

OLD TIME CALENDARS.

The Saxon Clog, Whence Comes the Name "Almanac."

In these days, when printed calendars are in evidence everywhere, the question as to what device the elder folk employed to help them mark the progress of time is not uninteresting.

"They," says Verstegan, alluding to the Saxons, "used to engrave upon certain squared sticks about a foot in length, or shorter or longer, as they pleased, the courses of the moons of the whole year, whereby they could always certainly tell when the new moons, full moons and changes should happen, as also their festival days, and such a carved stick they called an almon-acht—that is to say, al-moon-heed, to wit, the record or observation of all the moons, and hence is derived the name almanac."

An instrument of this kind was also called the clog, from its form and matter, and had a ring on the upper end of it to hang on a nail somewhere about the house. On each of the four sides were three months, the days being represented by notches. Every seventh notch, being of a larger size, represented a Sunday. Issuing from the right side of the notches were inscriptions and figures marking the festival days by some endowment of the saints or illustrating the season of the year by some work or sport characteristic of it.

Thus against June 23, St. Peter's day, were carved his keys. On Feb. 14 a true lover's knot appeared, and against the notch designating Christmas day was the old wasshall or carol horn that the forefathers used to make merry with.

The Danes, Swedes and Norwegians used these almanacs under various names, such as Runstocks, Runstoccks, Runstoffs, Annales, Stavos, Stakes, Cloges, Runiel, and so forth. Before printing was introduced and when manuscripts were rare and dear these Runic almanacs were made the instruments of instruction and regularity. That they might be more serviceable they were often carved on the tops of pilgrims' staves or stakes so as to regulate their time of assembling at particular places. They were also cut on sword scabbards and implements of husbandry. These cloges are not entirely unlike the Egyptian obelisks, which have been called fingers of the sun and which may be regarded as a species of almanac.

One of the first printed almanacs or calendars was that of John Muller, who opened a printing house and published his almanac at Guremburg in the year 1472. It gave not only the characters of each year and of the months, but foretold the eclipses for thirty years in advance.

In England the year book of Henry VII. gives the first recorded account of almanacs.—Chicago Record-Herald.

Lightning Superstition.

The ancient Romans avoided places struck by lightning. The houses if damaged, were pulled down or fenced in so that no one could use the building on which the gods had set the mark of their displeasure. This feeling was probably deepened by the fact that certain localities are visited by thunderstorms more than others, the wrath of Jove descending in white flame time and again in the same spot. And it was the same superstition, lingering among Christians in a slightly different form, which made it so difficult for Benjamin Franklin to introduce the lightning rod, for the pious Americans of that day declared that "it was as impious to erect rods to ward off heaven's lightning as for a child to ward off the chastening rod of its father."

HOLDING A CAMERA.

Some Practical Suggestions to the Beginner in Photography.

One of the most important lessons for a beginner to learn is to hold the camera in the proper position during exposure. Whenever there are corners of buildings or other objects which give vertical lines the camera must be held absolutely level. If this is not done, the building in the picture will appear to be falling either backward or forward, according to the way in which the camera was tilted.

There are times, however, when the camera may be tilted to an advantage. In some cases it is an absolute necessity. For example, in photographs of clouds, waterfalls, balloons, etc., the camera may point upward, while in taking pictures of people swimming or bathing, children at work or play, etc., it may be pointed downward.

Very successful photographs of prominent speakers, parades, crowds, etc., have been taken when the camera was upside down. It makes no difference in the negative whether the camera is right side up or not. By holding the camera in the way suggested many a photographer has secured good pictures, while others who tried to use the camera in the usual way made absolute failures.

Often by holding the camera by the side of the body and pointing it backward one may secure pictures of children at play and of older people in natural poses without the knowledge of any members of the group.

Another warning to beginners is necessary. Do not try to take a time exposure while holding the camera in the hand. Even if the camera is held against the breast and respiration stopped the action of the heart is sufficient to cause the box to vibrate and spoil the picture.—Circle Magazine.

ANCIENT ATHENS.

Banqueting in the Grecian City in the Time of Plato.

In Professor T. G. Tucker's "Life in Ancient Athens" the author gives this as a picture of a typical banquet in that city in the time of Plato: "When all are in place the servants come round with a vessel, from which they pour water over the hands of the guests. There are brought in small tables, light and ornamental, one of which is set down before each couch for two persons, and on these are placed the several dishes as they come in order. The tables are lower than the couches, so that the right hand can reach down easily to them. Knives and forks there are none. The food is taken up with the fingers. It is true that in dealing with very soft foods or gravies or in extracting things from shells spoons were not unknown, but usually the fingers were assisted by pieces of bread hollowed out for the purpose. It is clear that there was plenty of room for neatness and daintiness in handling food, and it was no small advantage to have fingers not too sensitive.

