

Talking of libraries, Carnegie won't be in the back of the books as a public benefactor.

A Pennsylvania man estimates that since his marriage he has eaten 43,900 pies. An enviable life!

An American firm has received an order from Africa for three hundred axes. And that's where Cheops originated, too.

Many doctors assert that nobody should ever run. Perhaps the messenger boy has got the right principle of long life after all.

Tennessee entered the lynching column again recently. Its citizens were naturally incensed because a jury had acquitted a suspect.

On the same day that Mr. Carnegie gave away \$5,000,000 Mr. Rockefeller "earned" \$6,000,000 in dividends, but failed to give it away. That's one way money is earned and spent nowadays.

Justice Brewer, of the United States Supreme Court, said in a recent address that he who calls a mob into being cannot be pronounced wholly guiltless of that which the mob may do. The remark is both reasonable and full of sound sense.

The appointment of Gen. Chaffee as major-general was the first instance of a private attaining that rank in the regular army of the United States.

A recent importation of foreigners against which no one will be likely to take exceptions, except, perhaps, the natives they have come to destroy, has been graciously received and welcomed by the quarantine officer of the California State Board of Agriculture at San Francisco.

The German army has furnished another terrible illustration of what dueling means. An infantry captain present at an officer's dinner took offense at the innocent but rough horse-play of an army surgeon, and struck him. He then retired to his quarters. In a little while two officers representing the surgeon appeared with a challenge.

There was a time when the lagolike reasoning prevailed in this country as to a war among European powers that, whichever killed the other, either way made our gain. But destruction anywhere in the world is bound to be felt throughout the world.

The Yankee commercial traveler is meeting difficulties in France. His breezy and free manners outrage the tenderest feelings of the Frenchman, who shows only an agonized desire to get rid of the sandbar that has attached itself to him.

Has a Home for Stray Cats. An uptown woman in New York, the widow of a Supreme Court Judge, has devoted her attention to the welfare of stray cats.

An Indiana jury, in its wisdom, has fixed the value of a single kiss at \$1,500. This verdict must not be taken as establishing anything like a standard market price in this country for a commodity the value of which may vary infinitely, according to circumstances and to the personal beauty of one of the parties to the bargain.

\$100, which is certainly a high figure when it is considered that the kiss was sold to raise money for the heathen. It is a traditional belief that stolen kisses are the sweetest.

Some newspapers, in making a critical analysis of the character of the late Benjamin Harrison, have reached the conclusion that it was the quality of honesty chiefly that made him great. His purposes were honest and he pursued them with simple honesty.

Just when the old-fashioned May Day became to be observed history does not say, being a trifle hazy itself on the subject. The custom was held as a more or less sacred one among the early Romans, and the entire beautiful month was devoted to the god Apollo.

Redeeming Waste Lands. The magnitude of the plans which are being made for the reclamation of the arid lands of the West is astounding even to the American mind, so wide is their scope and so costly will be their carrying out.

Revenues of the Riviera. A writer in a French paper says that every year there are 270,000 foreigners who pass from a fortnight to a whole winter on the Riviera.

TURNED OFF THE WELL GAS. How the Owner of a Producer Accounted for Its Failure. Here is a story of the late Paul Rainey, the coke magnate, and his friend, the late Charles Latimer, eminent engineer.

His Name. The teacher of the Sabbath school class approached one little fellow who was present for the first time, and inquired his name, for the purpose of placing it on the roll.

Remember, Jane Smith, that when a friend repeats gossip you told her, she begins by saying in an apologetic tone, "Jane Smith, who is a big gossip, and whom I don't often quote, says so-and-so."

OPPOSED TO IRON SHIPS. Naval Officers Long Doubted the Practicality of These Vessels. "Naval officers were the most violent opponents of iron ships," observed a well-known naval officer to a Star reporter, "and fought their introduction

MAY DAY - THE ALMOST FORGOTTEN FESTIVAL

MAY DAY is dead. There can be no doubt about this, when we compare the desultory efforts at celebrating now made with those that used to be many years ago. It is like the twitching of the body of some poor thing out of which the soul has long since gone—a mere muscular contraction, as it were, animated by no spirit.

Where the young people rose at early dawn and trooped into the surrounding fields to gather wild flowers and prepare the May pole, they now take the pictures down from the walls and help the men divorce the carpet from the floor, or get breakfast while the house girls pack up—for May Day in this century is move-day, and poetry has given way to economy.

