

Origin of the Halo.

In the public places in Athens one or two thousand years ago the Greeks set up the statues of their gods and goddesses. To guard against the possibility of the rain staining the marble faces of their masterpieces they used to protect each with a large metal plate at the top of the head. These were mistaken by the pre-Raphaelite painters for emblems of divinity. Accordingly to this day we see around the pictured heads of Christian saints the curious little ring which is known as the halo.—Exchange.

A Royal Slip.

Considerable amusement was once caused by a slip of Emperor Nicholas' pen in accepting the offers of several companies of Siberian militia who volunteered for service at the front. The petition read, "We humbly lay at your majesty's feet our desire to be permitted to fight and die for the fatherland." The emperor in accepting wrote on the margin of the petition in his own hand, "I thank you sincerely and hope your wishes may be fully realized."

Fed Them on Stale News.

In the British arctic expedition of 1875 one of the chaplains had a file of the London Times twenty years old, containing the Crimean war reports. One copy was given out to each ship daily. The officers had it first, then it went to the fore-cabin, and soon every one was as keen about the news as if the war had been proceeding. The clergyman in control of the press was besought to issue an evening edition, and when Sebastopol was about to be taken excitement ran so high that the newspaper office—a locker—was almost stormed. The editor, however, was firm and continued with his daily issue, the interest being kept up to the end of the expedition.

The Three Heaviest Men.

The three heaviest men of whom any mention is made in history were Miles Darden of Tennessee, Lewis Cornelius of Pennsylvania and Daniel Lambert of England. Darden died in 1857. When in health he was seven feet six inches in height and weighed over 1,000 pounds. There is no record of the date of the death of Cornelius, which occurred in Pike county, Pa., but the account says that he was born in 1794. When in his prime he measured eight feet two inches around the waist, was six feet tall and weighed 645½ pounds. Daniel Lambert was an English freak who died in June, 1809. He was of average height, but weighed 739 pounds.

December.

"Nobody is worried nowadays by the fact that the twelfth month of the year is called the tenth, December," says a writer, "and no doubt even the ancient Romans soon got used to the anomaly when the new year was shifted back from March to January, though the old names of the months were retained. But there was one of them who made ingenious use of it—Laelius, a rascally procurator at Lyons under Augustus. He insisted on having certain monthly payments made fourteen times a year, arguing, when December came round, that as it was the tenth month of the year and there ought to be twelve there must be two more to be accounted for."

The Black Bean Club.

One of the fantastic clubs of London is the Black Bean club, limited to forty members, each of whom pays an entrance fee of £10 and a similar amount as annual subscription. They meet only once a year, and then a bag is passed round, containing thirty-nine white beans and one black bean. The member who picks the black bean is compelled to get married within the ensuing twelve months, and the remainder solemnly vow to remain single until the next meeting. A house is furnished for the prospective bridegroom out of the funds of the club, which also bears the cost of the wedding festivities and of a three weeks' honeymoon.

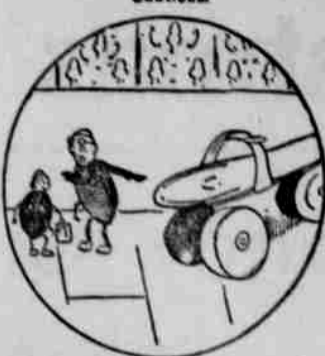
A Movable Town.

There is a town, Gartok, in Tibet, which moves twice every year. For three months of the year it is situated at the place where it is designated on the map. During the other nine months it is not there at all, but is about forty miles farther south, at a much lower altitude. Climatic conditions are the cause of this migratory habit. When the heat grows too intense for comfort the whole town packs up and, driving the herds of yaks, sheep and goats, moves up to the higher altitude, and the traders from India at once begin to drift in. Trade continues for three months; then, before the severe Tibetan winter begins the town moves back.

THE WAY TO LIVE.

Let me but live my life from year to year,
With forward face and unrelenting soul,
Not hurrying to nor turning from the goal,
Not mourning for the things that disappear
In the dim past nor holding back in fear
From what the future veils, but with a whole
And happy heart that pays the toll
To you and age and travels on with cheer.—Henry van Dyke.

Cautious.



Mr. Beetle—Beware of these terrible motor buses, my boy!—Comic Cuts.

His Turn.



"Pa, I heard ma tell her friends that her silk gown came from a worm. Now she wants another one."
"So I was the worm, eh? Well, just tell her the worm has turned."

Getting Around a Difficulty.



"Why do you lace so tight when Clinton comes around?" "Oh, the poor fellow's arm is so short."

Exceeded Expectations.



"You tried hard to work that swell guy for a tip. Did he give you one?"
"Yes. He gave me two. He handed me a dime and told me never to judge a man's wealth by his clothes."

Sort of Board Pie.



"Should you eat pie with a knife?"
"No; you'd want to use an ax if you lived at my boarding house."

Not Kicking.



The Monologist—I've just been asked to present my monologue before the inmates of the state reformatory.
The Head Balancer—Go to it, old top. There's an audience that can't get away from you.—Chicago News.

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The drunkard will have none of me.
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The man who craves rough—strong—whiskey passes me by.
All this is as it should be—as I myself would wish it. I am not for them.

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