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**CONSUMPTION.**

**PAYING THE POSTAGE.**

Postage was always a sore point in the old days. It might be either prepaid or collected on delivery, and unlucky recipients of long-winded epistles or other useless matter often had a substantial grievance. The author of "The Old Farmer and his Almanac," gives a few of Mr. Thomas' frequent hints to his contributors to pay the postage on what they sent to him.

His first allusion to the matter was in the Almanac for 1806, and is appended to a compliment which he pays to a highly respected Quaker correspondent:

"Friend R. D. is tendered the editor's best thanks, for his several valuable communications, at the same time solicits a continuance of his correspondence. The postage the editor will ever be happy in paying, though in some is a great loser."

One of the "loosing" cases appears in 1809:

"A. R. Q. is thanked for his seasonable information. Though we would remind him that his communications come so coated up that we are obliged to pay double postage on them, we would advise him in future to leave off the wrapper or pay the postage."

Again in 1810: "E. W. and others will be kind enough to pay postage on answers to Riddles in future, or they will not be noticed."

A little later: "G. S. our Boston querist, have no objection to his asking questions every day in the year, provided he pays the postage."

E. F. in 1812 appears as a glimmer against several principles: his "anecdote is of the coarser kind, and not capable of being polished without injuring the pith. His Meteorological observations, if correctly taken, would be useful. He will do well to remember the postage in future."

By 1814 the postage nuisance seems to have become intolerable. "J. H. Jr." is informed that "we conceive his Questions to be unimportant, and not worth the money we paid for them," and finally there is an emphatic pronouncement to the world at large: "No notice will in future be taken of any answers to queries unless post paid."

**Different Views of It.**

(Nellie Munson Holman in "Success Magazine.")

"What is the secret of success?" asked the magazine.

"Do write," said the pen.

"Be progressive," said the euhre pack.

"Be exact and on time," said the clock.

"Be careful not to break your word," said the typewriter.

"Don't be afraid to strike when you find your match," said the lamp.

"Push and pull," said the door.

"Stand firm and unyielding," said the flagstaff.

"Don't change with every wind that blows," said the weather vane.

"Never become dull and rusty," said the hoe.

"Climb steadily up," said the hill.

"Keep bright and don't mind the clouds," said the sun.

"Cultivate a calm exterior, but be ready for emergencies," said the innocent flower; "even I always carry a pistol."

**One Sacred Secret.**

Parker—I have noticed that nearly all the articles on "How to Manage a Husband" were written by unmarried women. How do you account for it?

Kerwin—Oh, you don't suppose a married woman is going to give her little plan away, do you?

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**Science AND INVENTION**

An attractive field for wireless telegraphy has been opened up by the organization of the Panama canal project. Officials are considering the feasibility of establishing wireless connection between New Orleans and the isthmus. Between these places there is a clear seaway of 1,300 miles, through the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea.

Work for the insane is a special study at the Vilejuif asylum, Paris. Palating, carving, sketching and even tattooing are included, and recovery is often due to the employment. In other cases the condition of the patient's mind is mirrored in the work done, aiding the physician in his study of the case more than any amount of discussion or consultation.

The earth's interior, instead of being fluid, is now known to be exceedingly hard and rigid. This is due to the inconceivable pressure, and Professor T. J. J. See points out that as the heat is beyond the critical temperature of every known element, the matter must be essentially a gas reduced by pressure to a hardness and rigidity possessed by no substance known to us.

What is believed to be the largest white sapphire ever discovered has just been brought to Berlin by M. Heppner, a German engineer, who has resided for many years in Brazil, where he possesses several mines. Before cutting the stone weighed 1,250 carats, but a flaw caused the cleavage of a piece weighing 490 carats. This piece will produce a cut stone of 100 carats. That cut from the larger piece weighs 418 carats, is two inches in length and one inch and a half wide and thick.

Statistics collected in Germany show that three-quarters of all the tin used in the world comes from southeastern Asia. The total production in 1903 amounted to 93,063 tons. Although the output increases every year, the supply is still insufficient for the demand. The United States is the greatest tin-using nation in the world. It consumes 43 per cent of the entire supply, although contributing very little to it. A tin-mine was opened in South Carolina a year ago, and there are said to be deposits in North Carolina, South Dakota and Wyoming. Next to the United States, Great Britain is the greatest consumer. It takes 28 per cent of the entire supply.

