

### QUICK WITTED WOMEN.

Their Clever Ruses That Won the Favor of Emperor Konrad.

There are countless stories to illustrate the devotion of women, but the most interesting of them is the one that is recorded in the annals of a home for dependent women at Weinsberg, on the Neckar, in the vicinity of Heidelberg.

At the foot of the mountain was fought one of the fiercest battles of the long struggle between the Guelphs and the Ghibellines. When the conflict was ended and the Ghibelline leader, Emperor Konrad, had driven the Guelph chieftains up the mountain to their stronghold, he laid siege to the ancient castle. After several days he sent word that if the men would surrender he would permit the women to depart in safety, carrying their treasures with them. The terms of surrender were arranged, and the emperor drew up his army to form an escort for the noble ladies with their jewels and other dear possessions.

When the procession of women came down the hill the hostile army saw, to its amazement, that every gentleman carried a man on her back. The men they carried were the Guelph officers, who were to have remained in the castle and been made prisoners of war. Konrad was so touched by this expression of devotion on the part of these wives and mothers that he permitted the women to go back for their jewels. In 1820 Queen Charlotte of Wurttemberg, daughter of George III, and a member of the Guelphs, built the asylum on the hill as a memorial to those quick-witted Guelph women.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

### HE WANTED BIG GAME.

And Found It in the Jungles of the Panama Canal Zone.

In the early days of canal construction at Panama there arrived from the United States for duty with the fire department a Danish American who told numerous thrilling tales of his hunting trips "back home." Anxious to get a chance at the big game of the Panama jungles, he secured a day off for a hunting trip soon after his arrival. He took as guide a Jamaican negro janitor, connected with the fire station, who had never been outside of Colon.

They started early in the morning and returned before noon. The Dane seemed to be exhausted and spent the afternoon resting and cooling off. When asked about his trip and why he didn't bring any big game back he replied:

"Boys, I was all in after I saw that big snake. It must have been fifty feet long and as big around as your body. I just saw the end of his body slipping through the high grass on a trail, and he was at least ten inches thick at the tail."

During the recital his guide, the janitor, was sweeping the floor and grinning. When the hunter left the janitor was quizzed, and this was his version of the chase:

"I got by mind way, where dey is buildin' a high trestle bridge, dey draggin' a long pole tru de grass wid a mu-el. De snake what de boss see was de pole, an' he was so fright dat he don't see de mu-el what draggin' it."—Los Angeles Times.

Natural Protection.

It has been pointed out that to some ground animals nature's color scheme for concealment furnishes almost complete protection. The quail crouching on the ground looks like a bunch of dried leaves. Many snakes and fishes take the precise color of surrounding sand and water. A mackerel from above looks like a feeble ripple, while to fish enemies beneath his white belly will not show against the higher colors of sky and water. The wonderfully beautiful changes of dolphins and chameleons were not evolved to please the eye, but to protect their lives.

Precedent Adhered To.

"Will you marry me?" The fair lady at the man's side drew away with a movement that seemed almost prudish. Her breath came and went in little explosive jerks. She tried to speak, but no sound came from her lips. She tried once more, and then, with sweet trepidation, she gave her answer.

"I will marry you if you get papa's consent," she said. "I never marry without that."—New York Times.

Nicely Settled.

Lady—What will you charge me for the use of a horse and buggy for a few hours? Liverman—It will cost you \$2 for the first hour and \$1 for each additional hour. Lady—Well, I'll use it for two additional hours. I've got some shopping to do and will not require it for the first hour.—New York Sun.

Topaz.

The word topaz comes from the Greek verb signifying to guess. The jewel was brought from the east and was supposed to have come from an island, and men then guessed at the location of the island which produced such beautiful gems.

Candid.

Edith—You must speak to papa first. Surely you don't expect him to make the advances, do you? Jack—Well, if he doesn't I don't see how we are going to get married.—Boston Transcript.

Not Him Alone.

"And you refuse me a loan?" "Oh, no, I don't refuse you alone. I refuse all pawnbrokers!"—Houston Post.

You find people ready enough to do the Samaritan—without the oil and wretches.—Baltimore American.

### DUST CLOUDS OF ALASKA.

Volcano Ashes Make the Hills Appear to Be Snow Clad.

As we approached Kodiak strange dark clouds were seen obscuring the horizon at several points, one of which was so heavy and black that it resembled smoke from a great forest fire. Captain Jensen started us by explaining that this was dust blown by the stiff breezes from the lofty hills all about us. These hills seemed covered with snow, but the whitish deposit proved to be ashes rained down several feet deep upon all this section during the eruption of Mount Katmai in June, 1912. Katmai is still smoking.

