

The Hermiston Herald

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Mark Twain's Reason for Not Asking Loan

Dr. Clarence C. Rice of New York, who introduced Mark Twain to H. H. Rogers in 1864, when the fortunes of the writer had failed, and thus got the American humorist back on his feet financially, has told his experiences with Mark Twain as a patient, says a writer in the Mentor.

According to Doctor Rice, Mark Twain was never seriously ill till the final illness. Doctor Rice writes: "Mark Twain was never ill—just colds. I would take his temperature occasionally, but he generally insisted that it was only a bluff and that the thermometer was put in his mouth to keep him from talking. He told me that old man of the patient who obtained a prescription from his physician and, after looking at the paper, asked how much the medicine would cost. When the doctor told him that it would cost about \$2 the patient requested the physician to loan him the \$2. The indignant doctor finally said: 'Here are the \$2; give me the prescription. I want to make an alteration. I'm scratching out the nerve tonic; you won't need that.' Mark Twain observed: 'I have always admired that man. That was a noble piece of graft. I have thought of trying the game on you, but I've never seen the time when I thought you had the \$2.'

Son Took the Wind Out of Dad's Sails

A shrewd old Yankee who had accumulated a fortune by strict economy, noticed his son had spent care-free to go a few blocks and deemed the expense a foolish one. That evening after dinner he called his son into the library, saying he wished to speak with him. "But first," he said, "I will turn down the light; we can talk just as well in the dark and it will save gas." As he went on explaining the value of economy he heard a fumbling and shuffling from the direction of his son's chair. Stopping his lecture he inquired: "Sam, what are you doing?" "Father," came from the darkness "I can hear just as well without 'em so while we are sitting here in the dark I'm taking off my trousers to save 'em."

For the rest of the evening economy was not discussed.—Boston Transcript.

Doll's House for Czar

When a young man of twenty-four, Peter the Great of Russia went to Holland. He was working at different jobs so as to be better fitted to become ruler of Russia. In Utrecht he saw a miniature doll's house, furnished down to the minutest detail. In the library were paintings two inches square. Cabinets were filled with thumb-high porcelain from Japan. Special carpets were manufactured for this house, and the linen was woven in Flanders. Peter the Great took a great fancy to this tiny palace and offered any price for one like it. The builder, a retired merchant, would not accept money for his handiwork, but offered to make one as a gift to the young czar. The ill-fated man, completed after 25 years of labor, is now in the royal museum, Amsterdam, says Mentor Magazine.

Got Her Clock Back

In "My Garden of Memory," Mrs. Kate Douglas Wiggin, the famous authoress, tells a story of the time when she was the guest of some friends and was kept from sleeping by the ticking of a clock in her bedroom. Finally, she had to place the clock among some blankets in a drawer. Leaving early next morning, she forgot to tell the maid about the clock, writes Puck in London Tit-Bits.

Three months afterward, in Germany she remembered it. She would have cabled, but it seemed bizarre to say, after an interval of many months: "Clock buried in guest room between blankets in bottom drawer. Impossible to sleep with it! Forgive!" Instead, she wrote, and by reply came word from her former hostess that her new chambermaid had searched for and recovered the clock.

Moslem Fast of Ramadan

In the Moslem world Passion Sunday corresponds with the first day of the month-long fast of Ramadan. During Ramadan, western customs, where they have been adopted, are set aside, and the more primitive native manners revived. The muezzin supplements his usual announcement of the hour of prayer with the exhortation: "Give food, O ye faithful, unto the orphan and the poor, the wayfarer and the bondman," and though the wealthy do not now, as in former days, stand at their doors and invite the needy to a well-laden table, Ramadan remains a time of peace, charity and hospitality.

Little George came to his mother apparently in great distress of mind. "Why, what is the matter, sonny boy?" she sympathetically inquired. "Well, mother, I'm in an awful fix. I can't decide whether to marry Mary or Ethel when I grow up. You see, Mary is awful pretty, but (here was a long meditative pause) Ethel has a white rat!"

