

Work Must Have Been Terror to Printers

It has always been a subject of impassioned debate among the unfortunates who have to deal with such things just how bad a manuscript can be.

We have Ben Johnson's word for it that Shakespeare never blotted a line—which must have endeared him to his copyists and printers, no matter what the critical Ben thought of it. We have also Arnold Bennett's assertion that he never touches pen to paper until he has his subject so well thought out that all he need worry about is calligraphy.

But the glory of writing very nearly the worst manuscript in literary history must certainly go to Dostoevsky. The great Russian seems to have had nearly as hard a time keeping his pen sedate at its proper employment as the ordinary run of mortals experience when they sit down to express what they believe to be thoughts.

Said to Be No Spot Quite Free From Dust

When beams of sunlight shine into a partially darkened room you are able to realize how thick the air is with millions of tiny particles of dust. But it is only with the help of a strong microscope that you can appreciate the marvels of dust.

In the dust of one room you may find such various matters as the pollen grains of grasses, scales from our own skins, as well as fragments from our clothes.

You may also find atoms of salt. Salt dust is carried scores of miles inland from the sea, and there is no part of any land where it does not fall. Sand, too, floats in the air, both sea sand and desert sand. Always there is meteoric dust, ground-up morsels of some lost planet, floating in the air. This dust you find everywhere, on the tops of snowcapped mountains and in the deepest abysses of the ocean.

The Gleaning Bell

In many parts of rural England one may still hear the gleaming bell being sounded at morn and evening, to tell the country folk when they may begin gleaning and when they must cease.

The custom is of considerable antiquity, being mentioned by Tusser in the year 1557. As a rule, the bell is sounded from the belfry of the parish church, and the ringer is entitled to a penny for the whole period from each family that goes gleaning.

In some parishes, however, a crier perambulates the district with a hand bell while in others a gong, suspended from a tripod on the village green, is utilized.

Cloud Turrets

A scientific explanation of the connection between the imposing masses of cumulus clouds piled up in aspiral white turrets, which are popularly called "thunder heads," and the approach of a thunderstorm is offered in a recent report on cloud studies made by one of the government scientists.

It appears that the form of cloud called turreted cumulus is most common when there is a rapid vertical decrease of temperature in the upper air, combined with heating at the ground, which favors the ascent of columns of air to great heights, and that is, at the same time, a condition favorable to thunderstorms.

Smithy on Wheels

In olden times the blacksmith's craft was not merely the rough work and shoeing of horses that it is today. Very fine work was done by the old smiths who were expert at the making of iron gates, ornamental fences, firedogs, and so on.

In the hope of reviving this almost forgotten craft a rural development committee in Yorkshire is sending out a blacksmith's demonstration van to tour the villages. The van is fitted with a lathe, grinding and drilling machinery, a portable forge, an oil engine, and welding plant. The village blacksmith will thus have a chance of seeing modern tools and methods at work.—London Answers.

Life's Realities

Life will always have some cross in it. New heights of worthier living keep appearing, new works of service beckon us to take hold. The upward way cannot be easy; it must be climbing to the end; but, as we climb, there comes more love of man, more love of God; a blessing of stronger, abler, kinder, happier life. And ever growing over all, a quiet, restful sense of something brighter, happier still, beyond—some crown of better life than aught we know of here, which the Lord hath, in the unfolding of the eternal years, for them that love Him.—Brooke Herford.

It Wouldn't Be Necessary

Actor—I'm cast for the part of the fool in the new play. Actress—I suppose you are glad that you are to have a part where you won't have to make up.

Devices for Foiling Festive Holdup Man

While it may be impossible to prevent a visit from the holdup man there's no need for a merchant to give up a big sum of money simply because he demands it, says the Progressive Grocer.

In the first place, all the money possible should be banked late in the afternoon. If the bank closes at four o'clock, everything should be cleaned up and banked by that time. If the bank keeps open until six o'clock or nine o'clock, so much the better, for merchants should see that their cash registers or money drawers do not get too full. Along about the time the crowd begins thinning out, and before stragglers start coming in, the bulk of the money, the big bills, most of the fives and all those of larger denominations, are taken from the place where the money is kept and change is made. This money should be hidden away without even the clerks knowing where it is put.

