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**Learned Pig in 1815.**  
In 1815 the royal mews at Charing Cross were standing on the actual site now occupied by Nelson's column a long wooden shed was placed, and in it was the skeleton of a whale of great dimensions. Through it the writer walked from end to end.  
Opposite stood, as now they stand, spring gardens, where in old times the boys and belles of the court of Charles II disported themselves. There in a house was located "the learned pig."  
Bystanders desirous of seeing its performance stood in a circle, and within a smaller one playing cards were apparently indiscriminately thrown down. Onlookers, possibly confederates, named a particular card, and the pig trotted round and placed his snout on the named card without an error.  
From that exhibition, the writer, in the same house (he thinks), was taken and introduced to "the Hottentot Venus," an ebony damsel clad in gauzy garments of the most flimsy kind, who displayed her figure by proudly traversing and circling round the room in which she gave her receptions.  
Issuing thence, the writer was taken to the horse guards parade to see the cannon used by the French as a mortar during the siege of Cadix, 1812. It was on a carriage in a horizontal position, and the writer, lifted by his father, was thrust inside the muzzle, and, struggling somewhat, was, with a little difficulty, extracted from his confined position.—London Sketch.

**The Girls Blushed Too.**  
Visitors at the World's fair of 1898 will recall the Indian exhibit or encampment on the shore of the south pond. One of the tents or wigwags was occupied by an athletic and fine looking but somewhat taciturn specimen of young Indian manhood as his own particular home, and while it was open at all proper hours for the inspection of visitors he resented any approach to impertinent curiosity.  
A bevy of young women dropped into his tent one day before his usual hour for opening it and found him sewing a rent in a blanket.  
"See how he blushes," exclaimed one of the visitors. "We have caught him doing squaw's work."  
"Why, that's his natural color," giggled another. "He always blushes."  
"Yes, young ladies," said the Indian in perfectly good English, "he blushes for some of the civilized and enlightened white Americans of the nineteenth century."  
The visitors joined him in blushing and shortly afterward went out without further remarks.—Youth's Companion.

**Is "By Jingo" Basque?**  
Prince L. L. Bonaparte, many years ago, claimed "By jingo" as an English borrowing from the Basques. The Souletin Basques say "Bai Jinko," meaning "Yes, God," not "By God" or "Par Dieu." The k would easily become g in the mouth of a foreigner. Basque sailors and soldiers have always been ubiquitous. Some time ago I was at an inn at Larraina (the thrashing floor) in Soule, where the host, who had gained the queen's medal for service in the French army in the Crimean war, repeated "Bai Jinko" hundreds of times during the day. No doubt the Basques in the time of Rabelais, the first author to put Basque words in print (though he did so rather clumsily) had the same habit. It must always have attracted the attention of foreigners, who would readily imitate it.—Notes and Queries.

**A Sorcerer Elected.**  
M. Legitimus, the new Socialist deputy from Guadeloupe in the French parliament, is a negro. He dresses in the latest fashion, wearing silk hat, patent leather shoes, white necktie and irreproachably cut frock coat. He believes in ghosts, witches and devils and is a famous sorcerer in his own country. In fact, he owed his election to his successful defeat of the devil by dancing and yelling for several hours in a consecrated place. His ability in this line convinced the free and independent electors of Guadeloupe that their interests would be safe in his hands.

**His Pointed Query.**  
Hamilton palace was one of the first great houses in Scotland to use desertspoons. A rough country squire, dining there for the first time, had been served between the second course with a sweet dish containing cream or jelly, and with it the servant handed him a desertspoon. The laird turned it round and round in his great fist and said to the servant.  
"What did ye gie me this for, ye d—d fule? Do ye think ma mouth has got any smaller since Ah lappit up ma soup?"—Argonaut.

**A Polite Obstacle.**  
An incident reported to have occurred in Japan exhibits an enviable standard of courtesy on the part of the natives of that country which is respectfully submitted to that outraged pedestrian, the wheelman's victim. An American riding a bicycle in Tokyo accidentally knocked down a venerable native. The aged victim gathered himself together, deferentially approached the rider and humbly begged pardon for being "in his honorable way."

**Acknowledged.**  
"I do not claim," said the thoughtful member of the club, "that the influence of fashion is entirely harmful. We must admit that we owe the milliner and dressmaker something."  
"Goodness, yes!" exclaimed the usually frivolous member, shuddering. "My account can't be less than \$150."  
—Brooklyn Life.

The chaffinch is a favorite bird in Germany. It is beautiful and a fine singer. Its various colors are gray or deep blue on the neck, a reddish brown on the breast, white on the wing covers and bluish black on the tail.

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