ORIGIN OF CUSTOMS.

WHY DO WE DO SOME FAMILIAR THINGS?

Many of the Most Common Practices of Everyday Life Are Derived from Old Superstitions or Barbarities of Our Distant Ancestors.

It is surprising what a number of little things we do without knowing the reason.

Why, for instance, do widows wear caps? Perhaps you may say because they make them look pretty and interesting. But the real reason is that when the Romans were in England they shaved their heads as a sign of mourning. Of course, a woman couldn't let herself be seen with a bald head, so she made herself a pretty cap. And now, though the necessity of wearing it has passed away, the cap remains.

Why do we have bows on the left side of our hats? In olden times when men were much in the open air and hats couldn't be bought for half a doller it was the habit to tie a cord around the crown and let the ends fall on the left side to be grasped on the arising of a squall. They fell on the left side so they might be grasped by the left hand, the right usually being more usefully engaged. Later on the ends got to be tied in a bow, and later still they became useless; yet the bow has remained, and will probably remain till the next deluge or something of that sort.

What is the meaning of the crosses or X's on a barrel of beer? They signify degrees of quality nowadays. But originally they were put on by those ancient monks as a sort of trade mark. They were crosses in those days, and meant a sort of oath on the cross, sworn by the manufacturer that his barrel contained good liquor.

Why are bells tolled for the dead? This has become so familiar a practice that a funeral without it would appear unchristian. Yet the reason is quite barbarous. Bells were tolled long ago, when people were being buried, in order to frighten way the evil spirits who lived in the air.

Why do fair ladies break a bottle of wine on the ship they are christening? Merely another survival of barbaric custom. In the days of sacrifice to the gods it was customary to get some poor victim when a boat was being launched and to cut his throat over the prow, so that his blood baptized it.

Why are dignitaries deafened by a salute when they visit a foreign port? It seems a curious sort of welcome this firing off of guns, but it seems the custom arose in a very reasonable way. Originally a town or a warship fired off their guns on the approach of important and friendly strangers to show that they had such faith in the visitors' peaceful intentions they didn't think is necessary to keep their guns loaded.

Why do we sometimes throw a shoe after a bride? The reason is not very complimentary. From of old it has been the habit of mothers to chastise their children with a shoe. Hence the custom arose of the father of a bride making a present to the bridegroom of a shoe, as a sign that it was to be his right to keep her in order.

"JACK" LOGAN'S FAMILY.

The Beautiful Home Is Darkened by a Hero's Death.

Maj. John A. Logan, whose death in the Philippines is mourned throughout the country, lived at Youngstown, Ohlo, and was especially fortunate in his domestic relations. He possessed a wife whose first thought was her husband manner what a loving heart could suggest to their pleasure and comfort. Her family possessed great wealth, but from her girlhood her chief pleasure was in



MRS. JOHN A. LOGAN.

helping others. The three fatherless children are Marie Louise, aged 11; John A. Logan III., aged 9, and Edith

"Jack" Logan III. possesses the same dark features and black hair as his father and grandfather before him, and, like them, is perfectly fearless. The adage that blood will tell it is evi- them, "grin-goes." They made it into that-ah-sort of mount, my man," dent will be borne out in the qualities one word, by which they will ever was the lofty reply. of the children of Maj. Logan, and know the Americans-"Gringo."shown in a marked degree in young Waverley Magazine.

As an instance of the absolute fearlessness of Maj. Logan an incident occurred shortly after he took charge as manager of the Carbon Limestone Company, near Youngstown, Ohlo, some years ago. The nearly 1,000 employes were Italians, Slavs, Huns and Poles. A demand was made for higher wages. This was refused and the employes left the quarries and organized a strike. Maj. Logan went down to talk over the matter with the men and, if possible, induce them to return to work. All had been drinking and their ugly dispositions were inflamed to a point that Maj. Logan was advised that it was a dangerous experiment to attempt | ash.

any efforts in the direction of a settlement

Disregarding the advice given him Maj. Logan went to the quarries and found that the quarrymen were in a sullen mood. Through an interpreter he learned that they had formed a plot to mob him. Calling some of the leaders to one side he attempted in a concillatory manner to induce them to advise the others to return to work. They returned evasive answers. Looking back Maj. Logan observed the mob advancing. The men were armed with clubs. He shouted in a voice that could have been heard blocks away: "Stop, men; you don't know what you are doing."



