

THE USEFUL TRAVELER'S TREE.

It Furnishes Refreshment of Many Kinds to People of Every Age and Sex.

A European traveler, on his way from the coast of Madagascar to the capital, Tananarivo, in the interior, had emptied his water flask and was suffering from thirst.

He pierced the root of one of the leaf stems, at a point where it joined the tree, with his spear, whereupon a stream of clear water spouted out, which the European caught in his water can and found cool, fresh and excellent to drink.

The party having satisfied their thirst and taken a supply, the native who had spoken went on: "This tree, which is good for us in more ways than one, we call the traveler's tree."

"But where does the water come from that the tree contains?" asked the white man. "It is taken up from the soil."

"Oh, no," said the native, "the leaves drink in the rain that falls on them, and when it has passed all through them it becomes very pure and sweet."

"And are there many of these trees on the island?"

"There are so many that sometimes one sees no other trees for a mile, and very often we take no provision or water when we travel, because we know that we shall find the traveler's tree."

"And you say there are other things that they are good for?"

The native answered by asking another question. "Do you remember," he said, "the village that we passed through this morning, with its wooden huts roofed over with leaves? Those huts were made of nothing but the traveler's tree. The wood splits easily, but makes tough planks for doors, and the walls of the houses are made of bark."

"With the branches we make the rafters, and the leaves cover the roof. But this is not all that the good tree does. We are coming soon to a village whose people I know, and I will show you more."

The native was eager in his haste to show to the traveler what the tree had in store for him, and the European, for his part, felt no little curiosity. They arrived soon at the village, and the guide conducted the traveler to the hut of a friend, who received them very hospitably and soon spread a meal for them.

First he placed upon a sort of a table a spread made of some vegetable substance, very light and pretty; then he set before his guests two drinking vessels of a material which the white man did not recognize, and then he gave them two utensils, which, although rude in shape, served in the stead of knife and fork.

In the midst of the table he placed a large bowl, filled with cream of very appetizing appearance. In another vessel there was a quantity of oil, with almonds floating upon it.

"Before we begin," said the guide, "I must tell you the names of the things that there is upon this table come from the traveler's tree. You see this table cloth? It is made of the fibers of the leaves of the tree. These drinking cups, these plates, these knives are made of the wood or the bark of the tree. What you take to be the cream is a milk made of the seeds of the tree, pounded up with meal and mixed with a kind of milk drawn from the trunk of the tree."

"What you think are almonds are little cakes made of these seeds, and the oil is pressed from the skin or sluck of the seed. As for the water you are about to drink, you know that already. And we get not only these things, but also the people of Madagascar have made a kind of cloth that they wear out of the fiber of the wood."—Youth's Companion.

Paper and Its Uses. There is apparently no limit to the uses to which paper will eventually be put. In the past week I have seen in various places about town paper car wheels, pails, peach baskets, ink bottles, hats, chair seats, kitchen utensils, picture frames and a lot of so-called paper statuary. Paper handkerchiefs and napkins from Japan are used as dinner novelties in polite society. I read in an evening paper that a paper bodied buggy has been built out west. The cocoon tree, whose universal utility was once a proverb, must take a back seat. What between the variety of material paper can be made out of and the variety of service it can be made to yield, it will soon contest the title of the eighth wonder of the world.—Alfred Trumble in New York News.

A Curious Statement. The Pall Mall Gazette makes the curious statement that the melody known as "Home, Sweet Home," can be found, note for note, in Curzon's "Monasteries of the Levant," published in 1848. Curzon was secretary to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe when he was British minister at Constantinople, and the air is set down in the book named as an ancient Arabic love song. Now, Sir Henry Bishop's music of "Home, Sweet Home" was set to John Howard Payne's words, was published before 1823, and a riddle is thus presented which the reader may solve for himself. It may be that the great poet Homer has had as many authors as a "Beautiful Snow."—Globe-Democrat.

The Man Who Laughs.

"I remember," said an old physician of Baltimore, "that I traveled in 1838 in a stage coach across the Allegheny mountains, from Cumberland to the Ohio river. In the coach were two friends, young men and lawyers, who were going out to settle in western Pennsylvania."

"We became well acquainted in the long, leisurely journey. Both of my fellow-travelers were men of ability and culture, and had good breeding and kindly disposition. But their temperaments were widely different.

"The one, never joked, and rarely smiled. If a laughable story was told he listened sullenly, thought over it an hour, and then began to argue against its probability. If the morning was cloudy he was sure of a storm before night; if his harness broke he was positive we would be detained all day; if the coachman drove fast he knew the man was drunk, and that our necks would be broken."