OF Ancient Origin. Just when the old-fashioned May Day became to be observed history does not say, being a trifle hazy itself on the subject. The custom was held as a more or less sacred one among the early Romans, and the entire beautiful month was devoted to the god Apollo.

lived for life itself and his happy moments. Only three days during the entire month were solemn ones—the 9th, 11th and 13th, during which the festival of Lemuria was observed with solemnity—in memory of the dead.

in every way possible, but the iron ship got the best of it in the long run. Farago and hosts of other officers refused outright to sail in an iron ship, and loaded down the records of the navy with reasons why an iron ship would not take the place of the wooden ship.

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Love of the Weed One of the Weaknesses of the Great Carib. As is well known, Thomas Carlyle, the great Scotch essayist and historian, was a slave to tobacco.

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THE MAYPOLE DANCE OF LONG AGO.

flowers, the gay dress, and the happy spirits. Even Queen Elizabeth—who would not have been chosen a May Queen on account of her beauty, perhaps, had she been a commoner—used to keep the May Day at Greenwich, which heralded the coming of spring in all its loveliness.

Next to the May Queen in importance was the Maypole, and a most interesting part this pretty affair played in the observation of May Day. The lads among the early risers on May Day would repair to the forest or the neighboring woods and groves, and there chop down the tallest and straightest young tree to be found.

There is thus being formed, on a gigantic scale, a new race of men, built on the strongest line on which it is possible to construct human beings. The common language and literature, the habits and customs, and the trend of industrial civilization gives them identical political interests.

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flowers, arbors and seats entwined with flowers, while cakesellers and "side shows" came into vogue at these places, much as they did at the fairs, although in less numbers. Great feasts were served, and as the day wore on the revelry grew faster and more furious.

Sometimes the Maypole, after it was once well fixed on the common, was left there until nearly the end of the year, and was often resorted to at other seasons of festivity. It is said the last Maypole erected in London was 100 feet high, and was on the spot where the present church in the Strand now stands, near Somerset House.

During the early part of the nineteenth century in America, May Day was more or less observed, though Maypoles were not numerous. But even customs that are dead cannot kill the love of a spring in the breasts of children and poets, and certain ceremonies have grown out of the old May Day which bear a resemblance to the original.

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THE GOOD USE OF RICHES

Not a Few Wealthy Men "Do Good by Stealth." A too general impression that individual wealth in America is accumulated and used for purely personal selfish purposes is happily dispelled in a degree by the lives and philanthropic deeds of rich men.

A well-known literary man in Chicago was approached by an old-time friend who had become a slave to the liquor habit, but who professed a wish to reform. He believed that if he could be sent to a sanitarium for treatment he would be a man again.

The literary man was sympathetic, but he was poor. He puzzled over the situation a few minutes, and said: "I cannot help you, but I think I know the man who can and will."

When the intercessor started to express his thanks Mr. Armour put up his hand. "My dear fellow, don't thank me. It is rather my place to thank you. This little amount probably will not embarrass your business, and it may be the means of saving a man. Come in and tell me off and on how he is getting along, and when he gets on his feet perhaps we can give him another boost."

Occasionally nitro-glycerine exhibits a demonic sense of humor, and performs freaks which border on the marvelous. The first of the long list of fatalities due to the treacherous stuff occurred in 1867, almost as soon as its use was begun.

What was perhaps the most disastrous explosion of the kind took place at Clarendon, Pa. in some unknown way a storehouse containing fourteen tons of nitro-glycerine blew up. The town was entirely demolished, while the shock of the explosion was felt one hundred miles away.

The peculiar freaks sometimes perpetrated by nitro-glycerine are shown by an accident which happened to one William Pine. He was descending a steep hill with a load of the explosive in this place the rough road was responsible for the disaster.

A Safford Against Curiosity. When a prominent picture dealer of New York starts the topic of woman's curiosity, his wife always laughs and blushes, for she knows the story that is coming.

"One day," the picture dealer begins, "I decided to close the small exhibition studio which leads from the gallery, and put 'Private' on the door, just for an experiment. There was an important collection of water colors by one of our best artists in the gallery. I sat at the desk just outside the entrance, and presented to each lady a fresh catalogue of the paintings. When she took it I politely requested her to leave it as she went out."

"This request was complied with in every instance, and I was enabled to notice a most interesting series of coincidences. On every catalogue save one there was in one place or another a little smear of gliding transferred to the paper from the carefully prepared knob of the door marked 'Private.'"

Gov. Alexander M. Dockery, the new chief executive of Missouri, has acquired the science of handshaking. It is said that he shook hands not less than 4,000,000 times last year for the position and later for the election to the office of Governor. Yet he never complained that his hand or wrist was tired.

The Raw Food Society. The newest society is a raw food society, the members of which pledge themselves to abstain from eating cooked food.