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## POWDER AND GUNS.

### Evidence That They Were Used Long Before the Christian Era.

There is abundant evidence that the origin of gunpowder and artillery goes far back in the dim ages of the past.

The Hindoo code, compiled long before the Christian era, prohibited the making of war with cannon and guns or any kind of firearms. Quintus Curtius informs us that Alexander the Great met with fire weapons in Asia, and Philostratus says that Alexander's conquests were arrested by the use of gunpowder. It is also written that those wise men who lived in the cities of the Ganges "overthrew their enemies with tempests and thunderbolts shot from the walls." Julius Africanus mentions shooting powder in the year 275. It was used in the siege of Constantinople in 698, by the Arabs in 690, at Thessalonica in 904, at the siege of Belgrade in 1073, by the Greeks in naval battle in 1008, by the Arabs against the Iberians in 1147 and at Toulouse in 1218.

It appears to have been generally known throughout civilized Europe as early as 1300, and soon thereafter it made its way into England, where it was manufactured during the reign of Elizabeth, and we learn that a few arms were possessed by the English in 1310 and that they were used at the battle of Crecy in 1346.—Cassier's Magazine.

## SHERIDAN'S RUSE.

### It Settled the Dramatist's Account With His Wine Merchant.

It is related of Richard Brinsley Sheridan, the dramatist and statesman, that, always in debt, he had among his creditors the brothers Challe, who were the partners in a wine firm in 1775.

One day when he was giving a dinner party to some distinguished people Sheridan sent for one of the brothers, told him he was now able to settle his account and invited him to the dinner party, asking him to come before the hour for some private conversation.

Challe arrived early, and he was no sooner in the house than Sheridan sent off a servant with a note to the clerk, desiring him, as Mr. Challe was favoring him with his company, to send as soon as possible three dozen of burgundy, two dozen of claret and two dozen of port, with a dozen of old hock.

The unsuspecting clerk sent the wine, with which the guests were so pleased that they asked where it came from. Sheridan, turning toward Challe, said, "I am indebted to my friend here for all the wine you have tasted and am always proud to recommend him." It was not until the following morning that Challe realized the double meaning in Sheridan's words. The debt was canceled.

### A Queer Fish.

A male fish which hatches the young of its mate is the Chromis paterfamilias. It is found in the Lake of Tiberias, Palestine. Strange to say, this industrious fish hatches its young in its mouth. When the female has spawned in the sand, the male

approaches and draws the eggs into his gills, where they remain until hatched, when they struggle out of their confinement into the parent's mouth. As many as 200 perfect young are sometimes found in the mouth of an adult male. How the fish manages to feed itself without swallowing the young is a mystery. The grown fish is about seven inches long and one and three-quarters wide. Its back is olive green, shot with blue, and the belly is silver white, marked with green and blue. Near ancient Capernaum some hot springs form a small stream which runs into the lake, and it is in these warm waters that the chromis abounds.

### No Common Dog.

Gentleman (to dog dealer)—I gave you a high price for this dog last week because you warranted it to be a good house dog. My house was broken into last night, and the dog never even barked.

Dog Dealer—No, sir; I quite believe you. He was too busy looking for the burglars, so as to be able to identify 'em, to even think of barkin'. If you was out with this 'ere dog and was to meet 'em burglars he'd know 'em in a minute. He ain't no common barkin' dog; he's a reg'lar 'tective an' worth 'is weight in gold, he is.—London Answers.

## THE FUEGIANS.

### They Are Stunted and Misshapen as Well as Hideously Ugly.

At the two extremes of the American continent dwell the most wretched races of beings—the Eskimos at the north and the Fuegians at the south. Of the two the Fuegians appear to be the lowest in the civilized scale, their general aspect being wretched and degraded.

Their hideously ugly faces express the grossest stupidity, and their persons are both stunted and misshapen. The average height of the men does not exceed five feet two inches, that of the women four feet eight inches, and owing to their habit of standing in a stooping attitude they look even less than their actual height.

But, although they are veritable pygmies in stature, yet their bodies are exceedingly large, and their general appearance is such as might result from tacking on to the trunk of a giant the arms and legs of a child.

Their color appears to be a copper bronze, but as nearly all are begrimed with smoke it is difficult to specify their precise hue. The very young children are light brown in color with the exception of the palms of the hands and the soles of the feet, which are of a dirty yellow.

The heads of the adults are covered with coarse black hair which falls in lank masses to the neck behind and on each side of the face, but is cut away from before the eyes.

The forehead is low and retreating, the nose broad, flat and furnished with immense nostrils, and the mouth is very wide, with thick, protruding lips, the upper one being very much elongated.

The eyes are small and placed somewhat obliquely, the iris is invariably black in color, and the white of the eye has a distinctly yellowish tinge. Moreover, owing apparently to the irritation produced by the smoke of the fires over which they are so constantly crouching, they are very generally near eyed.

