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The Wonders of America

By T. T. MAXEY

THE WHITE HOUSE

THE home of the president of the United States, generally known as the White House, first became known as such when it was painted white to cover the marks of fire after being partially burned by the British in 1814.

The foundation of this world-famous structure was put down in October, 1792. It was the first building erected in Washington. The site was picked by President George Washington, who also laid the corner stone.

The building was first occupied by President John Adams during the summer of 1800. It is two stories and basement, and contains 31 rooms. It is surrounded by a spacious lawn and gardens, which are inclosed by a huge iron fence. Whether viewed through the heavy foliage of the giant trees or across winter's mantle of snow, it always looks restful and dignified.

The White House naturally has been the scene of many tragedies and comedies, much joy, and also has had its share of anxiety and grief. It holds a peculiar interest for the people of all nations, those of the United States in particular. It is a point of pilgrimage for thousands and thousands of people annually, who come to admire its decorations and paintings, study the relics of past occupants and, if opportunity offers, grasp the hand of the first citizen of the land. To a greater degree perhaps than any other building in the world, people of all ages and ranks have mingled under its roof.

Fish's Nest in a Clam Shell.

The goby (of which there are many kinds) selects the clean valve of a clam and uses this as the ready-made nest. The pair (for the goby mates with but one and is jealous of any rival) hover round an inverted valve and then the male scoops out the sand from underneath it, forming a cavity, the shell being slightly tilted and pressed into the sand. The female then enters the cavity and deposits her eggs on the lower (inner) surface of the shell. These eggs are somewhat cigar-shaped structures, fixed at one end by a glutinous network that secures them firmly to the shell. Having done her work, the female then changes places with the male, who remains on guard, keeping up a constant current of water over the eggs by movements of the pectoral fins, and darting out at the approach of an intruder.

Rubber Shoes Life Savers.

A fact which is probably only slightly known is the immunity from the attacks of lightning which is afforded by wearing a pair of rubbers.

The person who assumes these coverings must be careful not to come in contact with anything except the floor. Providing he follows this instruction he can not possibly be injured by the lightning in any way.

The explanation is simple enough. The electric fluid before it can pass into a human being or animal must first come in contact with the earth. Its passage from the earth to the wearer of the rubbers is, of course, stopped by the soles of the latter.

So next time a storm is brewing hurry up and get out your rubbers.

Dolls With African Burial.

Art galleries in New York last year exhibited specimens of African doll-makers. Perhaps the most interesting story of dolls in Africa is that which concerns the doll custom of a tribe dwelling near Lake Nyassa. When a member of the tribe dies a rough image of the dead person is made of raffia or wood and laid away in a tent. Thousands of doll images of dead tribe members lie in the tent, and it is said that the tribe believes that the dolls are the embodiment of the souls of the dead men. By keeping the souls on earth they believe they are cheating the fiends which are supposed to lurk beyond the tent. The tent is regarded as sacred and only the medicine men are permitted near it.

As a Business Proposition.

The Westminster magistrate, the other day, described a prisoner as "a very clever thief." It is said that the fellow intends printing this testimonial on his letter paper.—Punch London.

LUCKY STRIKE

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CIGARETTE

No cigarette has the same delicious flavor as Lucky Strike. Because Lucky Strike is the toasted cigarette.

Discovery of a Law.

"I understand you have discovered the law of gravitation," remarked the neighbor who happened to be passing the orchard.

"Yes," replied Sir Isaac Newton; "and a good job I consider it. There's one law that won't require a big appropriation and an army of deputies to enforce it."

CUPID ALIAS BILLY

By WILLIS GRAY.

It Marjorie's thoughts as she deftly cut out and passed crimson hearts to facy backgrounds wandered far from the work in hand Billy and his little sister were none the wiser. Tomorrow was Valentine's day, and she had agreed to help them make the proper offerings to the various shrines among their schoolmates.

