

THEY EAT NO BREAD.

Places Where the Poorer People Have to Use Substitutes.

There are regions wherein the poor classes of peasantry eat little or no bread. Baked loaves of bread are practically unknown in many parts of Austria and Italy and throughout the agricultural districts of Roumania.

It is said that in the village of the Westermarck, not far from Vienna, bread is never seen, the staple food being a kind of porridge made of round beech nuts, taken with fresh or curdled milk, with broth or fried lard and served for supper. This dish is eaten and takes the place of bread not only in the Austrians, but in Carinthia and parts of the Tyrol.

Italy the peasants affect for bread called polenta, made of boiled grain. Potatoes, however, allowed to rot, like Scotch porridge or Austrian stov, but is boiled and puddling, which is cut up and mixed with a string. It is as old as the hills and is every sense the Italian's daily bread.

A variation of polenta called mamaliga is said to be the favorite food of the poorer classes in Roumania. Mamaliga is like polenta in that it is made of boiled grain, but it is unlike the latter in one important respect—the grains are not allowed to settle into a solid mass, but are kept distinct, after the fashion of oatmeal porridge.—New York Herald.

MARCHED AND MUNCHEd.

The Soldiers Who Didn't Steal the Apples Ate Them.

A reprimand which takes the form of a joke is sometimes more effectual than a burst of anger. Such an example was furnished by a Confederate officer and described by T. O. Moore in his "Anecdotes of General Cleburne." The southern army, marching across the mountains of Georgia, had its supply trains cut off and was obliged to live upon the country.

Apples, chestnuts and persimmons were plenty, but the army had strict orders not to deplete upon private property. One day I was trudging along in the rear of General Granbury's brigade when I saw down the road General Cleburne sitting on the top rail of a fence, while below him lay five or six bushels of fine red apples. Near by stood a number of soldiers, who looked as mean as men could look.

General Granbury saluted General Cleburne, who remarked: "I'm peddling apples today."

"How's that?" "These gentlemen," pointing to the soldiers who had stolen the apples, "have been very kind. They have gathered apples for me and charged nothing. I'll give them to you and your men. Now get down and take one, and each of your men take one—only one, mind you—until all are gone."

The invitation was accepted, the men cheering for "Old Pat." When the apples were gone the general made each man who had stolen the apples carry a rail for a mile or two.

"FORT BLUNDER."

It Was Erected by Our Government on Canadian Soil.

It is not generally known that our government once undertook to erect a fort on British soil. The site of this fort, afterward called Fort Montgomery, was about half a mile northeast of Rouse's Point, N. Y., not far from the foot of Lake Champlain. Popularly it was known as "Fort Blunder." It appears that after the war of 1812 our government felt the necessity of guarding the entrance to Lake Champlain. Accordingly in 1815 was begun the erection of Fort Montgomery. The original notion was to construct a great fort. In those days that meant a fort with three tiers of guns.

When the work had been in hand for some time it was discovered that, owing to an error of early surveyors, the actual boundary between New York and Canada, the forty-fifth parallel of north latitude, passed south of the fort. Work on the fort was suspended for about twenty-five years, and not until the year 1842 was the territory restored to the United States. The agreement known as the Webster-Ashburton treaty, establishing the northeastern boundary, made the line between New York and Canada conform to the old and incorrect early survey. Thus "Fort Blunder" was again on United States territory. The people of Maine, it is said, never quite forgave Daniel Webster for giving up, as they claimed he did, a great slice of territory to which they thought themselves entitled in order to save Rouse's Point.

After the boundary question was settled the fort was finished, but it was never manned by more than sufficient men to keep it in order, and it was never armed.—Harper's Weekly.

PIANO HARDWARE.

Men Who Buy Parts and Repair Their Instruments at Home.

One's notion of piano hardware is likely to be that it is material of various sorts used in the manufacture and repair of pianos, an idea that would be in the main correct, but at the same time there is more or less of such material sold at retail to private owners of pianos who may be skilled in the use of tools and who undertake to do their own repairing to save expense, and such purchasers may include men who have no knowledge of music, though they may have the mechanical expertness required for the job.

Obviously no great skill is required in replacing a broken caster. A man can buy a single caster and put it on himself if he wants to, or he could in like manner replace a broken hinge or a screw, and he can buy any of these things. But the home repairer does more ambitious work still—as, for instance, he may replace a broken wire. He can buy piano wire of precisely the right gauge, and he may undertake this job and get away with it, or he may replace one or more broken keys or hammers. Not long since a man who had bought a pretty well worn secondhand piano for \$15 bought for it a complete new set of hammers, which he put on himself.

Only men of real skill can do such jobs as this, but in a town of this size there are enough men who do their own piano repairing to make it pay to keep piano hardware on sale at retail.—New York Sun.

Two Freaks of Nature.

Two contrasting freaks of nature are the Island of Fire and the Lake of Snow. The Island of Fire is called the Home of Hot Devils. It is situated in the midst of a large lake of boiling mud in the island of Java. The steam and gases which arise from the sticky mud form themselves into bubbles attaining a diameter of five or six feet and sailing high up in the air like balloons, carried hither and thither by the wind and finally exploding with a loud crash.

The biggest snow lake is seen from the summit of Hispar pass, in the Karakoram range. It is more than 300 square miles in area. In Switzerland the sea of ice might better be called the sea of snow, as the surface is broken up by solar heat, which makes a minute fissuring in the ice, giving it the appearance of snow.

