

Mathematical Wonder

A five-year-old wonder in mathematics is attracting much attention at Moscow, Slovakia. Even before he went to school he revealed a remarkable knowledge of the multiplication table. When the child is given the date of a person's birth he states without hesitation the days, even the minutes, that have passed since that time, not even forgetting the leap years. The boy is otherwise normal, except for an enormous head.

Partisan Criminality

I have often wondered to see men of probity who would stoop to utter a falsehood for their own particular advantage, give so readily in to a lie when it is become the voice of their faction, notwithstanding they are thoroughly sensible of it as such. How is it possible for those who are men of honor in their persons thus to become notorious liars in their party!—Joseph Addison.

Texas in Lead

In his first message to the congress of the republic of Texas, in December, 1838, President Mirabeau B. Lamar strongly urged provision for public education. A quotation from his message appears upon every publication of the state system. Each year some \$8,000,000 of state money is spent on higher education, and Texas has the largest permanent school fund of any state.

Ripe for Scrap Heap

Why all the agitation about youth versus age? Youth and age are states of mind. . . . The belief of age is a relic of the Dark ages and should be relegated to the discard, along with the beliefs that the earth is flat and that women are too weak to vote.—New York Picture Play.

Violins

There is a standard size for violins which is seldom departed from, or only very slightly. Amati made smaller violins than the other great makers, but the smaller ones were only occasional. The violins of Stradivarius are models for size and tone.

Early Use of Coal

Coal was known to the ancient Britons. It was an article of household consumption during the Anglo-Saxon period as early as 852 A. D. England, was probably the first country in which coal was used in any considerable quantities.

Excellent Rules

There are two things which will make us happy in this life if we attend to them. The first is, never to vex ourselves about what we cannot help; and the second, never to vex ourselves about what we can help.—Chaffield.

Business Partnership

An active partner in a business is a partner who is responsible for the full amount for the debts of the business. A silent or special partner is usually responsible only for the amount of money he puts into the business.

Streets to Be Colored

Red, brown, yellow and green streets are just around the corner. Experiments have been completed that show just how to secure uniform shading by mixing color with cement. Some communities already have laid colored streets.

Keeping on Safe Side

You believe your children will care for you when you are old. Don't believe it so much as to neglect to lay up considerable rainy-day money. I'm not a pessimist; only an observer.—E. W. Howe's Monthly.

Ghostly Lawnmowers

Parish paper—It would be a great help towards keeping the churchyard in good order if others would follow the example of those who clip the grass on their own graves.—Boston Transcript.

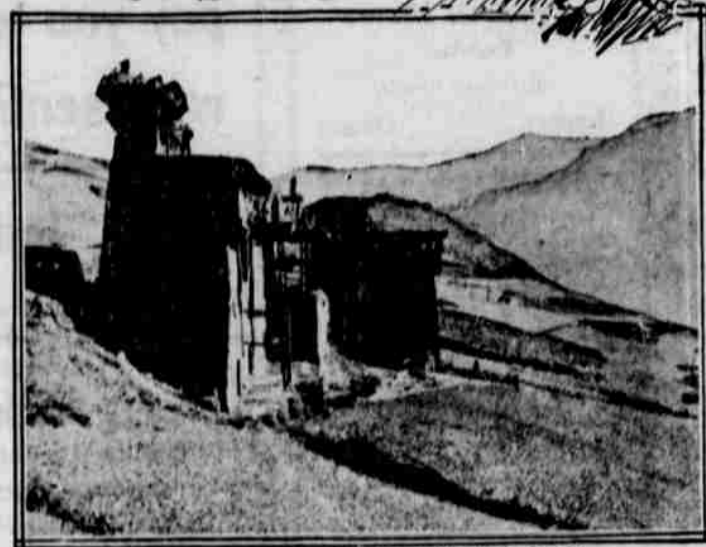
Model Soldier

"The army mule," once said a well-known general, "is the model of the soldier." Occasionally he may be subordinate, but his kicks never require a court-martial.—Boston Transcript.

Early Conventions

The first Democratic national convention was held in Baltimore May 21, 1832. The first Republican national convention met in Philadelphia June 17, 1856.

Little Known Tibet



Tower-Like Mud Houses of Tibet.

(Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)

IN SPITE of penetration by an occasional explorer, Tibet is still almost as little known to the world as in Marco Polo's day, 600 years ago. Practically nothing is known, even, of the origin and ancestry of the Tibetans. This is probably due in large part to the rigid exclusion of men of science and other travelers. The Tibetans themselves dismiss the subject with hopeless fairy tales and legends. One of these has it that the progenitors of the race were "a she-devil of the Himalayas" and an ape from the plains of Hindustan.

To the lay observer there is no resemblance whatever between the Tibetans and the Chinese, nor are they similar to the Malaysians. In features and characteristics they resemble the American Indians more nearly, perhaps, than any other distinct type, although in color and other characteristic features there is an indication that they may have sprung from the original Mongol people.

