

### THE SCOLD'S BRIDLE.

Brutal Punishment to Which Women Were Once Subjected.

The brank, or scold's bridle, or gossip's bridle, was neither more nor less than a muzzle. It was in general use in Great Britain from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century, and in Scotland as well women were muzzled for certain offenses, some at least of them more imaginary than real. The instrument was real torture. Even a dog's leather muzzle is uncomfortable. How much more the scold's muzzle!

It consisted, according to a high authority, Mr. W. Jewitt, of a kind of crown or framework of iron, which was locked upon the head, and it was armed in front with a gag, a plate or a sharp cutting knife or point, which was placed in the poor woman's mouth so as to prevent her moving her tongue, or it was so placed that if she did move it or attempt to speak it was cut in a most frightful manner.

With this cage upon her head and with the gag firmly pressed and locked against her tongue, the miserable creature, whose sole offending perhaps was that she raised her voice in defense of her social rights against a brutal and besotted husband or had spoken honest truth of some one high in office in her town, was paraded through the streets, led by a chain by the hand of a bellman, the beadle or the constable, or chained to the pillory, the whipping post or market cross, to be subjected to every conceivable insult and degradation, without even the power left her of asking for mercy or of promising amendment for the future.

And when the punishment was over she was turned out from the town hall or the place where the brutal punishment had been inflicted, maimed, disfigured, bleeding, faint and degraded, to be the subject of comment and jeering among her neighbors. — London Globe.

### Ats Their Own Books.

Some authors have been compelled to destroy their books in a singularly unpleasant fashion. When Bernard the Great, duke of Saxony, learned that he was criticized in some pamphlets he had the author arrested, and after putting him in the pillory for an hour with one of the objectionable works between his teeth made him chew it up and swallow it.

In 1668 Philippus Oldenburger, a German jurist, published a description of his travels through Germany. A passage in this offended his liege lord, and Oldenburger was soundly flogged and then ordered to eat a copy of his book. It was only a duodecimo, but he found the task beyond his powers, and, after five years, pleaded successfully for a remission.

### Sure He Was.

On one of the southern liners passing through the Bahama islands was a mother with her little daughter. When they came to the island of San Salvador, now more commonly known as Watling's light, the mother tried to explain to her child that San Salvador was the first place where Columbus landed after crossing the Atlantic in 1492. The little girl listened attentively; then, after a moment's pause, exclaimed: "Oh, mamma! Don't you think Columbus must have been awfully glad when he saw that lighthouse?" — Albany Knickerbocker-Press.

### The Crocodile.

Pliny said the crocodile's skin "will abide any injury and not be pierced." That may have been true in his day, but it is not true now. The bullet of a heavy modern rifle will pierce the skin anywhere unless

The crocodile is not, as a rule, hard to kill, provided one can get a good shot at it, but that is just the trouble. It has not the marvelous vitality of the shark, which will sometimes struggle furiously for an hour, although covered with apparently mortal wounds.

### Galvani's Discovery.

It is to the wife of Professor Galvani of Bologna that is due the credit of having discovered the electrical battery which bears his name. Some skinned frogs lay upon the table, and, noticing a convulsive movement in their limbs, she called her husband's attention to the strange fact, and he instituted a series of experiments, and in 1791 he laid the foundation of the galvanic battery.

### Saloniki.

For more than 2,500 years Saloniki has had a continuous history, though the city has not always been known by its present name. It was refounded and renamed by Alexander the Great in the year 315 B. C. It is said that Philip of Macedonia named his daughter Thessalonica because on the day he heard of her birth he won a victory over the Thessalonians.

### Interpreting a Problem.

Apropos of the problem of the greatest number that can be expressed by three figures, L. Capitaine writes that the figures 99 may be interpreted in two different ways. They may mean the ninth power of the ninth power of 9, or they may mean 9 raised to the ninth power of 9.

The ninth power of 9 is 387,420,489. This number raised to the ninth power is nothing so tremendous; any one could do the necessary calculation with a little time, as the result has only about seventy-five figures. But if we accept the second interpretation—9 raised to the ninth power of 9—it means that we shall have to multiply 9 by itself 387,420,489 times, which is a very different thing.

### If All the World Were Perfect.

If all the world were perfect an intolerable sameness would be stamped upon humanity from one end of the earth to the other. "For the love of heaven," some one has exclaimed, "let me retain my defects. That is the only thing I really have." Moreover, there are some really quite captivating human defects. But it is important to control them so that they may never become obnoxious.—Anatole Le Bras in Outlook.

