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BURNING DIAMONDS.

Costly Experiments Finally Settled a
Much Disputed Question.

In the year 1694 it was discovered by actual experiment that a diamond would burn. Then Cosmos III had one fixed in the focus of a burning glass, and after some exposure to the rays of the sun it cracked, corruscated and finally disappeared like a ghost, leaving not a single trace that it had ever existed, not even an atom of ashes.

But experiments of this sort were costly. They were long in yielding any scientific result. It was only a king or a sovereign prince that could afford to see his jewels vanish like the gifts of a fairy godmother. Another potentate, Francis I., tried the quality of a number of valuable diamonds in the heat of a furnace and may have felt some gratification when he found that they had disappeared. This was in 1750, and about twenty years later scientific experimenters burned a magnificent diamond in Paris.

A jeweler named LeBlanc now came forward and denied the possibility of burning a diamond, even going so far as to accuse the chemist Macquer of fraud in conducting his diamond burning operations. He had often, he asserted, exposed diamonds to great heat, with the sole result of increasing their brilliancy.

A Mr. Streeter had done the same with success, but it seems that LeBlanc only knew half of what Mr. Streeter knew. When Macquer demanded that the jeweler inclose some diamonds in coal in a crucible he rashly assented, and in three hours they had all disappeared.

Then Maillard, who seems to have had his suspicions of these operations, put three diamonds in an earthen bowl packed in powdered charcoal and exposed them to intense heat without injury. Next Lavoisier came forward with his explanations of the phenomena attending the results of these various experiments. He says that by shutting out the air diamonds are preserved in the intense heat of a furnace, but that the admission of oxygen, which combines with the carbon of the diamond, allows it to burn almost as readily as a piece of coal.

The Reason.

"Why do so many women rest their chins on their hands when they are trying to think?"

"To hold their mouths shut so that they won't disturb themselves."—*Cleveland Leader.*

A Persian philosopher says, "The goat climbs the rocky hill, the wise man takes the valley road."

Reguish Ravens.

The raven of southern Europe is a bold fellow—not unlike his cousin, the crow. Some notices of the bird, given by an English traveler in Corsica, offer amusing proof of this.

A youth whom I employed to carry my camera could never look on ravens with any equanimity, for he had suffered much from their thievish impudence when sent to the bush to gather firewood. On one occasion he lost his dinner, a loaf of bread wrapped in a napkin, although he was working close to the spot where he had laid it and had turned his back for only a minute. But the most unpardonable insult he had ever received happened on a day when he was out gathering wood. As he was stooping down to a bush a bundle of fogots a raven suddenly swooped from behind, lifted the cap from his head and flew away with it to a lofty crag, from which she uttered croaks of triumph. The cap was subsequently seen lined with straw and serving for a nest.

The Sack Tree.

Before the advance of civilization trees provided the principal articles of "clothing" for inhabitants of tropical regions. One of the best examples of these trees is the "sack tree" (*Antiaris innoxia*) of Ceylon. To obtain the bark of this tree is felled and cut into sections, and these are submerged in still water for several weeks for the purpose of rotting the bark, the latter then being washed and pounded so as to separate the parenchymatous tissue from the closely interwoven layer of fibers. The bark is afterward dried and bleached, when it is ready for use in a fashion according to the fancy of the wearer. The sections of the bark may be cut so as to adapt it for either a ready made skirt, kilt or shirt.—*London Chronicle.*

How New Zealand Became British.

How New Zealand became a British possession is one of the romances of colonization. In 1839 it was a sort of no man's land, but it leaked out that France contemplated annexation. There was a race from Sydney between a British and a French man-of-war, the former winning by a few hours and securing New Zealand for the British crown. A few years previously a French adventurer, Baron de Thierry, at the head of 100 followers, whom he had recruited in Sydney, had proclaimed himself "king of New Zealand," but the baron had not sufficient funds to maintain a monarchy. His subjects deserted, and his reign collapsed.

