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FIRST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER.

It Was Only Allowed to Print News From Foreign Countries.

The first newspaper printed in the English language, with its old English type and its quaint account of events in foreign countries, was a pamphlet issued in 1621. Its title, "Corrant, or Newes From Italie, Germanie, France and Other Places," is as curious as its contents. For many years it had been supposed that no copy of the Corrant was in existence, but recently a copy of this interesting document, which was the first step toward the modern newspaper, was discovered.

At the time the Corrant was published freedom of the press was a thing that did not exist. The publication of domestic news in England was forbidden by royal decree at that time and until 1641, and this accounts for the fact that all the news in the Corrant is from foreign countries. Even the privilege of printing foreign news was taken away by star chamber edict in 1632. But in 1641 the restrictions against both domestic and foreign news were removed.

Crude as the Corrant may seem, it was the outgrowth of a long period of "journalistic" progress. Early in the sixteenth century news letters, each intended originally to keep some nobleman or member of the royal family informed, but later supplied to small lists of subscribers, came into vogue. These were written by hand. Then came the printed news book, issued at irregular intervals in a numbered series having a common title. The next step was the Corrant, which was followed by other pamphlets of the same class.

This copy of the Corrant is owned by a New York collector, who discovered it in a volume of miscellaneous pamphlets which he had bought at an auction of old books without suspecting its value.—Popular Mechanics.

No Such Name.

Paul Armstrong tells of a friend of his, an exceedingly deaf man, who was being introduced to a young woman. The young woman was pretty, but she had a strange name. Her name was Dinglefugle. "Mr. Smith," said the mutual acquaintance, "this is Miss Dinglefugle."

The deaf man cupped his hand behind his ear.

"Please pardon me," he said, "but I'm hard of hearing. What did you say the lady's name was?"

"Miss Dinglefugle."

"I'm awfully sorry," murmured the afflicted one with a strained and puzzled look in his eye, "but I haven't caught it yet."

The other man raised his voice to a shout.

"Miss Dinglefugle!" he blared.

Resignedly, hopelessly, the deaf man shook his head.

"It's no use," he said—"sounds like Dinglefugle to me."—Saturday Evening Post.

No Old Maids.

"We'd have no old maids if we took a lesson from the ancient Babylonians," a spinster said. "In Babylon unmarried women were graded by the state according to their looks. For a beautiful young wife the state demanded a large number of gold pieces, a less desirable wife cost a smaller number of gold pieces, and this money was all paid out again as rewards to those who married elderly, unattractive girls. Thus it cost a fortune to marry beauty, but if you married ugliness a fortune came to you; hence all was happiness in Babylon, and old maids were unknown."

Australian Birds.

Some Australian birds lay their eggs in black sand, as if aware of its superior power of absorbing heat. Others select the neighborhood of hot volcanic springs, whose warmth plays an important part in the hatching. The mound builders collect heaps of earth and leaves as much as eighteen feet high and thirty feet in diameter, and in this hothed their eggs are hatched.

An Irishman in India.

"India," said an Irishman welcoming a Welshman to Calcutta, "is just the finest climate under the sun, but a lot of fellows come out here, and they drink and they eat, and they drink and they die, and then they write home to their friends a pack of lies and say it's the climate as has killed them!"—Cardiff Western Mail.

Marble Statues.

To clean marble statues nothing is better than a paste made of Spanish whiting and a teaspoonful of washing soda dissolved in water. Rub the marble well with this, using a flannel cloth, and after allowing it to stand an hour wash it off with warm water, dry well and polish.

INVESTING MONEY.

Questions to Ask and Have Answered When Buying a Bond.

I have received a reprint of a same article written by an investment expert. It is simple, readable and sound. For example:

"There is no mystery about a bond. It is merely some one's promise to pay, with security to compel performance. It requires no technical training or adeptness in the mock mysterious art of 'finance' to adjust the merit of such an investment. Of a bond, just as of a simple loan to your neighbor, you inquire: 'Who am I lending to? What security is he giving me? When do I get paid? And what do I get for the accommodation?' To be a good investment a bond, like any other loan, must answer these questions unequivocally and satisfactorily. You can ask them as well as the most eminent financier, and when they have been answered to your intelligent satisfaction you have made a safe investment."