Outside the few towns and the many monasteries, the people of Tibet may be divided into the nomad herders of the uplands, and the settled farmers of the valleys. The nomads live throughout the seasons in their yak-hair tents, tending their herds of yaks—great awkward, long-haired, cowlike creatures.

The valley folks build thick, mud-walled houses with flat roofs. Their farm operations are carried on under conditions that a well-equipped American farmer would consider a heavy handicap. The plows used are made entirely of wood, with a single handle. They have been developed beyond the most primitive types of wooden plows, however, having removable digging parts which are replaced when worn or broken.

Clothes Do Not Make the Man.

It is by no means easy to judge the financial status of a Tibetan by the kind of clothes he wears. One may see men dressed in rough sheepskin, with their hair hanging in tangles down their backs and their appearance indicating that they had never had a bath in their lives, bargain for something worth hundreds of dollars.

If such an individual decides to purchase the article, he will pull out of his dirty gown a leather bag of gold dust and unconcernedly weigh out a sufficient quantity of the shining powder to pay for it. Less uncouth purchasers will probably use in their transactions the rupees of Chinese mintage, which constitute the most generally employed medium of exchange in Tibet. Chinese brick tea, like salt, is also used in some sections in place of money.

The outstanding marriage custom in Tibet is polyandry, under which a woman has several husbands, usually brothers. Under the usual arrangement, one husband will take care of the home in the valley, if there is one; another will be in charge of the yaks or sheep in the uplands; a third will be the trader, taking care of the caravan, while others will be assigned special duties.

Woman, on the whole, occupies a better position in Tibet than in a great many of the eastern countries. She is practically master in the home and usually all transactions of a business nature concerning the family must have her sanction. Nor is she confined and prevented from going out as she pleases.

Any reference to the social institutions of the Tibetans would be incomplete without mention of the lamas. They are the monks or priests of Tibetan Buddhism and live in great monasteries called lamaseries. Nearly every family in the country has at least one son who is a lama. Fully one-seventh of the entire population of Tibet, it is estimated, live in the

lamaseries, being supported, of course, in the main, by the remainder of the population.

The Tibetan faith is nominally Buddhism, but in reality it is more truly a veneer of Buddhism over the old Bon religion, a religion of devil-worship. They are exceedingly superstitious.

Rule by the Priests.

In its form of government, Tibet is one of the few remaining theocracies in the world. The Dalai Lama of Lhasa combines in his person the functions of head of the lamaist church and supreme temporal ruler of Tibet. His chief governmental assistants are also priests.

The lamas, even the ordinary monks, occupy a privileged position, constituting in effect a class to themselves.

Next in rank to the ruling lamas are the lay officials of the government. The next lower step in social gradation leads to the headmen of the villages, usually the wealthiest residents of the localities. Next in order are the wealthy villagers not headmen, and below these come the ordinary folk. At the bottom of the social ladder are the servants and slaves of the well-to-do.

In education the Tibetans are very backward, there being nothing in the country in the nature of public instruction. A few of the more wealthy families hire a priest to come into their homes to teach their sons.

The country folk of Tibet, as the villagers and nomads may be called in distinction from the thousands of residents of the lamaseries and the few traders of the larger towns, engage in a number of minor industries in addition to tilling the soil and tending their herds and flocks.

Metal Work and Book Making.

Some mining is carried on by the Tibetans of the eastern border region, but the industry is of small proportions. The products mined include lead, gold, and iron. Iron is used for swords, some of the most elaborately ornamented commanding a high price.

The Tibetans love to embellish their scabbards with silver, coral, and turquoise, and some of them are fine examples of workmanship. Iron is also used in the manufacture of crude guns, or was until within the last few years, when it became possible to obtain firearms of western manufacture, in Chiamdo, principal town of Kham, Tibetan workers in iron make of that metal large wine flasks, which are much sought after throughout Tibet.

In some of the lamaseries of Tibet the monks make and gild idols for sale all over the country. The Gartok lamasery near Batang turns out thousands of the images. With their crude facilities, the monks are unable to gild the idols as it would be done by a modern Western process, but must apply a rather heavy coat of pure gold.

At Litang, about a hundred miles to the east of Batang, where there is a large lamasery, and in the lamasery of Derge, about 200 miles above Batang, in the Yangtze valley, the printing of religious books is an industry of importance. The Kanjur, which is the Buddhist Bible, and the Tanjur, its commentary, each comprising 108 volumes, are printed at the two lamaseries from blocks on which characters are carved. The blocks occupy many large rooms and the printing of one set requires the work of many men for many days.

The Tibetans have been making great strides in the last few years, especially since the Younghusband expedition in 1904 and 1905. Far from making them antagonistic to Westerners, this contact with the outer world has done more to break down prejudice and to give them a thirst for knowledge than all previous events in their circumscribed kingdom.

Smart Green Shades

Smartest of the green shades is chartreuse, with its yellow tinge. Because it is more exclusive than the plain greens it is especially adaptable to evening wear, especially in chiffon. It is smartest for daytime when combined with navy blue, or with dark gray in silk crepe prints.

Brown's Prominence

The vogue for brown extends to household linens. A new lunch set of cream has five shades of brown

linen appliqued as flowers and new bath sets have stripes and monograms in brown.

