

The Story as Told in Greek Fable—The Sheaf of Straw—Saxon Tradition—The Bushmen's Belief—Meteorological Phenomena—Forecasts.

The brilliant appearance and prominent color of the Milky Way have not failed to give rise to many curious names and to many legends as to its origin.

According to the Greek fable, it was produced by the milk of Hera (Juno). Children born of Jupiter's illicit amours could only inherit divine honors if suckled by this lawful nurse of the great Olympian god.

A curious class of legends accounts for the creation of the bright band of stars across the heavens. One of these, from Wallachia, relates that Venus punished a sheaf of straw one night from St. Peter's mills, and in her hasty flight toward her celestial abode scattered it across the sky.

The peculiar whiteness of the Milky Way is also evidently referred to in its Transylvanian name of the "Floury Way," and its Westphalian titles, the "Road to Mill" and the "Sandy Path."

Like the rainbow and other prominent celestial appearances the Milky Way is connected in popular tradition with meteorological phenomena. In Westphalia it is called the "Weather Stripe," "Weather Street" and "Weather Tree," and is also given the name of "Wind Tree."

When the singer chokes down. It is related of a certain manager of a variety theatre in Peoria, Ill., that every Monday night when a company of new performers open for the week he takes a seat near a large coal stove at the back of the theatre, and when the serio-comic makes her appearance, listens attentively to learn how her singing pleases the audience.

Best for the Engineers. Engineers on the Great Northern railway, England, are given at least nine hours' rest between one day's labor and another, as a precaution against accidents.

Ostrich Farming in Africa. The chicken feathers are first plucked at nine months old, and look only fit to be made into dusting brushes.

Origin of a Phrase. It is difficult to account for the origin of a great many phrases in current use, remarked McSwiggan, the even to see their relevancy.

Physiological Effects of Massage. In a discussion of this subject by British physicians of eminence, Dr. Symonds declared, as the results of his own experiments on healthy persons, from a combination of the various massage manipulations that the texture of the skin was improved, the sense of locality increased, the general body temperature was raised and the free surface temperature of a part under massage became higher than that of the rest of the body.

Losses of the Civil War. The extent of these losses will be better understood if compared with some of the extraordinary cases cited in the histories of other wars.

Production of Artificial Species. Though it is not certainly known that new species of animals or plants have been produced artificially, everybody is aware that, by means of intelligent selection, remarkable changes have been sought and accomplished for man's profit and pleasure.

Forests and Rainfall. Forests are known to diminish evaporation and preserve moisture, and this has been explained by the lower temperature and greater humidity which exists under their shadows.

Making Proper Allowance. Mr. Holworthy—Believe me, Clara, you have no reason to be jealous; I have been divested of you to you—true as—as—the needle to the pole.

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