

FRAMING PICTURES.

The Art Reached Its Climax in Italy in the Sixteenth Century.

It is a significant sign of the importance accorded to picture frames that in attempting any research on the subject one can only discover an occasional notice of some individual frame among a mass of detail comprised under the generic title of "Frames," which ranges from chimney pieces, door furniture and girandoles down to the designs employed in book illustration, called by the French "cartouches."

Only in Italy was the art of picture framing a fine art, and the examples worth studying belong almost entirely to that country.

Picture frames are of comparatively modern origin, for during the long period of the middle ages such portable pictures as existed were inclosed in wooden cases with doors and had, consequently, no frames, while mirrors were not yet in existence. It was not till life became more settled and houses were considered in relation to peace as well as war that the custom began to prevail of placing pictures on walls. They start, therefore, in the fifteenth century and are at the height of their perfection in the sixteenth.

From the earliest times Italian artists knew that for a painting to be rightly appreciated it was necessary to inclose it in a kind of surrounding. They knew, too, that it could never be a matter of caprice what that particular surrounding should be, but that it must be chosen scientifically and with due regard to the effect of the painting on the spectator and of the whole as a work of art.

It is only necessary to study the fine examples that are still in existence from the best period of this art, which appears to have been exclusively Italian, to realize that neither chance nor fashion entered into it. On the contrary, it was the outcome of an instinctive aesthetic sentiment of feeling for the beautiful in conjunction with an almost scientific appreciation of what would enhance the intelligent understanding of the picture. Whether we look at them in their richness or their simplicity, we shall note that the structure of the frame was first carefully studied and adapted to its purpose of suitably inclosing the picture and that its subsequent enrichment, whether by modeling, gilding, painting or however, lost their native character, and coming under French influence became more and more debased until all sobriety of treatment disappeared.—Scribner's.

Impossible Ones.

"He was a born fisherman and could swear to the truth."  
"He sought the office only for his country's good."  
"He took his own advice and never failed to practice what he preached."  
"He presumed that an editor's time has a certain value, always wrote briefly and to the point and never stopped his paper because he knew it all before it got into print."

A Seaside Mayor.

The fishing fleets on the coast of Newfoundland elect on their return to land one of their number, to whom they give the title of "seaside mayor." His duty is to preside over and control all the business connected with the distribution and curing of the fish that have been caught, to hear all cases of dispute and to mete out punishment to offenders. This post is much coveted by the fishermen, as it carries with it absolute authority, and implicit obedience is rendered by all to the seaside mayor during his term of office.

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WEATHER SCIENCE

It Is Good as Far as It Goes, but It Doesn't Go Far Enough.

SECRETS HIDDEN IN THE SUN.

Changes in Intensity and Quality of Solar Rays Cause Effects That Baffle Meteorologists—Why Forecasts of Experts Often Go Astray.

The most imperfect science is meteorology. The margin of error in its calculations is sometimes enormous—sufficient to completely reverse a prediction.

The weather bureau is a useful institution, based upon an incomplete system of correlated facts of observation, which are scientific as far as they go. But there are elements concerned in the production of weather about which the methods of meteorology give no information.

There are birds, insects and four footed animals which have an incomparably greater foreknowledge of weather changes than the entire scientific corps of the agricultural department possesses. When the predictors of the weather bureau give warning of an approaching storm they act on very much the same principle as that on which a railroad time table is based. A train having been announced by telegraph as started on a given line will arrive in regular succession at certain points along that line, and a station agent at any given point can, if no accident intervenes, foretell the moment of the train's arrival at his station.

Storm centers, or cyclones, moving across the country are in some ways comparable to trains following a time schedule. But unfortunately they do not run on rails, they are not driven by an invariable force, they are subject to interruptions and obstacles of many kinds, and instead of always keeping the track and following the course they frequently wander vaguely about or take an unexpected turn or else fade away like exhausted whirls in water.

In fact, the weather bureau predictors are in the same quandary in which train dispatchers would find themselves if railroad tracks were shifting lines, continually drifting this way and that, meeting crossed and entangled or staking into suddenly formed quagmires and thus disappearing for good.

Meteorology as a science of weather prediction fails just because it possesses too few facts. With the aid of the telegraph the weather bureau can if lucky follow the trail of a storm center across the United States, but it cannot tell just how a new storm is born nor just when or where it will begin its course.

The one only great fact on which it bases its whole system of prediction is the general tendency of cyclonic disturbance. In this country to travel eastward with a northerly trend, while storms originating around the gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean sea usually come up the coast.

But the official weather prognosticators are as much in the dark as the ordinary citizen concerning what is going to happen in the atmosphere next week, and they really know nothing about any storm until after it has begun its career, and then all that they know is the course that it will take—in case it doesn't happen to change its mind.

