

Hoss-Shoes.

The custom of using horseshoes instead of the large flat, metal rings with which the game of quoits is professionally played was ancient when Joseph Strutt wrote his "Sports and Pastimes of the People of England," well over a hundred years ago, and, according to a traveler in modern New England, they are still so used in that part of the world. The traveler tells of seeing two Maine farmers meet early one morning in the road in front of a farmhouse. "I'll play you a game of hoss-shoes," suggested one. "I'll play you just one game," said the other. "I've got a lot of work to do today." So they began playing, and when the traveler passed that way again late in the afternoon they were still at it. They had been playing horseshoes all day, and the farmer's wife confided to the traveler, not altogether with admiration, that they hadn't stopped even for dinner.

Life's Damage.

It is much easier to die than to take a vacation. A man who is summoned to his last long voyage may set his house in order in an hour: a few words, written or dictated, will dispose of his possessions, and his heirs will gladly attend to the details. This done, he may fold his hands on his chest and depart this vexatious life in peace. It is quite another matter to prepare for a few weeks away from town. There are bills to be paid; the iceman, and the milkman, and the laundryman must be choked off, and the daily paper restrained from uttering the doorstep. There is hair to be cut, and teeth to be tinkered, and so on. In short, it takes days to stop the machinery of living for a fortnight, and days to start it going again. But, my dear, one must have a change.—Chicago Tribune.

Nothing to Do But Eat in Haiti.

You can keep alive, after a fashion, in Haiti without doing any work at all. Nature will take care of you. She provides you with sugar cane, which will sustain life by itself. If it doesn't bore you to death. Then she offers you coconuts, bananas, breadfruit, mangoes, and a dozen other edible fruits. They all grow wild—so does coffee, though, of course, if you want to use that you have to get the berry and roast it, and grind it, and take a certain amount of trouble in brewing your drink. But it is quite literally true that it's more trouble to starve to death in Haiti than to stay alive. Living off the country is not a phrase of the republic; it's an exact description of a very common process.—William Almon Wolff, in Collier's Weekly.

Round the World in a Day.

A statement was made recently to the effect that in the near future there will be airplanes capable of traveling 800 miles an hour, a possibility that makes the idea of crossing the Atlantic seem almost insignificant. And if this prophecy is fulfilled we may look forward to a race among airmen to be first to circle the earth in a day. To fly around the globe in a day over the latitude of London would require a speed of less than 700 miles an hour, while over the equator the speed would have to be 1,050 miles per hour. An interesting point in such a one-day world-circling flight would be that if the airman flew from east to west and started at noon, he would travel in daylight with the sun at the meridian from start to finish.

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Thumb-Prints Used Centuries Ago.

The use of thumb-prints as a means of identification was the method used in China hundreds of years ago. The merchants of those days made impressions with their thumbs in lieu of signatures. In the interior of China to this day the thumb-print is used on legal documents, especially wills, in place of the written name. The use of finger-prints was transferred from China to India, where the British adopted the system as a means of identifying troops. From India the idea was taken to France, where it was used by the police in the identification of criminals, and since that time it has been taken up in nearly all countries. Scientists claim the finger-print system to be infallible.

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Fire Worship.

The worship of fire, or of the god of fire, or of the divine as typified by fire; also, the ceremonial cult of a public or a family hearth, as practiced for instance, by all Aryan people, by all ancient Greek communities, by the vestal virgins of Rome, and in each ancient Greek and Roman family. The term fire-worship, as specifically applied to the religion of the ancient Persians taught by Zoroaster, and practiced by their descendants, the Guebbers and Parsis of Persia and India, is, if taken literally, a misnomer derived from the Mohammedans, the fire being with these peoples merely a symbol of divinity and a visible sign of their religion.

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Uncle Tom's Cabin.

On June 5 in 1851 the first installment of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," by Harriet Beecher Stowe, appeared in the National Era, an anti-slavery paper, published at Washington, D. C. Mrs. Stowe received \$300 for the serial. The following year the story was brought out in book form. The book, on account of its subject, had a great vogue. It was translated into 19 languages. More than 3,000,000 copies have been sold and the dramatization made of the novel is still being played throughout the country.

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