Jealousy Proved Fatal to English Musician

Certainly the most destructive of human emotions is that of jealousy. With the exception of love and war nothing seems to be so provocative to the green-eyed monster, who seems to have the faculty of consuming all those who admit him to their souls, as music. A list of the famous musical jealousies would be interesting. It would run into the hundreds. Opera companies are usually nests of jealousy.

Possibly one of the most famous cases of musical jealousy is that of Henry Cooke, deceased (1872). Cooke was a fighter who gloried in the term of captain. He joined the king's army and fought bravely, it is said, but when the commonwealth came into existence he was obliged to make his living teaching music. Eventually he became gentleman and master of the children when the chapel royal was established again in 1690. There he had as his pupils no less than Purcell, John Blow and Pelham Humphrey.

Humphrey so closely imitated the work of his master that after some time he was able to supplant him in his state position. Captain Cooke flew into a rage of jealousy, and this continued until in his death notice there appeared the significant line, "died of jealousy."

Great Statesman Had Genius of Invention

Thomas Jefferson, signer of the Declaration of Independence and third President of the United States, was of an inventive turn of mind as well as being a fairly good violinist and something of a scientist, remarks the Detroit News. On one of his tours of Europe he was struck by the bad construction of the plows in use by the peasants of France.

The moldboard, a device above the share to turn over the earth, he decided, required redesigning. He spent the greater part of his leisure time for two years evolving a moldboard that would be most effective.

Satisfied, at length, that he had succeeded, Jefferson sent a plow equipped with his new device to the Royal Agriculture Society of the Seine. A medal which the society awarded him—for the plow proved to be all he had hoped for—followed him to New York, and 18 years later, the society sent him a specially made plow containing his improvement as a token of appreciation for what he had done for agriculture in France.

"Cates" Word Little Used

The word "cates," meaning dainty foods, is probably never used except in poetry, and seldom there, yet we call the person who caters for our food a caterer, and in that form the word is of everyday occurrence.

It has come into some prominence lately in connection with the fifth centenary celebrations of the famous Dick Whittington, whose fame rests more solidly on his possession of a cat than upon any municipal honors which came to him, observes London Tit-Bits.

There have been all manner of learned discussions as to Whittington's cat, one of which pointed to the probability that this city merchant had a ship called the Cat. But the late Professor Rowley of Bristol was perfectly sure that "cat" was an abbreviation of this old English word "cate," meaning provisions, which survives, even in our geography, in the Cate river at Plymouth.

The Century Plant

The belief that the century plant blooms every 100 years is a myth, according to Pathfinder Magazine. The flowering of this interesting plant depends upon the climate and rapidity of growth. In warm climates such as Mexico and Central America, the original home of the century plants, they grow rapidly and usually bloom about the seventh or eighth year, seldom later than the twelfth. In colder climates the period before bloom is much longer. Some authorities say that in hot houses 80 to 100 years may elapse before the plant flowers, a fact which probably gave rise to the century myth from which the plant gets its popular name. After flowering the century plant dies down to the ground. However, new plants arise from lateral buds.

Flowers of the Desert

Arizona deserts have their own flowers. In places the supply is abundant, the growth large, the flowers when in bloom of marked beauty, the big yucca and the sotol, both members of the lily family, showing beautiful bloom on tall and stately stalks.

One of the interesting desert growths is the water cactus, so named because of its great stalk, from five to ten feet high and as large in circumference as a barrel. It has a heavy pulpy covering from which it is possible to squeeze goodly amounts of water, and Indians and travelers are quick to turn to the cactus when water supplies are short, says the Detroit News.

Simply Couldn't

Dorothy, aged five, had been given a pretty blue-silk sash and the first day she wore it she was constantly running to her mother to have it tied. "Why, Dorothy," said her mother, "This makes the fifth time I've tied your sash this morning. You must learn to tie it yourself."

"But how can I, mamma," replied the little miss, "when I'm standing around in the front all the time?"

