

A FAMOUS OLD HOAX.

Keely's Motor, With Which He Baffled Scientists For Years.

The story of the Keely motor hoax will live long. Its interest will be enhanced by the preservation in the Franklin Institute of the model of the remarkable motor that Keely built to deceive intending investors and enrich its inventor until the fraud was exposed after Keely's death.

For twenty-five years Keely astounded eminent scientists of Europe and America with the machine that he claimed had solved the secret of perpetual motion. The inventor of this machine would start his device going, apparently, by playing a tune on a mouth organ. He convinced many clever men that he told the truth, and stock in the new concern sold freely.

To the day of his death Keely declared that his discovery was a genuine one, and it was only when the house in which the machine was placed was thoroughly overhauled that the colossal fraud was discovered. Keely had wired the walls of the building. He ran his machine by high pressure hydraulic power. When the wires attached to the machine were the subject of investigation Keely would file them to show that they were solid and could not be used for any purpose other than that for which they were attached.

Pieces of wire thus filed are to be seen at the Franklin Institute. The broken pieces show that the wires were hollow and that the inventor of the wonderful motor carefully stopped his filing short of perforating the center, which would have exposed the fraud.—Scientific American.

FORMATION OF COAL.

Conditions on Our Planet While the Process Developed.

What may be said to be the strangest period through which our earth has passed is the one that was responsible for the formation of coal. The planet is described as having been at that time flat and smooth as to surface and peculiar as to vegetation. The continents were just beginning to rise above the ocean and the land had not yet become dry. Mountain ranges had not arisen from the swamps, and the atmosphere was thick with fog. In this state of affairs there sprouted and flourished the plants which were later to furnish the world with its coal supply.

These plants grew as big as our largest trees, taking deep root in the morass and flourishing like the lush grasses in moist meadow land and developed into the strange shapes now found in tropic vegetation. The forest looked, the scientists assure us, like dense growths of weeds, rushes and enormous ferns. Some of them grew in the shape of earth, having spines all over them. This kind of vegetation was very rich in carbon, which it derived from the warm, moist atmosphere. Then the millions of years rolled by, the forests of giant weeds were buried by deposits of earthy material and the chemical change took place which slowly changed them into coal. This process ceased with the carboniferous age, so that when the present supply of coal is dug out of the ground there will be no more.—Exchange.

Sealed Orders.

The custom of having warships sail under sealed orders arose from the desire of maritime powers to prevent the plans from becoming known to the enemy. In the American navy such orders come from the president and are delivered to a commander of a ship or squadron by a confidential messenger who knows nothing of their contents. Sometimes they are in cipher, but they are always sealed with the official seal of the navy department, and the package cannot be opened until the time marked on it, which is usually several hours after the hour of leaving port. By this precaution the newspapers are prevented from disclosing prematurely the movements which may be of the greatest importance, and the spies of the enemy are rendered useless so far as their ability to discover the secret of such movements is concerned.

Primrose For Memory.

The primrose of old was credited with a medicinal as well as a superstitious value. Even now in some country parts a decoction of primrose leaves is supposed to restore a failing memory, and in 1654, when Culpeper wrote his "London Dispensary," the primrose was regarded as an almost universal panacea, curing "convulsions, falling sickness, palsies, etc." and strengthening "the brain, senses and memory exceedingly." And even the healthy did not disdain to eat it, for primrose pasty was once a popular Lancashire delicacy.—Family Doctor.

Youthful Independence.

"Father," said the fair girl, "I have arranged a very important interview for you this evening. Harold is going to call on you."
"To make a formal request for your hand, I suppose?"
"Not at all. He wants to look you over and see how you would do for a father-in-law."—Washington Star.

Condensed.

"Here is an article on 'How to Live a Hundred Years.'"

"Yes, and the whole subject can be condensed into two words."

"What are they?"

"Don't die."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Cheerfulness can become a habit, and it is wonderful how a good habit of this kind will help us over hard places."

Tipping in Austria.