The sun looked like a dull silver disk as it shone through the ash mist. The dust cloud was so thick that it held our steamer up for four hours until the way was clear. Passing your hand over the rail of the boat, you found your fingers streaked with the impalpable gray powder. When we landed at Kodiak we found piles of soft gray ashes and large and small pieces of light, friable stone, like pumice stone, which had been thrown out by the volcano. The explosion of the volcano was heard at Valdez, 400 miles away from Kodiak, and sounded like a cannonading. It was followed by a deposit of fine ashes in Valdez.

In Kodiak the ashes covered everything. They laid buried Colonel Bloodgett's big cannery on the dock and put him temporarily out of business. They completely filled up a pond four feet deep which had been the skating resort for many years of the children of Kodiak.—John A. Bleicher in Leslie's.

### CORE OF THE EARTH.

Its Form a Mystery, but the Globe, as a Whole, is as Rigid as Steel.

The theory that the crust of the earth is only a few miles in thickness and rests upon an intensely heated molten interior is no longer tenable. It is now known that the earth, as a whole, possesses a high degree of effective rigidity, as great as if it were composed throughout of steel. It is no doubt true that the interior of the earth is an intensely heated condition and that it appears to possess some of the qualities of a fluid. At the same time it behaves in many respects as a solid.

Professor Milne concludes from the velocities of seismic waves at different depths that the materials and general characters of the crust of the earth that are found at the surface may extend to a depth of about thirty miles, but beyond that the material seems to merge into a fairly homogeneous nucleus. This state probably extends to a depth of six-tenths of the radius, but the remaining four-tenths form a core which differs in its physical and possibly its chemical constitution from the outer portion. What the state of this nucleus is must be a matter largely of conjecture until we have a fuller knowledge of the state of matter when subjected to the vast pressure such as exists within the earth's interior.

Additional evidence that the earth, as a whole, is at least as rigid as steel is furnished by a study of tidal phenomena and also by the variation of latitude.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Squaring the Circle.

The origin of the problem squaring the circle is almost lost in the mists of antiquity, but there is a record of an attempted quadrature in Egypt 500 years before the exodus of the Jews. There is also a claim, according to Hona, that the problem was solved by a discovery of Hippocrates, the geometer of Chios—not the physician—500 B. C. Now, the efforts of Hippocrates were devoted toward converting a circle into a crescent, because he had found that the area of a figure produced by drawing two perpendicular radii in a circle is exactly equal to the triangle formed by the line of junction. This is the famous theorem of the "lunes of Hippocrates" and is, like gladder salt out of the philosopher's stone, an example of the useful results which sometimes follow a search for the unattainable.

A Bearded Freak.

One of the earliest of the American bearded freaks was Louis Jasper, who lived in southern Virginia at about the time of the close of the Revolutionary war. His beard was nine and a half feet long and correspondingly thick and heavy. He could take his mustache between his fingers and extend his arms to their full length, and still the ends of the mustache were over a foot beyond his finger tips.

Appealed to Him.

"I liked the rotunda of the capitol at Washington," said the fat man. "As to why in particular?" "It was several hundred feet in diameter, one of the few apartments I was ever in where I didn't feel that I was taking up too much room."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Barbados.

Agriculture is the chief pursuit in Barbados, and without doubt the island is the most intensely cultivated spot in the West Indies. Sugar is the chief crop and has been from time immemorial; tobacco is grown slightly, fruit hardly at all.

Bevers Critics.

Alley—I like Tom, immensely, and he's very much the gentleman, but he does like to talk about himself! Time—Yes, dear, your knight hath a thousand I's.—Boston Journal.

The Result.

"His wife made him." "She did, and when she tried him in the community she found he was a rabbit!"—Baltimore American.

### TEST "ALL WOOL" BY FIRE.

To Detect Cotton Fibers Burn a Sample of the Cloth.

Until the proper labeling of textiles has been made compulsory there are certain simple tests by means of which one may determine whether an "all-wool" fabric is really all wool or not. The old way of telling by feeling and looking is no longer reliable, for cotton can be made both to feel and look like wool. The only sure way is to take samples of the goods home with you and make tests of them there.