It is the opinion of the Dominion superintendent of forestry that Canada undoubtedly holds the first place among the timber-producing countries of the world, and notwithstanding the great drain now put upon its resources in this respect by the demands of foreign countries, he thinks that its lead may be increased by judicious management of its great forests. The virgin white pine, he says, cannot last many years longer, but in the Douglas fir, the cedar, the Western white pine, the spruce and the hemlock, Canada possesses all but inexhaustible treasures. The spruce is the most widely distributed. Various species of it extend from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast, and from the American border northward to the limit of tree growth.

In Germany, where disappointment has attended the employment of acetylene for illuminating purposes, a new use has been found for the gas in the form of an explosive for blasting. Carbide of calcium in small particles is enclosed in a tin cartridge, the upper part of which contains water separated from the carbide by a partition. At the top of the cartridge is an electric percussion device. An iron pin, worked from the outside of the cartridge, perforates the partition and allows the water to come in contact with the carbide. This is effected by a blow five minutes before it is desired to cause an explosion. At the end of that time, sufficient gas having been developed in the cartridge, the electric spark is fired and the explosion occurs. The effect in blasting is said to be the rending of the rock with innumerable cracks, so that the fragments are easily removed.

**DEATH-DEALING BREATH.**

Amazon Insect with Remarkable Means of Defense.

There exists in the region of the Amazon, says the Scientific American, a variety of insects which are provided with a truly remarkable means of defense. These are coleoptera of the genus *Cleindela*, with thorax and legs of a light brownish yellow, back elytra marked with yellow, and of a total length of whom 0.6 to 0.7 of an inch. Although less insects are sometimes seen in the daytime, it is at night that they can most easily do their hunting.

"In the paths of my garden," says M. Le Comte, "by directing the light of a dark lantern toward the ground, I have seen them running in all directions seeking a refuge in the clefts between the stones of the borders or

concealing themselves under tufts of grass. Every time that I have tried to seize one of them a slight noise has been heard like that of steam under pressure escaping from a valve raised by jerks, while a jet of smoke has made its exit with force, in most cases from the extremity of the abdomen, and sometimes even from the mouth, and disseminating a strong odor of nitrous gas.

"At such times I have experienced quite a strong feeling of heat in the hand, and the body of some of the insects that I succeeded in catching appeared to me to be hot. My fingers and the parts of my hands that had been touched by the hot smoke were stained an indelible brown. It would seem as if this were a very caustic substance which the insect projects with violence in an impalpable dust against the enemies that threaten it, and that it holds in reserve for important occasions.

"This process is not absolutely abnormal, since a number of other animals also have recourse to projections of liquids or odors against their enemies for their defense. But this denotes in our insect both a special chemical talent and a special resistance of the intestines that may be qualified as most remarkable.

"Upon the whole, this little coleopter is nothing less than a dragon that projects fire and flames from both of its extremities and that differs in principle from the famous monster of antiquity only in its dimensions. It may very well have been that our ancestors also knew some gigantic cleindela, the remains of an antediluvian fauna, and that they have not prevailed as much as might seem to be the case in relating to us the misdeeds of the marvelous and terrible animal committed in the days of yore in guarding caverns in which was hidden every sort of treasure worthy of the name."

**FURIOUS FOREST FIRES.**

Man and Beast Are Helpless Against Their Oncoming.

The fury of a forest fire is indescribable, especially in soft-wood or coniferous forests. Here the flames sweep through, making a roaring wall of blaze that reaches from the ground, carpeted with inflammable material, to the topmost branches where resinous sap snaps and crackles fiercely, throwing blazing particles to ignite other trees at a considerable distance. In addition a high wind blows, in many cases generated by the fire itself, the heated air rising causing an inrush of colder air from adjacent areas that acts like a draft of a furnace. Before this combination of ground and crown fire nothing can prevail. Animals flee before it or are roasted to death. During the fires in Washington and Oregon in 1902 lakes were found packed solid with putrefying and partly roasted bodies of bear, deer, panther, and other animals, fearless of each other in the frenzy that brought them together to perish through drowning, heat, or suffocation. In these same fires a picnic party of nine persons, with team and wagon, was cut off by flames near Mt. St. Helen, and all that was found later to prove the tragedy were the irons of the wagon, the carcasses of two horses, vestiges of the remains of human beings, the buttons of the clothing the only evidence left to show how they fell. The horses had been cut loose in a vain mercy that sought to give them a chance to shift for themselves. Near the tires of the wagon were the remains of the women of the party and the position of the men at various points from the central group of the tragedy showed that they had tried to make some sort of a fight. The task was as hopeless as making a living space in the midst of a blast furnace.

