

THE LOVERS' CANDLES.

An Old Courthouse Custom That Still Prevails in Poland. A quaint old superstition is to this day held in Poland to the effect that two lighted candles set afloat on the river by two lovers will by their conduct foretell if the course of true love will run smooth or otherwise.

BOATS CONTAINING BURNING CANDLES AND gentlemen. Each person carries two wreaths and two candles, the latter representing the person carrying them and the object of his or her affections. They are lighted, fixed firmly in the center of the wreaths and laid side by side in the water. Should they float down the river close together it is a sign that their lives should be united. Should they drift away from each other it is a sign that the lovers will be parted, and should they only drift asunder for a little way and farther on come together again it is a sign that the loved ones will only be parted for a time and all come right in the end.

There is much merriment and order about the arrangement of this procession. The boats glide along in rows, so many abreast, and after the first row have proved their wreaths they move away to the sides and the others come forward in succession. The river is well illuminated, and a large concourse of people assembles to watch the proceedings. The scene is a charming one and reminds one more of fairyland than of anything else.

MATELESS PIGEONS.

Curious Provision of Nature to End Their Solitude.

"Pigeons are monogamous," said a raiser of those birds for market, "and the female lays but two eggs. One of these is always the egg from which a male is hatched, and the other incloses the future female. If by any accident a cock pigeon loses its mate or a hen pigeon becomes widowed the sympathies of the entire cot go out to the afflicted brother or sister. If it should so happen that a cock should lose his mate and a hen hers, so that they are both mateless at the same time, the afflicted pair soon forget their grief in a new life partnership, and all is serene.

"But if there is a widower in the cot and no convenient widow for him to take to mate, or if there is a widow for whom no widower pigeon is on hand, something must be done to fill the vacancy. Upon the first hen pigeon to nest after the vacancy occurs falls the important duty. If she hasn't hatched her eggs yet she promptly dumps one of the two out of the nest. She never makes a mistake in evicting the right one. If a widow is to be provided for, the hen throws out the egg containing her future daughter; if a widower is pining for a mate she disposes of the son egg. If she has hatched her egg when a demand is made for her sacrifice she ceases feeding the youngster who will be superfluous and starves it to death. Pigeons grow fast, and, squabhood over, the lone product of that nest becomes mate to the bereaved member of the flock."

Sunday Observance.

Scene, Scotch farmhouse; time, Sunday morning. Tourist (to farmer's wife)—Can you let me have a glass of milk, please? Milk is produced and consumed. Tourist (taking some coppers from his pocket)—A penny, I suppose. Farmer's Wife—Mon, dae ye no think same o' yersel' tee he buyin' goods on the Sawbath? Tourist (frocketing the coppers)—Oh, well, there's no harm done. I'm sure I'm much obliged. But won't you have the money for it? Farmer's Wife—Na, na; I'll no tak' less than aarpenae for breakin' the Sawbath!—Leeds Mercury

Washington and Harvard.

Washington received from Harvard college the honorary degree of doctor of laws. The distinction was voted by the president and fellows of the college at the meeting at Watertown April 3, 1776, "as an expression of the gratitude of this college for his eminent services in the cause of his country and to their society." The signers were President Samuel Langdon, Nathaniel Appleton, John Winthrop, Andrew Elliot, Samuel Cooper and John Wadsworth.

Didn't Know.

There are some persons who cannot take a joke, but Snuggins is not one of them. A "friend" acquainted with Snuggins' frequent changes of abode asked him which he thought was the cheaper—to move or to pay rent. "I can't tell you, my dear boy," replied Snuggins. "I have always moved."—London Telegraph

Aids to Happiness.

Cultivate the habit of detecting the possibilities for good in things and people; also the habit of letting people know how much you like them. It makes the world a pleasant place.—Woman's Life.

His Scheme.

Creditor—Can't you pay me something on account of that bill you owe me? Debtor—How much do you want? Creditor—I'd like enough to meet the fees of a lawyer to sue you for the balance.

Barks.

The class in natural history, being asked the difference between a dog and a tree, the head boy answered, "A tree is covered with bark, while a dog seems to be lined with it."

When a Man is Weakest.

According to experiments with the dynamometer, a man is precisely at his weakest when he turns out of bed. Our muscular force is greatly increased by breakfast, but it attains to its highest point after the midday meal. It then sinks for a few hours, rises again toward evening, but steadily declines from night to morning. The chief foes of muscular force are overwork and idleness.

TELESCOPES.

The Difference Between Reflecting and Refracting Kinds.

A very pretty little experiment which illustrates the two methods of forming an optical image and by way of corollary illustrates the essential difference between refracting and reflecting telescopes may be performed by any one who possesses a reading glass and a magnifying hand mirror. In a room that is not too brightly illuminated pin a sheet of white paper on the wall opposite to a window that by preference should face the north or away from the position of the sun. Taking first the reading glass, hold it between the window and the wall parallel to the sheet of paper and a foot or more distant from the latter. By moving it to and fro a little you will be able to find a distance corresponding to the focal length of the lens, at which a picture of the window is formed on the paper. This picture, or image, will be upside down because the rays of light cross at the focus. By moving the glass a little closer to the wall you will cause the picture of the window to become indistinct, while a beautiful image of the houses, trees or other objects of the outdoor world beyond will be formed upon the paper. We thus learn that the distance of the image from the lens varies with the distance of the object whose image is formed. In precisely a similar manner an image is formed at the focus of the object glass of a refracting telescope. Take next your magnifying or concave mirror, and, detaching the sheet of paper from the wall, hold it nearly in front of the mirror between the latter and the window. When you have adjusted the distance to the focal length of the mirror, you will see an image of the window projected on the paper. By varying the distance as before you will be able to produce at will pictures of nearer or more remote objects. It is in this way that images are formed at the focus of the mirror of a reflecting telescope.

John Hunter, the famous anatomist, once said that the feminine love of conversation was a consequence of a peculiarity in brain tissue.

Doctor Brigham Says MANY PHYSICIANS PRESCRIBE Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

The wonderful power of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound over the diseases of womankind is not because it is a stimulant, not because it is a palliative, but simply because it is the most wonderful tonic and reconstructor ever discovered to act directly upon the generative organs, positively curing disease and restoring health and vigor.

Marvelous cures are reported from all parts of the country by women who have been cured, trained nurses who have witnessed cures and physicians who have recognized the virtue of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and are fair enough to give credit where it is due.

If physicians dared to be frank and open, hundreds of them would acknowledge that they constantly prescribe Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound in severe cases of female ills, as they know by experience it can be relied upon to effect a cure. The following letter proves it.

Dr. S. C. Brigham, of 4 Brigham Park, Fitchburg, Mass., writes:

"It gives me great pleasure to say that I have found Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound very efficacious, and often prescribe it in my practice for female difficulties. My oldest daughter found it very beneficial for female trouble some time ago, and my youngest daughter is now taking it for a female weakness, and is surely gaining in health and strength. I freely advocate it as a most reliable specific in all diseases to which women are subject, and give it honest endorsement."

Women who are troubled with painful or irregular periods, bloating (or flatulency), weakness of organs, displacements, inflammation or ulceration, can be restored to perfect health and strength by taking Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. If advice is needed write to Mrs. Pinkham, at Lynn, Mass. She is daughter-in-law of Lydia E. Pinkham and for twenty-five years has been advising sick women free of charge. No other living person has had the benefit of a wider experience in treating female ills. She has guided thousands to health. Every suffering woman should ask for and follow her advice if she wants to be strong and well.

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