

The Hermiston Herald

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English Town Makes

Specialty of Blankets

There ought to be a game—perhaps there is—in which a town's name is answered by its industry, an exchange observed. "Sheffield," cries one, "Knives," says the other; "Cheddar," cries another, "Cheese," replies one. To Witney, the answer, without any quibbling, is "Blankets." Witney is pervaded, you may say, with blankets, wrapped up in them, indeed, devoted to them, and proud of them, as well it may be. For are not they the best in Britain? And this is no new industry, but a 500-year-old one, and it has ever brought prosperity to the little town and work for its people. Still older than its blankets is the town, the Witaneye of the Saxons, and a thank-offering of Queen Emma, wife of that Canute who sat beside the sea. It has its market place, where the Butter Cross of 1083 made shelter for the farmers' wives who came to sell their eggs and butter. But food is secondary to blankets in this little place. Behind the one long street of houses runs the Windrush, that serves the blanket makers with its clear waters. In the town stands the guild hall of the "Blanket-Makers' company," with their arms and motto—a motto that gives good reason for the continuous prosperity of the blanket makers and their industry: "Weave truth with trust."

Sweden Great Power

During Middle Ages

Cities of southern Sweden were among the greatest commercial centers of the civilized world during the Middle ages. Stockholm and Lund ranked with London and Paris, says the Family Herald. They absorbed the commerce of the northern seas and were the admiration of thousands of travelers and merchants who passed through them and trafficked with them. Later Sweden was the great military power of northern Europe. The ambassadors of the Swedish kings were received with the utmost deference in every court. Her soldiers won great battles and ended mighty wars. The England of Cromwell and Charles II was unimportant and isolated in comparison with this northern kingdom, which could pour forth armies of gigantic blond warriors headed by brave and astute generals. Sweden is today a peaceful kingdom. Even the secession of Norway was accomplished without bloodshed. Denmark once dominated and tyrannized over both kingdoms.

Keen Shot Kills Tiger

With his long tail erect over his back and his head held high, came the monarch of the forest straight for us. His strength, grace and speed are impossible to describe. As he rounded a turn about 90 yards away I let him have it with my right barrel. The bullet went true to its mark. When it hit him, full in the right eye, he was in the act of making a spring. The leap, for a good 20 feet beyond, came, but when he touched the earth he was stone dead. The bullet had entered his brain, and not a mark was visible on his beautiful coat, nor was there the least twitching of his muscles after the fatal shot.

No one there had ever seen or heard of a tiger being shot without having a mark of any kind made on his skin.—Brig. Gen. William Mitchell in National Geographic Magazine.

Sea and Land in Battle

The washing away by the sea of land worth millions of dollars on the coast of New Jersey, pointed to in the annual report of the United States coast and geodetic survey, draws attention to the battle waged year in and year out between the sea and land all over the world. The sea and land have been foes since the beginning of time and, according to some physiographers, these old enemies will remain such until the last mountain pinnacle has been washed down and ground to sand, and the victorious ocean rolls unbroken around the world. But whatever may be the outcome millions of years hence, we are still in the give-and-take era. Many miles of land are washed away annually; but compensating areas are built up in other places.—Pathfinder Magazine.

Not to Be Caught Twice

There was a queer old custom in England that compelled a person when making a certain kind of statement to add: "Except the mayor." Foote, the comedian, having remarked at an inn: "I have dined as well as anyone in England," the landlord prompted him: "Except the mayor." "I except nobody," said Foote boldly. For this the landlord had him haled before a magistrate, who fined him a shilling for not conforming to the ancient custom. Foote paid the shilling, at the same time observing that he thought his accuser "the greatest fool in Christendom—except the mayor."

The gum-chewing habit encrusts the globe, so that other nations know how hard it is to get a wad off the shoes.

Chlorine gas is good for colds and, used judiciously, it may stop an after-dinner speaker at the right time.

Outclassed Solomon

Solomon has generally been regarded as the world's most married man, but King Tchirimekundan, who lived thousands of years before Solomon's time, had him beaten. He ruled over the land of Ebeia, had 3,000 ministers and ruled over 90 little kings. In addition he had 500 wives of noble lineage, 500 wives endowed with great riches and other 500 perfectly beautiful wives. This inventory is given in one of three Hibetan "Mysteries" translated from the French of Jacques Bacot. These dramas are played in the Tibetan monasteries during the cooler weather of the sixth moon and the costumes and wigs are very accurate. There is not much "action" in the plays, but the dialogue is interesting.—Family Herald.

Reputation

It would be well if character and reputation were used distinctively. In truth, character is what a person is; reputation is what he is supposed to be. Character is in himself, reputation is in the minds of others. Character is injured by temptations, and by wrong-doing; reputation, by slanders and libels. Character endures throughout defamation in every form, but perishes when there is a voluntary transgression; reputation may last through numerous transgressions, but be destroyed by a single, and even an unfounded, accusation or aspersion.—Abbott.

Wisdom from Babe's Lips

As a child of three Wolfgang Mozart's wonderful playing on the harpsichord was the talk of Salzburg. He was only four years old when he composed a concerto so difficult that even his father, one of the most skilled violinists in Germany, could not play it. "Of course," said the infant prodigy, "no one can be expected to play it without diligent practice." A year later, when Wolfgang was only five years old, he was invited to give a recital in the hall of the university, when the magic of his tiny fingers worked his auditors to a pitch of the wildest enthusiasm.

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