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Harold Brown, charged with posing as a son of George M. Brown, associate justice of the Oregon supreme court, in soliciting subscriptions to Oregon newspapers throughout the state, was arrested at Eureka, Cal.

Sheriff Slusher of Clatsop county stated that a number of prominent Astoria bootleggers indirectly had called to his attention the fact that hijackers have been unusually active in the city during the past few weeks.

G. H. Heckey, director of agriculture of the state of California, has appealed to Governor Pierce for permission to send 6000 head of cattle now pastured in Siskiyou county into southern Oregon for grazing purposes.

The Turnidge Logging company, operating southeast of Mill City, was compelled to close down because of the low water in the Hammond Lumber company log pond, not enough water being available to float the logs.

The Oregon supreme court will recess August 1 for a month, according to announcement made at the offices of the court clerk. Most of the justices will spend their annual vacations at the various beach resorts.

Armed highwaymen held up the Oswego State bank, forced two bank officials and a woman patron into the vault, locked the door, scooped up about \$2000 in cash and currency and a number of travelers' checks and made their escape.

A lease for 25 years of a municipally owned industrial site was granted to A. C. Coggins, Dunsmuir lumberman, by the Ashland city council. According to the terms of the lease, Mr. Coggins must have a box factory on the state within six months.

Because of the shortage of water in central Oregon this season, Gail Hathaway, representing the office of the state engineer, has begun administering the water of the Deschutes and its tributaries, for the benefit of irrigators, power interests and municipalities.

Members of the state board of control, Mayor Gleby of Salem and prominent men of Albany, Corvallis and other Willamette valley cities will go to Clear Lake, Lane county, July 31, to investigate the feasibility of obtaining water from that lake for municipal supply. It is proposed to pipe the water from Clear Lake for use in Willamette valley cities and towns.

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GRAIN PRICE BOOST BIG AID TO FARMERS

Billion Dollars Added to Value of Crops as Result of Advance in Wheat Prices.

Chicago, Ill.—A billion dollars has been added to speculative value of the grain crops in the United States and the Canadian northwest as a result of the advance in the last few weeks of approximately 30 cents a bushel in wheat prices in the United States and an increase of 42 cents a bushel in Canada.

Trading in grain on the Chicago Board of Trade has reached its peak since May, 1923. From an average of 20,000,000 bushels of grain a day as the extent of trading, last week found the "pit" handling 110,000,000 bushels a day. Sixty-nine million bushels of this amount were in wheat for future delivery.

Much of the advance, observers declare, is due to the foreign interest in American grain. Foreign dealers have purchased more than 25,000,000 bushels of wheat futures within the past fortnight.

Underlying the advance is the fact that both wheat and corn crops will be unusually short, due to the unseasonable growing weather. The shortage in corn is estimated as the largest in 20 years, the July first forecast being about two and a half billion of bushels. A prolonged hot spell during August may raise this amount slightly, however, crop experts declare. As it stands, the corn crop now is two weeks "late."

Spokane, Wash.—Stocks of 1923 wheat on hand in eastern Washington and northern Idaho are worth \$1,500,000 more than if they had been sold at the low price level, because of the recent rise in prices, according to Walter J. Robinson, manager of the Washington Wheat Growers. He estimates that there is between 5,000,000 and 6,000,000 bushels of wheat held over.

The new crop is not being sold, Mr. Robinson said.

U. S. VICE CONSUL KILLED BY PERSIANS

Washington, D. C.—A message received by the state department from American Minister Joseph S. Kornfeld at Teheran, Persia, said that Vice Consul Robert Imbrie died from shock after having been brutally kicked and beaten by a mob.

The vice consul and Melvin Seymour, also an American, had stopped their carriage to watch a religious demonstration in the city, the message said, and were rushed by the mob, who mistook them for members of a sect known as the Bahais, against which the demonstration was directed.

Teheran, Persia.—Major Robert W. Imbrie, American vice-consul, was beaten to death by a native mob here. The Persians resented an attempt by Major Imbrie to photograph a so-called "magic fountain" of which the natives stand in awe.

