

PREPAREDNESS.

Look ahead and try to arm against all dangers. Hope nothing from luck and the probability is that you will be so prepared, forewarned and forearmed that all shallow observers will call you lucky.—Bulwer-Lytton.

Song of the Flame.

Fire can be made to sing. A writer says: "Take a lighted candle and blow gently against the flame. You will hear a peculiar fluttering sound. The fluttering sound is fire's first attempt at music. Instead of the unsteady breath of our lips let us employ the steady blast of a blowpipe. Instead of the pale and flickering light of a candle let us use the bright and ardent glare of a chemist's lamp. When you have a lamp and blowpipe you can make fire sing in earnest."

An Ingenious Scarecrow.

A writer in the Farm and Fireside tells of one of the most effective plans for keeping birds from cherries and other tree and garden fruits. "Take two or three two-pound Manila paper bags, dip them in linseed oil to make them waterproof, place half a dozen peas in each, blow them up full of air and tie up the open end. Fasten these bags in the trees, two or three to each tree, or to stakes in berry fields with bits of stout twine about six inches long. The wind, blowing the bags about, will rattle the peas inside them, and the unaccustomed objects and the rattling noise will keep the birds out of every tree or bed so decorated and do it effectively."

Took a Chance.

The late Eugene F. Ware had filed a demurrer and was arguing the case before Judge Samuel F. Miller. The latter stopped counsel with the remark: "Mr. Ware, there is no use taking up any more time of this court. Why, that question has been decided against you by every court in Christendom."

"Oh, yes," replied Mr. Ware in his genial and pleasant way. "I am aware of that, your honor, but I know your honor occasionally makes decisions contrary to every court in Christendom, and I thought perhaps this would be one of the times."

"Go on, Mr. Ware. Go on, sir. I will hear you. Go on, sir."—Case and Comment.

Snowdrop Superstitions.

Those who have tried it declare that the petals of snowdrops dried and crushed to powder make a fragrant and exhilarating snuff. However, some of our country folk who fill their pipes with all kinds of weeds as substitutes for tobacco might not care to hand round a box filled with snowdrop snuff.

In many rural parts of England the snowdrop is a flower of ill repute. It is unlucky to carry the first spray of the season into the house, and it is a barbarous act to offer snowdrops to any one of the opposite sex. Such a gift is supposed to imply a wish for the death of the recipient.—London Chronicle.

Period Furnishing.

"Period furnishing is splendid when intelligently done," said a decorator. "A regency drawing room, an empire dining room, a Charles II. library—a house so furnished is delightful."

"But you must buy your period things from dealers who know their business. Some dealers don't. I once heard a lady say to a dealer:

"This chair is Louis XVI, but my drawing room, you know, is Louis XIV. Would that chair go in it, then?" "Sure, madam, sure!" said the dealer. "Louis XIV. and Louis XVI, always go together. You see, there's only two years between 'em."—Washington Star.

Heroism.

Heroism, in which I include courage, fortitude and self denial, is an essential element of a great character; courage, which leads a man forth to meet danger whenever thereto called by duty; fortitude, the power and practice of endurance, which renders him superior to pain and makes him accept with cheerfulness whatever fate comes, and self denial, the subordination of the material to the spiritual, of the lower to the higher nature of man, which renders his will master of his appetite and passions and causes him to forego every personal benefit for the sake of honor and conscience.—David Dudley Field.

Greenland's Exclusiveness.

Greenland, with its icy mountains, is very exclusive, and, so far from inviting visitors, it even makes it inconvenient for tourists to land on the little bit of occasionally green land that surrounds its great heart of perpetual ice. Permission must be had from Denmark. Denmark is, indeed, very careful and conservative in the management of Greenland affairs. The trade there is monopolized by the state, and only government vessels are welcomed to Greenland waters. This is to protect the Greenlanders from unscrupulous merchants. The state also fixes both the price they shall pay for food and the price they shall sell at.

SHED YOUR LIGHT.

Talents are not wasted in a narrow sphere. Your lamp could add but very little to the great glow that illumines the world, but it may fill with light a home that without it would be in darkness.

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