

BANDON RECORDER.

CURIOSITY WORSHIP.

The Custom of Throwing Prayers at an Idol in Japan

Along the sacred road of Nikko, in Japan, is an idol about which centers one of the most curious worship in the world. Upon the surface of the statue are seen little pieces of what appears to be dried paper. If you stand by the idol for awhile and wait for a worshiper to come along, you will see what these bits of paper are. The devotee halts in front of the image, then scribbles a prayer on a bit of the paper. The wind he then blows up into a ball and hurls at the god. If it hits the face and sticks, the prayer is sure to be granted, and the pious pilgrim goes away happy. If the ball sticks to some portion of the body, the omen is not quite so propitious, and if it fails to the ground there is absolutely no hope.

Such a mode of prayer is even more curious than the praying wheels of the Buddhists, who set the wheel revolving and reel off prayers by machinery. As John L. Stoddard, the lecturer, said: "One sees, of course, numberless strange rites connected with religion in traveling about the world, but Japan is the only land I have ever visited where deities serve as targets for masticated prayers."

THE BAD RUPEE.

Bahram Got Rid of It, but Not the Way He Intended.

"There lived in Rampur, India, a vendor of sweetmeats named Bahram, whose wife had weak eyes," said the story teller. "One day this man went to see a friend at the bazaar, and he left his stall in the woman's charge. The careful, kind woman, about the change," he said to her. But nevertheless when he returned home he found that she had taken in a bad rupee piece. He could hardly sleep that night for rage and sorrow. In the morning he arose early, and determined to get rid of the bad rupee, he set out through the town. Soon he met a boy.

"Boy," he said, "do you know the sweetmeat shop of Ali?" (Ali was a rival vendor.) "Well, take this rupee, go to Ali's shop and spend a piece for sweetmeats there. The sweetmeats you may keep; I want the change."

"The boy departed merrily and in a little while returned with his mouth full.

"So you got the change without trouble, eh?" said the man as he counted it. "And did all make no examination of the rupee?"

"Oh," said the boy, "I did go as far as Ali's. I got the sweetmeats at Bahram's shop."—London Modern Society.

WHY WE TREMBLE.

The Nerve Actions Superinduced by Cold, Fear and Anger.

Cold, by stimulating the sensory nerve endings in the skin, produces a corresponding irritation in the brain motor centers and by contracting the blood vessels in the skin produces a temporary excess of blood in the brain. This interferes with the steady flow of nerve force to the muscles, so that the spasmodic action of these nerve currents produces the trembling due to cold.

Of trembling from fear or anger Darwin gives this explanation: "Men during long generations have endeavored to escape from their enemies by flight or violent struggling. These causes breathlessness and trembling of the muscles. Whenever fear is felt the same results tend to appear through the force of inheritance and association. Just as furious rage leads persons to make violent attacks on the object of their resentment, so in milder cases, though no such attack may be made, the beginning of violent exertion—namely, trembling of the muscles—tends to show itself. But the chief cause of trembling from fear or anger is, according to the same authority, the interruption or disturbance of the transmission of nerve force from the cerebro spinal system, due to mental agitation. Why or how these emotions affect the cerebro spinal system through the mind in this way is not known."

A Delicate Refusal.

Levassor, the well known French comic singer, once took part in a charity concert in Paris and after the performance was invited by the promoters to supper along with the rest of the performers. When all were seated at table Levassor found under his napkin an Easter egg out of which five pieces of gold dropped on its being broken.

"Ah, I perceive you have got to know that I am fond of boiled eggs," the comedian gayly remarked to his entertainer, "but you are probably not aware that I only eat the white and must therefore ask you to give the yolk to the poor."

Barbarous Treatment of Ibo Women.

The Ibos have a barbarous custom of destroying twins. A woman who gives birth to twins is regarded as something accursed, and the children are taken from her and thrown into the bush to perish, while she is proclaimed an outcast and driven from the village. To hold up two fingers to an Ibo woman is to offer her the greatest insult possible. They are very superstitious. They worship idols of wood, mud and iron, which are regarded as protectors to be propitiated at various periods, and slavery exists among all the tribes.