One suggestion made by a detective is that one of the keys of the cash register be wired in such a way that, when it is pushed, the signal of distress is given.

Some Things for Good "Sports" to Remember

Sport is sometimes criticized for the unfairness of its participants or the partisanship of its followers.

It has a mission besides the development of a healthy body, surely it is in the encouragement of fair-mindedness in the players and on the grandstand. Toward this end, the following Golden Rules were printed recently on the back of a program by the army school of physical training in England, and these rules will bear repetition elsewhere:

Play the game for the sake of the game.

Play for your side, and not for yourself.

Be a good winner and a good loser—modest in victory and generous in defeat.

Take all decisions without question or argument.

Be unselfish and always ready to teach and help others.—Toronto Globe.

Washing the Flag

A reader questions the propriety of washing a flag and inquires what to do about it. Taking a navy official as authority, it is perfectly proper to wash the United States flag if this is carefully done so the colors will not run. And this is the way he says it should be done: Use tepid water and pure soap or soap flakes for washing the flag. Do not wring it, but squeeze it out carefully and rinse in several clear, cold waters. Do not let it lie in the water and hang it up immediately after the last rinsing. Hang it so the stripes run up and down and the blue field hangs over the line.

These precautions will prevent the colors from fading. Dry in the shade to avoid fading. If the flag requires pressing do this carefully.

Tree That Owns Itself

One of the most famous trees in the country now stands in Athens. It is unique because it is the only tree in the world that owns itself. A few feet of ground surrounding the tree is marked off and the land is deeded to the tree.

There was another well-known tree that stood on the University of Georgia campus until a few years ago when destroyed by lightning. It was called the Toombs oak—for there Robert Toombs, as a student, meeting with the ire of the faculty upon the eve of his graduation, delivered his commencement oration. It is said that so many left the chapel that Toombs had a larger audience listening to his address than the audience on the inside of the chapel.—Carey J. Williams, in the Greensboro (Ga.) Herald-Journal.

Waterfalls and Rivers

The greatest and grandest waterfall in the world is the Victoria falls, Rhodesia, the second being Niagara, partly in Canada and partly in the United States. These, however, are far exceeded in height by mountain cataracts in Europe and America, the highest being the Yosemite, in California. In Europe the highest are in Norway and the Alps. The water power of some of these is of great commercial value. Some authorities claim that the Mississippi is the longest river in the world, but part of the Missouri river has to be taken in to make the claim correct. Whitaker's Almanack gives the names of the six longest rivers as follows: Amazon, 4,000 miles; Nile, 3,600; Yangtze, 3,400; Yenisei, 3,300; Mississippi, 3,100; Missouri, 3,000.

"Smiths" in England

In England there are 130,000 persons by the name of Smith, and 294,000 then have "J" for their first initial. The John Smiths number 41,000; the John W. Smiths, 30,000, and the John William Smiths, 5,000. It has been necessary to devise a mark for them to distinguish the products they make or own. A monogram with symbols will designate just which Smith is referred to. It was necessary to include five symbols in the monogram.

Character Reading

"What makes you so sure that man is naturally cautious and diplomat?" "That fact that whenever I offer him a cigar he puts it in his pocket and says he will smoke it after dinner."

Measurement

"Why do you insist on regarding yourself as only half educated?" "Because," answered the modest man, "I have read only two-and-a-half feet of my five-foot bookshelf."

Tonic in Air Travel, According to Doctor

At a medical convention in New York one of the speakers heartily urged tired business men to ride in the air as a tonic to lethargic mental processes. He says the air is vitiated at street level in the city, and those who would think clearly, taking their problems, light or heavy, as fellow passengers, says the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

All that holds back many persons from using the plane as a means of locomotion is the fear of falling. The best way to cure that fear is to fly. The many who have tried it do not need to be reminded of their exhilarating sentiment of utter security. One who flies is bereft of the ordinary yardsticks of measurement and feels disengaged from compass bearings as from plummetings of the depth beneath. Space seems the same on every hand; height loses its meaning, except as it expands the horizon. It is attachment to the earth, not detachment from it, that brings dizziness.