"There were no napkins. Portions of soft bread, often especially prepared for the purpose, were used for wiping the fingers and were afterward thrown to the dogs which might be present to catch them; but, apart from the dogs, it may be something of a shock to learn that the floor, which was, of course, without a carpet, was the receptacle for shells, bones, peelings and other fragments, which were, however, swept out at a given stage of the proceedings. Conversation meanwhile must be general. The first half of dinner consists of substantial, particularly fish and birds, eels (if they could be got), comparatively little meat (such as beef, lamb and pork) and vegetables dressed to a degree of which we should hardly approve with oil, vinegar, honey and sauces.

"During this part of the meal wine is not drunk. The Athenians kept their drinking as separate as possible from their eating. Water is then brought round again, hands are washed, the tables are carried out, the floor is swept, a chant is sung to the accompaniment of the flutes, a libation of wine is poured out to the words 'to the good genius' or 'to good health,' and the second part of the banquet begins. The tables are brought in again, and what we call dessert was for this reason called by the Athenians 'the second table.' On these are placed fruits, fresh and dried; salted almonds, sweets, meats, cheese and salt."

THE HOME DOCTOR.

To cure nose bleeding, tie a string very tightly around the small part of the thumb below the knuckle.

Half a teaspoonful of table salt dissolved in a half glassful of cold water will give instant relief in case of heartburn.

People with poor digestion should drink no water with meals, but take a glassful half an hour before and drink plentifully an hour or so after each meal.

To inhale steam from a bowl of boiling water is very good for a sore throat. The sufferer should lean over the steam, drawing it in both throat and nostrils.

Many cases of indigestion, headache, neuralgia, cold hands and feet can be quickly cured by drinking slowly one or two pints of water so hot that it almost burns the throat.

Warts may be entirely removed by washing the hands two or three times a day with the water in which potatoes have been boiled or by bathing the wart several times with potato water.

A dwarf sees farther than the giant when he has the giant's shoulders to mount on.—Coleridge.

Magnetic Mediums.

"You've got a pretty bad headache, sir, haven't you?" asked the barber, giving a dry shampoo.

"That's just what's bothering me," replied the man in the chair. "But how did you know?"

"Tell it by my wrists and hands," explained the barber. "You and I are what they'd call magnetic mediums. And the electricity in my fingers takes the pain out of your head. But I get it. That's why I know. My hands are aching now. I don't often strike a customer like you, however, or I'd have to go out of business. I'll bet my arms ache for a half hour after you're gone."—New York Post.

Very Imposing.

"How was it Dr. Knowit got such a big fee from Talkative?"

"Because when he was called to attend Mrs. Talkative for a slight nervous trouble he told her she had an acute attack of inflammatory verbosity."

"Well?"

"And recommended absolute quiet as the only means of averting paroxysms of cacothous loquend. She's scared dumb."—Baltimore American.

An Accomplished Youth.

"Well, Freddie, I suppose you have learned to read by this time?"

"Yes," said Freddie.

"Words of one syllable, eh?"

"Not yet, sir," said Freddie, "but I can read words of one letter with my left eye."

A Hard Lesson.

Bobby's Uncle—Well, Bobby, what are you learning in school? Bobby—I'm learnin' what a chump I was for ever startin' in.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

A Difficulty.

Mistress—Why don't you boll the eggs? Cook—Sure, I've no clock in the kitchen to go by! Mistress—Oh, yes; you have! Cook—What good is it? It's ten minutes fast.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

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Timber Land Act June 3, 1878.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION,
United States Land Office, Roseburg, Ore.,
March 16, 1907.

Notice is hereby given that in compliance with the provisions of the act of Congress of June 3, 1878, entitled "An act for the sale of timber lands in the States of California, Oregon, Nevada, and Washington Territory," as extended to all the Public Land States by act of August 4, 1892, George E. Wilson of Bandon, County of Coos, State of Oregon, has this day filed in this office his sworn statement No. 7888, for the purchase of the N¹/₄ of SW¹/₄, SE¹/₄ of SW¹/₄, NW¹/₄ of NE¹/₄ of Section No. 15 in Township No. 29 S., Range No. 14 W., and will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish his claim to said land before the County Clerk and Clerk of the County Court of Coos County, at his office at Coquille, Oregon, on Friday the 7th day of June, 1907.

He names as witnesses: Glenn E. Cox, Charles L. Cox, and Edward Ohman of Bandon, Oregon, and Cecil C. Cox of Coquille, Oregon.

Any and all persons claiming adversely the above described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before said 7th day of June 1907.

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It is perhaps needless to add that we refer to the dictionary in our judicial work as of the highest authority in accuracy of definition; and that in the future as in the past it will be the source of constant reference.

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