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Story of Stolen Kiss of Revolutionary Days

From Mount Holly, N. J., comes a story of a kiss snatched from Stephen Girard's pretty young wife by Col. Walter Stewart of the American army, which is a cherished legend of that section and for which there is considerable historic foundation. It is generally known that upon the approach of the British army to Philadelphia in 1777, Stephen Girard, who was in business there and who later became one of the leading financiers of that city, moved to Mount Holly and purchased a small farm. Here he and his wife lived and kept store for two years.

The story of the stolen kiss is told in Stephen Simpson's biography of Stephen Girard, published in 1832. During Girard's residence at Mount Holly, the biographer states, the American army encamped in the neighborhood, and Girard's store afforded many moments of hilarity to the soldiers. One afternoon Colonel Stewart and a fellow officer visited the store to make a small purchase and to see Girard's pretty wife. Colonel Stewart could not resist the temptation to snatch a kiss from Mrs. Girard while her husband had his back turned. The lady immediately told her husband who forced the colonel to apologize. It is said that the occurrence caused a lot of disturbance at the time.

For many years the story was believed to have originated in the author's imagination for it was known that he had a personal grudge against Girard, but the discovery that Walter Stewart was a colonel in the Continental army and that he spent six days in Mount Holly during Girard's residence there gave the story some credence.—Pathfinder Magazine.

Hare at Least Got a Brief Run for His Life

"Talkin' about running," said the seedy man, "about the finest bit o' sprintin' I ever saw was in the country year before last. I'd been out all day rabbit shootin', and had the most awful luck, when I spied a whoppin' great hare about two hundred yards away. Takin' a careful sight I let fly, but the instant my bullet touched him, and before it had time to penetrate his skin, that hare was off like a flash.

"I never saw two such evenly matched things as that hare and my bullet. For over half a mile they sped on together, neither gainin' on the other, the bullet just managin' to keep in touch with the hare's skin. At the end of a mile, however, the pace began to tell on the hare and he faltered for a moment.

"'Twas fatal. The bullet sped on and the poor beast was bowled over. He deserved his freedom if ever an animal did. He'd have got it too, if he could have stuck out another 20 yards, for that's about as far as my rifle carries."—Exchange.

Influenza Old Complaint

Influenza has been known almost as long as man has been known. The word itself is derived from the ancient astrologers, who believed it to be caused by the "influence" of the stars. The disease has been unmistakably traced back to 1550. It was then prevalent in eastern Germany, and was known, curiously enough, as sleeping sickness. It appeared again in the Eighteenth century, when epidemics of it were frequent and prolonged in most European countries. Among the famous people of long ago who suffered from it were Sir Isaac Newton, Goethe and Schiller. The great philosopher Kant was attacked by it, and he believed it was caused by noxious insects brought to western Europe as a result of trade with Russia.

Each in His Place

Tolstoy on his farm, Milton without his sight, Bunyan in his prison, Pasteur in his laboratory, all did great things for the world. All these had their burdens and their limitations—and who has not? Yet they wrought mightily for the good of mankind. They didn't say, "Because I am on a farm, or blind, or in prison, or confined within a workshop, I cannot do anything worth while." Rather did they say: "This is my lot, but I shall not despair. I will make the most of my opportunities, and do my best while I have life." This is the spirit of all those who do great things.

Hard as Rock

Ever try to identify rocks by their shades, color, feel, taste, hardness and other marks of identification? That's something else to think about while hiking. A stone is something more than to stumble over or to throw. A cigar box divided into six, or eight sections makes a splendid case in which to put away various specimens found along the way and labeled correctly as soon as you learn their right names. Glacial lopsided pebbles, concretions, fossils in limestone, crystals and stalactites are some of the special things to look for.

Secret of Happiness

To live content with small means—to seek elegance rather than luxury, and refinement rather than fashion, to be worthy, not respectable, and wealthy, not rich—to study hard, think quietly, talk gently, act frankly, to listen to stars and birds, babes and sages, with open heart—to bear all cheerfully—do all bravely, await occasions—never hurry; in a word, to let the spiritual, hidden and unconscious, grow up through the common.—W. E. Channing.

