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#### EARLY MONEY.

Ring Currency and the First Gold an Silver Coins.

Earliest history refers familiarly to the use of gold and silver as purchasing medium, but the metals were exchanged in the form of bars or dust for many centuries. Even today the Chinese prefer their gold and silver in bullion form.

The credit of making the first gold coins is given to the Lydians by Herodotus, and the first silver coins are supposed to have been minted on the island of Egina, 860 B. C. There are to be found in the various large museums of the world were called Daric, or king's money (from Darius), and were coined 450

In the year 139 B. C. Antiochus VII. granted the privilege of coining money among the Jews to Simon Maccabeus, and the various pieces are dated "in the first (or second) year of Simon, benefactor

of the Jews, high priest."

The earliest Biblical mention of wealth is that of Abraham when he left Egypt to return to Canaan and the 1,000 pieces of silver that Abimelech gave Abraham for Sarah's use. Abraham bought the cave of Machpelah and weighed to Ephron 400 shekels of silver. Achen stole a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels.

In the east in all ages jewels have been regarded as a convenient method of transferring and holding wealth. Prior to the first coining Egyptian and perhaps other "money" was made into rings for the sake of convenience, and the bundles of money carried by the sons of Jacob when they went into Egypt to buy corn were doubtless strings of gold or silver rings of a fixed

Fortunately it has been the custom from earliest times to date coins in some manner, and by their aid it has been possible to prove the truth of legends and traditions even after centuries, and the finding of a single coin has often served to throw a great light on a dark page of history.—Emmett Campbell Hall in Detroit Free Press.

Origin of "Budget."

It is difficult to realize that the term "budget," now so often in every one's mouth, is a term less than 200 years old, the earliest mention of the word dating no further back meaning a small bag, in which in former times it was the custom to put the estimates of receipts and expenditures when presented to the exchequer, in making his anthe early part of the nineteenth century.-London Chronicle.

Vanity.

The doorbell of the Vanitys' ly to her husband:

that's all."

"Why not?" asked Mr. Vanity. neighbors can see it when it's his horse. "Come; let us pass." brought in? Not if I know it."-London Telegraph.

#### Easy Enough.

Parents as well as teachers have awkward questions.

day, "what is an equinox?"

Father-Why-er-it is-ahem! name was derived from the words if these public schools don't teach children anything nowadays .-Strand Magazine.

Wood For Matches. It is not to be assumed that by reason of the smallness of matches the makers ever utilize scraps or according to the London Chronicle. bits of wood left over. The contrary | is the case. Matches are not byproducts. Any wood rejected by the match machine goes to the byproduct establishment, and of these byproducts of the match business may be mentioned some, such as doors sort either medicinally or for pleasand sashes, that in some instances | ure. Coltsfoot was inhaled for asthform an industry as important the match industry itself .- Har in the process remains a matter for

#### PARADOX OF WEAKNESS.

The Way a Crisis In a Young Man's Career Was Handled.

One dismal afternoon a bank president was surprised by a knock at the door of his private office. A young assistant cashier came in, whose people and belongings the president knew. The young fellow's face was pale, and his whole look was harassed and anxious. After a moment of nervous silence he blurted out: "I-I'm beginning to be afraid of myself. The change is tremendous from that small country thanks to her enthusiastic admirers. bank, where things are so different. The responsibilities are too great; coins of Persia issued 350 B. C. The the opportunities to go astray are—earliest coins known in Palestine are—greater still. I don't know what has got into me, but it's like a temptation at my elbow to-togo wrong, to try, just to see how easy it would be. And—I'm telling

The president had wheeled round upon him and was regarding him steadily. "You're leading your life too wholly and persistently along one line," he said quietly. "I'm neither afraid of you nor for you. Your mind and thoughts are too closely concentrated upon your work, and they need to be diffused over a wider area of interests in order to enable them to work well and with ease to yourself at just this particular juncture. But you must let me help you out. Report to me every evening, no matter how late. That will give you poise and tide you over the day, so that you need take but one day at a time and not keep looking into a far and fearful future. And-I'm going to enter you Home Journal. at the Country club-that's to be between you and me-and I want you to use it. You're getting yourself on your mind."

Wasn't he wise, this president, thus at a moment to recognize the paradox of weakness, the weakness that felt itself tempted, the strength that perceived the temptation and openly admitted it to self and another? And was he not doubly wise thus to turn it to account? He knew there was fine material in that young man, capacity and ability both, but he needed peculiar help at just this time of his life and questioned, and such opportunities ished black stone, both convex and for good as came in his way he seemed amply to fulfill. But he also South America. knew that to stand face to face with a soul and aid it at its most need is than 1733. We borrowed it from a rare privilege, and he was making the old French language—bougette, that privilege good. And he took no high ground. He did not seemingly admit the full significance of the moment. He did not further shake parliament; hence the chancellor of the young man's will by implying that there was a great moral strain. nual statement, was formerly said No; he dwelt rather upon a painted to open his budget. In time the cloth of physical and mental monotterm passed from the receptacle to ony in order to give the young felthe contents, and, curiously, this low time to regain breath and grip new signification was returned from and courage. Yes, it's a great thing England to France, where it was to be able to use both for ourselves first used in an official manner in and for others the strength of our weakness and the weakness of our strength.-Harper's Weekly.