—The Chautauquan.

**Peculiar Funeral Customs.**

Swiss funeral customs are most peculiar. At the death of a person the family inserts a black-edged announcement in the papers asking for sympathy, and stating that "the mourning urn" will be exhibited within certain hours on a special day. In front of the house where the person died there is placed a little black table, covered with a black cloth, on which stands a black jar. Into this the friends and acquaintances of the family drop small black-bordered visiting cards, sometimes with a few words of sympathy on them. The urn is put on the table on the day of the funeral. Only men go over to the churchyard, and they generally follow the hearse on foot.

**Where Lies the East?**

"Yes, I've just returned from a two months' visit in the East," the Portland young lady was saying, "and, oh, I had such a lovely time! Those Easterners are so different from us, though."

"What points did you visit?" inquired the new comer in Oregon. "I do hope you saw dear old Boston."

"Boston!" the Portland girl ejaculated. "I should say not. I was in Montana."—Portland Oregonian.

On a rainy, windy night, when you are unable to sleep, ever look yourself over candidly, and admit your faults? And wasn't the result pretty tough?

**Not a Favorite Breed.**

Lovers of good, plain dogs, which have been allowed to grow naturally, will appreciate the story of the English peddler who went to a dealer in dogs and thus described what he wanted:

"I'll want a kind of dog about so 'igh an' so long. Hit's a kind of gry'ound, an' yet it ain't a gry'ound, because 'is tyle is shorter nor any of these 'ere gry'ounds an' 'is nose is shorter, an' 'e ain't so slim round the body. But still 'e's a kind o' gry'ound. Do you keep such dogs?"

"No," replied the dog man. "We drowns 'em."

**A Jealous Elephant.**

A large elephant, formerly the center of attraction in a certain Zoo, found itself supplanted in public favor by a new arrival—a young camel. This camel was the latest acquisition, and very naturally engaged the attention of visitors.

The elephant for a long time showed signs of dissatisfaction, and at last his jealousy reached a point where it must find expression. When the usual crowd gathered about the camel the elephant prepared for action. He filled his trunk with water, and with deliberate aim discharged the water all over the people who stood looking at the baby camel.

**Just Discrimination in Railway Rates.**

All railroad men qualified to speak on the subject in a responsible way are likely to agree with President Samuel Spencer of the Southern railway when he says: "There is no division of opinion as to the desirability of stopping all secret or unjustly discriminatory devices and practices of whatsoever character."

Mr. Spencer, in speaking of "unjustly discriminatory" rates and devices, makes a distinction which is at once apparent to common sense. There may be discrimination in freight rates which is just, reasonable and imperatively required by the complex commercial and geographical conditions with which expert rate makers have to deal. To abolish such open and honest discrimination might paralyze the industries of cities, states and whole sections of our national territory.

This distinction between just and unjust discrimination is clearly recognized in the conclusions of the international Railway congress, published yesterday:

"Tariffs should be based on commercial principles, taking into account the special conditions which bear upon the commercial value of the services rendered. With the reservation that rates shall be charged without arbitrary discrimination to all shippers alike under like conditions, the making of rates should as far as possible have all the elasticity necessary to permit the development of the traffic and to produce the greatest results to the public and to the railroads themselves."

The present proposal is, as Mr. Walker D. Hines, of Louisville, showed in his remarkable testimony the other day before the senate committee at Washington, to crystallize flexible and justly discriminatory rates into fixed government rates which cannot be changed except by the intervention of some government tribunal, and by this very process to increase "the temptation to depart from the published rate and the lawful rate in order to meet some overpowering and urgent commercial condition"—New York Sun.

**Too Deep for Him.**

"There's one thing I can't understand about farming," said the city chap who had contracted with a farmer for a week's board, as he watched the hired man turning the soil.

"What be that, young feller?" queried the honest old granger, as he bit off a generous hunk of home-made tobacco.

"I can't understand," said the city chap, "why the ground was placed bottom side up, so that it has to be turned over with a plow before the crops can be planted."