A slight variation in the intensity, or quality, of the radiation received from the sun, might account for sudden changes or abnormal weather, and recent investigations show that such variations occur, but what is needed is more accurate knowledge about them and their effects. Heat and light are only two of an infinite number of forms of vibration sent to us from the sun. Everybody knows that when the weather records show that two days are precisely alike in temperature, in humidity, etc., human nerves prove that they are vastly unlike in some unnamed peculiarity which affects the springs of life.

The spider busily and confidently spinning her webs in preparation for a spell of fine weather which some unerring mechanism of foreknowledge within her enables her to detect is a sure guide than a barometer. She responds to vibrations as yet only guessed at by science, and so perhaps do the supersensitive nerves of many human creatures.—Garrett P. Serviss in New York Journal.

Glass Cups.

The first glass cups were made at Alexandria. Some were colored like Bohemian glass and decorated with glass pastes, imitating precious stones and cameos. Some were opaline, others clear as crystal and still others formed of opaque layers welded together like the famous Portland vase, in which the white upper layer had been cut away like a cameo, leaving a blue ground around the figures.

Watered.

"If you are looking for bargains," said the broker, "I can suit you. I can offer you some stocks at 10 cents a share."

"But why are they so cheap?" demanded the lady shopper.

"You see, they have been slightly damaged by water."

A Sable Philosopher.

Don't go for growlin' kaze de rollin' world don't turn ter look at an. If it did it might be disappointed an' you'd hear it sayin', "Ter think dat I got ter give de likes er dat a free ride round de sky!"—Atlanta Constitution.

He that lives upon hope will die that way.—Franklin.

PUFFING UP THE OYSTER.

Showing How Easily Four Quarts May Be Swelled into Five.

Adulteration of oysters on the half shell, freshly opened, might be thought as difficult as adulteration of unpeeled fruit. But the purists to whom all things are impure have discovered that oysters are "adulterated" by soaking them in fresh water. It is not suggested that the water is unwholesome, either for the oysters or those who eat them. But that is not the point. These things are all arranged for us at Washington, and the department of agriculture, which is particularly devoted to oyster culture, has issued a formal statement to all and sundry regarding the heinous practice of making oysters look plump and white by soaking them in water. It is official information that if four quarts of oysters and a quart of fresh water are placed in a five quart container and the mixture allowed to stand for several hours there will be a marked change in the appearance of the contents of the container. To the naked eye there will appear to be five quarts of dry oysters, for the container will be full and there will be little or no water in sight, it being on the inside of the plump, succulent looking oysters. The average purchaser has no means of detecting the addition of water.

That relates only to "shucked" oysters. Half shell oysters "drink" water, and thus adulterated oysters may be converted into "select" beyond the detection of any but a chemist. The purpose of publishing these facts is to make it known to all lawbreakers and oyster caterers that all such oysters are "adulterated under section 7 of the food and drug act," which provides that food is adulterated "if a substance has been substituted in whole or in part for the article."

LAW OF MOTION.

Why a Ball Follows You If Thrown in the Air While You Walk.

When you throw a ball into the air while moving your body forward or backward, either slowly or fast, the ball partakes of two motions—the upward and the forward or backward motion of your body. The ball possesses the motion of your body before it left your hand to go up into the air because your body was moving before you threw it up, and the ball was a part of you at the time.

If you are moving forward up to the time you throw the ball into the air and stop as soon as you let go of the ball, it will fall at some distance from you. Also if you throw the ball up from a standing position and move forward as soon as the ball leaves your hand the ball will fall behind you, provided you actually throw it straight up.

Of course you know that the earth is moving many miles per hour on its axis and that when you throw a ball straight into the air from a standing position, the earth and yourself, as well as the ball, move with the earth a long distance before the ball comes down again. The relative position is, however, the same. We get our sense of motion by a comparison with other objects. If you are in a train that is moving swiftly and another train goes by in the opposite direction, moving just as fast, you seem to be going twice as fast as you really are. If the train on the other track, however, is going at the same rate of speed and in the same direction as you are you will appear to be standing still.

Going back to the ball again, you will find that it always partakes of the motion of the body holding it in addition to the motion given when it is thrown up.—Philadelphia Press.

Old Time Crinolines.

The crinoline—under another name—was known and denounced in the eighteenth century, as witness the pamphlet published in England in 1745 under title of "The Enormous Abomination of the Hoop Petticoat, as the Fashion Now Is."

At that time the hoop, usually of whalebone, was often "so large as to fill the space of six men," and in 1754 a writer in the Connaisseur speaks of "hoops" capable of contracting or expanding "from the size of a butter churn to the circumference of three bogheads."