### To Mend a Tablecloth.

When a tablecloth begins to break or a small hole appears, cut a piece of white paper some larger than the place to be mended, paste securely over the hole and stitch on sewing machine, lengthwise and crosswise, very closely and evenly. It will look much better and is easier than darning or patching by hand. I also mend sheets and bedspreads the same way. The paper will disappear when washed.—Farm and Fireside.

### Belated Wisdom.

"What I want to know, Johnny," demanded the stern parent, "is why you picked a quarrel with that bad boy next door?" "I don't know, sir," replied the injured culprit, "but I s'pose it must have been 'cause I didn't know what a bad boy he was." —Richmond Times-Dispatch.

### Could Use Them.

Old Lady—My poor man, here is a cent for you. Polite Beggar—Can't you make it two, madam? Old Lady—What would you do with 2 cents? Polite Beggar—I'd buy a stamp and mail you an acknowledgment, madam. Etiquette forbids me using a postcard.—Judge.

### Perkins' Paradox.

Can't Perkins support his wife? "Why, he can support her all right, but he claims that she is insupportable." —Boston Transcript.

No indulgence of passion destroys the spiritual nature so much as respectability selfishness.

### OUR "CANDY NATION."

Science Says the Sugar We Eat is the Secret of Our Energy.

America is known the world over as "the candy nation," and, according to foreigners, the average American spends the day imbibing ice cream sodas and munching bonbons.

But now medical science declares that this is the secret of the energy and strenuous life of the American and that the more strenuous he becomes the more sweets he will require; that actually 7,650,000,000 pounds of sugar that is consumed yearly in the United States might be increased to the improvement of the nation.

King Candy, science says, is an athletic trainer; a business partner that puts courage and energy into a man, a bold fighter of the demon rum and a heart specialist.

The muscles of the body require sugar, and the more a man or a woman brings his or her muscles into play the more they demand sweets to stimulate them, and thus the craving for candy arises. The heart also requires sugar as a mild stimulant, since the heart is in reality a great muscle bag, and the man who has a big physical test of endurance before him is subconsciously warned of the need of extra sweets by a craving for candy or extra sugar in his coffee.

Thus the strenuous American craves and requires far more sweets than the less athletic or more phlegmatic men of other countries.

The candy shop is also a rival to the saloon, for the man who munches on chocolates and takes an extra amount of sirup on his griddle cakes at breakfast has more muscular energy stored up than the man who does not. He therefore is not so easily tired, and the temptation that so often arises from weariness to "take one to brace me up" is absent.—Philadelphia North American.

### Her Hired Help.

In Washington the colored servants, as a rule, go to their own homes at night. The cook in the family of a clergyman not only does this, but of late has frequently arrived at the rectory too late to cook breakfast; hence her mistress told her that for each breakfast missed there would be a reduction in her weekly wages. Maria passively assented to this. The next day the mistress heard this conversation between the maid next door and the delinquent cook:

"Pears to me like you git to work mighty late."

"I git to work when I git ready."

"How does yo' manage about de breakfast?"

"Oh, I pays de missus to cook de breakfast." —New York Times.

### Not the Gordian Knot.

"What is your name, sir?" "My name is Knott Martin, your honor."

"Well, what is it?" "It is Knott Martin."

"Not Martin again! We don't ask what your name is not, but what it is. No contempt of court, sir!"

"If your honor will give me leave I'll spell my name."

"Well, spell it."

"K-n-o-double-t, Knott, M-a-r-t-i-n, Martin."

"Oh, very well, Mr. Martin. We are through now, but it is one of the most knotty cases we have had before us for some time."

### An Obliging Model.

A Wall street man was giving advice to young men.

"Never undertake," he said, "to do too much. In applying for a position it is almost better to promise too little than too much. Remember the model."

"An old chap, you know, applied to a New York artist for the post of model."

"Well," said the artist, "what do you sit for?"

"Oh, anything, sir," said the model, fingering his beard nervously, "anything you like, sir—landscape if necessary."

### A Short Sermon.

It is reported that a young man, being examined preparatory to joining the church, was asked, "Under whose preaching were you converted?"

"Under nobody's preaching," was the prompt reply. "I was converted under my mother's practicing."

