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**Father Abraham Wise
in Departing From Ur**

The diggers, comments the Montreal Star, have uncovered the city of Ur, the place Father Abraham left because he felt the need of expansion.

Ur, it appears, had a luxurious civilization and the women wore hair nets. The hair nets may have had something to do with Abraham's moving on to wider fields. To a man with the pioneer spirit hair nets for women must have looked like the last word in superfluous expenditure, especially if, as was the custom among the patriarchs, he had a number of wives all of whom would want hair nets.

At all events Abraham decided to get out of the hair net district and so he embarked on the great adventure which persists to this day. It may be news to Abraham that ten of the tribes—that posterity numberless as the sands of the desert—were lost, even more completely lost than the city of Ur, which has just been unearthed after 6,000 years in the grave, but the other ten tribes found themselves on their feet wherever they fetched up and are now among the solidest citizenry of the world. Abraham will be glad to hear this. He made no mistake in leaving Ur, the hair net city. In vain was the hair net spread in the sight of the victim. Abraham was too wise to be taken in that snare. He took himself and his daughters and his wives and his maid-servants out of the reach of temptation. His sons, having families of their own, shared Abraham's dislike of hair nets and needed no arguments to emigrate.

In the light of history, we repeat that Abraham made no mistake in leaving Ur. And even if he did, to Ur is human, to forgive divine.—Washington Post.

**Roman Bridges Excite
Wonder of Engineers**

Among the notable bridge-building achievements of history are those constructed in the days of the Roman empire, says a writer in the Detroit News. Some of them still are in use, to the amazement of engineers, while others stand in broken majesty, the results of earthquakes or of purposed human destruction, far the delight and wonder of all beholders.

The two bridges, which lead from the Forum side of Rome to the island in the Tiber and on to the Trastevere, or St. Peter's side, were built in the Second century, B. C. They have been used very much more than the Apollon viaduct. They have stood there against frequent floods and constant usage these 2,000 years and they bid fair to keep on standing. The fine bridge across the Tiber, north of Rome, built to carry the Flaminian way northward, is another good example of a bridge more than 2,000 years old, which has seen steady and hard use and still appears as good as ever.

Narrowing Gulf

The gulf of California, the narrow arm of the sea just south of our southwestern border, seems to be gradually disappearing from the map. Recent surveys show that the peninsula of Lower California is widening and that the gulf is growing more shallow each year.

The phenomenon was first noted more than 200 years ago by the Jesuit priests who were the earliest colonizers of the peninsula. About thirty years ago a scientifically inclined inhabitant planted a number of palm trees about ten feet from the shore of the sea. His trees are now more than one hundred yards inland. Twenty years ago there was considerable crossing the gulf, but now navigation with large boats is somewhat dangerous.

Recollections

An absent-minded man called upon his equally absent-minded doctor, and they spent a pleasant evening together, playing chess and exchanging political views.

Finally came the hour of parting, and the visitor exclaimed:

"You know, doctor, I came here specially for something. Oh, yes, now I recall it. Our maid has fainted and we want you to see her right away."

"That reminds me," replied the doctor. "Your wife wanted you on the telephone a while ago. The maid has passed away."

Medieval Care of Books

Censure not the pupil who writes in his book that no one is to purloin it, under various fears: he is only doing what the medieval monk did before him. Men of religious orders were for centuries not only the custodians but indeed the creators of books and libraries and the Benedictine order laid down many rules for the care of its books and manuscripts. "Wash! lest touch of dirty finger on my spotless pages linger," is a literal translation of one. Another, "May whoever steals or alienates this manuscript, or scratches out its title, be anathema. Amen."—Detroit News.

Keep Ideals High

A famous artist strictly resolved not to look at silly or funny pictures, simply because, when he himself wished to paint, all these funny pictures crossed his thoughts, and consequently they were interwoven in his work. Hence he made it a rule to look only at great masterpieces. By doing this he ever kept his mind full of great conceptions, and thus he found it much easier to paint great pictures himself. If people would only make it a rule to observe only that which is great and good, they would find it much easier to live a great and pure life.

Fossil Ivory

Mammoth ivory, sometimes called fossil ivory, comes from Siberia. The tusks, longer and more curved than those of the elephant, are found in the frozen mud of the "tundras" or frozen marshes of the northeastern Siberian wastes.

One mammoth tusk found in Siberia was 13 feet 7 inches long and weighed 185 pounds. Ordinary fossil ivory realizes from \$75 to \$100 per hundred weight.

Or Try a Kitten

Prospective Tenant—This apartment, like the others you showed me, is too small. Not room enough to swing a cat in.

Real Estate Agent—Ah! Then why not find some other apartment?—Boston Transcript.

