

**The Hermiston Herald**

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**Here's Occasion When It Really Was Cold**

A Connecticut correspondent writes us: Reading in the Companion recently of a Vermonteer who invented a flying machine with which he flew from the top of a high mountain and landed on a rock with such force that he drove his feet into the ledge clear up to his hips and again a little later of a Westerner who sawed a sleeping gray squirrel in two one winter's day without waking him reminds me of a story told by my grandfather. He lived in a very bleak corner of Connecticut in the early days when fireplaces were the only means of heating. It seemed impossible for him to warm the house. At last he became desperate, and, going into the cellar where there was a large fireplace, he packed it full with several cords of good hard wood, set it all alight and then went upstairs to bed. The next morning he got up early, hoping to find the house warm, but the rooms were as cold as ever; so he went out of doors to see if smoke were coming out of the chimney. To his amazement he saw the flames standing up out of the chimney four or five feet high, frozen solid!—Youth's Companion.

**Twain Had Weakness for Southern Cooking**

Mark Twain, in his Autobiography, pays tribute to Southern dishes, such as, for instance, corn bread, hot biscuits, wheat bread and fried chicken. "These things," he says, "have never been properly cooked in the North—in fact, no one there is able to learn the art, so far as my experience goes. The North thinks it knows how to make corn bread, but this is mere superstition. Perhaps no bread in the world is quite so good as Southern corn bread and perhaps no bread in the world is quite so bad as the Northern imitation of it. The North seldom tries to fry chicken, and this is well; the art cannot be learned north of the line of Mason and Dixon, nor anywhere in Europe. This is not hearsay; it is experience that is speaking. In Europe it is imagined that the custom of serving various kinds of bread blazing hot is 'American,' but that is too broad a spread; it is custom in the South, but is much less than that in the North."

**Wet Shoes**

If you are caught in a rain and get your shoes wet do something to counteract the possible effects if you cannot get home to change your footwear. Business people who are caught this way know how uncomfortable it is to go around in damp shoes and many of them know something about the evil effects that often result.

It is a simple matter to lay a few blotters on top of each other and stand on them a few minutes. You will be surprised how much dampness the blotters will absorb. Even if you are on a shopping tour you can purchase blotters and take this precaution.

If the shoes have become very wet or thoroughly soaked, place a blotter between the stocking and shoe for a few minutes. This is a safety-first suggestion that may avert a cold or more serious illness.

**"Association Test"**

It was resolved in the Continental congress, March 4, 1776, and the resolve approved by the committee of safety at Exeter, April 12, that all males above twenty-one years of age (lunatics, idiots and negroes excepted) should be asked to sign the Association test, whose text was as follows: "We, the subscribers, do solemnly engage and promise that we will, to the utmost of our power, at the risk of our lives and fortunes, with arms, oppose the hostile proceedings of the British fleets and armies against the United States colonies."

**The Eye Appeal**

One of the chief differences between such an art as Homer's and such an art as Dante's or Milton's is that Homer never thinks of any appeal but through the ear; whereas Dante and Milton both know their verses will meet with eyes as well as ears. Their art is, certainly not greater than Homer's, but it has finer modulations of significance. The thing is, that Dante and Milton, like every other printed or written poet, take advantage of the eye-appeal without losing the ear-appeal.—Lancelotti Abercrombie.

**Use for Old Newspapers**

Merchants in the countries of the Far East depend wholly on the supply of discarded American newspapers as wrappers for purchases in their shops. Hundreds of tons of whole and clean newspapers are being shipped monthly to the Far East from Atlantic coast ports. This business formerly fell almost exclusively to Pacific coast dealers, but with the outbreak of the World war the Eastern firms began purchasing the newspapers from jenkins for foreign shipment.

**Franklin and His Kite**

Of timely interest, in view of recent doubt cast upon Benjamin Franklin's kite experiment, is the recent discovery of a letter written by Franklin on the subject in a book published in London in 1774, now in the library of the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, says Popular Science Monthly. After describing how to make the kite with a pointed wire on the upright stick, Franklin says: "As soon as any of the thunder clouds come over the kite, the pointed wire will draw the electric fire from them, and the kite, with all the twine, will be electrified, and the loose filaments of the twine will stand out every way and be attracted by an approaching finger."