The supremely inspiring sensation is to feel oneself borne up and up, without apparent effort or any limitation, as though supported by a great, strong, supernatural hand that could not fail. Those who travel in a closed cabin, impervious to anything but a book or a card game, will not derive from the experience the thrill of travel in an open plane. It is hard to imagine that in days to come the hardened commuter will sleep or frivel away his hours aloft, frankly bored by the panorama beneath him. One who flies will lose much of the benefit it, having all the pure air there is, he does not fill his lungs with it.

Not an Easy Job to Get Python to Eat

When kept in captivity, pythons often refuse food and go on a prolonged "hunger-strike," which frequently results in death.

To obviate this it is necessary to feed the big snakes by forcible means, and a writer in the Wide World Magazine gives a very interesting description of how this is done.

"It is a very simple process," he says. "Our python was carried out to a sunlit grassy lawn. One man held the snake's tail, a second gripped its middle, while a third strode its head and forced open its jaws. Inyorka squatted in front and, taking a pound of meat, gently thrust it into the snake's capacious throat, and with a smooth, round stick, about a foot in length, pressed the meat into the reptile's gullet. It was now the second man's job to massage the meat and massage it a yard down the long red line. No. 3 then took charge and carefully worked the lump down to the pocket where the stomach is located."

Expansion of Stone

It was once thought that stone expanded at a uniform rate when heated, but that is now declared of good authority, to be incorrect. In tests of marble and limestone, small increases of temperature above normal gave only a slight expansion, but the rate increased rapidly with further temperature rises. The expansion of marble at a few degrees above normal was only a fractional part of that of steel; at 100 degrees C., the average expansion was about that of steel, while at 200 degrees it was approximately doubled.

These peculiarities are of particular interest where the stone is used with other materials, as in building construction. While marble expanded on heating, it did not shrink to its original dimensions on cooling. These unusual properties probably give rise to the warping of marble noticed in headstones in cemeteries.

Ireland's Big Cavern

One of the largest and most extraordinary of caverns is that at Mitchelstown, Ireland. The first man to make an extensive exploration of this celebrated natural feature was a Frenchman, one Martel, who is likewise an authority on the caverns of France.

The Irish cavern is formed in limestone and is extraordinary for the number and extent of its connected passages, which, when plotted upon a chart, resemble the streets of a city. The length of the cave is about a mile and a quarter, and it contains some animal inhabitants, including a species of spider, which are peculiar to it, and have their entire existence within its recesses.

Sounded Like a "Slam"

He is still wondering what the young lady meant, if anything. When she happened along he was at one end of a line, the other end being far out in the lake.

"Fishing, I see," said the girl. "Yes," responded the young man. And then he added, in a jocular vein: "Fish feeds the brain."

Pride in Work

Whatever be the conditions which surround you in your work, do it with high thought and noble purpose. Do not whine and complain because of your unhappy lot; but accept it, humble and conscious as it may be, knowing that it is possible to clean out a gutter with the self-respecting dignity of manhood or to blacken a shoe with the enthusiasm of religion.—Hugh O. Pentecost.

Unreasonable to Expect

The orchestra was practicing the composer's long and tedious piece when he arrived.

"What's this?" he demanded from the doorway. "I can hear only the violins, not the wind instruments." "It's too hard a job for the wind instruments," replied the orchestra leader. "The players can't blow and yawn at the same time!"

Sight Not at Best Before Age of Six

A child does not attain his keenest eyesight until he is six years old or more. Small objects are not so well seen, the parts of the brain devoted to vision being incompletely developed.

This is the statement of Dr. Edward Jackson, Denver specialist, who writes for Hygeia, popular health magazine published by the American Medical association, in an article on "The Baby's Eyes."

Abundant reason exists for using large type in primers, says Doctor Jackson. Fine stitching, beadwork and similar exercises, such as are sometimes expected of young children in kindergarten, may be quite harmful. Even when the object looked at is not small the young child must not be expected to look at it long at a time, but should be encouraged to turn the eyes away frequently to rest them. To "keep the eyes on the book" at times when they are tired does not help the child to learn and may be harmful.