If a piece of cotton cloth is ignited it will be found to burn rather rapidly with a bright, steady flame. There is no disagreeable odor, and when the material is completely consumed there will be left only a small amount of light gray, fluffy ash. If a piece of pure wool is ignited it will be found to burn much more slowly and with a less steady flame, emitting a characteristic, mild, hissing noise and a strong odor very similar to that of burned horn. There will be much more ash remaining than in the case of cotton, and it will be in the form of a crinkly, black, crisp ball.

In applying this test to a fabric the whole sample should not be burned at once, for if it is a so-called wool piece containing considerable cotton it will be very difficult to determine whether it is burning more like cotton or wool. Threads should be taken from the sample, several each from the warp and the weft, and burned separately. With a very little practice one will be able to detect the cotton threads by the characteristic manner of burning. Sometimes it is well to pick a thread apart with a pin and test the individual fiber with the flame to determine whether the threads are entirely wool or mixed with cotton.—Jean Donaldson Martin in Mothers' Magazine.

### QUAINT OLD INN NAMES.

Some of the Peculiar Signs One May Read in England.

"Man Loaded With Mischief" is the name of an inn in the Madingley road, Cambridge, but it is not stranger than many others. At Underwood, Notts, is an inn called "The Toad in the Hole," and in the neighborhood of Somercotes, "The Old House at Home." Another inn at the same place is called "The Old English Gentleman."

It is a debatable point whether the sign of "The Man Loaded With Mischief" was painted by Hogarth. But it is like his satire, for it represents a man carrying a woman. Many peculiar signs are the result of a misconception. "The Bag o' Nails" is really "The Bacchanals." "The Goat and Compasses" is an ignorant shot at the old motto, "God encompasses us," while "The George and Cannon" is a modern corruption of George Canning, who was prime minister when the inn was built.

One of the funniest of these corruptions is "The Iron Devil," a corruption of "Hirondelle" (swallow). It is said that the inn called "The Pig and Tinker Box" was originally "The Elephant and Castle," but a very poor artist was engaged to paint the sign, and somebody said it looked like a pig and tinker box, and the name stuck until it ousted the old one.

"The Plum and Feathers," an inn in Oxford, should be "Plume of Feathers," and "The Rose of the Quarter Sessions" was originally "La Rose des Quatre Salons." One might think "The Ship and Shovel" belonged to the same category, but it does not. The reference is to Sir Cloudesley Shovel, the powder monkey who became an admiral in the reign of Queen Anne.—London Tit-Bits.

Italics in the Bible.

Words in the Bible printed in italics indicate that the words so printed do not rightly form a part of the original text, but were adopted by the translators to make the sense of the original clear, remarks an exchange. As used in the Bible, italics have no relation to the common practice of using them for the purpose of emphasizing certain words. In the early history of printing those portions of a book not properly belonging to the main work, such as introductions, prefaces, indexes and footnotes, were printed in italics, the text itself being in Roman.

Lost Namer.

Mark Twain was once asked by an English clerk in a London bookstore to write his autograph. "My chirography is becoming less and less distinct," complained the author whimsically as he complied with the request. "If this keeps on I'll have to be getting somebody else to write my autograph for me." "But, sir," seriously responded the clerk, "nobody would want it then."

Safe From That.

"Now that you have been married a year what can you say of your experience?" "Well," he replied solemnly, "I can truthfully say that I am sure that bigamy is one crime that I'll never commit."—Detroit Free Press.

Idyllic Love.

"Daughter, don't marry that young man. He'll never bring home the bacon." "How foolish you are, dad! What do I care about the bacon if he'll only bring home the bonbons."—Pittsburgh Post.

Brown Study.

The term "brown study" is a corruption of brow study, brow being derived from the old German "braun," meaning the brow.

We make our fortunes. We call them fate.—Alroy.

### CULTIVATE JUDGMENT.

Its Possession is What Makes a Man Successful in Business.

It was one of the intellectual shocks of my young manhood to discover that an analytical chemist could often get only \$50 a month. I had long looked with awe upon the accurate percentages and detailed reports of the analytical chemist. This water contains 2.541 grains of such and such substance per gallon. I wondered at the marvelous man who could get out such fine results, and to learn that he at times gets but \$50 a month was a shock.

The explanation is this. The chemical analysis of ordinary specimens is a technical process of a perfectly definite character. If a work is definite and therefore capable of being reduced to clear cut instructions the pay that it commands is not likely to be high, even though the work itself is complicated. It requires good memory and painstaking obedience to instructions. Many persons have these qualities. The scarce attribute is judgment, that indefinable quality capable of meeting a new situation and handling it with common sense or gumption, to put it in a homely term.