Pique Hats

Stitched pique makes most delightfully cool hats to wear with summer clothes, especially if one of the pastel shades is chosen.

Tunics Are Popular

Pin striped tub silk tunics make excellent summer frocks and are not expensive.

Largest Arch

The largest municipal arch in the world is the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, France. This edifice is 162 feet high and 147 feet wide. It was erected in 1806-1836 to celebrate Napoleon's victories.

Quality That Counts

No dollar can buy so much as the one that has been honestly and squarely earned. There is something more than money in it—satisfaction.—Capper's Weekly.

Not Confined to a Few

I have found that the flame of moral judgment burns just as brightly in the man of humble and limited experience as in the scholar and man of affairs.—Woodrow Wilson.

Another View

"I visit my friends occasionally," remarked the book lover, "merely for the purpose of looking over my library."

Great Religious Sects

The world's population of Mohammedans and Buddhists is estimated at 730,000,000.

Useless Information

An industrious statistician has discovered that Great Britain uses an average of 2,708,373,100 buttons a year.

Let Charity Be Wise

It is wicked to withdraw from being useful to the needy, and cowardly to give away to the worthless.—Epictetus.

Elephant Good Swimmer

The elephant swims more easily than it walks. It simply stands up right and treads water.

Epoch in History

Coal was discovered in America 250 years ago.

He that walketh with wise men shall be wise; but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.—Proverbs 13:20.

Three of the five men that drafted the Declaration of Independence were scientists.

If one is tender-hearted, may the Lord give him wisdom with it.

Unless a man possesses self-control he is little better than a slave.

The popularity of some people is due to the things they don't say.

Few people impair their eyesight looking on the bright side of things.

Study your own self.—St. Bernard.

Education Routs Prejudice

Prejudices, it is well known, are most difficult to eradicate from the heart whose soil has never been loosened or fertilized by education; they grow there, firm as weeds among rocks.—Charlotte Bronte.

That Kind of Man

He is the kind of man, we said in our bitterly intolerant way, who is much nicer to the society editor than he is to the elevator operator.—Ohio State Journal.

Molasses Not Treacle

The words "molasses" and "treacle" are often used as synonyms, but properly speaking molasses is the uncrystallized sirup produced in the making of sugar, while treacle is obtained in the process of refining sugar.

Oxen in Farming

South African farmers find oxen profitable in farming. A two-year-old steer costs \$25, and after four or five years' work, the butcher will pay \$50 for him.—Farm & Fireside.

Alpaca and Sheep

The body of the alpaca has somewhat the form of a sheep, but it has a long neck. It is also more active and carries its head erect.

Uncle Eben

"We all have an ear for music," said Uncle Eben, "an' many a man is heard wif attention, simply because he has a good bass voice."—Washington Star.

Derivation of "Latin"

The word Latin is derived from Latinum, which was that part of ancient Italy which included Rome.

Banana Prolific Plant

An ordinary crop of bananas yields approximately 32,000 pounds of food per acre.

The Pity of It

Lots of people are sure they are right who never go ahead.—Boston Transcript.

Idleness and pride tax with heavier hand than kings and parliaments.—Franklin.

The man who can acknowledge a mistake without blaming it on some one else has true moral courage.

In some families, if they can get it, they think they can afford it.

He who takes no position will not sway the human intellect.—Shedd.

Logic proves or disproves all things but it doesn't accomplish any of them.

Wrote of Christian Sect

In the Annals of Tacitus, Roman historian, the fact is stated that there existed a sect known as Christians, who were followers of one Jesus Christ, executed by command of Pontius Pilate.

Middle Age "Palmer"

In the Middle ages a pilgrim returned from the Holy land was entitled to wear a piece of palm in his hat. He was, as a result, sometimes called a palmer.

Old Queen of the Seas

The United States superdreadnought Wyoming on July 19, 1912, made 22,045 knots on her standardization trial. This was the largest and fastest battleship afloat at the time with twelve-inch guns.

Height of Wisdom

"We regard our ancestors as wise," said Hi Ho, the sage of Chinatown, "especially those ancestors who attained riches we hope to inherit."—Washington Star.

The Verdict

"Beautiful," murmured the flapper tourist as she gazed upon the image of the sphinx. And as an afterthought she added, "but dumb."

Worth Remembering

When a man offers you something for nothing, don't accept it unless you can afford to pay at least double its value.—Exchange.

Few Do It

Another good intelligence test is the ability to memorize good poetry—and never quote it.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Poor Policy

To lose our charity in defense of our religion is to sacrifice the citadel to maintain the out-works.—Colton.

Turks Bar Christianity

Turkey is the only country in the world in which Christianity is not accepted as a religion.

Evil in Satiety

I hold this to be the rule of life: Too much of anything is bad.—Terence.

Its Significance

The gold fringe on the American flag denotes that it is regimental colors.

It takes a pretty girl of eighteen, with lots of company, to brighten up the gloom of a big old mansion.

A man gets great diversion out of his reason if he has a good one.

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