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FRIDAY.....October 25, 1912

ODDITIES IN CLUBS

Some Curious Associations That
Were Born In London.

FREAKS IN NAMES AND AIMS.

**The Abduction Club Was Formed For
the Purpose of Carrying Off Heiresses
by Force and the Surly Club to Pro-
mote the Use of Abusive Language.**

One of the most extraordinary clubs London has ever known, says the Standard, was the Sighting club, the members of which were supposed to be wholly absorbed in thinking of their sweethearts. Each would hold in his hand a bit of ribbon, a lock of hair, a purse or some other article belonging to the object of his affections, and from time to time he would address this article in terms of endearment, no other speaking being allowed. On initiation the member had to compose and recite a poem in honor of his lady, and at the meetings a fine was imposed upon the member who did not sigh five times within a quarter of an hour.

Again, there was the Abduction club, organized in 1706 by some well connected Irish youths, who banded themselves together to abduct heiresses and good looking young women of gentle birth. As there was a large membership, many forced marriages took place in consequence of their exploits. The evil became eventually so serious that a special act of parliament was passed making abduction a capital offense.

The members assisted each other by providing relays of horses and carriages whenever necessary. The wealth of the two sisters Kennedy, daughters of Richard Kennedy of Rathmaiden Manor, Waterford, caused the attention of the members to be drawn to them. Gerald Byrne, grandson of Sir Gregory Byrne, and James Strange Villard were drawn in the lottery, and the abduction took place on April 14, 1779.

The principals were arrested, tried and condemned and they were executed in the following May, notwithstanding the fact that ministers of the court of Vienna, grandees of Spain and French nobles implored their pardon. The club was introduced into England in 1770, but disbanded in 1802, when twenty-nine members remained.

The No Nose club was founded by a gentleman who was an unwilling follower of the Egyptian fashion of flat faces. When the members dined together and a young pig, the favorite dish, was the principal item on the menu the snout was always cut off.

The Club of Ugly Faces was also founded by a gentleman who boasted an enormously large nose. Another member had a chin of the size and shape of a shoe horn, another a huge mouth and a fourth very large, protruding eyes. No one was eligible for membership who had not some facial malformation, and all members on initiation had to make a speech in praise of Aesop, whose portrait hung over the mantelpiece of the clubroom.

The Surly club had its meeting place near Billingsgate fish market, and the membership was limited to cabmen, carmen and watermen, who used to meet once a week to exercise the art of abusive language in order that they might not lose the reputation they had gained. Any member found guilty of courtesy or politeness was promptly fined.

The Split Farthing club was limited in membership to men who agreed to stint themselves to the utmost in order to increase their possessions. One member is reported to have had his garments so darned that there was not enough of the original material left to show the texture. The members presented so starved an appearance that it was said there was not an ounce of fat among the lot.

The Everlasting club was limited in membership to a hundred, and the members divided the day among themselves in such a way that there were always some present upon the premises. The great fire of London put an end to this institution, as the premises were burned down, and the only member on the premises was nearly burned to death because he refused to leave until he had emptied all the bottles on the table. The fire for lighting the members' pipes was never allowed to go out, an old woman being kept solely for the purpose of attending to it. During the fifty years of its existence the members smoked fifty tons of tobacco, drank 30,000 butts of ale, 1,000 pipes of port and 200 barrels of brandy in addition to other liquors.

The Man Killing club was limited in membership to men who had killed opponents in duels. The conversation at the gatherings was confined to bullets, wounds and slaughter. The president was said to have killed half a dozen men in single combat, and the seats at dinner were arranged according to the numbers the members had slain. At banquets a side table was provided for visitors who had only drawn blood. The club had not a lengthy existence, as nearly all the members were exe-

cuted. Suicides clubs have been long in existence, and one existed recently in Kursk. The club had for its motto "Death is the cure for all ills," but, as set forth in its book of rules, candidates for membership had first of all to show that they had a substantial reason for wishing to die. A would-be candidate who presented himself with the weight of ten or more years of an unhappy married life was received with open arms. Loss of fortune, incurable disease and a record of ill luck were also excellent qualifications for membership.

SUPERSTITION AND RELIGION.

Superstition is related to this life, religion to the next. Superstition is allied to fatality, religion to virtue. It is by the vivacity of earthly desires that we become superstitious. It is, on the contrary, by the sacrifice of these desires that we become religious.—Mme. de Staël.

THE COUNTRY NEAR A CRISIS.

