

Redbird Got Its Name From Church Dignitary

At first thought it is difficult to see the relationship between the common redbird, or cardinal, and the hinges of the front door. The explanation is simple enough, however, when the words are traced to their source. The redbird was originally called a cardinal because his plumage bore the coloring of the hat and cassock of a cardinal of the Roman Catholic church. The use of the word "cardinal" as denoting a dignitary of the church came about through the poetic fancy of an early pope, who spoke of the cardinals as "the hinges by which all things are moved" in connection with church government. In the Latin language "cardo, cardinis," is the equivalent of the English "hinge." For this reason the dignitary was called a cardinal, as signifying his function as one of the "hinges" of the church. From this early usage "cardinal" came to be applied to anything of prime importance, including the cardinal numbers, the cardinal points of the compass and the cardinal virtues. The use of the word as applying to a color came about from the fact that the color was the striking feature of the dress of a cardinal. This explains the use of the word in naming the redbird.

Relic of Roman Era

Among the interesting curios to be found in the museum at Oxford, England, is a huge stone sack. It is carved as though from a man's back; it bears the mark of a rope which once encircled it in two places, and has the usual puckers at the mouth, where the string once secured the opening. All over the stone can be seen the marks of the coarse sacking which once covered it. Its history is curious. Some years ago it was fished up in the Thames below London bridge, where it must have lain for centuries. Some workmen in the time of the Romans was carrying this sack of cement from a moat to the shore, when the burden slipped from his shoulders into the water. There, under the action of the water, it became solid and, as years passed away, the sack at last rotted off, leaving only the hardened cement within.

Wise John

Mrs. Grabb—I can tell without asking whether John has won or lost at poker the minute he comes home.
Mrs. Grabb—How?
"If he has lost, he throws his trousers across the foot of the bed. If he has won, he puts them under his pillow."

Tongue Twisters That Have Become Classics

Some time ago there appeared in the British comic journal Punch, a particularly effective tongue twister, which ran something to this effect:

A lady was walking down a country lane when she met a tinker. "Ah," she said, "I see you are copper-bottoming your pots." "Oh, no," he replied, "I'm aluminuming 'em, mum." As a tongue twister this is pretty hard to get, though perhaps the American form of the words is just a trifle more difficult to wrap one's tongue around: "I'm aluminuming 'em, mum."

There are, of course, many thousands of these traps for the unwary floating about. Here are a few. The test is, not merely to say them, but to manage to repeat them quickly, say a half a dozen times without getting one's tongue tied up in a knot.

The sea ceaseth and it sufficeth us.
A growing gleam growing green.
The bleak breeze blighted the bright bloom blossoms.

She took a switch at Smith's fish sauce shop.

Flesh of fresh-frying fish.
High roller, low roller, lower roller.
A box of mixed biscuits, a mixed biscuit box.

She stood at the gate welcoming him in.

She sells sea shells on the sea shore.
Which switch is the switch, miss, for Ipswich?—Kansas City Star.

Will Be Record Bridge

What is to be the largest arch bridge in the world, costing more than \$15,000,000, will be constructed across the harbor at Sydney, Australia. The total length will be 3,700 feet, more than half a mile, while the single arch in the center will have a span of 1,650 feet. The head from high water will be 170 feet, allowing the largest ocean liners to pass beneath. —Popular Science Monthly.

Demons and Storms

Evil spirits and demons were held by the ancients to be responsible for great winds and storms at sea. Horace, in his writings, lamented the rashness of those who tempted the fates by trying to pass the boundaries that the gods had interposed between the continents. The discovery of the Cape of Good Hope was long delayed by the fear of the storm fiends which infested the African coast; though only at Peel, in the Isle of Man, have I ever heard that the seafaring people were astute enough to capture the author of all the mischief, which is at least comforting. —Montreal Family Herald.

Pleasant for Auntie

Little Margaret was spending a holiday with her aunt in Cornwall. Now, auntie was a spinster, and not in the first bloom of youth. In fact, an unkind person had once been heard to refer to her as "old," and we believe the other word used was "cat." Anyhow, she was not young.

Auntie was determined to give her little niece a good time, and she arranged several pleasure trips in order to give Margaret a chance of appreciating the beauties of the Cornish scenery.

"When I take you to St. Ives I will show you the school that I went to when I was a little girl," promised kind auntie one day when they were out for a walk.

"Oh, auntie, is it still here?" asked the child, innocently. "I expect it's in ruins now, isn't it?"—London Answers.

Insect-Eating Plant

An insect-eating plant is the sundew, so called because of a shining sticky substance secreted by glands in the sunlight like a rare gem, says the Detroit News. By means of the sticky mess, the sundew attracts and entangles its prey. Then the edges of the leaf curve inward, forming a sort of stomach into which an acid secretion is poured to digest the meal. The portions which cannot be digested are later thrown out and the trap is set for the next victim.

The sundew seems to know when food is near, for if meat is placed close to it the plant slowly reaches out for it. If a portion is placed within a few inches of the plant the leaf will bend toward it until the tiny hairs enfold the delicacy and the sticky substance completes the grip.

Oldest Work of Fiction

"The Tale of Two Brothers," so far as anyone now knows, is the oldest existing piece of fiction. It was written 32 centuries ago by Enana, a scribe of Thebes, who was librarian in the palace of King Manepht, identified by some as the pharaoh who held the Israelites in bondage.

The tale, which is written on 19 sheets of papyrus, appears to have been invented to entertain the oldest of the princes who subsequently ascended the Egyptian throne. This strange old manuscript now reposes in the British museum, where it is known as the "D'Orbiney papyrus."

Another old book, written more than a thousand years ago, mentions two breeds of poultry which are still being raised in China today.

Aurora is a good town to live in and there is room for you.

All Life a Struggle

Life is a battle all through, physically as well as morally. Everything is struggling to endure, and the more successfully we struggle the stronger we become against a weakening enemy. The plant that is badly nourished, that slacks and flags in the fight is the one all its enemies fasten upon. The weakly animal is the one that sickness most easily attacks. The battle of life is generally to the strong. The early wheat in the best prepared, finest land makes the better stand, in most cases, against blights and other afflictions. Often the finest character, also, belongs to the best fighter, perhaps to the one who has had most to fight against.—Montreal Family Herald.

SALE AND WANT ADS.

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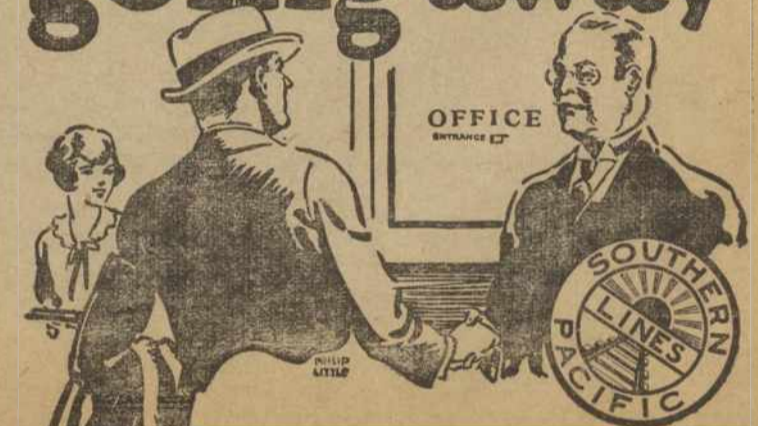
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