MAJ. LOGAN'S CHILDREN.

But still the mob advanced.

"I'll kill the first one who comes near Logan opened fire with his revolver. At the first shot one of the leaders fell and the echo of the next had not died gan then sent for surgeons and had the wounded men cared for.

OPIUM SMOKING IN THE ORIENT

"Hitting the Pipe" in the Chinese Empire and in Formosa.

To learn the actual number of oplum smokers is impossible, but we know the amount of the foreign import of this drug and the naive confessions of reformed opium smokers tells us precisely the amount of opium required to pass the yin or craving. It is one-fifth of an ounce daily. An ounce or liang is consumed in five days, and a catty suffices for eighty days. Four cattles are enough for 320 days, and another half catty will carry the smoker to the end of a year with comfort. A picul is enough, then, for only twenty-two persons, and 50,000 piculs is sufficient for not more than 1,100,000 persons. The law of compulsion in the smoker is just as imperious for native opium as for foreign. It is a matter of great interest to know the extent of the evil.

In regard to Szechuen, that very populous and wealthy province, Mr. civilization the long-lost province of Schjoth, in the Trade Report for 1898, informs us that Szechuen produces 100,-000 piculs of opium, and the cultivation is always increasing. At Chungching, overthrew the Egyptian power in the where he is commissioner, he is told Soudan. He was the chief lieutenant that 30,000 piculs suffice for consump- of the Mahdi who took part in the tion in the province, and that 65,000 storming of Khartoum, when Chinese piculs are exported. We may conclude Gordon fell. After the Mahdi's death | two years, so that the combined pastorthat the smokers of that province cannot be less than 660,000. Since the popone in fifteen is the proportion in cities largest proportion yet known of opium population.-Shanghai (China) Mercury. tion in northern Africa.

Peanut Butter.

There is an interesting little exhibit at taste for peanut butter, which the kind and children. She contributed in every old inventor of the butter-making ma- trade, and the anchor hunters are as a contrivance that makes everybody ants of the sea. who approaches happy and comforta-His voice is like the sound of bubbling down in a loop long enough to drag have somebody open wide his mouth, tinues on her way, with all hands on pop inside the bit of cracker smothered with peanut butter, and then raise both eyes ecstatically, smack his lips audibly, and say: "Wow, but that's good!" Every motion of the consumer is keenly noticed, and if the verdict is favorable that is just one cent under the market the old inventor is your friend for life. price for new anchors. A big anchor -Philadelphia Record.

> "Green Grow the Rushes, Oh !!" Why the Mexican calls the American a "Gringo" can be explained much easier than why the American calls the Nevertheless, there is said to be a good Mexican a "Greaser." When the Americans went to war with Mexico a melody, every verse of which ended with "Green grow the rushes, oh," was very popular. It pleased almost would sing it constantly, and all the Mexicans could hear was "Green grow the rushes, oh." They immediately begun to call the American soldiers by for a ride, sir." the first two words, as it sounded to

Of Much Importance.

"What does a lordly title amount to?" he asked with a burst of fine scorn. "It makes all the difference in the world," answered the helress. "It's the consideration which decides whether a man comes into the family as a superior being or a poor relation."-Washington

Ages of Trees.

A well-known scientist furnishes some information in regard to the ages laugh." "Dear me," said the sympaof trees. He assigns to the pine tree thetic young girl, "you ought not to be 500 to 700 years as the maximum, 425 years to the silver fir, and 170 to the

DERVISH POWER EROKEN.

