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A BANANA TREE.

The Fruit Grows Small End Up and is Cut While Unripe.

Contrary to popular belief, bananas do not grow on the tree as they hang in the grocery, but with the small end of the fruit pointing upward—to all appearances upside down.

There is probably no other fruit of such universal consumption about which so little is known to the average person as the banana. Scarcely one man in a thousand not connected with the business knows what a banana tree looks like.

The fruit is never allowed to ripen on the tree, but is cut half or three-quarters "full"—that is, half to three-quarters developed, according to the distance it is to be shipped—and comes to maturity by feeding from the stalk, which contains a large amount of sap. Bananas cut in this way attain practically the same size as if allowed to remain on the tree, in which case the bunch becomes too much of a burden for its support and either falls or breaks the tree and ripens on the ground.

After the cutting the plantation is "cleaned," which merely consists of severing the standing trunks within a few feet of the ground, and a new tree comes forth from the remains of its predecessor, so that the fruit in all stages of growth is to be found at the same time, and the yield is continuous.

FREAKS OF A GENIUS.

The Man Who Smashed Glasses in a London Tavern.

One day a bulky, tall, pale faced gentleman with bushy, restless eyebrows entered a London tavern. The waiter did not ask him for his order, but immediately brought him a plate of bread and cheese and a glass of ale. Having consumed his lunch, the guest sat upright in his chair for awhile, leaning his hands on a heavy walking cane and staring blankly at the opposite wall as if in a dream. Of a sudden he gave a start. He seized the empty glass and dashed it to the floor with all his might, smashing it to atoms. He then reflected for a moment, laid a coin on the table, got up and left the inn without a word to any one. After his departure another guest had the curiosity to ask the waiter whether the gentleman who had just gone out was not wrong in his head. Quoth the waiter:

"Oh, no, sir! That's nothink unusual with 'im, sir. 'E's broke maybe a 'undred glasses since 'e's been a-comin' to this 'ouse. 'E don't seem to know it when 'e does it. 'E just gits a-thinkin' and seems to git hangry at somethink 'e's thinkin' about. It's the great Lord Macaulay, sir."—St. James' Gazette.

The Name Cuba.

Cuba is the name by which the island was originally known to the Lucayan Indians, who were with Columbus when he discovered it. One of its villages or cities was called by them Cubanacan, and it is reported that from the similarity of sounds Columbus, still supposing himself to be on the coast of Asia, imagined that this must be a city of Kublai Khan, the Tartar sovereign celebrated by Marco Polo. The survival of the original name for Cuba is a remarkable instance of persistence, as the island has been baptized and rebaptized many times since its European discovery. Columbus first called it Juana in honor of Prince John, the son of Ferdinand and Isabella. After Ferdinand's death it was called in his memory Ferdinandina. Subsequently this name was changed to Santiago, after St. James, the patron saint of Spain. Still later it was named Ave Maria, in honor of the Virgin Mary. But none of these names held, and the Indian name is still preserved.

Rice in the Orient.

Rice is kept for use in the orient in its husk, just like horse oats or unthrashed wheat. It is called "paddy" and is beaten or thrashed for daily use. But pure husked rice is too rough and unattractive looking for world markets, so it is polished in revolving cylinders with French chalk to make it pretty, pearly and smooth. But this robs it of its outer layer and most valuable food qualities. Polished rice is regarded as poison in Japan and is known to produce the dreadful epidemic disease beriberi in Japanese who live too exclusively on a rice diet and eating little or no meat.—Exchange.

Well Supplied.

An inveterate wit and punster asked the captain of a craft loaded with boards how he managed to get dinner on the passage. "Why," replied the skipper, "we always cook aboard."

"Cook a board, do you?" rejoined the wag. "Then I see you have been well provided with provisions this trip, at all events."—London Tit-Bits.

Getting Even.

Howard—When Dr. Incision operated on me he left a pair of surgical scissors in my anatomy. Can I sue him for damages? Lawyer—Better just send him a large bill for storage.—Life.

Malicious.

Youngleigh—Which is the better way to propose, orally or by letter? Cynicus—By letter, certainly. There's a chance that you might forget to mail it.—Exchange.

Why, Indeed?

She—Why does woman take a man's name when she marries him? He—Why does she take everything else he's got?

When death comes it is never our tenderness that we repent of, but our severity.—Ellot.

MARGARET ILLINGTON.

The Actress Who Quit Darning Socks to Return to the Stage.

When Margaret Illington, the actress, secured a divorce from Daniel Frohman, married Edward J. Bowes and announced that she was through with the stage and purposed to spend the rest of her life darning socks and attending to other simple household duties people said: "There's a woman for you! Think of all she's giving up."

And now they are saying: "Humph! Her socks must have worn out four



MARGARET ILLINGTON

or five pairs of socks a day." For only seven months have passed since she sang her psalm to tattered socks, yet she is back in New York getting ready to be launched on another theatrical career. The scheme has not only Mr. Bowes' financial support, but his hearty sanction, for he believes his wife is possessed of remarkable talent that should not be wasted.

The "Kiss Not" Campaign.

When the "kiss not" campaign started in Cincinnati recently the country laughed and chuckled and gave the idea one day in which to die out. But it seems the laugh is on the country, for over 5,000 members are now enrolled, and branches are being started



in all the large cities. The organization's only motto is "Kiss Not," and it is inscribed on a button which members wear. Mrs. L. Rechin, president of the World's Health organization, who started the movement, says the button is working wonders. Sweethearts, of course, refuse to join the society; hence the order is devoting itself largely to stopping the practice of kissing at public functions and the promiscuous kissing of babies. Chief among those to encourage the move are physicians, who say kissing breeds disease.

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