Opened the King's Eyes.

When Fenelon was almoner to Louis XIV, his majesty was astonished to find one Sunday, instead of the usual crowded congregation, only himself and the priest. "What is the meaning of this?" said the king. "I caused it to be given out," replied the prelate, "that your majesty did not attend chapel today, that you might see who it was that came here to worship God and who to flatter the king."

Memory Training.

"I have decided," remarked Senator Borghum, "to train my memory."  
"What system will you use?"  
"I don't know. I'm looking for one that will enable me, when I am interviewed, to remember what to forget."  
—Washington Star.

Death on the Cross.

Crucifixion was a common mode of execution among most of the old nations. It was in constant practice, especially in Assyria, Carthage and the Roman empire.

His Treat.

Bacon—Been to see the doctor?  
Egbert—Sure thing.  
"Did he treat you?"  
"Oh, no; it was my treat. It cost me \$2."—Buffalo News.

SUBMARINE OIL LINES.

How the Wells of Vera Cruz Are Tapped For Tank Steamers.

Many of the most productive oil wells in the state of Vera Cruz, Mexico, are situated near the port of Tuxpam. For some distance from the shore there the water is so shallow that few of the large oil tankers can get into port. The oil companies hit upon the idea of laying submarine pipe lines to points where the largest oil tankers can be conveniently moored for loading in any state of the tide and weather.

There are now five of these great iron pipes in duplicate. They are from six to eight inches in diameter, and four of them are nearly a mile long. They terminate in forty-three feet of water, where it is so deep that the waves have no effect on them. When they were laid divers fastened to the end of each 120 feet of flexible hose. When not in use the free end of the hose is closed and allowed to lie on the bottom of the sea, where its position is marked by a small buoy attached to the hose by a stout chain.

When the tank steamers arrive they moor themselves to the permanent buoys near by, lift the marked buoy to the deck of the ship and attach it to the tank openings. By means of a signal code the captains of the ships notify the pumping station on shore, in which are the valves that control the flow of oil through the pipe line. Generally speaking, it takes about twenty-four hours to load one of the large 15,000 ton tankers, which means that the pipes deliver 4,375 barrels of oil an hour.—Youth's Companion.

WHERE MEN WEAR COMBS.

In Ceylon They Mark the Native Male's Social Standing.

Ceylon is perhaps the only country in the world where men wear combs. It is the delight of the native males of the low country to wear their hair twisted into a roll at the back of the head, with a horseshoe shaped tortoise shell comb at the top. The women, curiously enough, do not affect this ornament.

It appears that one of the great ambitions of the Cingalese man of humble position is to possess and wear a huge comb of the finest luster and most perfect manufacture, and many indicate their higher social status by means of an additional comb rising to a considerable height above their glossy coil.

The artist in tortoise shell who makes these combs obtains his raw materials from the hawk bill turtle. The turtle is killed and his carapace immediately immersed in boiling water. The plates when separated from the bony part of the animal are very irregular in form. Being brittle, they require careful manipulation, especially as a high temperature, which would soften them, tends to darken and cloud the shell. They are therefore treated at as low a heat as is possible for the work.

Thickness is obtained by softening several plates and then applying pressure, when a union of the surfaces takes place. Under heat the shell also is molded into various artificial forms.—Exchange.

Waterpouts.

A waterpout is a miniature tornado originating in a strong upward draft of air which occurs above the surface of a body of comparatively warm water. Its effect first becomes visible in a circular motion at the point of the cloud to which it ascends. This becomes a whirl, which condenses the vapor at its center, causing the portion of the cloud there to drop downward in the shape of a gigantic jelly bag. At the same time the continuing upward draft increases the rapidity of its original swirl and the condensed vapor caught within it until the ascending and descending masses join to form the waterpout. Necessarily by this process the air beneath the spout is rarefied, and thus where the phenomenon occurs at sea the water always seems to be sucked up into it, although this is not really the case in any considerable extent.

Secret of Harmony.

Full together. This is the real secret of harmony. There is a story told of a man who had committed the care of one of his teams to a faithful servant for years. At last one of the horses sickened and died. While the servant was burying the faithful animal the other horse came across the field and stood by, watching the work as a silent mourner.

The master said, "I believe Dick loved Billy."  
Instantly the servant replied: "In case he did, massa, why, they pulled together nigh twenty years."—Christian Herald.

An Old Massachusetts Law.

The general court of Massachusetts Bay Colony, following the example of the English parliament, in 1689 enacted a law that "anybody who is found observing by abstinence from labor, feasting or any other way any such day as Christmas day shall pay for every such offense 5 shillings." This law was repealed in 1681.

