

Fabulous Sums Paid for Vases.

Some rare old porcelains and furniture were recently sold at a London auction, bringing prices which attest to the demand among the wealthy for the fine art works of ancient days. The most conspicuous were old Chinese vases and beakers and Mandarin jars. A pair of vases, of what is known in China as the Hang-tse period, brought a fraction under \$20,000. The Chinese beakers sold for \$15,500. A pair of Mandarin jars brought \$8,250, and a pair of Ky-Lin jars \$2,950. Four Chipendale chairs, however, made a good showing against the curious art of the East, and sold for \$18,575, while a Louis XV clock-case brought \$1,800.

Samuel Was All In.

The minister of a negro church in Richmond gave out a funeral notice one Sunday as follows:

"I have to announce to you, brethren and sisters, dat de funeral of de only survivin' son of de late Thomas Pinkers an' his widow, Martha Jane Pinkers, both deceased, will take place an' come to occurrence on Tuesday next at 12 m., noon precisely.

"An' I have to say, brethren and sisters, dat contributions for carryin' out dat funeral will be in order an' acceptations, or else de funeral can't take place, exceptin' and save only as a plain burial; fo' Samuel Pinkers has got jes' money enough to bury himself without any obsequious ceremonies, such as he deserves."—Harber's Weekly.

Marriage Literally a Lottery.

That marriage is a lottery is not merely a figure of speech in the province of Smolensk, Russia; it is an actual fact. There four times every year a lottery is held, the capital prize being a young country girl, with sometimes a good dowry in sheep. The price of a ticket is about 85 cents. At a single drawing 5,000 tickets are sold. He who is fortunate enough to draw the lucky ticket has his alternative—he may marry the girl if she pleases him, also gaining thereby \$4,250, in addition to whatever the girl brings with her as dowry, or, if the "prize" in question does not please him, he can turn the ticket over to a friend.

Faith with Works.

Everywhere over the dwellings of the natives of the great central plateau of Bolivia is the grass cross. Charles M. Pepper, the author of "Panama to Patagonia," states that he rarely found a hut without this symbolism.

The cross, he was told, was blessed by the priest, and then it kept out the rain, which at times is very heavy. One old man, whose undoubted orthodoxy was, at least, without a crust of superstition, was asked if the crosses really did keep out the rain.

"Yes, if the roof is a good one," he gravely replied.

Female house servants command from \$5 to \$20 a month in South Africa.

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Mock Turtle Soup.

Boil a calf's head until the meat slips easily from the bones, then take from the fire and leave untouched until the next day. Now remove the bones, take off the fat and return the stock to the fire. Put into the stock the chopped ears, a grated carrot, a grated onion and a small bunch of soup greens, with spices, salt and pepper to taste. Return the bones to the stock and boil all gently for an hour. Strain, thicken with a brown roux, season with kitchen bouquet and, when thick, stir in dice of uniform size cut from the tongue and cheeks of the calf's head. Add a wineglassful of sherry and the juice of a half-lemon. Put in forcemeat balls if these are liked. Serve very hot with a slice of lemon in each plate.

White Bread.

Heat two cups of milk in a double boiler, put in a rounding teaspoon of butter, and when melted and the milk is lukewarm, stir in one-half yeast cake dissolved in one cup of lukewarm water. Turn all into two quarts of flour, to which add a rounding teaspoon each of sugar and salt. Mix and turn on to a molding board and knead fifteen minutes. Cover and let rise overnight. Knead well in the morning, making into four loaves, knead each loaf five minutes, put in pans and let rise, which will take nearly an hour. Have the oven hot enough to check rising at first, then reduce it and bake the bread slowly.

Cream Roll Potatoes.

Cut pared potatoes into tiny dice and put into ice water to clasp. Prepare a cream sauce flavored with onion juice, celery salt or minced parsley, as preferred, allowing one pint of sauce for each scant pint of potatoes. Add the potatoes to the sauce, turn into a buttered saucepan and bake in a steady oven until the potatoes are perfectly tender and the sauce absorbed. Fold over like an omelet and turn out on a hot dish. Garnish with parsley.

Fruit Pudding.

Mix lightly through some flour two teaspoonfuls of baking powder and a teaspoonful of salt, work in a large tablespoonful of lard and two cups of water. Stir the dough, adding flour until it is as stiff as it can be stirred, then put into a greased two-quart pudding mold a layer of dough, then one of dried apricots or other fruit, then another of dough, until the tin is two-thirds full, having the top layer of the dough. Steam for two hours and serve with liquid sauce.

Steamed Golden Pudding.

Required: Four ounces of flour, two ounces of sugar, four ounces of finely shredded suet, two eggs, half a lemon, two ounces of breadcrumbs, two tablespoonfuls of golden syrup. Mix the dry ingredients together, then beat up the eggs and stir in the syrup, also the grated rind and juice of half a lemon. Pour into a buttered mold, tie down with paper, and steam one hour and a half. Serve with a little hot golden syrup round.

Sour Sauce.

One cup of granulated sugar, one-third cup of butter, one heaping tablespoonful of flour, two tablespoonfuls of vinegar, one-half a nutmeg, grated. Cream the sugar, butter and flour together, add the vinegar and nutmeg and then pour in about a pint of boiling water, stirring the sauce while pouring in the water. Cook for a few minutes to thicken.

Egg Blanc Mange.

Make blanc mange with sea moss farine, pour into egg shells from which the eggs have been blown, and set to cool. When cool break the egg shells and place the eggs in a glass dish; cut strips of lemon peel, let them boil in a syrup of sugar and water till they are tender, and sprinkle them over the egg shapes. Serve with sugar and cream.

To Pickle Green Tomatoes.

Slice thin a peck of full grown green tomatoes. Pour over them enough vinegar to cover, and add to each quart of vinegar an ounce each of whole cloves, allspice, pepper, two ounces of yellow mustard seed and two white onions, chopped fine. Boil all together for a minute, then set aside to cool, and in a week they will be ready for use.

Fruit Salad.

Peel and divide into lobes four oranges and cut each lobe into three pieces; blanch a cup of English walnut kernels and break into pieces of uniform size; seed a cup of whole grapes. Mix these ingredients together, set in the ice until thoroughly chilled, heap in a glass bowl lined with crisp lettuce leaves and cover with a mayonnaise dressing.

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Long and Short of It.

Scribbles—Now that you have begun to write poetry I suppose you will wear your hair long.

Dribbles—I'll hear it as long as I can, but, of course, I expect to become bald sooner or later.

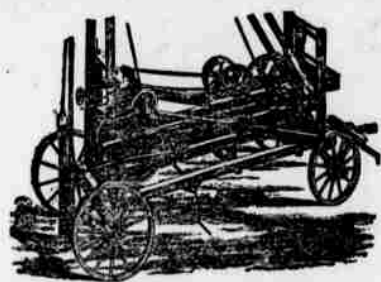
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