#### Cannon Law.

One of the best gasconnades athouse rang at about 8 o'clock one tributed to Henry of Navarre is night, and Mrs. Vanity said excited- connected with the siege of Chartres. When the town surrendered it "There, Charles, I know that's is said that a deputation came to the furniture van coming with the the Porte St. Michel to present the new bedroom suit we bought today, keys to the victorious monarch, and if it is I just won't receive it, whereupon the chief echevin began to deliver an elaborate harangue, in which he proposed to prove that "Why not?" replied Mrs. Vanity. Chartres really belonged to his Do you think I'm going to pay £20 | majesty both by divine and by civil for a suit and then have it sent out law. "By canon law also," the king here after dark so that none of the abruptly retorted, setting spurs to

The Towers of Silence.

In Persia stand two towers called by the Parsees the "towers of silence." According to their religion, sometimes to run the gantlet of they never bury their dead, but have the body exposed on the top of "Father," said little Tommy one one of these towers until the sun and the rain and the fowls of the air have cleaned the bones of all For goodness' sake, Tommy, don't flesh. The bones are then collected you know anything about mythol- and placed in the other tower. ogy at all? An equinox was a fabled These Parsees, who are followers of animal-half horse, half cow. Its Zoroaster and very devout, have almost disappeared as a people, there "equine" and "ox." It does seem as being only about 8,000 of them at the present time.

#### Pipe Smoking.

It seems very probable that there were smokers in England long before the introduction of tobacco, Pipes have been discovered imbedded in the mortar of churches built before Europe's first acquaintance with tobacco, and it seems only reasonable to suppose that the people of that day smoked herbs of some ma, though whether a pipe was used conjecture.

#### CAUGHT THE STUDENTS.

Ethel Barrymore's Curtain Speech That Made a Hit.

A thousand Cornell students went to the theater one evening to hear Ethel Barrymore. As the play progressed the young men admiringly watched the pretty young actress' every move, clung to each word she spoke, followed her every graceful gesture. At the fall of the first two curtains the applause was one better than thunder, and each time the pleased Miss Barrymore bowed her

When the final curtain fell and when the valedictory applause died out a football cheer leader down in front jumped on to his seat and cried out, "Ready, men; the loco-motive for Ethel!" And with the boom of the sea the famous yell of the old college sounded throughout the theater. When the yell died out the shout of "Speech, speech!" was taken up with an insistence and an enthusiasm that clearly would brook no denial.

After a moment's pause the curtain was pushed aside, and out came Miss Barrymore, half smiling and half afraid. She toyed for a second or two with a hat she held in her hands, and then, as she laughed that familiar little nervous laugh of hers, she said, "Oh, say, fellows, I can't make a speech, so let's all

The "fellows" were on their feet in an instant, and there, from the stage, Ethel Barrymore, the girl, swung with them into the chorus of their alma mater's battle song, "Far Above Cayuga's Waters."-Ladies'

Mirrors of the Israelites.

The earliest mirrors of which mention is made in history were in use among the Israelites in the time of Moses. That gentleman, as re-corded in the Bible, commanded in a certain emergency that these articles should be transformed into wash basins for the priests. They were made of brass. Doubtless similar utensils of this and other materials were in use long before that. At that same period black glass was employed for the purpose as well as transparent glass with black work. That president's charities foil on the back. It is related that were many, his public spirit was un- the Spaniards found mirrors of pol-

> Not a Bad Definition. Eight-year-old William and his

Uncle Will are great chums, and the latter takes delight in the quaint sayings of his namesake.

It rained on the day that William was to have gone to a wonderful picnic. The little lad stood at the window trying to keep back the tears. Uncle Will, coming by and seeing the tears, slapped his nephew on the back and unexpectedly shouted: "Hello, Bill! What's your idea of heaven?"

The small boy looked up and solemnly answered. "Heaven's the place where the really trulys are as nice as the just supposin's."-Woman's Home Companion.

A Precocious Diplomatist.

Boy-Oh, mamma, I upset the salt cellar over my clean clothes.

Mamma—That was careless. Go and brush the salt off, and see you don't soil the clothes.

"But, mamma, when any one spills salt they have to quarrel, don't they?" "So they say."

"Well, then, if they don't spill the salt they don't have a quarrel. Isn't that so?"

"Yes, that is so. But why do you

"Well, because, mamma, it wasn't the salt I spilt; it was the

No Bait, No Fish.

A stanch teetotaler and an enthusiastic fisherman had a good stretch of the Dee to fish in and engaged the services of an experienced boatman. But night after night he came back with empty creel and at length departed in disgust.

When he was gone the boatman was approached and asked how it was that a fairly expert fisherman had such a run of ill luck.

"A weel," said the man, "he had nae whuskie, an' I took him where there was nae fush."-Boston Trav-

Solid Mahogany Bridge.

In the state of Chiapas, Mexico, bridge which spans the Rio Michol, which with its approaches is 150 feet long, with a width of fifteen feet, is built entirely of solid mahogany. The bridge is used both by teams and by foot passengers and, though roughly constructed, is very substantial. None of the massive timbers was sawed, as there is not a sawmill in the region, but all were hewn out with the ax from logs.-Argonaut.

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