Great Artist's Pipes

Prized as Art Relics

One does not often hear of smoker's pipes being ranked high among art relics. The date of the introduction of tobacco precludes them from boasting of remote antiquity of origin, though your smoker who makes the coloring of a pipe a solemn ritual may have very pronounced views on its artistic claims. Nor is his point of view ignored by the fine arts authorities, for, adjacent to a rich collection of snuff-boxes, there may be seen at the museum of decorative arts, in the Louvre, a number of well-seasoned pipes, most of which must have belonged to hearty smokers. Perhaps the most noteworthy are a couple of briars which belonged to the painter Corot. It is said that he smoked these pipes while painting several of his greatest works, and if so, they have a legitimate claim to distinction. Pipes attributed to illustrious men are not uncommonly met with elsewhere in Paris, usually in cafes which were frequented by the great, but they are sometimes of doubtful authenticity. Verlaque, for instance, would appear to have left a pipe in almost every cafe he frequented, and these were many.—From the Continental Edition of the London Daily Mail.

Razor and Hot Water

The bureau of standards says that there is no real basis for the statement that hot water will injure the steel from which a razor blade is made. In general, razors are very hard and it is possible that in some cases the continued application of boiling water should exert a slight tempering effect, thereby slightly softening the blade; in general it is believed that the influence of hot water applications would merely "season" hardened steel without any material change in hardness.

Rose Champion

Tyler, Texas, claims to lead the world in rose growing.

Seventy-five carloads of rose plants, numbering 25,000 roses to the car, were shipped during the present season to various parts of the United States.

Most of the roses are grown under contract and yield the growers about 20 cents apiece. It is estimated that the yield for the present season will be \$250,000.

Virtue the Great Bulwark

It is virtue alone which can render us superior to fortune; we quit her standard and the combat is no longer equal. Fortune mocks us; she turns us on her wheel; she raises and abases us at her pleasure, but her power is founded on our weakness. This is an old-trodden evil, but it is not incurable; there is nothing a firm and elevated mind cannot accomplish.—Petrarch

Pleasure and Profit

in Scorpion Hunting

One of the most peculiar hunting expeditions on record is that which takes place at more or less regular intervals in the town of Mardine, in Asia Minor. The town is surrounded by ancient walls built to protect it from invaders, and hidden in various places in these walls are hordes of scorpions which often become a menace to the population. In order to keep down the number of these pests, said to be death-dealing, a bonus is offered by the municipality and regular hunts are organized. The hunts take place at night when the hunters, armed with lanterns, poke around the walls and dislodge the scorpions. The next day they carry them to the town officials and collect the money due them as a reward. It frequently happens that they must wait upon the pleasure of that official, when they while away the time by making their ferocious captives engage in combat. Bets are made on the results, and it often happens that members of the waiting party have lost their money before they receive it.

On the Road to Truth

All opinions, properly so called, are stages on the road to truth. It does not follow that a man will travel any further; but if he has really considered the world and drawn a conclusion, he has traveled as far. This does not apply to formulate got by rote, which are stages on the road to nowhere but second childhood and the grave. To have a catchword in your mouth is not the same thing as to hold an opinion; still less is it the same thing as to have made one for yourself. There are too many of these catchwords in the world for people to rap out upon you like an oath and by way of argument. They have a currency as intellectual counters; and many respectable people pay their way with nothing else.—Robert Louis Stevenson.

Algerian Grasshoppers

Some Algerian grasshoppers, just arrived at the London zoo, have beaten all records for the genius of leaping. They seem to have sacrificed everything for this, as though the body is barely an inch long, the hind legs are fully three inches.

The newcomers are confined in a glass case, two feet high, yet, when first put in, their horny heads were continually tapping on the roof.

Unlike other grasshoppers, they are carnivorous, feeding on raw meat and dead insects; and instead of living amongst grass they haunt damp caves. This species has never before been seen at the menagerie.

Health Hint

Life insurance companies find it pays to spend millions in campaigns of health education. It pays also for the individual to educate himself in the rules and practices of personal hygiene.

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The following reduction in Electric light rates will be in effect on and after March 15, 1929:

Residential Rates

First 30 KWH hours used, per month.....10c per KWH

Excess over 30 KWH used, per month.....3c per KWH

The above rates apply when bills are paid in full within 10 days from date of bill. Otherwise, the rate will be increased by 10 per cent on each item.

Commercial Rates

First 100 KWH used per month.....10c per KWH

Next 200.....7c per KWH

Next 300.....6c per KWH

Next 400.....5c per KWH

Next 1000.....4c per KWH

Excess over 2000.....3c per KWH

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