As a matter of fact, Marjorie was grateful for any occupation that kept her from seeking the seclusion of her own room and having a regular good cry. One doesn't have a perfectly splendid fiance go out of one's life every day, metaphorically slamming the door behind him—and all over nothing.

Over and over in her mind revolved the events of the previous evening. Bruce had arrived half an hour later than usual. She had demanded the reason for his tardiness—in fun. He had refused to give any—in fun. And before they knew it they had a regular-sized quarrel on their hands.

Bruce had maintained that for her to insist showed she didn't trust him. She had held just as stoutly that the fact that he didn't tell her argued that the reason was one he knew would displease her, and the only one that would displease her would be connected with some other girl, and so—oh, it had all been so silly, until the last, which had been tragic.

Bruce had risen and remarked coldly that he was going home and would come again when she sent for him. Marjorie could hear herself now saying in mutteringly haughty tones that never under any circumstances could she conceive it possible that she would even think of such a thing.

Bruce had departed by way of the front door. Marjorie had gone upstairs, remorse already battling with dignity.

With a sigh she brought herself back to the present. "What shall I put in for a verse?" she asked.

"Oh, anything," said Billy, offhand. "Make up something with lots of the silly stuff that is usually on valentines."

In the space left for them beside an over-plump cupid shooting a very large arrow at a very small heart, Marjorie carefully penned the lines:

"I love you dear,
For you are mine,
Oh come and be
My valentine!"

"Thanks," said Billy, gratefully. "It's rather mushy, but you might as well write the same one on them all."

So over and over Marjorie printed the little verse, until the short February day was swallowed in the twilight.

"We'll stop now, kiddies," said Marjorie. "Put them in their envelopes and I'll mail them in the box at the corner."

Now, the corner where the mail box stood was also the corner Bruce passed on his way home from the train.

So accurately did Marjorie time her trip to the corner that the last of the bunch of childishly scrawled envelopes had slipped irrevocably in and the lid closed with a click, when she heard behind her the familiar step, and turning, raised her eyes to meet the unsimiling ones of Bruce. Afterward she remembered that he had looked for a moment as if he wanted to stop. But he had merely raised his hat politely, and walked on. And Marjorie, the words of contrition halted on her lips, had started after him in sorry dismay.

That evening Marjorie left the living room for the reception room where she usually entertained Bruce.

Suddenly, the front door opened, and the draperies parted to admit a smiling eyed young man who advanced with outstretched arms into which Marjorie straightway went. "Bruce," she whispered, "it was lovely for you to give in!"

"Give in?" he cried, "who wouldn't give in after that adorable little invitation. Why, you darling, I was ready to come anyway, but after getting that—"

Marjorie detached herself from his embrace. "Getting what?" she asked coldly.

"Oh, I know it by heart," he began: "I love you, dear,
For you are mine,
Oh come and be
My valentine!"

Marjorie was silent for the space of a whole half minute.

"That awful Billy!" she said. "He must have sent one to you."

"Sweetheart," said Bruce, softly, "are you really sorry?"

Marjorie looked up at him.

"No—oh," she said hesitatingly, then emphatically: "No, I'm not!"

" weren't we silly gosses?" whispered Bruce over her dark hair. "The reason I was late was—"

"Don't ever tell me!" cried Marjorie, putting a soft hand over his mouth.

And he never did. But considering that it was only a matter of a misused train, it was of no importance, anyway.

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The Wonders of America

By T. T. MAXEY

YOSEMITE VALLEY, CALIFORNIA.

THIS beautiful valley—now a part of Yosemite National park, by the way—is one of nature's most wonderful works of art. The valley is only twelve miles long and less than two miles wide. The park embraces a domain about 36 by 48 miles. Here the supreme artist has chiseled and etched and painted an outdoor gallery of masterpieces unlike any other in the world. The Indians termed the place the Heart of the Sky Mountains and called it "The Vale of the Ahwahnee," and themselves Ahwahneches, or "Children of Light."