This republic is near a crisis which is greater than the wisest men think. I do not forget that the French revolution came while the governors were at the theater and that they arose from their banquet tables to come face to face with violence and bloodshed in the streets of Paris. I do not say the United States is facing such a state of affairs, but I do maintain that if within the next thirty years the country should continue to change as it has in the last thirty we shall find ourselves face to face with such a condition at the end of that time. Every evil which exists in the country today can be corrected without danger to the principles and policies upon which this republic was founded, and it should be done. The impatience of the minority, of which I myself have been a member, has been largely responsible for the state of mind of the people of the United States today, for they have grossly exaggerated the evils of the country. — Senator Bailey of Texas.

THE HIGHER GOOD.

Father, I will not ask for wealth or fame.
Though once they would have joyed my carnal sense
I shudder not to hear a hated name.
Wanting all wealth, myself my sole defense.
But give me, Lord, eyes to behold the truth,
A seeing sense that knows the eternal right,
A heart with pity filled and gentlest truth,
A manly faith that makes all darkness light.
Give me the power to labor for mankind,
Make me the mouth of such as cannot speak,
Eyes let me be to groping men and blind,
A conscience to the base, and to the weak
Let me be hands and feet, and to the foolish mind,
And lead still further on such as thy kingdom seek
—Theodore Parker

TRAINING FOR CITIZENSHIP.

Service is the keynote of the twentieth century service for humanity. The great problem of the time is how to give the state better citizens. What then should be the equipment of the trained citizen of our time? Four things at least seem to be needed for effective service. Our educational forces are seeking to develop them in our prospective citizens. They are the passion for accuracy, the power of initiative, intellectual and moral integrity, interest in public affairs.—Professor Ralph W. Thomas.

Hats in Parliament.

A member of parliament must never stand up with his hat on even if he has only risen to speak to the man behind him. Coming in, going out or speechifying he is always hatless and he is sometimes hatless when sitting down. Thus if the speaker mentions a bill the member is responsible for he lifts his hat. If his name is mentioned in a speech he lifts his hat. Even if he happens at those times to be bare-headed he must seize a hat, put it on, then lift it.

"LET THE PEOPLE RULE."

We should provide throughout this Union for giving the people in every state the real right to rule themselves and really and not nominally to control their public servants and their agencies for doing the public business, an incident of this being giving the people the right themselves to do this public business if they find it impossible to get what they desire through the existing agencies. I do not attempt to dogmatize as to machinery by which this end should be achieved. In each community it must be shaped so as to correspond not merely with the needs, but with the customs and ways of thought, of that community, and no community has a right to dictate to any other in this matter. But wherever representative government has in actual fact become nonrepresentative there the people should secure to themselves the initiative, the referendum and the recall, doing it in such fashion as to make it evident that they do not intend to use these instrumentalities wantonly or frequently, but to hold them ready for use in order to correct the misdeeds or failures of the public servants when it has become evident that these misdeeds and failures cannot be corrected in ordinary and normal fashion. The administrative officer should be given full power, for otherwise he cannot do well the people's work, and people should be given full power over him.—Theodore Roosevelt.

Japanese Royal Composers.

The Imperial family of Japan, like the Hohenzollerns, has produced some musical composers. At the reception given by the Mikado in 1894 to celebrate his silver wedding a dance was played which, according to the program, was "composed 1,200 years ago by the Emperor Yomer. It represents the joyous flight of a bird of paradise in the golden age." Another dance was "composed 987 years ago by Prince Atsumi."

Much Better.

Small Edgar while out walking with his mother hesitated at a muddy crossing.
"Well, why don't you go ahead?" she asked.
"I was just thinking," replied Edgar, "that it would be better to go about."—Chicago News

The Way.

"I should think they could easily run a funny department in the Congressional Record."
"How would they do it?"
"Why, look at all the jokers they have in the bills."—Baltimore American

Not the Same.

Wife—Big checks for dresses will not be in demand this season. Hubby—Thank heaven! But the big checks were demanded just the same.—Exchange

Misunderstood.

French Chauffeur to deaf farmer on a Maine road—Can you tell me, please, where I get some of ze gazzoline? Farmer with his hand to his ear—Hey? French Chauffeur: Non, non, non! Not ze hay—ze gazzoline. Zizz ez a motor car, not a horse.—Exchange

Discovered.

Wife—What would you do, George, if you were left a widower? Hub—Oh, I suppose the same as you would if you were left a widow. Wife—You horrid wretch! And you told me you could never care for anybody else.—Boston Transcript

The Dear Girl.

"Wife, why don't you make some flannel cakes?"
"I will if you wish it," said the bride.
"Shall I use red or white flannel?"—Kansas City Journal

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Phil Pearson, Secretary

Eastern Star

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Merta Mehl, Secretary.

I. O. O. F.

BANDON LODGE, No. 133, I. O. O. F., meets every Wednesday evening. Visiting brothers in good standing cordially invited.
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