

SEX IN HANDWRITING.

An Interesting Little Experiment to Prove a Theory.

It is a curious fact that one of the only things which even an expert graphologist does not guarantee to discover in handwriting is the sex of the writer. We are accustomed to think that the feminine or masculine temperament will readily betray itself in the written word, but in the majority of cases such is not the case.

Writing bold, black and firm, most masculine appearing in every way, will frequently be found to emanate from the pen of a woman, while delicate tracery, with the regularity suggestive of precision and method or the dash and spontaneity which indicate a lively fancy almost unmistakably feminine, one says on examination is discovered to belong to a writer of the opposite sex.

An interesting little experiment proving this theory can be made in this way: Take twelve or twenty envelopes written in ciphers which you are sure of and number each scrap clearly. Pass them around and see how many of your friends will correctly guess the sex of the different writers, which may be written down and numbered like the envelopes. It will seldom prove that more than one-third of the guesses at most are correct.—Exchange.

CAPTAIN KIDD.

The Career and the Ending of the Famous Pirate.

Captain Kidd, the famous pirate, started his career with the intention of suppressing piracy. In February, 1697, he left the Hudson in the Adventure Galley with a crew of 150 men with this intention. This expedition had been equipped chiefly at the expense of the Whig ministers, and its commander carried with him, besides the ordinary letters of marque, a commission under the great seal empowering him to seize pirates and to take them to some place where they might be dealt with according to law.

The king's right to the goods found in possession of these malefactors was granted by letters patent to the supporters of the expedition, his majesty securing only one-tenth of the spoil. Kidd, however, soon finding that little was to be gained by the adventure, threw off all disguise and hoisted the Jolly Roger.

His rapacity and cruelty were unbounded, and in less than two years he amassed the sum of £200,000. With this he thought to make his peace with the authorities and end his days in luxury, but he was arrested at New York and brought to England, where he was tried and hanged at Execution dock in 1701.—London Saturday Review.

Prince Napoleon.

Prince Napoleon in 1870 was something of a prophet. When he heard of the emperor's declaration of war he hurried to St. Cloud and had a stormy interview with the emperor. He didn't hesitate to say, "It is the emperor who has brought this upon us," and the emperor, while offended at his frankness, admitted that "your presentiments perhaps correspond with mine." Then the prince fired his last shot and showed that, though he might go astray in many things, he knew of the weakness of France and the strength of Germany. He turned on his heel and, with that bitterness which he didn't hesitate to exhibit when occasion required, said: "So be it; so be it! Let us, however, make haste to pack our possessions, for we are already beaten." And so the result proved.

The Saltiest of the Salt Seas.

Some idea of the saltiness of the waters of the Dead sea may be gained from the comparison made below. The Dead sea is situated in Palestine, 20 miles east of Jerusalem. It is 35 miles long and from 19 to 15 miles wide, with an average depth of 20 fathoms (120 feet). Common ocean water contains but 30 parts of salt to the 1,000. Those of the Dead sea contain 250 parts to the 1,000, which makes the briny solution exactly one-fourth salt.

The Calabar Bean.

The famous Calabar bean is said to be worse than strychnine. The natives use it for an ordeal. If a person is accused of a crime he is made to eat one, being adjudged to be guilty in case of death, which is almost inevitable. Another seed employed for a like purpose is that of the ordeal tree of Madagascar, said to be the most deadly of vegetable products. One of these seeds about the size of an almond will kill twenty men.

Curly Hair.

Curly hair is a constitutional, hereditary phenomenon. The curly hair curls because it is flat. Straight hair is cylindrical. Being flat, the hair has a natural tendency to assume a spiral shape. Cutting has no effect, as the cause of the flatness lies in the shape of the follicle. Hair issuing from a slanting, crooked follicle is bound to be flattened and twisted.

Natural Inquiry.

"I had a cousin who was in one position for thirty-four years, and"—begin Hi Spy.

"Holdin' a government job or playin' a game of chess?" Inquired Old Codger in his usual grim way.—Puck.

Embarrassing.

Rich Flancee—Oh, this bouquet is too costly! You must take it back to the Lieutenant! Valet—Oh, that's all right, miss. Since my master is engaged to you he has been able to get things on credit.—Flegende Blatter.

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