The excellent features of the Yosemite are its waterfalls and sheer, bold cliffs. Snowwaters from high mountains have found a wonderful variety and beauty of courses down the mountain walls to the Merced river in the valley below. These peculiar peaks strikingly resemble huge domes and range in height all the way from 1,200 to 6,000 feet. The falls which descend their rugged sides range in height from 350 feet—Yernal falls, which is only 35 feet wide at the top—to beautiful Yosemite falls, which, in three leaps, plunges half a mile and is said to be the highest waterfall in the world with anything like the same volume of water.

Standing on the summit of Sentinel Dome, the magnificence of the vista of the valley that bursts upon the eye compels silence. Perhaps no valley in the world combines so much that is so sublimely beautiful. It is "a bite of Paradise," sure enough.

The Silver Rule of Life.

"Speak no evil of any man, only good," would if practiced by all men all the time, work a marvelous revolution in social relations, one most needed to create mutual confidence, now very much needed.

Mobs Shouting for Clothes.

Mrs. Kate Clough Rambo, of Baker, Oregon, returned Near East Relief worker, tells a graphic story of the distribution of a shipment of old clothes received at Batoum in Transcaucasia. She says:

"I did up bundles of clothing, each containing a dress, a skirt, a jacket or coat, intending them for distribution among the women. I took Kappidies (a native assistant) and went in the Ford truck with great bags of these bundles. We drove into the yard at Petoeva Barracks. We took out several bags and went upstairs. Kappidies stood by the bags while I carried the bundles to corners where I saw they were practically without clothing. The first thing I knew, a woman snatched a bundle out of my hand; then came another and another. I called Kappidies to come away, as they were turning into a mob. He and another assistant grabbed the bags and we went down another stairs, the mob following. We jumped into the car and had to hold back the mob with sticks. Where the sticks came from I never can tell.

"The crowd grabbed, they screamed, they fought."

"They would have pulled me out of the car, but the chauffeur backed into the street and we tore away. After wards we returned and gave the clothes to the head man to distribute to his most needy cases, but they broke the window to his room and grabbed the bundles. Still, after all, I have the consolation that the man is said to have had when someone stole his Bible—it would doubtless do good."

Near East Thousands Need Clothes.

Numberless men, women and little children in the Near East are all but destitute of clothing and thousands have no covering whatever save the thinnest rags.

Taming of the Cat.

It is probable that cats were first tamed and bred to keep down the rats and mice which infested the granaries of agricultural peoples.

MEN OF IMMORTAL MEMORY

Many of the Works of the Greek Philosophers, Plato and Aristotle, Are Still Preserved.

Plato (427-347 B. C.), the celebrated Greek philosopher, taught that the true source of knowledge is the reason, observes an exchange. According to his teaching, we come to consciousness through innate ideas developed by contact with the outer world through senses. He distinguished between empirical knowledge and reason, and divided philosophy "into logic, metaphysics and morals." He was the first to attempt the construction of a philosophic language; to develop an abstract idea of knowledge and science; to state logically the properties of matter, form, substance, accident, cause and effect, reality and appearance; to describe the divinity as a being essentially good, and tell of his moral attributes. He taught that matter is an eternal and infinite principle; that God is the supreme intelligence, incorporeal, without beginning, end or change, and that the soul of man is immortal. Aristotle (384-322 B. C.), another celebrated Greek philosopher, was the pupil of Plato, and the teacher of Alexander the Great. He makes logic the instrument by which all general knowledge is obtained. He enlarged the limits of philosophy to include all sciences except history. He taught that nature is a machine, active through deity or a first cause.

Wanted Prolonged Stay.

Much to his delight, Bessie had been allowed to spend the night with his grandmother. Next morning when the time came for him to return home he said: "Grandma, I am not ready to go home yet. I want to stay two all nights."

Personality.

The greatest and most vital power to influencing life is personality. It is greater than law, instruction or example.—Lyman Abbott.