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Naval Impudence.

Fifty years ago the allowance of paint in the British navy was very small, and sometimes the officers had to pay large sums in order that their ships might maintain a decent appearance. One of them resorted to a humorous expedient, either to soften the heart of the navy board, or if that proved impossible, to express his opinion.

Sir John Phillimore painted one side of his old yellow frigate black and white and used the rest of the black paint in printing on the other side in large letters, "No more paint."

The navy board wrote to call his attention to the impropriety of his conduct and signed themselves, as they did officially, "Your affectionate friends."

To this Sir John replied that he could not obliterate the objectionable letters unless he was given more paint and signed himself in turn, "Your affectionate friend, John Phillimore."

The navy board then called his attention to the impropriety of the signature, to which Sir John replied, acknowledging the letter, stating that he regretted that the paint had not been sent and ending: "I am no longer your affectionate friend, John Phillimore."

His frigate was allowed to retain her original yellow, and perhaps the navy board did right thus to punish Sir John's impertinence.—Youth's Companion.

Beneficial Effects of Coffee.

A woman writer who gave up coffee recently found that she was unable to continue her writing with any success until she had resorted again to the stimulating beverage. Without it her mind was logy and heavy. The Medical Times quotes an authority on the subject of prescribing coffee as a medicine in certain states of great debility and adds:

"Tea and coffee seem to be much alike in many respects, but the latter is greatly preferable as to its sustaining power. It would be a great advantage to our working classes and a great help toward the further development of social sobriety if coffee were to come into greatly increased use and if the ability to make it well could be acquired. As an example of the difference of effect of tea and coffee upon the nerves the writer notes what he believes many sportsmen will confirm—that it is far better to drink coffee than tea when shooting. Tea, if strong or in any quantity, especially if the individual be not in very robust health, will induce a sort of nervousness which is very prejudicial to steady shooting. Under its influence one is apt to shoot too quickly, whereas coffee steadies the hand and gives quiet nerves."

Thought Him One of the Queer Ones.

Mr. Quiller-Couch tells this story in the Pall Mall Magazine: "Hicks, governor of the Cornwall County Lunatic asylum, had a great many friends—extramural friends, I mean—and among them an accomplished landscape painter. This artist, captivated by the beauty of the little seaport town of East Looe, took lodgings there, chose his 'subject' and started to make some drawings of it on the rocks at low tide.

"A few days later Hicks drove over to see him, and arrived at West Looe to be taken across the harbor in a boat. To his surprise, he found a boatman waiting for him. Still more to his surprise, the boatman hailed him thus:

"'Aw, Mr. Hicks, I've a-been looking out for 'ee the last day or two. I knowed you'd come. He's over here now. He's been hollering and screeching. He sits at low water down among the weed, a-painting at a bit of board, and he calls out, 'Come into the garden, Mand.' A pretty garden he've a-got there! 'I'm here by the gate alone.' Not a gate within a mile of 'un! You can take 'un; he's quiet.'"

Presence of Mind.

Although it is not given to everybody to know exactly what to do at the right moment, one woman at least can lay claim to a presence of mind which may, without undue exaggeration, be considered phenomenal.

This woman's little boy was ailing from some trivial childish complaint, and the doctor ordered him some medicine. He had just taken his daily dose when his mother said, with some excitement:

"I quite forgot to shake that bottle afore gien ye't, Johnnie. Come here." Johnnie obeyed, and, much to his astonishment and disgust, was subjected to a vigorous shaking from the strong arms of the parent, at the conclusion of which he was laid down with the remark:

"There, my laddie, that'll do. It should be gay weel mixed up noo, I'm thinkin, but don't let me forget again." Johnnie promised.—Pearson's Weekly.

Information From a Boatswain's Mate.

An American vessel lying at Naples was visited by the king and his suite. One of the latter, with cocked hat, mustache, sword, etc., was exploring the ship and mistook the main hatch wind sail for a mast and leaned against it. The officer of the deck was promptly advised of the accident by the boatswain's mate, who said:

"Excuse me, sir, but I think one of them 'ere kings has fell down the main hatch, sir."—"On a Man-of-War."

Seaweed.

The longest plants in the world are seaweed. One tropical and subtropical variety is known which, when it reaches its full development, is at least 600 feet in length. Seaweeds do not receive any nourishment from the sediment at the bottom or borders of the sea, but only from air and mineral matters held in solution in the sea water.

The most offensive thing you can say to a Tuscan is that he is ignorant, or ill bred. You may call him a fool, or a thief, or a liar, and he will only grin at you, but every peasant considers himself a gentleman and desires to run a knife into any one who questions his manners.

First Requisite.

"Now," said the lawyer, "I cannot take your case unless you tell me the whole truth."

"What shall I tell first?" asked the client, peering through the bars.

"Well, you might let me know just how much money you've got."—Boston Traveler.

A writer in a German periodical states that birds have been seen at a height of 15,000 yards. Their distance was estimated by the time it took them to cross the moon's disk.

The street decoration which takes place so often in St. Petersburg is never completed and frequently not even begun until the night preceding the event to be celebrated.

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