If you should ask those four questions and insist upon getting right answers and then verifying the truth of the answers, I don't imagine you would buy very many stocks, and I know that you wouldn't fall into the net of the get rich quick promoter. That test would keep you in the class of wise investors who confine themselves to making loan investments.

Applying this banker's test, you would place your money for a definitely limited time in the hands of some borrower who could show that he was able to use it profitably, and you'd soon realize that at the bottom of sound investment lies one big question:

"Who is the borrower?"

Eugenics advises you to look into the soundness of body and of mind of the young man who seeks to marry your daughter. You see the logic of that. So the successful expert advises you to look carefully into the moral and financial soundness and capacity of the borrower who wants to take your money to use.

In answering your four questions the borrower should show that he is a responsible man. He should show ample security to insure the return of the money. He should show that he can repay when he promises, and he must offer a reasonable reward for the use of your money.

Think over this simple test.—John M. Oskison in Chicago News.

Moon Worship in China.

The fete of the moon is celebrated in China in the eighth month of the year, and this lasts six days. Presents are then made on which the figure of the moon is apparent, and a large pagoda is illuminated. Firecrackers and music and family reunions prevail. A midnight banquet on the last night terminates the feast, and then the descent of the goddess of the moon, which we call the man in the moon, is awaited. She is supposed to visit the earth at this time to grant the wishes of mortals. The moon with the Chinese is the patroness of poetry, and autumn is the poet's favorite season.

A Fateful Breach of Etiquette.

Under the third empire in France Sainte-Beuve brought disgrace upon himself because at breakfast at the Tuilleries he carelessly opened his napkin and placed it over his two knees. To this he added the crime of cutting his egg in two at the

middle. Court etiquette prescribed that the half folded napkin should lie on the left knee and the top of the egg was to be merely broken with the edge of the spoon and drained with the tip of the spoon. For his failings in these respects Sainte-Beuve's name was stricken off the imperial visiting list.—London Chronicle.

GATH WROTE UP THE RACE.

He Didn't See the Contest, Yet Gave It a Two Page Story.

In the old days when the Harvard-Yale varsity races were rowed on Saratoga lake I reported them. On one occasion rough water on the lake necessitated repeated postponements, first from Thursday to Friday, and then to Saturday, when Harvard outrowed Yale. After watching this contest from a special launch I returned to my hotel at Saratoga to make my report.

While I was thus engaged George Alfred Townsend came to me saying that he had at that moment received a dispatch from the New York Herald asking him for a full report of the race. The famous Harvard oarsman, William Blaikie, had been engaged to do this work for the Herald. He was a very conscientious Christian, and he belatedly notified the Herald that he could not report the race for the Sunday edition.

The Herald, thus suddenly left in the lurch, sought Townsend's services. He accepted the commission, but, owing to the lateness of the notification, he was embarrassed by the fact that he hadn't seen the race at all. It was in this plight that he came to me asking for some of the salient features of the event. I gave them to him in a very few words, telling him of the relative positions of the rival boats at different points of the course, the varying strokes and how they finally crossed the line. Dick Dana and Bob Cook were the respective stroke oars.

That was all the information Townsend wanted. He then sat down and wrote his dispatch. When I bought the Sunday New York Herald next morning I found a two page double headed story of the race signed by Gath. Using the meager details I had given him he had managed to make a remarkably graphic report of the contest. It was as picturesque as it was graphic, and it was widely commented on as a wonderful piece of reporting.

It is no reflection on this famous journalist, whose pen name was Gath, to say that this Saratoga achievement was a fair sample of his work and of his methods. He wielded a remarkably facile pen. For his facts he relied chiefly on his vivid and unbridled imagination.—George F. Babbitt in Boston Herald.

Misinformation.

There was a dance in the lobby of one of the big apartment houses in Washington. A man who rents an apartment came in, saw the crowd and asked one of the negro elevator boys:

"What's going on out there?"

"Why," the boy replied, "that is a dance given by one of the fraternities of Georgetown university!"—Saturday Evening Post.

To put knowledge in the place of ignorance, happiness in the place of misery, justice in the place of wrong, love in the place of hate, harmony in the place of jargon—is not this to create a new world?



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