Judgment is indefinite. We cannot lay out instructions in advance to tell the manager how to meet situations. To buy good raw material he must learn to know the raw materials, and many of the tests he applies are too fine for words to reduce to instructions. He must decide for indefinite reasons that now is a good time to enlarge or retrench; that here is a good place to open up business; that now is a good time to buy or to run low on stock; that this man needs to be hired; that this man needs to be fired. It is in the making of decisions that successful management lies. And most of these decisions are beyond rule. They are indefinite. They are judgment.—Engineering Magazine.

### SHE WAS SYMPATHETIC.

But Her Attempt to Be Chatty Brought an Embarrassing Moment.

This is an extract from a letter written by a woman who is willing to share a good joke, even if the laugh is at her own expense:

"It was a damp, windy day—the sort of day that turns straight, straggly blond hair like mine into a mass of strings and ends that stick out about the face and neck with frightful effect. I was downtown on a shopping expedition that was exceptionally trying, and I knew I looked so bad that I carefully avoided all chance of glances into mirrors, for I was sure I could not, under the circumstances, improve my appearance much. Recklessly I entered a tearoom with a friend whom I happened to meet.

"As I placed my shopping bag on the floor near the table at which we were to sit, another bag, exactly like my own, was put beside it. Quite naturally my glance followed the hand and arm up to the face of my neighbor, and as I met her look I said to myself, 'She has hair just like mine—sticking out in every direction—and she looks even worse than I do, poor thing!'" "Naturally, my heart went out to her in a great wave of sympathy. We smiled simultaneously as our troubled eyes met, and I said aloud and quite distinctly, 'If we are not careful we shall get our shopping bags mixed!'"

"The moment the words were out of my mouth I wished very earnestly that the floor would mercifully open and let me through. It did not require the subdued snicker from the nearby tables to awaken me to the realization that I had been addressing the image of myself in the mirror of which the entire side of the shop was formed. Do you get the picture?"—Youth's Companion.

A Natural Inquiry.

Heleen was a very inquisitive child who greatly annoyed her father each evening with endless questions while he tried to read the newspaper. One evening, among other things, she demanded, "Papa, what do you do at the store all day?"

Exasperated at her persistence he answered briefly, "Oh, nothing!" Heleen was silent a moment, and then asked, "But how do you know when you are done?"—Harper's Magazine.

How Do You Make a Circle?

The intelligence of people may be gauged by asking them to make a circle on paper with a pencil and noting in which direction the hand is moved. The good student in a mathematical class draws circles from left to right. The inferiority of the softer sex as well as the male dunces is shown by their drawing from right to left. Axiom patients do the same.—London Family Doctor.

Had Followed Directions.

"Now," said the nervous old lady to the druggist, "are you sure you have that medicine mixed right?" "No, ma'am," said the conscientious apothecary, "I wouldn't go as far as that, but I've mixed it the way the doctor ordered it."—Chicago News.

Snubbed.

"Yes; we pay spot cash for everything." "Ah, I often speak to my husband about the time when we had to!"—Puck.

A Long Sidewalk.

The annual product of bricks in the United States is 25,000,000,000. This is enough to lay a five foot sidewalk eight times around the world.

Good Reason.

"Why live in the past? Why not forget it?" "The bill collectors won't let me."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

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The Voice of Cash.

Appropos of a young girl's rich marriage, a society man said: "Our girls don't marry disadvantageously as often as our boys do. In the whirl of love the female doesn't seem to get as dizzy as the male."

"A pretty girl told me the other day that she was engaged to a very rich landowner."

"Well, well," said I, "and here we all thought you'd marry the eloquent young preacher who took you about so much last summer."

"The girl smiled."

"Deeds speak louder than words," she said.—Cleveland Leader.

Rather Sudden.

The caution of the New Englander in giving a direct answer to a direct question is proverbial. Two natives of a New Hampshire town met after the funeral, and the first asked, "Was not your father's death very sudden?" Slowly drawing one hand from his pocket and pulling down his beard, the other replied, thoughtfully, "Waal, rather sudden for him."—Argonaut.

A Heavyweight.

"And then," she said in telling of the romantic episode, "she sprang to his arms."

"She did?"

"Of course. Do you doubt it?"

"Oh, no," he replied, "but after seeing her I can't help thinking that it must have jarred him quite a bit."—Chicago Post.

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