"The other, on the contrary, was a merry, light-hearted fellow, full of anecdote and quick repartee. The weather was always delightful for him, the meals delicious, his companions the finest company in the world. He saw every point in the landscape, every fine outline in the trees or tint in the fields. He was like a bee, gathering a drop of honey here, another there, and his constant remark was that there was honey to gather. When they left us, I said, 'There goes one man to success, the other to defeat.'"

"I visited lately the city in which they settled, and asked their history, being anxious to know whether my prophecy had been correct. M— is still living, a leading jurist, a man of great and eminent services to his country. He is dead. 'Worried himself into the grave,' said an old man who remembered him.—Youth's Companion.

The "Devil's Code" at Stockholm. The royal library at Stockholm contains a remarkable literary curiosity, called the devil's code, which is said to be the largest manuscript in the world. Every letter of this gigantic piece of work is as beautifully formed as if it were minutely and carefully drawn, and it seems almost impossible that it should have been done by a single human being. The devil's code was brought to Sweden from Prague after the thirty years' war, and the Deutsche Hansaen, Zetung tells the following story of its origin:

A poor monk, who had been condemned to death, was told that his sentence would be commuted if he were able to copy the whole of the code in a single night. Relying on the impossibility of the task, his judges furnished him with the original, pen and ink, and left him in his well-larded prison. A drunken man caught at a straw to save himself, and the unfortunate monk began to try his last impossible task with the vain hope of accomplishing it. Before long, however, he saw that he could not save his life by his own weak exertions. Afraid of a cruel and certain death, and perhaps doubting the promise of a better life hereafter, he invoked the aid of the prince of darkness, promising to surrender his soul if he were assisted in his task. The dark spirit appeared as soon as he was called, concluded the contract, sat down like any copying clerk, and the next morning the devil's code was finished.—Boston Transcript.

Survived Seventy-two Sovereigns. German papers call to mind that Kaiser Wilhelm in his ninety years has survived no fewer than seventy-two sovereigns who were his contemporaries, viz., fifty-two kings or queens, eight emperors, six sultans, and six popes. Of these three were kings of France, Frederick William II, Frederick William III, Frederick William IV; two were kings of Hanover, three kings of Holland, three kings of England, three kings of Saxony, two kings of Sweden, four kings of Denmark, three (or four) sovereigns of Portugal, five sovereigns of Spain, five kings of Saragossa, six kings of Naples, two emperors of Austria (one of whom was the last of the former line of German emperors), two emperors of Russia, four czars of Russia. He has also survived twenty-one presidents of the United States.—Boston Transcript.

Making Artificial Whiststones. A foreign scientific paper gives the following method of making artificial whiststones: Gelatine of good quality is dissolved in its own weight of water, the operation being conducted in a dark room. To the solution 1-1/2 per cent. of bicarbonate of potash is added, which has been previously dissolved in a little water. A quantity of very fine emery, equal to nine times the weight of the gelatine, is intimately mixed with the gelatine solution. Pulverized flint may be substituted for emery. The mass is molded into any desired shape, and is then consolidated by heavy pressure. It is dried by exposure to strong sunlight for several hours.—Chicago Times.

Not Received with Confidence. A Hungarian Gypsy band, which played on several occasions before the czar of Russia, was not received with that frank confidence which does so much to make a life successful. On each occasion their musical instruments were carefully examined by the police before each concert. The first examination lasted two days, during which time the complicated instruments were taken to pieces, and at each concert each musician played with a policeman stationed behind his back.—Public Opinion.

Protection Against Fire. The virtue of lime wash as a protection against fire is emphasized by The American Analyst. In France it is common to this day to coat the walls of houses with pieces, and at each concert each musician played with a policeman stationed behind his back.—Public Opinion.

Tricking the Toll-keeper. A Scotch farmer rode up to a toll bar, and finding the gate open he wheeled his horse round about and passed through, and shouted for the toll-keeper, who was invisible: "Hey! I'm sayin' fat's the damage ye git through yer gate wi' a horse?" "A shillin'," shouted the toll-keeper, making his appearance. "No shillin'! I've git frae me. I'll awa' hame again." And, wheeling his horse for the second time, he rode off in the direction he wished to go, chucking at the trick he had performed upon the toll-keeper.—Exchange.

Robins in Italy. In Italy robins may be seen hanging up for sale in the poultry shops with all the other little feathered victims. The only bird which is looked upon as in any way sacred in Italy, is so far as we know, the swallow, which is dedicated to the Madonna.

Dr. Davenport, state analyst, has examined twenty advertised cures for the opium habit and found that all but one contained opium.

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