

**GETTING OFF THE STREET CAR.**

**A Reason Assigned for the Woman's Habit of Stepping the Wrong Way.**

Many women descend from a horse car in exactly the wrong way, says the New York Sun, that is, they grasp the handrail of the platform and face away from the horses as they step off, instead of grasping the handrail attached to the body of the car and facing to the front, as one should do. A conductor who runs a car upon what may be called a trunk line, that is, a line running north and south upon one of the busiest avenues, says that he observes no substantial change or improvement in women in this respect, notwithstanding the fact that more or less has been printed on the subject. He mentioned as an illustration a young woman who had ridden upon his car for a number of years. Her occupation is one requiring especial intelligence, but she gets off a horse car now just as she did at first.

The conductor, however, ascribed this habit on the part of women, not to any perverseness, nor even to thoughtlessness, but to a very simple original cause. The driver of the car must not, when he stops, permit the rear platform to obstruct the crossing; he is more likely to run past it a little than he is to halt upon it or even upon the edge of it. The conductor said that when the car did stop with the platform over the crossing, a woman would perhaps step straight off, not turning in either direction; but that when, as more frequently happened, the platform was just beyond the crossing, the woman would grasp the platform rail and step facing away from the horses, so that she might take the fewest possible steps upon the rougher, and perhaps dirtier, street pavement, and reach as quickly as possible the smoother, dryer and cleaner crosswalk.

**BLUE-EYED INDIANS.**

**Supposed to Be Descended from Wrecked Swedish Sailors.**

The Mayas, inhabiting the Sierra Madre mountains in the lower part of Sonora, are supposed to be the descendants of the crew and passengers of a Swedish vessel wrecked on the Mexican coast long centuries before the birth of Columbus. They have, according to the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, a tradition that their ancestors "came in a great canoe over the big salt water many hundreds of moons ago." They have never been conquered by the Mexicans.

They are nominally under Mexican rule, but are in reality governed by their own chiefs. Whenever the Mexican government interferes with them they take up arms and they have got the best of every scrimmage thus far.

The Yaquis are their neighbors and these two war-like tribes have reciprocity reduced to a science. Whenever the government interferes with the Yaquis the Mayas come to their assistance and vice versa. Mexican troops cannot stand before Mayas or white Indians. They are the most desperate fighters on the North American continent. Like their neighbors, the Yaquis, they are mostly Catholics. Although quite primitive, almost savage, in their mode of life, the standard of morality is high. They live principally by the chase, but cultivate some corn and garden truck in the valleys. The men are large, well-formed and some of the women remarkably handsome blondes. They all retain traces of their Swedish ancestry and the linguists say that their language evidences a North European ancestry.

**THE FIRST PAPER.**

**From China Its Use Spread Over Asia and Thence Into Europe.**

The first invention of paper manufactured from vegetable pulp is lost in the mist of antiquity, says the Argosy. It appears to have been first introduced into Europe from the east through the Arabians and Persians.

The use of paper, according to the modern application of the word, had become common in China at an extremely remote period, and Gibbon tells us in a note that its manufacture was introduced from China into Samarcand in B. C., and thence spread over Europe. The Chinese are said to have so great a variety of paper that each province possesses its own peculiar make. The sort commonly known as silk pa-

peris fabricated from the inner bark of the bamboo or mulberry tree. The rice paper, so called, is prepared from the inner portion of the stems of a hardy leguminous plant that grows plentifully about the lakes near Calcutta and also in the island of Formosa, whence the Chinese import it in large quantities. The stems of the plant being cut into the proper lengths for the sheets the pith is cut spirally into a thin slice, then flattened, pressed and dried.

The Arabians appear first to have introduced the manufacture of paper into Spain. On the oldest specimen extant of this Spanish manufacture a treaty of peace between the king of Aragon and a neighboring potentate, A. D. 1775, is transcribed.

**THE WEIGHT OF A THOUGHT.**

**How It Was Determined by a Roman Physiologist.**

A scientific journal of high repute is authority for the statement that Prof. Masso, the Roman physiologist, has invented a machine that will actually give the weight of a thought. To quote from the account mentioned: Prof. Masso showed by experiment that the effort of thinking causes a rush of blood to the brain, this blood-rush varying in intensity according to the thought. He placed a man in the machine, which was so delicately balanced that the rush of blood turned the scale. The professor says that when the subject is sleeping the thoughts or visions which come to him in his dreams are sufficient to cause the head to sink below the feet, and that the same takes place when the subject is disturbed by a slight sound.

He further declares that the balance will indicate when a person is reading Italian and when Greek, the greater mental exertion required for Greek producing a more profuse rush of blood to the head.

**RHODE ISLAND'S ODD CUSTOM.**

**The Election of Black Governor in the Old Colonial Days.**

A rollicking time in Rhode Island in the old colonial days was the election of the "Black Governor," described in the New England Magazine. After the white people had elected the governor of the state, the slaves had a curious custom of gathering together on the third Saturday in June and electing a black governor. To this election the negroes went in fine style, on Narragansett pacers, with their wives on pillions behind them. All were dressed in their finest clothes, with swords and with powdered hair, and often a long false queue tied on behind. When all had gathered together, the vote was taken by the opposing parties forming into two long lines, with the respective candidates at the head; the lines were then counted, and the longest line elected its candidate. After the election a supper and dance were given, for which the white owner of the newly elected black governor had to pay. The last election of a slave governor was held in 1800, but the custom of "Nigger Election" day did not die out through New England until many years later.

**Difficulties of Our Language.**

"It is unusual for a person who goes into a foreign country after he has grown to adult years to acquire the language of that country well enough to conceal his alien origin, but there are exceptions. There is a German in New York," says the Sun of that city, "who has been here only six years who speaks English without a trace of accent, although he never studied the tongue until he arrived in America. A professor of French in this city says that Englishmen and Americans betray themselves more by stress on the letter l when they try to talk his language than in any other way. Frenchmen are more 'stumped' by the sound of th than by anything else in English. One of them who declared that he could pronounce anything in our tongue, was asked to say 'Theophilus Thistlewaite.' He threw up his hands and exclaimed: 'Ah, barbarian!' This sound is trying to the Germans likewise, and one of the early things in Puck, when that was a German paper, was a series of pictures representing a Teutonic waiter twisting his neck and cracking his teeth in the attempt to say 'thanks.'"

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