**"Sit on the Wool sack"**

This expression signifies "To be lord chancellor of England." The lord chancellor, presiding officer of the house of lords, occupies a seat on a cushion stuffed with wool. It is a large square bag of wool, without back or arms, and covered with red cloth. In Queen Elizabeth's reign, an act was passed to prevent the exportation of wool from England and encourage woolen manufacture. In order that this source of the national wealth should be kept constantly in mind, wool sacks were placed in the house of lords, where the judges sat.

**Teaching Parrots to Talk**

The bureau of biological survey says no hard and fast rule can be laid down for teaching a bird to talk. This is entirely a matter of patience and perseverance in dealing with the bird. At first the bird should be kept in a room by itself, and the cage covered on three sides. Do not talk to the bird except in repeating simple phrases over and over again. Only one phrase should be used in a single day in the early training. Gradually work until several phrases are repeated over and over to the bird each day.

**Strength of Beetles**

Scientific observations of the beetle show it has tremendous power. So far this power has been set at 112 times its own weight. A captive beetle was placed under a large milk bottle made from heavy glass. In a short time the beetle was pushing the bottle ahead of it at a steady and good pace. Another beetle was made to climb an incline of 5 degrees dragging a weight equal to 125 grains. The weight was attached to its leg by a silk thread.

**When Terrible Black Death Ravaged England**

One of the first places in Europe where the black death appeared was at a small Genoese fort in the Crimea, the western terminus of the overland Chinese trade route. The Tartars were besieging the fort at the time, and Chinese merchants took refuge there. The siege was lifted by the investing army, which fled from the plague, thus spreading the infection southward into Asia Minor, Syria and Egypt. Ships from the Euxine carried the contagion to Constantinople and to Genoa, and thence it radiated, fanshape, throughout the Mediterranean littoral.

In August, 1349, England's first black death victim succumbed in Dorsetshire. By November it had reached London. By the summer of 1349 it had dragged its pall of putrefaction over the entire island, including Scotland. Norwich, which had been the second city of the kingdom, dropped to sixth in size, more than two-thirds of its population falling victims of the scourge.

Cultivation of the fields was utterly impossible and there were not even enough able-bodied laborers to gather the crops which had matured. Cattle roused through the corn unmolested and the harvest rotted where it stood.—National Geographic Magazine.

**Newspaper Story Well Worth Being Told Again**

Perhaps it's because newspaper men are a chummy lot of lads and prefer, when not engaged in their arduous duties, to be of and among themselves to seeking the company of others, but it strikes this observer that those who are alien to the newspaper profession hear few stories respecting the activities of the boys from the paper offices. Certainly the young man—or young woman—who is engaged in gathering the news of the day encounters plenty of adventure, some of it funny and again some of it not so funny.

Practically every newspaper man in the world has heard the story of the cub reporter who, being of a timid nature, was assigned by his city editor to interview the irascible capitalist whose lovely daughter had just run off with the family chauffeur. In fear and trembling he rang the doorbell. "Is Mr. Jones in?" he asked the maid who answered the door. "No, he is not," she replied. "Thank God!" said the reporter, and fell off the steps.

The story is so familiar to newspaper men (in fact it is incorporated in many of the textbooks that now aim to teach the young reporter how to shoot) that one wonders how generally it is known by the public.

**Sacred Steps**

The Santa Scala is a flight of 28 steps of white-veined marble in the piazza of the church of St. John Lateran at Rome, which, according to tradition, belonged to the house of Pilate at Jerusalem, and were made sacred by the feet of Christ as he passed to judgment, the Kansas City Times relates. Penitents are permitted to ascend these stairs only on their knees, and so great has been the number that annually made the ascent that it was found necessary to cover the steps with planks of wood to insure their protection. It was while ascending these steps that Martin Luther, then a monk, thought he heard the words, "The just shall live by faith." Mortified by the degradation to which he considered his superstition had led him, he descended and hastened from the spot.

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- 300 for \$2.60
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