Greatness and Smartness.

"Which would you rather be—truly great or really smart?"

"Smart, of course."

"Why?"

"Well, you may be truly great and no one ever know it, but if you're smart you can make people think that you're great."—Chicago Post.

Cutting.

Miss Cutting—That dog of yours seems to be remarkably intelligent. Softleigh—Yaws, indeed! I—aw—could not begin to tell you all he knows. Miss Cutting—No, of course not.—New Yorker.

We cannot control the evil tongues of others, but a good life enables us to despise them.—Cato.

POLLY LARKIN

In the last few months I have had occasion to pass a beautiful residence day after day. People resided there, but there never seemed to be a sign of life about the place. The window curtains were always drawn down as if to obscure every ray of light for fear of fading carpets and tapestries that you felt almost sure must occupy a prominent place in this mansion. The grounds about the place were kept up, the lawns velvety and green, yet you never saw the gardener at work. Occasionally a little pearly plume of smoke circled feebly from the chimney and floated rapidly into space as if it was afraid it would be giving away family secrets by announcing to the outside world that the house was inhabited. One day there was a change, and it was for the better. The curtains were pulled up as far as they would go, the windows were open as if to let in all the pure wholesome air the place would hold. The next thing I noticed was that little window gardens had been made in front of the two big bay windows fronting the house where they would get the first warm rays of the morning sun. I watched them closely, thinking I could judge something of the character and, possibly, the nationality of the people from the flowers that were planted. I soon discovered they were bulbs that had been buried in the rich brown loam. Days passed and up came the tender green leaves. It seemed as if they grew inches every day. Then came the buds. I missed passing the house for several days and the next time I had occasion to go by I found the window gardens had brought the owner a wealth of nature's treasures. One window was filled with beautiful fragrant white hyacinths, pure and spotless as a snowflake and the other was filled with quaint, old-fashioned yellow and red tulips. "The second window is in memory of the fatherland," thought Polly, and I smiled as I thought of the happiness the gaudy, lovely little tulips must have brought to the heart of some one hungry for a glimpse of the old home across the waters. It seemed to me the tulips had interpreted for me and proved conclusively the nationality of the dwellers in this beautiful home. I was right. The national hymn, "The Watch on the Rhine," was as dear to them as "America" and "Columbia" are to us.

The flowers in both window gardens were in their perfection when one morning as I passed I discovered that every white hyacinth had been picked. I glanced quickly at the window of tulips, but none were missing. One window was open and the lace curtains floated in and out with the breeze; the other curtains were drawn and the usually cheerful home looked thoroughly dreary. I felt depressed as I thought of the trouble that might have come to the inmates, and yet it might have been a wedding instead of a funeral that the lovely hyacinths had been gathered for. But when I passed again dainty streamers of white illusion and ribbon floated from the door and tied lovingly in the fleecy meshes was a bunch of the white hyacinths. Then I knew that a little child had grown tired and weary and had laid down to sleep only to awaken in the beautiful garden of sleep. I thought of the silence in that great house when the patter of the little feet would never be heard and the happy childish voice would never make music as she ran to open the door and greet the strong man she called "my father" as she sprang into his arms on his return home at evening. The curtains are drawn all over the house again, one by one the tulips have had their little day; the petals have fallen, the leaves have withered and the flower is dead until another spring rolls round and the tulips shall be resurrected. On one of the great ocean steamers that is breasting the billows like some graceful bird, is the casket containing the little child that is being taken back by the heart-broken parents to rest with other loved ones in the fatherland.