"You know the value of tips in the United States," writes a man from Prague, who visited this country for the first time two years ago, "and you are more liberal than we are in that respect, but such a thing as tipping a railway conductor is not known to the tourist in Austria. Here in Austria the custom is so well established that the refusal of a conductor on a Buchenbrunn train to accept a thankoffering from a passenger who had been allowed to ride alone in a compartment has caused unusual comment. The title 'White Haven' was conferred on the conductor, who emphasized his displeasure at being tempted by having the passenger summoned before a magistrate on the charge of attempted bribery. Do not let that trouble you, however, when you come here, because the tipping malefactor was discharged, and the magistrate's contemptuous look at the conductor indicated that his opinion of a man who would not take a tip was unfit for publication."—New York Tribune.

Cooked Meats.

Bolled meat may lose some of its best foodstuff properties if too much water is used in its boiling or if it is taken from the water in which it is boiling. Instead of allowing it to remain and recover by absorption some of its valuable properties. Eight pounds of beef after it is boiled will weigh six and a half pounds. After it is baked it will lose two pounds and six ounces. After it is roasted it will lose three pounds and ten ounces. Other meat losses almost in the same proportions when it is cooked. It will be noticed that roasting meat causes it to lose considerably more than boiling. One great trouble, of course, in boiling meat is that it loses nearly 45 per cent of its mineral matter and 12 per cent of its fats and nearly 8 per cent of its proteins. Housewives should not worry over this, however, when it is known that there is a greater percentage of nutriment in cooked meats, notwithstanding the loss by cooking, than there is in raw meats.—New York American.

Satisfied His Curiosity.

Harvard Taylor's widest fame was won as a traveler and a lecturer on his travels. He prided himself on his poetry more than on his prose. One day he delivered a lecture in a rural town out west, and several of my auditors were availing me with expressions of their satisfaction. One person in particular was especially eager, saying: "I am delighted, Mr. Taylor, to make your acquaintance. I have read everything you have ever written and have greatly enjoyed it all. This was pleasant to hear, and, as he grasped my hand with evident friendship, I responded with a request for his opinion of my poetry. A look of overwhelming astonishment and perplexity came into his face. 'Your poetry?' he exclaimed. 'Have you ever written any poetry?' This, I need not tell you, fully satisfied my curiosity."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Mad Paul of Russia.

Russia's first Paul was no less insane than his father, Peter III, although his madness was longer in manifesting itself. So violent was his hatred of the revolutionary round hats, a fashion imported from France, that one day he sent 200 police and dragoons to scour the streets of St. Petersburg and tear them from the heads of all who wore them. He banished all the culmen from his capital because one of them was found with a pair of pistols on him. Hundreds of his officers and courtiers were sent in chains to Siberia for a glance or a word that displeased him, many without any cause at all, and he sent an entire regiment on a 2,000-mile march because in drilling it had failed to understand one of his indistinct words of command.

Aerial Analysis.

If the late Wilbur Wright ever had a romance he managed to keep the secret, and no one seemed to know. However, he was not without views on the subject. A reporter once asked him why he had never married. "It's the oddest thing in the world to drive an aeroplane," he answered, "and it's just as easy to get married." Then he added, "Women and aeroplanes are so much alike that you can't analyze either until you get them going."

Bending the Truth.

His Wife sat the other end—Well, if you've already asked Mr. Low to dine with us I suppose I'll have to manage somehow, but you know I don't like him. He sat this end—She says everything's all right and she'll be tickled to death to see you.—Exchange.

Strong Woman.

"Father," said little Herbert, "why doesn't mother travel with the circus?"
"What could she do in a circus?"
"She might be the strong woman. I heard her tellin' grandma this morning that she could wind you around her little finger."—Judge.

Advance Information.

"Young man, we need brains in our business."
"I know you do. That is why I'm looking for a job here."—Baltimore American.

The Fourth Dimension.

Tommy—Pa, what is the fourth dimension? Father—The one that fits every fashion. Your mother has it.—New York Sun.

Since we cannot get what we like let us like what we get.—Persian Proverb.

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