brown?" the squirrel's daughter inquired of the gardener's wife, who suffers with chronic rheumatism.

"I have heard say it be very good for rheumatics, miss," was the reply, "but we don't grow it in these parts."—Youth's Companion.

### "Ringed" by Auto Tire

Frank Kane was gathering corn on his farm near Cedar Rapids, Ia., when something weighty struck him. He discovered that an auto tire had been hurled through the air and made a "ringer" over his body. Looking up, he saw an auto, driven by an unidentified motorist, rapidly disappearing down the road minus one tire.

# People to Get Acquainted With

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