Melvin Seymour, an American who was with the vice-consul, was severely wounded and is in a hospital. He is not expected to recover.

SMALLPOX CAUSES FEAR

895 Cases of Disease Now Reported in 35 States.

Washington, D. C.—Apprehension over the growing number of smallpox cases throughout the country was expressed by Surgeon-General Cumming of the public health service, who said the presence of the disease in 35 states threatened serious consequences unless state health officers exercise the greatest vigilance in vaccination and revaccination.

Warnings have been sent to all state health officers, to the American Railway association and to the American Automobile association, urging that the greatest care be exercised to prevent spread of the disease.

Figures on smallpox cases for the week ending June 21, compiled by the health service, show 35 states reporting 895 cases as compared with 371 cases for the corresponding week a year ago.

No Americans Killed at Sao Paulo

Washington, D. C.—Three thousand civilians are reported to have been killed and injured in fighting at Sao Paulo between Brazilian federal and revolutionary forces. Reports received by the state department said, however, that no American were included among the casualties.

Toad-Stone

The toad-stone is generally described as a species of black pebble of no especial beauty as an ornament. During the Dark ages, however, it was in great demand. It was supposed to protect children from the molestation of fairies and to cure kidney and stomach troubles.

That a common toad wears a precious jewel in its head was a profound belief in the Middle ages. Its possessor was supposed to be immune from toothache, so the legend runs, and it was a sure antidote for poisons. These creatures were said to forewarn against venom by transmitting a smarting sensation to the flesh. The toad was credited with having a natural fear and antipathy for man as well as for all venomous reptiles, hence its warning.

Birds as Prophets

In early days superstitious people paid considerable attention to the birds and their different cries, which were believed to foretell events. Thus comes the old saying: "A little bird told me." Traces of this belief are to be found in our own Old Testament, where verse 20 of chapter 10 of Ecclesiastes speaks of "for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter." It is generally agreed that it is from this belief in the universal knowledge of birds, which, of course, are supposed to see everything from the sky—that we get this saying.

In the Highlands

Mornings of heavenly freshness on the trail, canyons on canyons, peaks beyond peaks, ridges beyond ridges; sweet scents of balsam and pine; stormy sunrises and wistful sunsets; lakes lying blue in hidden hollows or trembling to sudden silver as the wind went by—quiet livings awake at night, solemn glories of sunset peaks; communions with friendly trees; chattering of brooks; singings of creeks, and roaring of rivers; ghostly snow-glimmers by starlight; peaks in solemn ranks against the sky.—J. Smeaton Chase.

The Word "Jovial"

The word "jovial" conceals the name of Jupiter, or Jove. A "jovial" person is theoretically, at least, a person born under the influence of the planet Jupiter, or Jove.

This planet was supposed to be the most joyful of all the planets to be born under, just as Saturn is the least joyful.

Gradually the word "jovial" became dissociated from the astrological significance and was generally applied to persons who indicated the quality of joyfulness ascribed to birth under a joyful planet.

Thus many a word in the English language, in common use, traces its origin to mystic beginnings and beliefs in the darkness of past ages.—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Oldtime Apple Sauce Lacking in Vitamins

Mother killed a valuable vitamin when she made apple sauce by the old recipe, Edward F. Kohman, Walter H. Eddy and Victoria Carlsson charged in a joint paper recently presented before the American Chemical society. Vitamin C, the vitamin which prevents scurvy, was the one destroyed.

The experts told how the fruit should be prepared to preserve this vital food factor and also prevent corrosion of cans after canning, says the Kansas City Star. All fruits use oxygen in a breathing process not unlike the breathing of animals. It is this oxygen in the fruit which destroys the vitamin and the way to prevent the destruction is to get the oxygen out of the apples before the cooking starts.

This can be done by peeling and quartering the apples and keeping them overnight under water containing about one per cent salt. Deprived of oxygen supply from the air in this way, the apples use up the oxygen in their tissues. This "drowning" of the apples saves vitamin C.

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