Because they can hold things close to their eyes and still see them, and because they need larger images of what they look at to make up for the incomplete development of the eye, young children are liable to acquire the habit of holding things too near their eyes. As they grow older this should be corrected by encouraging them to see things at longer distances. Many children starting to school have eyestrain, or even inflammation about the eyes, merely because they hold their books too close to their eyes.

Newfoundland Is the Oldest British Colony

Newfoundland is often called "The Ancient Colony," because it is the oldest colony in the British empire. It was discovered by John Cabot, who sailed out of Bristol, England, in 1497. Cabot took possession of the island in the name of King Henry VII. Three years later the Portuguese under Gaspar Corte-Real explored portions of the coast.

In 1583, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Sir Humphrey Gilbert renewed the claim of British possession, but his attempt to colonize was not a success, nor were the attempts made later by Lord Baltimore. During all these years the island was visited by fishing expeditions from England, France and Portugal, and the ownership of the island was a matter of dispute. It was finally settled by the treaty of Utrecht of 1713, which brought to a close Queen Anne's war. By this treaty France acknowledged Britain's ownership of Newfoundland and ceded to Britain the region known as Acadia, now forming the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

Adam's Suit?

Little Roger, spending a holiday on his grandfather's farm, was permitted to beguile the hours of a wet day by turning over the leaves of the family Bible.

Suddenly he looked up from the faded pages and quaint pictures, and called out: "See what I've found, grannie!"

In his hand he had a leaf, old and dry, and after a few moment's reflection he added: "Do you think it belonged to Adam and Eve, Grannie?"

Taxes Paid in Butterflies

When he faced difficulties in collecting the income taxes from natives, the governor of the Belgian Congo in Africa invited the native citizens to bring in specimens of a particular species of butterfly. For four butterflies he gave an income tax receipt. He then sent the butterflies to Europe, where they brought as much as 30 francs each. The ingenious method of getting the tax from the natives enabled him to swell the state's coffers without discontent on the part of his people.

Early American Ship

The first American-built vessel to make a deep-sea voyage, the Trial, was launched 283 years ago, January 12, 1642. The builder was Capt. Thomas Coyntmore, who was also the first commander of the vessel. The Trial was constructed at Boston and was 165 tons burden. In these days of Leviathans and Mauretias few persons would care to trust their lives to such a craft for even a short voyage, but in its day the Trial was considered a good ship and brought a rich return to its owner.

The Planet Mercury

Mercury is the smallest planet and the nearest to the sun. Its mean distance being about 36,000,000 miles. It completes a revolution on its orbit in 88 days, and its diameter is about 3,000 miles. Its mass is about one-eighteenth that of the earth, and its density the same as that of the earth. Mercury is difficult to see with the naked eye, owing to its proximity to the sun. Telescopically it is of little interest. Faint marks can be seen on its surface, but all are indefinite.

Tally on Fighting Men

The "Field of Sticks" custom was recently explained at a gathering of Clachnacuddin, Royal Arch chapter, on a trip to Achnabai. The word "achnacabai" comes from the Gaelic term "Achna-a-baichte" (the field of the sticks), and it is supposed that before going into battle with a rival clan the members of one clan stuck their sticks into the soft mossy ground of the field. After the fray it was easily seen how many of them had been killed or were missing by the number of unclaimed sticks.

A Matter of Color

"So Jack Richlight tried hard to kiss you last night and you didn't know which way to turn?" "No; I didn't know whether he preferred a blushing girl or one who pales."

Peanut Not Properly Appreciated as Food

The peanut, sold in this country, mainly to boys in the street and to persons wishing to feed the animals in the zoo, is rapidly becoming an article of the greatest commercial value. Already it is being used in the production of 145 foods and useful articles.

From the peanut we obtain peanut butter, ten varieties of milks, five kinds of breakfast food, two grades of flour, ice cream, salad oil, sauce, metal polishes, toilet and laundry soaps, oleomargarine, wood stains, leather dyes, ink, and glycerine.

A teaspoonful of peanuts can be made into a pint of milk, while the nuts make a better lard substitute than does cotton-seed oil. Mixed with wheaten flour, peanuts make a palatable and highly nutritious bread; they also make excellent biscuits and cakes. Strictly speaking, the peanut is not a nut at all; it is what is called a "legume"—akin to the bean and pea. The peanuts grow underground, and the crop is harvested with a plow, there being special machines which clean and bunch the nuts.—London Tit-Bits.