The teeth, although very much discolored, are, as a rule, regular and sound. The men have naturally only a few black bristles scattered over the upper lip and chin. These, however, are carefully extracted from time to time by means of two mussel shells, and very frequently the hair of the eyebrows is removed by a similar process. The males appear to pay no attention whatever to the dressing of their hair, but the women are somewhat more particular and may frequently be seen employing in its arrangement the toothed jaw of a porpoise in lieu of a comb.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

## GIGANTIC TREE STUMPS.

### Big Enough to Be Hollowed Out and Used for Houses.

The fine firs of the Pacific northwest are so colossal that after the trees are hewed down the stumps are used for children's playgrounds, houses for families to live in or for dancing platforms.

To make a stump house the material from the interior is removed, leaving only enough to form walls of suitable thickness. A roof of boards or shingles is put over the top of the stump, holes are cut for windows and doors, and a family of five can and often does make it their dwelling. The stump houses are sometimes used by settlers until they can build larger and more convenient homes.

After the stump home has been vacated it is turned into a stable for the horses or sometimes into an inclosure for chickens or hogs.

Next to the big tree of California the fir or sequoia of Washington and Oregon has the largest diameter. As they decay rapidly, the hollowing out is easy. Sometimes they are used for dance platforms, some of them accommodating as many as four couples.

Another custom is to turn the big stumps into playgrounds for the children. The children reach the top by pieces of wood nailed against the sides or by ladders. A beautiful use of the large stumps is making them into flower beds and covering them with trailing vines.—Chicago Tribune.

## THE WAISTCOAT.

### It Became Popular by the Patronage of Charles II.

Few men realize how much they are being influenced in their dress by King Charles II, and yet it is to that monarch we owe the adoption of the waistcoat as a regular article of gentleman's dress, says London M. A. P. At least that is so if we are to accept the statement of Pepys, who in his diary under date of Oct. 16, 1666, states: "The king has declared his resolution to set a fashion which he would never alter," and "This day King Charles II, began to put on his vest. It is a very fine and handsome garment."

Prior to this date they were exceptional garments, and there is even some doubt whether they were originally worn by ladies or gentlemen, though there is good reason to believe they superseded the doublet, such as was worn by Raleigh, Essex and other nobles of the Elizabethan age.

A neat waistcoat "wrought in silk and gold" is mentioned in "Patient Grissell," 1602, and there is a painting in distemper of a vest on the walls of Winchester cathedral, dated 1480, so that what Charles II, took was merely an existing garment, which he remodeled, and by his patronage so popularized it that it became a standard article of gentleman's dress.

### Clever Reasoning.

Rather an original lesson in political economy was that once taught by the Japanese nobleman Awoto and thus translated by Sir Edwin Arnold in "Sens and Lands":

One evening as he was going to the palace to take his turn in keeping the night watch he let ten cash drop out of his tinder case into the stream and then bought fifty cash worth of torches to search for the lost coin. His friends laughed at him for spending so much in order to recover so little, and he replied, with a frown: "Sirs, you are foolish and ignorant of economics. Had I not sought for these ten cash they would have been lost forever—sunk in the bottom of the Namerigawa. The fifty cash which I have expended on torches will remain in the hands of the tradesman. Whether he has them or I is no matter, but not a single one of the sixty has been lost, and that is a clear gain to the country."

### Wedding Ring Mottoes.

When posies or mottoes inscribed inside wedding rings were first introduced does not seem to be known, but from the sixteenth century until the middle of the eighteenth it was customary to have them engraved on rings. These mottoes seldom consisted of more than two lines of a verse, often of only one, but there are a few instances known where three lines were used. Some of these posies are very quaint and curious, and a few reach a high standard of poetic beauty. The South Kensington museum has a good collection of posy rings, and among them are the following inscriptions: "United hearts death only parts;" "Let us share in joy and care;" "Love and live happily."—London Standard.

### The Cause.

"Did you hear the awful shriek that engine gave as it flew by?" asked the first man as they approached a railroad crossing.

"Yes. What caused it?" rejoined his companion.

"I presume the engineer had it by the throttle."—Smart Set.

### A Mean Retort.

"There goes a man I could have married," she said softly.

"Yes," he chuckled, "and I notice that he keeps on going as though he were afraid you might try it again."—Detroit Free Press.

### Way It Goes.

"Could you give a starving woman work?"

"Yes; I need a girl to scrub."

"Too bad; this girl's a parlor maid."—Washington Herald.

The small courtesies sweeten life; the great ennoble it.

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Foley & Co., Chicago. Gentlemen—I was afflicted with Kidney and Bladder trouble for six years and had tried numerous preparations without getting any relief and had given up hope of ever being cured when FOLEY'S KIDNEY CURE was recommended to me. After using one bottle I could feel the effect of it, and after taking six fifty-cent bottles, I was cured of Kidney and Bladder trouble and have not felt so well for the past twenty years and I owe it to FOLEY'S KIDNEY CURE. James Smith, Bentons Ferry, W. Va.

### A Veteran of the Civil War Cured After Ten Years of Suffering.

R. A. Cray, J.P., of Oakville, Ind., writes—"Most of the time for ten years I was confined to my bed with some disease of the kidneys. It was so severe I could not move part of the time. I consulted the best medical skill available, but got no relief until FOLEY'S KIDNEY CURE was recommended to me. I am grateful to be able to say that it entirely cured me."

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