English Arms Gain a Distinct Tri-

umph in the Soudan. defeat of the Dervish forces in the Soudan and the killing of their leader, Khalifa Abdullah, will to many be the first intimation that Great Britain is simultaneously waging two wars in Africa. The war in the Soudan began over three years ago, when Gen. Kitchener led a strong Anglo-Egyptian force down the Nile to Khartoum. At Omdurman in September, 1898, he found the Dervishes in force and attacked them. The Arabs fought with the fanatical fury that has ever characterized them and in solid masses advanced to the muzzels of the British artillery and quick-firing pleces. Their slaughter was terrific. Over 10,000 of them perished on the field of battle and the remnant under the Khalifa made good their retreat. Since then the Dervishes have been reorganizing for the struggle that they knew was to follow and the British, too, in a leisurely way made necessary preparations. Lines of railroad were extended, bridges built and a government organzed in the region so long terrorized by the Khalifa and his predecessor, the

The battle in which the Khalifa pershed was fought Nov. 24, near Gedil, a town south of Khartoum. The Britme." When twenty paces away Maj. ish advance was led by Gen. F. R. Wingate, commanding the Anglo-Egyptian forces. The Dervishes fought stubbornly and were mowed down in away when a second rolled in the dust. masses by the machine guns. The The mob wavered and ran away. Lo- Khalifa, with many of his leaders, fell with his face to the enemy and then those of the Dervishes that remained surrendered.

This effectually breaks the Dervish



KEALIFA ABDULLAR.

power in the Soudan, and reclaims to Egypt. The Khalifa was the successor of the

false prophet, the Mahdi, who, in 1882 the Khalifa Abdullah succeeded him.

Abdullah was a man without mercy. ulation is 67,000,000, the number of It was he who gave the order of "No smokers is one in a hundred. In Shensi quarter" at the storming of Khartoum one in one hundred and forty smoke; in and who subsequently authorized the Szechuen one in a hundred. In Formosa wholesale massacre of women and children. Without any reason but his mere where the people are sunk to the lowest | whim he caused the death of thoupoint of degradation, and this is the sands of people. He was as licentious as he was cruel, and his passing is a smokers as compared with the general distinct gain to the future of civiliza-

Angling for Anchors,

There are many extraordinary ways the export exposition which daily at of gaining a livelihood practiced in tracts a large number of visitors. They New York, but the queerest of all is the do not come to see, nor yet to hear, but occupation of dragging for lost anchors. rather to gratify a recently acquired At least six sloops and schooners are engaged almost exclusively in this chine hands out in small amounts on famil'ar with the ground where anchors diminutive soda crackers. The inven- are likely to be found in the bays and tor, who is kept busy grinding out the rivers along the coast, and even in the alluring product, is just such a looking open sea, as the fisherman is with the old fellow as one would expect to invent favorite hunts of the living inhabit-

The method pursued in fishing for ble. He is kindly eyed and smiling, anchors is very simple. A chain is let soup, and his idea of happiness is to along the bottom, and the vessel conboard eagerly alert for a "bite," and the "bite" generally results in a catch.

The recovered anchors are usually sold again at 5 or 6 cents a pound. Five cents is now the prevailing price, as will weigh 5,000 or 6,000 pounds; thus the auchor fisherman makes a gross profit on his haul of from \$250 to \$300. But more often the anchor recovered weighs from 1,000 to 2,000 pounds, profit in the business, even at that.

A Racy Rejoinder.

Recently an eye-glassed young gentleman, accompanied by a stylish feminine everybody's fancy, and was sung by o'd friend, was promenading Blackpool and young. While in camp the soldiers beach when a man with asses accosted him thus:

" 'Ere ye are, sir; two champion donkeys for you an' the lady. Nice time "Ah-get away; I'm-er-not used to

Much to the Johnnie's and his fair companion's amusement, the jackass

owner instantly retorted: "I was afecard so, mister; but never mind, my mate'll fix yer up. 'E owns the 'obby-'osses. (To boy.) 'Ere, Jimmy, show Tod Sloan to Bill Beresford's merry-go-round!"-London An-

swers.

"It is very seldom," said Hamlet Horatio Jones, "that we are permitted to adopt the career for which we are ambitious in youth. I always wanted to be a comedian and make people disappointed. I'm sure you make people laugh very often as it is."-Stray NEW GAS LAMP.