Tree Frogs Creatures of Peculiar Habits

Many strange variations in breeding habits and rearing of young characterize the tree frogs of tropical America. A famous South American species makes small pens or nurseries under water, in which its eggs are left to hatch, and where the tadpoles are confined, protected from all danger. Another species carries its large eggs on its back until they hatch and the young remains some time afterward. Another species develops pouches in the skin of the back of the female, in which the eggs and young are safely transported.

North American tree frogs possess to a remarkable degree the faculty of changing color by modification of the contents of the pigment cells under the skin, no doubt a provision to enable them to elude their enemies. In winter they bury themselves in the earth or in the decayed wood and dust of old stumps, and breed in the spring.

Retrospect

In looking backward over life I sometimes see much of sadness, and feel life to be a rather sorrowful thing; but far, far oftener it is the laughter that I hear, and it is smiling faces that look into mine. Even memories of merciless drivers, are softened for the reason that time effaces their evil, bringing out more and more whatever of pleasantness they had in them. There were very very few indeed who meant the evil. At any rate, time shall give them the benefit of the doubt.

Judgment is a poor thing as from man toward man, isn't it? Though I have known human devils, for whom in my heart I can find no respect or love, perhaps the Almighty can. I do not doubt that such is the case, and to Him I will leave the judgments.—Bill Adams in Adventure Magazine.

That Kind of a Mind

Mark Twain hated to have his work edited. On one occasion he sat down to write to a man who had criticized his work. He was first inclined to think, "The idea! This long-ears animal, this literary kangaroo, this literate hostler, with his skull full of axle grease," etc., but restrained himself and pointed out to the man his errors "in gentleness and in the unworlding language of persuasion." "It is discouraging to try to penetrate a mind like yours," he finally wrote. "You ought to get it out and dance on it. That would take some of the rigidity out of it. And you ought to use it sometimes." "That would help. If you had done this every now and then through life, it wouldn't have petrified."—Pathfinder.

Beehives of the Ocean

Sponges are the beehives of the sea. This curious discovery has been reported to the United States bureau of fisheries by Dr. Charles J. Fish of the scientific staff of the New York Zoological society's steamer Arcturus, just returned from tropical waters. The bees which Doctor Fish found inhabiting the canals of sponges were whole colonies of tiny snapping shrimp. These gregarious shrimps, he discovered, swim freely about, but always return to the individual sponge which is their hive-like home. One sponge-bivvy with its homing shrimps was secured and placed in an aquarium aboard the ship, where the colony continued to flourish.—Grit.

"The Cup That Cheers"

On September 25 occurred the two hundred and sixty-fifth anniversary of the day when Samuel Pepys had his first "dish of tea."

Only 27 years earlier the very first cup of tea ever drank in England is recorded as having been prepared at the Arlington house, which then occupied the site on which Buckingham palace now stands. The earl of Arlington bought the tea in Holland and gave 60 shillings a pound for it, a sum which today would be represented by at least 20 pounds.

The drink that was a curiosity less than 300 years ago is now our chief beverage.—London Answers.

Victory

Prof.—When did Vergil die? Stewed-dent—51 A. B. "A. B. I don't you mean B. C.?" "No, sir, 51 A. B. Fifty-one years after birth."—Colgate Banter.

Why, So It Does!

Teacher—What animal requires the least nourishment? Student—A moth. Teacher—How's that? Student—It eats holes.

Shadows and Sunshine

by O. Lawrence Hawthorne  
Winter days are often dreary  
But when springtime comes along  
We're a heap more interested  
In the robin's cheery song!  
Mornin' always seems most welcome  
When you spend a restless night.  
After clouds're black an' heavy,  
That's the time the sun looks bright!

Seems to me there's somethin' like it  
In the way life deals with men:  
Prospects always seem the darkest  
Just before things boom again.  
An' I'm thinkin' that the worries  
An' hard-knocks he gets before,  
Help a fellow prize his blessings  
And good fortune, all the more!



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