Did you ever realize the good a flower garden could do in this world? You might not be fortunate enough to have one of your own, but possibly your neighbor has, and haven't you caught yourself watching with intense interest the little seed your neighbor had planted as they pushed their way through the brown mold like magic; and haven't you stopped to inhale the fragrance of roses, violets, mignonette, carnations, etc., and at the same time feasted your eyes on patches of exquisite little forget-me-nots as blue as the dome of heaven? Haven't you fairly reveled in your neighbor's fernery and forgotten the trials and cares of the day for the moment as the lay, fragile five-fingered ferns, maidenhair, the golden-backs and various other members of this delightful family in plant life, nodded in the breeze from their own mossy corner to you? Haven't you watched the little winged beauties, the sweet peas, as they clambered over unsightly places covering them with a mantle of charity that shut out the coarse and uninviting sight? Haven't you seen morning-glories in your neighbor's yard covering an entire porch or an ugly old fence, and hundreds of flowers from royal purple to exquisite pink, blue and white turning all their little trumpets to the sun and drinking in the rays, reveling in the wealth of golden light for a few hours and falling asleep with the setting sun? Didn't that cloud of morning glories preach you a little sermon? Didn't they tell

you not to be content to remain down in the shadow, but you must reach out and grasp everything that would help you to climb higher and higher? Oh, there is a world of sermons in all the swaying bells of your neighbor's morning glories.

Have a world of respect for the man who planted a hedge of heliotrope, roses and ivy geranium all around his beautiful home in San Diego so as to furnish flowers for those who were not fortunate enough to have gardens of their own. On a placard was printed, "Help yourselves to flowers, but please do not break the branches or pull up the plants." As a result the hedge was never spoiled by passers-by who hastily jerked off a handful of blossoms, taking large branches with them which were discarded and thrown into the street as they glanced quickly around to see if their act of pilfering another's flower garden was observed. This man's generosity was in striking contrast to the man who lived in the same block, and had a huge placard posted conspicuously warning people not to trespass on penalty of arrest. His hedge was not exempt from pilferers in spite of the warning, and many an armful of flowers disappeared on moonlight evenings.

BRIEF REVIEW.

Authorship in America.

We should like to call the attention of home-market clubs and infant-industry nurseries to the condition of the authorship business in the United States, says Leslie's Monthly. During 1902 the total production of this bustling world was 200,000 volumes. The output seems small enough in comparison with the world's annual stock of other commodities, but so long as it is large enough to keep our evenings and holidays busy we have no general right to complain. The trouble comes when we analyze the figures. During 1902 the United States published but 7833 volumes, barely worshipping England, which follows us with a total of 7790, and losing to Germany's 23,900 to the tune of 1 to 3. What becomes of our ladies-literary leagues and home culture clubs in the face of hard figures? Where is Kentucky now, and where is Indiana? Shall three Americans go down before one German? Shall each million Germans have 354 books each year while a million Americans are content with eighty-one? Reverse the shield. Last year Germany published 8049 newspapers and periodicals. The United States 21,000.

Islands and Vegetation.

Nature in her slow leisurely way is making a highly instructive experiment for us to show how islands may acquire their vegetation. Just twenty years ago the most stupendous volcanic eruption of modern times destroyed all life, animal and vegetable, in the island of Krakatoa. Three years later Dr. Treub visited the place and found some lowly microscopic algae settling on the pumice and lava. These, it seems, acted as a decomposing agency, and prepared the way for ferns, which soon began to appear. Then followed a few flowering plants, probably from drift seeds. Five years ago there had settled sixty-two species of vascular plants, fifty of these being flowering species and representing twenty-one natural orders. All these, Bottling Hensley of the Kew Gardens, London, thinks, reached the island independently of man. He computes that about 8 per cent were carried by birds, 32 per cent borne by the wind, and over 60 per cent cast up by the sea waves. In time, without man's aid the island, twenty miles from its nearest neighbor, will be again covered with vegetation.

Hangman's Town.

Since Joseph F. Heine has been clerk and chief deputy in the office of the Sheriff of Baltimore city he has learned that there are persons who believe that the black gown used to enshroud malefactors when hanged is efficacious for the cure of diseases when doctors and medicine fail. Heine gained the knowledge in question when several men called on him and asked for one of the black gowns that have been used in hangings. The men told Heine they belonged to a fraternal order and that they wanted the gown to put on one of the members who was dying. They said they had been told that such a garment would cure their friend. Heine gave the men one of the greivous gowns in the Sheriff's office. He has not heard from his visitors since and does not know the result of the treatment.