At the present moment there are 194 monuments in Germany that have been completed to Prince Bismarck, while forty-four others are in process of construction or are planned.

There is a grave-digging school in Brussels, and all the candidates for the post of sexton in Belgium to be eligible must have graduated from this school.

Idleness is many gathered miseries in one name.—Richter.

**Come Now Own Up**

You don't like those gray hairs, do you? And your husband certainly doesn't like them. Then why not try a bottle of Ayer's Hair Vigor? It restores color to gray hair every time, all the deep, rich color of early life. And it cures dandruff also.

"I certainly believe that Ayer's Hair Vigor is a splendid preparation for the hair and scalp, for I have used it more or less for six years. I can cheerfully recommend it to anyone in need of such a preparation."—MRS. KATR HOYT, Minneapolis, Minn.

Made by J. C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass.  
Also manufacturers of  
**Ayer's** SASSAPARILLA, PILLS, CHERRY PECTORAL.

**Is Nation of Chauffeurs.**

The French nation so closely guards her supremacy in the motor world that plans are being made so that every French boy will be made familiar with the operation and the principles involved in the construction of the automobile, says the Philadelphia Record. A course of instruction is being arranged for introduction into the public schools. There are a number of technical schools where the details of automobile instructions are imparted to those who desire such knowledge.

It is said that no city in the world gives the same encouragement to automobilism as Paris. It has been decided that all the public hospitals shall be equipped with self-propelled ambulances and a very speedy car has been ordered to be attached to the municipal laboratory, where all the bombs found on the streets of that city shall be taken for investigation and destruction.

**CASTORIA**  
For Infants and Children.

The Kind You Have Always Bought

Bears the Signature of *Wm. D. Feltcher*

**Her Purpose.**

"Mother thinks you'll make me a good wife," said the girl's intended.

"Indeed?" replied the girl with the determined jaw, "you tell your mother I'll make you a good husband."—Philadelphia Ledger.

For coughs and colds there is no better medicine than Pisco's Cure for Consumption. Price 25 cents.

**A Son's Suggestion.**

Father (cutting the whip smartly through the air)—See, Tommy, how I make the horse go faster without striking him at all.

Tommy—Papa, why don't you spank us children that way?—Glasgow Times.

Mothers will find Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup the best remedy to use for their children during the teething period.

**Off Duty.**

"Hello!" cried the policeman, "reading a paper, eh? I thought you were a blind man."

"So I am during business hours," the blind beggar replied, "but I'm off duty now."—Philadelphia Press.

FITS Permanently Cured. No fits or nervousness after first day's use of Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. Send for Free \$2 trial bottle and treatise, Dr. R. H. Kline, Ltd., 931 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.

**Particular.**

"Darling," whispered the ardent suitor, "may I press you with my manly arm?"

"I am from Missouri," replied the beautiful girl, "and you will have to show me."

"Show you what?"

"Prove that you belong to the Pressers' Union."

**ECZEMA A FRESH FIRE**

Those afflicted with Eczema know more than can be told of the suffering imposed by this "fresh fire." It usually begins with a slight redness of the skin, which gradually spreads, followed by blisters and pustules discharging a thin, sticky fluid that dries and scales off, leaving an inflamed surface, and at times the itching and burning are almost unbearable. While any part of the body is liable to be attacked, the hands, feet, back, arms, face and legs are the parts most often afflicted. The cause of Eczema is a too acid condition of the blood. The circulation becomes loaded with fiery, acid poisons that are forced through the glands and pores of the skin which set the flesh aflame. Since the cause of the disease is in the blood it is a waste of time to try to cure it with local applications; the cause must be removed before a cure can be effected. S. S. S. has no equal as a remedy for Eczema; it enters the blood and forces out the poison through the natural channels, and builds up the entire system. The skin becomes smooth and soft again, and the Eczema is cured. Cases that have persistently refused to be cured under the ordinary treatment yield to its purifying, cooling effect on the blood. Book on Skin Diseases and any advice wished, without charge.

Eczema made its appearance on my left limb the size of my thumb in 1893, and spread until it was large as my hand, burning, itching and painful me, and for which I could get no relief, until seeing the other cures advertised by you I wrote and secured the advice of your physicians, commenced S. S. S. and it cured me.

Mayetta, Kan. J. H. SPRUCE.

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THE SWIFT SPECIFIC CO., ATLANTA, GA.