Getting into Society.

"Guess I'll have to rig up a middle name," declared Fluddub. "I never really had one, but I gotta have one now."  
"Why so?"  
"My wife insists upon one to print on her visiting cards."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Nature.

"I just adore nature. Don't you?"  
"Yes; in moderation, but one can't help feeling that nature was intended for the lower classes."—Browning's Magazine.

SOME GOLF TERMS.

Taken From the Dictionary of a Disgruntled Player.

Bunker—A protuberance on the face of nature rising up out of the side of a sandy depression, designed to ruin the pleasure of golf, to test the patience of the player and to serve as an inspiration for philologists, amateur and professional, in the making of new and original contributions to the world's stores of profane speech.

Luck—The good play of your competitor and the bad play of yourself.

Driver—A contrivance consisting of a long, flexible shaft, at the end of which is affixed a wooden head of the thickness of that of a rural detective, designed to propel a golf ball into the nearest difficulty within reach at a single stroke, whereby the irritation of the player and the disabilities of the spectators may be materially enhanced.

Tee—An elevated bit of earth upon which golfers are expected to stand and make an exhibition of themselves for the delectation of passersby.

Ball—A small white object, sometimes spherical in shape, manufactured and sold in large quantities at a high price, for the purpose of being lost in long grass or on side bets at so much per hole, according to the sporting proclivities of the bettors.—Life.

ZULU ELEPHANTS ALL GONE.

Not One Left in the Land That Used to Be Their Paradise.

There is not a single elephant left in the whole of Zululand, a country that was once a veritable paradise for the ponderous animals. The last of them, once a mighty creature, was found dead some time ago on a farm on the banks of the Unfolosi river, where he had lived since the early part of the reign of the great Chief Cetewayo.

An immense herd once roamed the Duggugun forest and along the Unfolosi, but it was diminished by incessant hunting until Cetewayo one day finally drove it away forever. The chief used to make medicine of certain portions of their bodies.

On the occasion referred to he organized a mighty drive in which two elephants were killed and many wounded. One of the latter turned and trampled one of his pursuers to a pulp. It was this animal, which was captured then, whose death marked the vanishing of the animals from the country. The remainder of the herd broke away, and thereafter none of them was seen again in Zululand.—New York Times.

Genuine Sardines.

Genuine sardines are the young of the pilchard. Their name comes from the fact that they are most numerous off the coast of Sardinia. They swim in the spring in shoals containing millions—fish shaped shoals ten miles long and a half mile wide. The sardines are netted and taken at once to the shore. There they are washed, scraped and sprinkled with salt. The salt is soon removed, the heads and gills cut off and there is another washing. Then, on beds of green brush, the fish are dried in the sun. Next they are boiled in olive oil till cooked thoroughly. The packers—women always—take them now and pack them in the tin boxes we all know, filling up each box with boiling oil, fitting on the lid and making the box air tight by soldering the joints together with a jet of hot steam.

A Seat in Parliament.

Lord Chesterfield in 1767 lamented the increased price of seats in the British parliament. There was a boom in trade, and prices went up. Chesterfield was ambitious for his son, and when Chatham's promise of a seat came to nothing he went marketing. And he failed to find a single bargain. "I spoke to a borough jobber," he wrote to his son, "and offered five and twenty hundred pounds for a secure seat in parliament, but he laughed at my offer and said there was no such thing as a borough to be had now, for the rich East and West Indians had secured them all at the rate of £3,000 at least, but many at £4,000 and two or three that he knew at £5,000. This, I confess, has vexed me a good deal."

Learning His Lesson.

The man whose house was next door was scrapping an acquaintance with the man who had just moved in.  
"I see you have an automobile," he said. "I suppose you will use the barn as a garage."  
"Yes; I expect to use it as a garage," responded the new neighbor. "This held him for a minute or two, and then he made another overture."  
"The man that lived here last year," he said, "used his back yard as a calabash patch."—Pittsburgh Times.

Startling Information.

Dear Ed—The menu in one of our leading hosteries states, "Our suckling pigs are strictly milk fed," which is an important piece of news to me, for I was always under the impression that suckling pigs were brought up on maple sirup. C. M. S.—Detroit Free Press.

After a Big Haul.

"Binks used to be daft on the subject of buried treasure. What's he up to now?"  
"He's got up an expedition to Asia Minor to try to find the place where Methusalem stored his birthday presents."

The Exchange.

"Pa, what is the Stock Exchange?"  
"The Stock Exchange, my son, is a place where a man is apt to exchange a stock of money for a stock of experience."—Boston Transcript.

Failures are with heroic minds the stepping stones to success.—Halliburton.

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