Campaign Paper Made No Money for Greeley

In 1840, when Gen. William Henry Harrison was nominated for the presidency against Martin Van Buren, Horace Greeley started a little campaign paper in New York city, which he called the Log Cabin, which is said to have been incomparably the most spirited thing of the kind ever printed in the United States, says the Detroit News. It had a circulation of unprecedented extent, beginning with 48,000 and rising week after week until it reached 90,000.

The price, however, was so low that its great sale proved rather an embarrassment than a benefit to the proprietors and when the campaign ended the firm of Horace Greeley & Co. was rather more in debt than it was when the first number of the Log Cabin was published. The last number of the Log Cabin announced the forthcoming Tribune, price 1 cent, which was a short time ago consolidated with the New York Herald.

Five thousand copies of the first number of the Tribune were printed, and Greeley found it difficult to give them away. He began with a subscription list of 600. But the little paper soon caught public attention and began its fourth week with 6,000 paid subscribers.

Courts Hold Tomato to Be a Vegetable

Technically, the tomato is classed by botanists as a berry. In the strictly scientific sense a berry is a simple fruit in which the entire pericarp or edible portion is fleshy except the outer skin. According to this classification, tomatoes, grapes, currants and bananas are all berries. All berries are fruits; that is, the berry is only a species of the larger division of plants called fruits. But popularly there is much confusion as to whether tomatoes should be called vegetables or fruits. The fact is there is no well-drawn distinction between fruits and vegetables in the popular sense of the terms. However, courts in this country have held that all those plants, like potatoes, cabbage, carrots, peas, celery, lettuce and tomatoes, which are eaten, whether cooked or raw, during the principal part of a meal are to be regarded as vegetables, while those used only for dessert are fruits. But this comes a long way from the difficulty.

St. Peter's Chair

Since the Eighth century, the festival of St. Peter's chair has been celebrated annually at St. Peter's at Rome, with great pomp and solemnity. The chair, old, ugly and worn, on which St. Peter is said to have been pontificated, is enshrined by a magnificent throne, supported by four gigantic figures, and mounted upon a tribune decorated by Michelangelo. The throne stands in the great nave, behind the altar of St. Peter's. The Venetians once claimed to possess the Chair of St. Peter, but it was discovered about a century ago that this supposedly sacred article bore the inscription: "There is but one God and Mahomet is His Prophet." It is supposed that this chair was brought from the East by the Crusaders.

Life in Everglades

The Indian name of Everglades in Florida means "Grassy Water." There are miles upon miles of flat, grassy land covered with water, usually very shallow and filled with grasses. Now and then there is a "gut" or "slough" (a creek). Now and then also there is a big swamp filled with trees.

Sometimes one will find a lake all edged with sawgrass. There are little dry spots called "islands" or "hummocks," with trees on them. The water is usually clear, but for the most part has a limey, slippery taste.

There isn't much game in the glades proper, but on the higher land in the vicinity of the glades there are deer, turkey, panther, little black bear, raccoon, fox, squirrel, etc., especially in those places that are farthest from civilization, says Hapsburg Liebe in Adventure Magazine.

Famous Patrons of Art

The Medici was a distinguished Florentine family, which rose to supreme power in the Fifteenth century, and became famous as the restorers of literature and the fine arts throughout Italy. Its most illustrious members were Cosimo de Medici, surnamed Il Vecchio (The Ancient), and Pater Patriae, and Lorenzo, his grandson, surnamed The Magnificent, and The Father of Letters. This latter ruled Florence from 1469 to 1492, and proved himself a most munificent patron of art and literature. The family of the Medici became extinct on the death of its last male representative, Gian Gastone, seventh grand duke of Tuscany, in 1737.—Kansas City Star.

Cured the Pup

"'E's a nice pup, isn't 'e?" said Jim, the village idiot, gazing proudly at his pet terrier. "I 'aven't 'ad 'im long. I seed Farmer Giles one day takin' 'im to t'pond, and I says to 'im, I says, 'What be ye goin' to do with that pup, Farmer Giles?' 'I'm goin' to drown 'im,' 'e says, sorrowful like; 'e's always chewin' the paint off the legs o' 't'sofa."

"Oh! don't drown 'im, mister," I says, 'give 'im to me. I'll cure 'im.' And I did cure 'im, too; I did that. I sawed t'legs off t'sofa!"—London Answers.

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