

S. D. PERCIVAL, Editor.

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FRIDAY, AUG. 18, 1893.

WHERE SHE HEARD THE STORY.

How the Details of the Story of the Flood Came to Be Preserved.

I was reared in the days of black mammas. As a child I received all my mammy told me without doubt or question till the story of the ark came: then faith wavered. I was kneeling on a stool, my arms resting on the kitchen worktable, a 5 by 10 feet receptacle for all things needful in the preparation of a meal. Mammy was opposite, cutting up a fowl for dinner in one of the enormous dishpans of that day. She gave me a full description of the flood, with all the preparations leading up to it.

I was especially impressed when Noah's wife objected to the snakes coming in, but was doubly sympathetic when she protested that wasps and spiders were more than she could stand. I grew calmer as Noah assured her that the latter were to go into a closet in the attic, the door to be sealed up, and as to the snakes, they would be boxed and set away in a corner of the same attic.

Other details, which need not here be given, followed till all was ready for the storm to burst. This lurid affair I will not attempt to describe, but as the ark began to float and its ability to ride the waves was proved I breathed more freely and was ready to enjoy, as I had so often done before, the reaction that followed blood curdling recitals. Mammy's were true novelists and generally ended their stories pleasantly, virtue and the right triumphing.

But my peace was to be disturbed—a question sprang up. Long as I had known from other sources the story of the flood none of these thrilling details had been given me. Why were they left out of sacred history, and how had mammy secured them? I asked if she were sure of her information. She replied, "Perfectly sure." After some consideration I ventured, with misgiving, to ask how she gained her knowledge.

My rebuke came. She struck an attitude which said plainly, "It is astonishing how dull some children are." The knife and chicken went to the bottom of the pan, her hands rested on her hips, and looking over and far beyond my head she said, "My gre't-gre't-gran mammy heer eby wad I tell you fum whar she dun hide un'er ole Miss Noe's bed."—St. Louis Republic.

What Thales Did Not Understand. The author of the "Histoire de la Littérature Anglaise" always maintained his interest in the land and language he had profoundly studied, but there was one of our national mysteries which he could not fathom—that of our nobiliary titles. "Can you explain to me something very curious?" he asked. "I suppose it is still considered an honor to sit in your house of peers, but why, as a penalty for doing so, should my friend Sir William Thomson, whose reputation belongs to Europe, and not to England alone, bury (ensevelir) his illustrious identity in an unknown title? Even if he had followed the example of Tennyson and Macaulay," he went on, "and called himself Lord Thomson that would not have been distinctive enough. He was celebrated as William Thomson, and he ought to have called himself Lord William Thomson."

I explained that that style could not be applied to a peer, as it indeed indicated that the person so addressed belonged to a certain small section of commoners. "Well," he said, "it is another peculiarity of the British constitution. At the Academie we talk about Duc Victor de Broglie when we want to distinguish the old duke from our living colleague."—Blackwood's Magazine.

Handwriting on Iron. It was a fortunate accident that led to the discovery of the method of transferring handwriting to iron. An iron founder, while experimenting with molten iron under different conditions, accidentally dropped a ticket into a mold. He presently found that the type of the ticket was transferred to the iron in distinct characters. Following up the idea which this fact suggested, he procured a heatproof ink, with which he wrote invertedly on ordinary white paper. This paper was introduced into the mold before the molten iron was poured in. When the mold cooled the paper had been consumed by the heat, but the ink, which had remained intact, had left an impression on the iron.—St. Louis Republic.

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