Did any preacher ever utter so powerful a sermon as the young man embodied in those few words?

### Gave Him Away Anyhow.

Man of the House—Why did you tell my wife what time I came in this morning, after I expressly told you not to?

The Cook—Shure, Oi didn't tell her. She asked me what toime ye got in an' Oi told her Oi was so busy gettin' the breakfast that Oi didn't look at the clock. —Town Topics.

### THE MAKING OF TUNNELS.

An Industry That is Almost as Old as the World Itself.

While tunneling is among the most ancient of enterprises, yet more progress has been made in it the last century than in the twenty centuries which preceded it. It is now known that back in the semi-mythical days of the Theban kings the long tunnel into the mountain rock, expanding at a distance of 400 feet or so into some lofty chamber, was a common work of princes. The rock temples of Nubia, too, and of India show that in certain matters, at any rate, moderns may still learn from ancients.

Then again in Algeria, Switzerland, wherever the Romans went, are to be found tunnels of all kinds and designed for all purposes, for roads and drains and water supplies. Pliny makes mention of one notable achievement, the greatest of its kind in his day, the great tunnel constructed for the drainage of Lake Fucino. It was by far the longest artificial tunnel in the world at that time. More than three and a half miles long, it was driven under Monte Salviano and required for its construction shafts of no less than 400 feet. Some 30,000 men were employed on it for eleven years.

From the time of the Romans until the latter end of the eighteenth century no great advance was made in tunneling methods. Old engravings of mining work in the early years of the seventeenth century show the pickax or hammer and chisel as still the chief tools employed. With the advent of the railway, however, tunneling became one of the grand necessities of construction, and progress was more rapid.

### VALUE OF GOLD.

While That is Fixed, Its Price is Regulated by Premiums.

Gold is not considered a commodity in the ordinary sense of the term, but is the basis on which the values of commodities are determined. Its value does not fluctuate, but is universally fixed at \$20.66 2-3 ounce or its equivalent. Its price, however, fluctuates, as in the case of premiums. Its value is stationary, hence the term premium. The difference between the fluctuation of that and the purchasing power of gold may be simply illustrated as follows:

That while its value remains stationary a premium would serve to reduce its purchasing power, to be added to its cost, but an advance in the price of commodities would operate to reduce the purchasing power of gold, taking \$1 as a unit.

For instance, a dollar will purchase an article whose price coincides, but if an advance in the commodity raises the price of that particular article to \$1.10 the purchasing power of gold would necessarily be reduced proportionately. Or, again, in times of adversity, commodities are cheap, the supply invariably exceeding the demand, the purchasing power of gold would then be greater than in times of prosperity, when the supply does not meet the demand and higher prices for commodities result.

There is no difference in the cost of a pennyweight of gold today from what it was ten years or more ago.—Pittsburgh Press.

### Fores of Habit.

The late H. Gassaway Davis, once a United States senator and candidate for vice president on the Parker ticket, was a brakeman before he became a millionaire and is said on one historic occasion while sleeping soundly in the senate chamber to have dreamed that he was still guiding an unruly freight train through the mountains of West Virginia. The dream was inspired by a nearby colleague, Senator Allen G. Thurman, who blew two mighty blasts on his nose. Davis, thinking he had heard the freight whistle, seized his desk as if it were a brake and nearly twisted the thing from its moorings before he came to.—New York Mail.

### Delayed.

"Henry," said his wife reproachfully, "do you know that it was 3 o'clock when you came home this morning?"

"You are mistaken, my dear," he replied. "It was just 1:30. I looked at the clock on the church tower as I passed the corner."

"Far be it from me to doubt your word, Henry," answered his wife, "but if that is the case it must have taken you an hour and a half to open the front door." —Exchange.

### The Subject He Liked Best.

"You talk well on the subject in which you are most interested," said the impertinent girl.

"And what is that?" said the man, smelling a compliment.

"Yourself," said the impertinent girl demurely.

### It Seemed Like It.

Lecturer—The idea of eternity, my friends, is something too vast for the human mind to conceive. Voice From Audience—Did you ever pay for a \$700 piano on the installment plan?—Life.

### Easy.

Teacher—What makes the grass grow? Willie—The grass has blades, and with these it cuts its way through the earth.

### Poetry in Motion.

"What is poetry of motion?" "The kind that's always going from one editor to another." —Woman's Home Companion.

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