It Is Particularly Adapted for Use as

Table Lamp. A new acetylene gas lamp has been invented by Peter Josserand, of Josserand, Texas, which is particularly adapt-



erator in which the calcium carbide contained and in which gas is genererated. A cap screws on the generator and terminates in a pipe by which a waterreservoir is supported. A tube provided at its upper end with a burner, extends through the reservoir and serves to conduct the gas. Water is

supplied from the reservoir to the generator below by means of a pipe provided with an automatic valve. As shown in the enlarged detail view this valve has a downwardly extending stem fitting loosely in the end of the waterpipe, and an upwardly-extending stem receiving the end of a rod screwed in a cap closing the valve-chambr. The screw-rod is provided with a collar engaged at its lower end by a spring coiled around the stem. A tube opening into the valve-chamber above the valve, conducts the water to the generator.

When the screw-rod is screwed down, the valve is seated to cut off the water supply, but when the rod is screwed out until the collar abuts against the under side of the cap so as to allow the spring to hold the valve loosely to its seat, then the water rises in the valve chamber and flows drop by drop to the generator. When the gas pressure overbalances the water pressure, the valve is seated, thus preventing the further generation of gas. When the gas pressure has diminished, the valve is opened by the water and generation is resumed.

The supply of carbide can be replenished by unscrewing the generator cap and placing the required quantity of the material within the bowl. The water reservoir can be filled by means of a filling cap.

REV. DR. STORRS RETIRES.

His Father and He Served 115 Years in the Ministry.

Rev. Dr. Richard Salter Storrs, pastor of the Church of the Pilgrims, Brooklyn, has resigned after fifty-three years spent in its service. The church was organized only a short time before Dr. Storrs was made pastor and he never had an assistant, and the vacations he took, which were few, his pulpit was supplied by neighborly rectors. The church is a large and fashionable one and Dr. Storrs was a fine pulpit speaker. His father, also Richard Salter

Storrs, was pastor of the Congregational church in Braintree, Mass., sixty-



REV. DR. R. S. STORRS.

ate of father and son was 115 years. Dr. Storrs is 78 years old and was born in Braintree. He graduated from Amherst College in 1839, taught for & time in Morris Acedemy and begun to study law with Rufus Choate. He finally gave this up to enter the ministry. He took the course at Andover Theological Seminary and was ordained in 1845. The next year he began his long pastorate in Brooklyn. Failing health led to his resignation. For thirty years he divided with Henry Ward Beecher the honors of theological eloquence in Brooklyn. Harvard University, Princeton University and Union College have conferred on him the title of doctor of laws, and Columbia University that of doctor of philosophy.

Old-T me Writer in Want.

Henry P. Cheever, who under the pen name of Si Slocum is famous as the author of many humorous sketches and stories for boys, and who was recently, at 73 years of age, committed to the workhouse as a pauper by a New York police magistrate, thinks that all men over the age of 50 who are not provided for and are liable to become a charge on the public should be put to death by the government. Mr. Cheever is a war veteran, and was provost marshal in Washington during the years 1863-65 .- Philadelphia Times.

Americanism Abroad.

In the poet's cornor of Westminster Abbey a bust of Lowell has found its place, and American enthusiasm rises high at the sight and feels that it must leave a record. Calling cards of all sorts and conditions are consequently posted about the bust of the American poet.-New York Evening Sun.

Visitor-I wonder that you allow your servant girl to kindle the fire with kerosene. Aren't you afraid she'll be burned to death some day? Mr. Howson Lott -There's no danger; she's too green to burn.-Harper's Bazar.

It is possible to make a great reputation with a very little sense; a man with a little sense is really quite a

The Marriageable Age. A spinster who is still living in hope says the marriageable age is anywhere between the seminary and the ceme-

tery .- Chicago Daily News. The Typewriter Invention. A statistician has proven that the inven-tion of the typewriter has given employ-ment to 500,000 people, but he fails to state how many cases of weak stomachs it has induced. All people of sedentary occupation need Hostetter's Stomach Bitters t helps nature to bear the strain which ensues from confinement.

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His Misfortune. Teacher-Try to remember this: Milton, the poet, was blind. Do you think you can remember it? Bobby Smart-Yes, ma'am.

"Now, what was Milton's great nisfortune?" "He was a poet."-Columbus (O.

State Journal.

"A Miss is As Good as a Mile.

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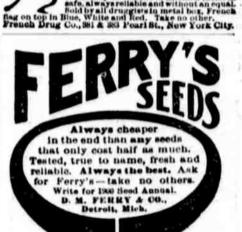
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