His Drink Recipe.

A Dodge City, Kas., bootlegger admits that he made most of the stuff he sold as whiskey. His formula, was: One gallon of alcohol, two gallons of water, one pound of prunes, half pound of tobacco and one ounce of glycerine. Boil the prunes and squeeze the juice out, and the same with the tobacco and thoroughly mix. "This," he says, proudly, "makes a fine drink, and is warranted to do its work." He used to keep it in kerosene cans to avoid suspicion.

There were 14 German domestic servants last year who were awarded the servants' golden cross for having lived forty years with one family. Only one was found in Berlin.

A noted doctor states that 85 per cent of crippled children could be at least able to walk if their diseases were treated in time.

To endeavor to work upon the vulgar with fine sense is like attempting to hew blocks with a razor.

A man who shows no defects is a fool or a hypocrite who we should distrust.

THE AMERICAN HUSBAND.

A Study of His Traits From an English Point of View.

An American young man does not as a rule look forward to marriage with any degree of enthusiasm, and a considerable portion of his antenatal income. When he marries it is usually on short notice and because he has fallen very desperately in love with some one and could not find it in his heart to wait until cold caution declares the venture advisable. Even when an engagement is a long one he usually squanders so much of his time and entertainments for his fiancée that there is only a very moderate amount to begin housekeeping on. Thus before his marriage the young American of the middle class begins to give evidence of what is to be his chief national characteristic as a husband—his unfeeling, unselfish and almost improvident generosity.

The middle class husband in America rarely interferes with the affairs of the household. He hardly knows the cost of staple articles of food. As a rule he does not make his wife a regular allowance either for household or personal expenses, but gives her as much as he can spare, freely, but with a lack of system that is not conducive to the best outlay of their income.

THE YOUNG AMERICAN HUSBAND IS ALSO VERY INDULGENT TO HIS WIFE'S FONDNESS FOR FINE CLOTHES.

He would far rather have an extravagant wife than a dowdy one, although he grumbles occasionally at a millinery bill, in reality he glories in the resplendent appearance of his wife in her fine feathers. The American husband is rare who does not concede his wife's right to expend a much larger sum with her dressmaker than he does with his tailor. Indeed, he usually cheerfully repairs to the ready-made clothing house in order that his wife may have more money for extravagant finery.—London Telegraph.

CANINE MEMORY.

The Story of a Pet Bull Terrier That Did Not Forget.

A gentleman who is a great traveler and who is always accompanied in his wanderings by a bull terrier, to which he is much attached, arrived one day in the city of Florence. His dog was for some reason intrusted to the care of the porter at the station, and in the excitement of the crowd and under the unusual experience of being separated from his master, who generally kept the animal with him, he became somewhat nervous and made his escape. The careful search was made, and before going to his hotel the traveler went to the police station to notify the gendarmes of his loss. It was more than an hour before he reached his hotel. When he got there he spoke of his loss, so that if anything was heard of the dog it would be understood that the animal belonged to him. To his astonishment the porter said: "But your dog is here, sir. He came before you, and we did not know to whom he belonged." "The dog is here?" repeated the gentleman in surprise. "How came he here?" "He ran in, sir, about half an hour ago, and, after sniffing about the office for awhile, he ran upstairs. I gave orders to have him driven out, but the boys have been busy, and he is up there somewhere now." The traveler, of course, went upstairs at once, and there on the mat before the chamber numbered 44 lay Bruno, who sprang up with the most frantic demonstrations of delight at finding his master again. The gentleman remembered that two years previous he had been with the dog at Florence and had stayed at this hotel. He did not remember the porter said: "But your dog is here, sir. He came before you, and we did not know to whom he belonged." "The dog is here?" repeated the gentleman in surprise. "How came he here?" "He ran in, sir, about half an hour ago, and, after sniffing about the office for awhile, he ran upstairs. I gave orders to have him driven out, but the boys have been busy, and he is up there somewhere now." 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