

MADE IN MINIATURE.

CURIOUS MICROSCOPIC MARVELS ACHIEVED BY INGENIOUS MEN.

Peter Ramus Tells Some Very Fishy Stories About John Muller—The Ever Growing Squad of Cherry Stone Workers—A Wonderful Knife.

Perhaps the most prevalent mania of men gifted with mechanical ingenuity takes the shape of accomplishing or attempting to accomplish in miniature the mightiest feats of engineering that human hands have ever set up.

Of the medieval mechanics John Muller, better known in the trade as Regimentanus, which one must admit sounds well for one of his craft, who lived in the fifteenth century, was without doubt the Maskelyne and Cook of the period, or at all events he had as a biographer a writer of greater imagination than the other less fortunate geniuses of that era.

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We are inclined to think, all things considered, that Peter Ramus had the makings of a very fine creator of exciting fiction in him and that it was a sad pity he allowed his gift to be wasted in compiling a biography of a 100 years' deceased automata artificer in place of forestalling the friend of our youth, M. Jules Verne.

The cherry stone has been a favorite subject for the worker in miniature since Hadrianus Junius saw at Mechlin a cherry stone cut into the form of a basket, in which were 14 pairs of dice distinct, the spots and numbers of which were easily to be discerned with a good eye.

A tiny vessel has been made of late years by an Italian jeweler who came into possession of a pearl that nature had caused to take upon itself the shape and contour of a boat.

In 1816 a knife was made at Messrs. Travis & Son's, Manchester, containing three blades, buttonhook, saw, punch, screwdriver, box, corkscrew, hook and gullet, two pliers, a species of lancet, picker and two more lancets with a ring at the head.

Of examples of microscope writing there is no end, but one of the most famous is mentioned by Pliny, who said that Cicero had once seen Homer's "Iliad" in a nutshell. In order to prove the truth of this a French writer named Huet experimented in the presence of the dauphin, whose tutor he was in 1670.

"This building," said the little girl, who was taking her little country cousin around and showing her the sights, "is called the half orphan asylum. They intended to make a whole asylum out of it, but they found they didn't have money enough, I expect."

Joy of Suburban Life.

"Yes," sighed the suburban resident, "I thought I had shaken off my hoodoo until that last blow came. Now I have figured out that my wisest plan is to just sit around the house and protect such property as I have left."

"When I went out there, it was with a longing to revive the pleasures of life in a country home, such as had made my boyhood so happy. But my experiences were as dismal as my anticipations had been bright.

"Just as I had become reconciled and was feeling secure they induced me to run for office. You know the rest. I spent \$5,000 and didn't get a place in the race. They double crossed me. Now I'm an Ishmaelite. I will neither give nor ask quarter. I've retired, and I have the finest private collection of firearms in this or any other country."

The Apothegms of Guicciardini—1530.

Make as many friends as ever you can, for you never know in what contingency a man may be able to serve you. Hide displeasure. I have often had to seek the aid of people against whom I was thoroughly ill disposed, and they, believing the contrary or at least not being aware of this, have served me most readily.

Unperceived beginnings often open the way to great mischiefs or great success, therefore note everything and weigh well even the most trifling circumstance. On your doing or not doing what seems at the moment a mere trifle often hang things of first importance, so be sure to consider well.

Never hold a future thing so certain, however positively certain it may seem, as not, if you can possibly do it without upsetting your plan, to keep in reserve some course to follow if the contrary should turn up. I have often seen really long headed men, when they have to make up their minds about some weighty business, set about it by considering two or three cases that are most likely to happen and come to a decision on the assumption that one of these cases is sure to come.

The Care of House Ferns.

In the house where ferns are kept induce by means of evaporation, spraying or spraying as much moisture to the air as possible, for they generally do not successfully withstand a dry, parching atmosphere. For the purpose of retaining moist air about the plant Wardian cases or ferneries are often used with good success or a glass bell placed over the plant part of the time.

Rival Citizens. Johnny's face was smeared with dirt and tears, there was a lump on his left cheek, and one knee projected through a jagged rent in his trousers leg.

"Johnny, Johnny," exclaimed his mother, "have you been fighting again?" "Yep," he replied. "Me an that boy from New York had a scrap. He looks worse'n I do, too, you bet."

Delicious Broiled Oysters. Drain large, fat oysters, lay them out on a board and dry with a soft cheese-cloth. Dust lightly with salt and cayenne. Toast squares of bread. Arrange them neatly on the platter. Put the oysters in an oyster broiler and broil quickly over a clear fire, broiling first on one side about three minutes and then turning them on the other. Pour just a little warm water around the edges of the toast, arrange three oysters neatly on each piece, put over a little melted butter and serve at once.

Man at His Word. "Have a care, oh, my daughters," saith the wise woman, "how thou takest man at his word when he speaketh concerning himself! He glories in his strength and vaunteth it before his fellows and most of all before thee, but he would be handled as a fragile piece of bric-a-brac."

The volunteer lifeboat service of England, established in 1824, has more than 300 lifeboats on the shores of the kingdom and has been instrumental in saving 30,000 lives.

More English women are married to Germans than to members of any other foreign nation.

The Use of the Superlative.

From Macaulay a very large assortment of bests, biggest and greatest might be culled; a few will suffice. "William Pitt was the greatest master of the whole art of parliamentary government that has ever existed and the most powerful subject in Europe before he was 25."

Yet we remember that Archbishop Whately could not sufficiently ridicule Emerson, and what the archbishop (quoting from Bishop Copleston) called "the magic lantern school."

The other example, from Mr. Birrell, touches Pope and Milton. "To say that the 'Rape of the Lock' is the best mock heroic poem in the language is to say nothing; to say that it is the best in the world is to say more than my reading warrants, but to say that it and 'Paradise Regained' are the only two faultless poems of any length in English is to say enough."

The mention of Pope recalls his famous lines on bacon in the "Essay on Man": "If parts allure thee, think Low Bacon shin'd, The wisest, brightest, meanest of mankind."

Eye Remedies. One of the simplest and best remedies for inflammation or strain is to bathe the eyes in warm water.

During the trial of a case the other day in England the judge took out his pipe and began smoking. If an American judge should do such a thing, The Saturday Review would see in it an evidence of American boorishness.

Not Always Understood. A fact often overlooked, or not always understood, is that women suffer as much from distressing kidney and bladder troubles as the men.

The error is easily made and may be as easily avoided by setting urine aside for twenty-four hours; a sediment or settling is evidence that your kidneys and bladder need doctoring.

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