LEPROSY.

The Modern Disease Is Different From That of Olden Times.

There is possibly no disease the presence of which inspires greater fear in the public mind than does leprosy. This is perhaps in a measure due to the loathsomeness of the disease in its later stages, but it is in most cases simply fear of a name.

The disease or diseases spoken of as leprosy in the Bible are popularly supposed to be the same as the leprosy of today, and the evident fear of the leper inspired in the people of old is held to justify the dread with which he is still regarded. The Biblical descriptions do not, however, fit modern leprosy, so that, whether the fear of the "leper" of olden times was or was not justified, it should not be allowed to color the view with which the leper of today is regarded.

Leprosy is indeed an infectious disease—that is to say, it is due to the presence in the tissues of a bacillus known generally as Hansen's bacillus, after the Norwegian physician who discovered it. But whether it is contagious under the ordinary conditions of modern life, in temperate climates at least, is held by specialists in diseases of the skin to be very doubtful.

Of the few lepers known to the physicians in all the larger cities some are cared for in hospitals and others live at home and visit the clinics or the doctor's office from time to time. Yet an instance in which another person has acquired the disease from any of these lepers is unknown.

There are many diseases more to be dreaded than leprosy because more rapidly fatal, more painful or more contagious. Yet none of them, except perhaps smallpox, is more feared.

The illogical terror of leprosy may be the cause of great cruelty to those afflicted. There are thousands of people who show culpable indifference to the enforcement of the laws against spitting in public places, although they know full well that the success of the crusade against tuberculosis hinges largely upon care in this regard. Yet these same persons would fly in horror from any place that had harbored a leper.—*Youth's Companion.*

John Wesley's Quarrel.

John Wesley once had a disagreement with Joseph Bradford, his traveling companion of many years, and they agreed to part. They retired for the night, each firm in his determination and each doubtless deploring in his heart the separation soon to follow between two friends who had been so devoted and mutually helpful. In the morning Wesley asked Bradford if he had considered during the night their agreement to part.

"Yes, sir," said Bradford. "And must we part?" inquired Wesley.

"Please yourself, sir," said Bradford grimly.

"But will you not ask my pardon?" demanded Wesley.

"No, sir."

"You won't?"

"No, sir."

"In that case," said Wesley gently, "I must ask yours."

It was not the ending which Bradford anticipated. A moment he hesitated, and then, breaking into tears, he followed Wesley's example and forgave and was forgiven.

A Strenuous Hint.

He had been a regular Sunday caller for six months, when one evening he dropped in arrayed in a new suit.

"That's a lovely wedding suit you have on," remarked the dear girl.

"Why?" gasped the astonished young man. "This is a business suit!"

"Well," rejoined the d. g. calmly, "I mean business."

And the very next day he put up \$19.95 of his hard earned wealth for a solitaire.—*Chicago News.*

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Public Auction

I will sell at public auction in front of the Pioneer Meat Market in Redmond, on Saturday, February 18th, at 2 o'clock p. m. the following furniture:

1 dresser, French plate mirror 18x40.

1 hard wood commode.

Kitchen cupboard.

1 center table.

1 Bamboo book shelf.

1 oil stove.

J. W. Woodruff,
C. F. Bartlett, Auctioneer.

Dissolution of Partnership

Notice is hereby given that the partnership heretofore existing between Snell & Green has this day been dissolved by mutual consent. Wm. Snell retires from the firm and James Green continues the business. All accounts owing to the firm of Snell & Green should be paid to James Green and all bills owed by the firm will be settled by James Green.

Dated, Redmond, Oregon, February 4, 1911.

Wm. Snell,
James Green.

32t3

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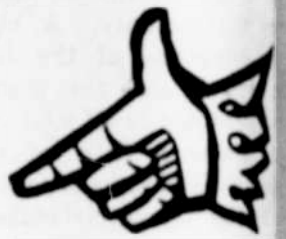
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