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ORIGIN OF THE BANG.

One Who Asserts That the Bang is of African Origin.

A careful historical chase of the bang through many countries, finally locates the frizzly bang as a native of Africa, the ladies of that continent having advantages for producing this style of hair ornament, which their sisters further north never possessed. Established as a fashion in Africa, it lost no time in passing over into Asia, the African slaves assisting in its transit. But the capillary attractions of Asiatic ladies were by no means suited to the African style, and all efforts at frizzing their hair proving failures, the curly bang was evolved as the nearest approach to the African style. Thus did the bang traverse thousands of miles, and so adapt itself to circumstances that some ethnologists have studiously maintained its Asiatic origin.

Exactly when the bang came into Europe is a matter of doubt, some placing its advent in the latter days of the Roman Empire, while others insist that it was brought back from the East by the crusaders; but whenever it came, it found that the front hair of European ladies was as intractable as their temper, and so the hair-dressers being unable either to curl or to frizzle, the saucer-bang, stiff, straight, soaped, and plastered down, as hideous as a nightmare, was finally evolved. This being settled, there remains only the concluding inquiry, whence came the first bang? The most formidable of the animal kingdom is the much-dreaded gorilla. This beast, among other attractions, carries a head of short, bristly hair, and one of the animal's preparations for battle is to pass the paw rapidly down the crown of the head to the eyes, thus bringing the front hair straight out, and giving an aspect of ferocity that never fails to inspire the utmost terror. So well understood is this gesture, that among the gorilla's fellow-countrymen it is the signal for an instantaneous and headlong scamper from the spot, and as the female gorilla in defense of her young is even worse than the male, certain African dialects have an expression, "a female gorilla with her front hair down," to indicate the extremity of ferocious bearing.

In time it came to pass that when African ladies were abused by their husbands, they adopted the same gesture, and, so far as the hair was concerned, with the same result. Then certain wives, to indicate their readiness for battle at all seasons, took to wearing their hair drawn over their foreheads, and the fashion rapidly spread to young ladies, who wear their hair in this style as insinuating their resolve never to submit to matrimonial tyranny. The idea spread and the bang flourished in the banks of the Ganges, of the Thames, and of the Mississippi. Thus does scientific research shed light on social topics, and even the monstrosities of female costume are shown to have their origin in intelligent action; for nothing is more reasonable than that, as one animal taught man how to build his house, and another how to catch his dinner, his wife from a third should learn how to dress her hair.—(Boston Times.)

McCallough's Modesty.

His modesty as to his merits was remarkable. After playing *Othello* for the first time, he called on a journalist whose duties kept him late in the office, and apologized for his intrusion.

"When you are quite through with your work, I wish to talk about my performance—I saw you in the audience—and I cannot rest until I know whether I have disappointed you. Some of the blemishes that I know of I can remedy at the next performance, but I want to learn whether there are too many to justify me in keeping the character on my list."

He afterwards had the satisfaction of being warmly complimented by Walter Montgomery and Edwin Booth, as the very best *Othello* on the English-speaking stage.—(December Overland.)

The Hospitable Farmer.

"This," said Farmer Hayseed to his city guest, as he pointed to a large field, "is where we keep our bull."

"And are we going in there?" asked the guest.

"Yes, but you need not be afraid. He is as gentle as a lamb except when he sees bright red. If you will take this chalk and chalk your nose we can pass through in safety."

And the farmer chuckled softly to himself that night as he heard his guest packing his grip.—(The Rambler.)

The Way They Do It.

A teacher in the Armour public school was explaining to a class the manner in which a lobster casts its shell when it has outgrown it.

"Now, Mary Jones," said he, "what do you do with your dress when you've outgrown it?"

"Well, no, I guess not, Mr. Teacher," replied the little one, "my a-lers lets out the tucks and makes it over for me to wear to school another season."—(Chicago Telegram.)

Too Much Curry-Comb.

An excellent colored coachman, whose horses always looked clean and smooth, once assured us that he wanted nothing but a wisp of straw for cleaning horses. A writer in the *Journal of Agriculture* takes about the same view in the following—

It is within the memory of most stock-men that the curry-comb was considered an indispensable article of horse furniture, and even yet in most stables it is used to a greater or less extent. But it is time to consider whether or not there are not other means of cleaning stock less barbarous and more effective.

Suppose you try a curry-comb every morning on your own head a few minutes (provided you are not bald-headed already), and see how you like it. The hair can be kept short, perhaps, and smooth, but it is at the expense of a healthy skin on the animal. There are brushes made purposely for the business that are infinitely preferable to the curry-comb. The brush will remove all the dirt if properly applied, and there is no danger of applying it too vigorously. The best thing to clean a horse with is a handful of "excelsior," or the moss that is used for mattresses, or if you have not that a good brush, or a wisp of hay or straw. A cornucopium applied to the limbs of the horse and a polish of wax with a piece of cloth, will do all the cleaning necessary, especially if the limbs are sponged off frequently and carefully in good weather, and rubbed dry.

None of these articles cost as much as a curry-comb (except the brush, which all good horsemen will keep on hand), and either of them are better than the comb. The owner of a good horse ought to be ashamed from his stable, or used sparingly, and a little more work put in, with a less barbarous instrument. When a horse cringes and jumps at the application of the curry-comb, it is not because he don't like to be cleaned, but he objects most decidedly to the method.

Try the noble animal once with a little less heroic treatment, and our word for it, you will banish the curry-comb from your stable.

Mrs. Cady Stanton's Curiosity.

Some stories are revived in connection with the recent celebration of Elizabeth Cady Stanton's 70th birthday. For instance: At Newport, in the summer of 1809, Mrs. Isabella Beecher Hooker made her first public speech. She held a manuscript in her hand from which she read, but having a strong native gift as an orator she frequently diverged from the paper. In the course of her remarks she came to some allusion to Moses, when looking up from her lecture she said:—

"I have always thought that when I passed to a better world the person I should most wish to see, of course after members of my own immediate family, would be Moses."

Mrs. Stanton whispered, sotto voce: "I have often suspected that Moses was a Beecher."

The sweet-by-and-by is coming right along. The mahwa trees, recently discovered in the forests of Central India, bear blossoms which yield half their weight in pure sugar, and a single tree bears a thousand pounds of blossoms yearly. The day seems to be approaching when the downtrodden and oppressed of every clime will be able to eat cake three times a day.—(Springfield (Mass.) Union.)

Not Symptoms, but the Disease.

It would seem to be a truth appreciable by all, and especially by professors of the healing art, that to remove the disease, not to alleviate its symptoms, should be the chief aim of medication. Yet in how many instances do we see this truth admitted in theory, ignored in practice. The reason that Hostett's Stomach Bitters is successful in so many cases, with which remedies previously tried were inadequate to cope, is attributable to the fact that it is a medicine which reaches and removes the causes of the various maladies to which it is adapted. Indigestion, fever and ague, liver-complaint, gout, rheumatism, disorder of the bowels, urinary affections and other maladies are not palliated merely, but cured by it. It goes to the fountain head. It is really, not nominally, a radical remedy; and it enlivens the system with an amount of vigor which is its best protection against disease.

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