

QUEER SUPERSTITION.

The Discovery of Drowned Bodies by Means of Bread.

Among beliefs current among sailors in our own country is the notion that it is unlucky to turn a loaf upside down after helping oneself from it, the idea that for every loaf so turned a ship will be wrecked. It is also said that if a loaf parts in the hand while being cut it bodes disension in the family—the separation of husband and wife. Again, it has long been a widespread belief that the whereabouts of a drowned body may be ascertained by floating a loaf of bread down stream, when it will stop over the spot where the body is.

A curious account of the body thus recovered near Hull appeared some years back in the Gentleman's Magazine: "After diligent search in the river had been made for the child, to no purpose, a two-penny loaf, with a quantity of quicksilver put in it, was set floating from the place where the child was supposed to have fallen in, which steered its way down the river upward of a half mile, when, the body happening to lie on the contrary side of the river, the loaf suddenly tacked about and swam across the river, and gradually sank near the child, when both the child and the loaf were brought up with the grapplers ready for the purpose."

A correspondent of Notes and Queries maintains that it is a scientific fact that a loaf and quicksilver indicates the position of the body, as the weighted loaf is carried by the current just as the body is. This practice, too, prevails on the continent; and in Germany the name of the drowned person is inscribed on the piece of bread, while in France loaves consecrated to St. Nicholas, with a lighted wax taper in them, have generally been employed for that purpose.—Notes and Queries.

—Mrs. Lugsby—"Old Mr. Grumbly, the doctor says, is suffering from elephantiasis." Mrs. Bagsby—"Caught it at the show, I suppose. Hereafter no boy of mine shall go to see the elephant without having been vaccinated. You can't tell exactly what the elephants fetch over here in their trunks."

—Drake's Magazine.
—Janitor—"Have you any children, sir?" Mr. Kibby—"Yes; three." "I can't let you have this flat, then." "But my children are all married." "It doesn't make no difference." "They live out in Chicago." "Can't help it, sir; the owner says he won't rent to nobody who has children under no circumstances."—Puck.



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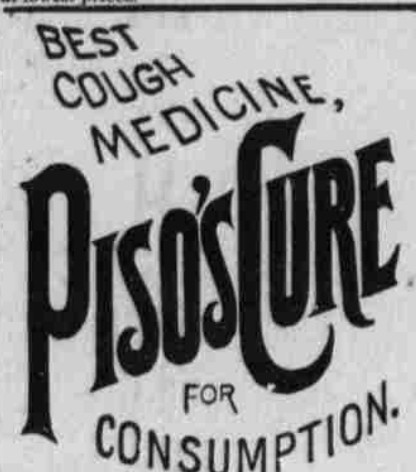
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