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POWERFUL VOICES.

Historic Shriekers Who Antedated the Famous Stentor.

The question has often been asked, "Who was the most loud voiced man of history?" The answer usually is that it was Stentor, of whom Homer says his voice was as loud as that of fifty other men combined and from which we get the phrase "stentorian voiced."

But we have record of two historic "shriekers" anterior to Homer. We read where Simeon and Levi fought against the twelve men of the city of Sarton and that Levi beheaded one man with his own sword. In chapter 38, verse 41, of the book referred to the story is related in the following words: "And the sons of Jacob, seeing that they could not prevail over the twelve, Simeon gave a loud and tremendous shriek, and the eleven remaining men were stunned by the awful shriek."

In chapter 39, same book, verse 19, we find the following account of the battles of the sons of Jacob with the inhabitants of the city of Gaash. It seems as though the battle was both in the front and in the rear and that the warriors on the wall were throwing spears and hurling stones upon the sons of Jacob. What next occurred, as related in chapter and verse above cited, is recorded in these words:

"And Judah, seeing that the men of Gaash were getting too heavy for them, gave a piercing and tremendous shriek, and all the men of Gaash were terrified at Judah's cry, and men fell from the wall at the sound of his powerful shriek, and all those that were without as well as those within the city were greatly afraid of their lives."

Making It Up.

Two men who had quarreled violently and had not been on friendly terms for some months met by accident one night at a social function. One of them made a friendly overture to his enemy. Going up to him, he offered his hand and said:

"Look here, Jenkinson, I've often been guilty of causing you considerable annoyance, and if I make that confession I dare say you won't mind admitting on your side that you've been a little unjust to me too."

Jenkinson took the outstretched hand and the negotiations for peace proceeded satisfactorily until, in his concluding remark, the first speaker observed, somewhat pompously:

"On this pleasant and auspicious occasion, Jenkinson, I would like you to feel that I wish you—the same as you wish me."

"What!" cried Jenkinson angrily. "Are you beginning it again?"—London Tit-Bits.

A Change of Wind.

There is an old puzzle which supposes a man to see a squirrel on a tree. He walks round and round the tree, but the squirrel clammers round its trunk and always keeps it between himself and the man. Does the man go round the squirrel? This recalls a famous bonmot of Andree, the arctic explorer, who was lost in trying to reach the pole. At a dinner party he was desperately bored by a talkative neighbor.

"But how will you know when you have really crossed the north pole, professor?" was the question, the last of many other equally silly ones.

"Oh, that will be simple enough, madame," replied Andree, with his well known dry humor. "A north wind will become a south one."

Walnuts of France.

The best walnuts in the world—at least they have that reputation—are those grown around Grenoble, France, and a singular fact about them is that at least three-quarters of the entire production are transported across the ocean to be eaten in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago and other large American cities. The calcareous soil of southeastern France appears to be particularly favorable to the walnut. On the rising land at the base of the French Alps the nut trees often form veritable cultivated forests. The finest variety, the "mayette," has a light colored shell and a broad, flat base, on which it readily stands upright.

The Higher Aim.

As custom has given so large a proportion of wandering good things to Charles Lamb it would seem to be in good order to credit him with the appended bit of whimsical wisdom which certainly bears the earmarks of Elia, although the St. James' Budget, from which it is quoted, does not vouch for its authenticity.

Some one, it is said, complained to him that a certain writer "constantly aimed at wit."

"At any rate," Lamb returned, "that is better than aiming at dullness."

MIGHT BE MISTAKEN.

Dumas Forced the Admission From a Man Who Knew It All.

The man who knows it all is rarely popular. According to an anecdote of Alexandre Dumas, that generous-romancer once balked at contributing to a fund for the relief of such a person, a fellow author fallen into indulgence in his old age.

"I refuse!" he roared angrily at the collector who had approached him as he sat with a group of literary friends. "Doubly, trebly, continuously and eternally, I refuse! That man is beyond my patience."

At once his companions took up the theme, and anecdote after anecdote was related of the man's egotistic and disagreeable traits.

"If he were ever known to admit an error himself," the last speaker concluded, "one might forgive him, but to be always right and to know everything—it is too much. Show me that he has once excused a mistake in another or owned to one himself and I will subscribe to your fund, but that is something nobody can do."

"On the contrary, it is something I can do!" cried Dumas unexpectedly, his good humor quite restored by his little outburst. "Listen. Once, from an inn where we were both staying together by chance, he and I took a walk in the fields. I know something of mycology; he does not, but he thinks he does. Presently we find a large, thick and peculiar fungus. It is new to both of us, but I recognize it and chance to remark—being, as you know, a better cook than author—that it is a pity, since there is amply enough for a meal and it looks appetizing, that it is not, after all, edible."

"But, my faith, Monsieur Dumas, it is edible!" he cries, and he proceeds to argue. I do not argue. I gather the thing into my silk handkerchief, and when at length he pauses for my rejoinder I say simply that I will accept his word for it, and as soon as we return to the inn, where I am excellent friends with the cook, I will go into the kitchen, stew the thing myself, pour over it a little sauce of which I have the secret, which is indeed a dream, and it shall be our first course for luncheon. Doubtless it will be delicious, and if we die the responsibility will be none of mine."

"For the rest of the walk he is silent. At the door of the inn he is pale. At the threshold of the kitchen he clears his throat as if to speak. When the cook offers me a stewpan he gasps. When I drop the specimen into it he says to me, low but quite distinctly, 'Monsieur, let us omit that first course; it is possible I was mistaken.'"

"You see, gentlemen, we subscribe to this fund for the longer preservation in life of an indifferent mycologist."—Youth's Companion.

Breathing Machinery.

A writer on engineering subjects calls attention to the fact that a piece of machinery, such as a motorcar, put aside after being used, is in danger of internal rusting through a kind of respiration which affects cylinders, gear boxes, clutch chambers, interspaces in ball bearings, and so forth. Every inclosed air space "breathes" by drawing in air when a fall of temperature contracts its walls and expelling it when the walls expand through heat. The moisture introduced with the air is deposited in the cavities and may produce serious damage through rust.

Meat in Burma.

In Burma, India, all meat must be eaten on the day it is killed. This is due to the very small number of refrigerators in use and to the small supply of ice. As there are no meat markets, like those one is accustomed to see in our cities and towns, the meat, fish and fowl are sold at a bazaar or booth, where the fowls are sold alive, to be killed when needed. Machine made ice is the only kind obtainable there and is sold only in small quantities.

Jack and Jill.

Jack and Jill had made their trip up and down the hill, with the result already recorded in the juvenile chronicles of the day.

Presently Jack sat up and rubbed his cracked crown.

"How did I get this fearful head?" he groaned.

"Oh, nothing stronger than a pail of water," soothingly answered Jill. Then Jack tumbled again.—Chicago Tribune.

When Lightning Strikes a Tree.

When a tree is struck by lightning it explodes like overcharged boilers. The flame of the lightning does not burn it up, nor does the electric flash split it like an ax. The "bolt" flows throughout into all the damp interstices of the trunk and into the hollows under its bark. All the moisture at once is turned into steam, which, by its immediate explosion, rips open the tree.



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