A Shrewd Answer.

Among the advertisements in an English paper there recently appeared the following: "The gentleman who found a purse with money in Burford street is requested to forward it to the address of the loser, as he was recognized."

A few days later this reply was inserted: "The recognized gentleman who picked up a purse in Burford street requests the loser to call at his house."

Her Blunder.

"What makes you think she's uncultured?" "She thinks Ibsen's plays are stupid."

Repatoes.

"We need brains in this business, young man."

Always Waiting.

Dashaway—You have splendid looking clothes, old man. Who is your tailor? Cleverton—He's the first man you see as you go out.—Life.

Both man and woman kind believe their nature when they are not kind.—Haller.

COMPRESSED ICE.

Sinks in Water and Crumbles Into Powder When Warmed.

All know that ordinary ice will float. This relative lightness of ice with respect to water is due to expansion of the water at the moment of freezing. If the water is frozen under immense pressure it seems that this expansion is prevented and ice heavier than water is produced.

G. Tamman has prepared this modification, which he calls Ice III, as follows: He compressed water to 3,900 kilograms (8,614 pounds) and cooled it in solid carbon dioxide snow and finally in liquid air. Under these conditions a colorless, transparent ice is formed. It is much denser than ordinary ice and heavier than water; consequently it sinks when placed in water. Ice III is very unstable, and on slight warming it swells out and breaks up into a dense white powder. The volume of the resulting powder is apparently four to eight times that of the original ice. This powder formed by the breaking up of the dense form is nothing more than ordinary ice in the form of fine crystals, which, of course, on further warming melt at zero degrees centigrade.

Experiments on Ice III show that it is impossible to obtain it by reparation from water at atmospheric pressure and then suddenly cooling. There would never be a possibility of this unstable form of solid water being formed in nature.—New York Tribune.

A Prosaic Interpretation.

Professor Brander Matthews of Columbia in one of his brilliant addresses on the drama said of an unimaginative and prosaic dramatist:

"He it was, I am sure, who in his youth on being asked in examination what Shakespeare meant by the phrase 'ermions in stones' wrote in reply:

"When passing by a tombstone you may learn the name and the dates of birth and death of the departed one and also from the inscription a valuable moral lesson from his or her life. Walking along a road you may see from the milestones the number of miles to the nearest towns and thus acquire geographical information. Heaps of stones by the roadside indicate that there are to take place, and so indicate a lesson in neatness."—Detroit Free Press.

An Author's Insight.

There is no surer mark of genius than the intuitive insight into characters and social conditions of which the author has no personal experience. "What does Ben know of dukes?" asked homely old Isaac Dirsael when he heard the title of his son's latest novel. Trollope wrote imitatively of bishops and deans when he had never been in a cathedral close in his life. Young Dirsael wrote so well about a great one of the earth whom he had never seen that the critics busied themselves in finding "keys" to "Vivian Grey" and "The Young Duke."—London Saturday Review.

A Touch of Family Life.

When the country youth proposed to the city girl he received the conventional assurance that she would be his sister. It happened that this youth had sisters at home and knew exactly his privileges. So he kissed her. At this juncture she availed herself of the sisterly right to call out to father that brother was teasing her. Father re-echoed in good, muscular earnest. When the new brother and sister relation was dissolved by mutual consent.—Judge.

Only That.

"I don't know whether I ought to recognize him here in the city or not. Our acquaintance at the seashore was very slight."

"You promised to marry him, didn't you?"

"Yes, but that was all."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

The only failure a man ought to fear is failure in cleaving to the purpose he has to be best.—George Eliot.

BATTLE WITH A BOG.

Redmire's Suction Tore the Leather Gaiters Off a Man's Legs.

Readers of "Lorna Doone" can never forget the terrible drowning of Carver in the bog. That death trap is still to be seen in the Exmoor country, and not long ago a valuable hunting horse was engulfed in the mire, and his rider barely escaped with his life. S. Barling-Gould, who had a narrow escape from a similar bog, tells of it in his "Book of the West." The author was with an official from the ordnance survey, who was correcting the map of the country:

"In the dusk we lost our way and got into Redmire. It was winter, the bog was unusually wet, and we could scarcely trip from one stone to another. Six bullocks had been lost in that very spot during the year.

"All at once I sank above my waist and was rapidly being sucked in farther. I called to my companion, but in the dark he could not see me. The water reached to my armpits. Happily I had with me a stout bamboo six feet long. I placed it athwart the surface and held my arms as far extended as possible. By quickly jerking my body I gradually lifted it, and then I threw myself forward as far as I could. Finally I managed to cast myself full length on the surface. The suction was so great that it tore the leather gaiters off my legs.

"For a quarter of an hour I lay stretched out, gasping, before I got breath enough to worm myself along to dry soil."

Old Postal Rates.

The high postal rates that prevailed in the earlier years of the last century made the transmission of a letter or parcel a matter of serious moment.

"A packet weighing thirty-two ounces was once sent from Deal to London," writes Mrs. Eleanor Smyth in her life of Sir Rowland Hill. "The postage was over 6d, being four times as much as the charge for an inside place by the coach. Again, a parcel of official papers small enough to slip inside an ordinary pocket was sent from Dublin to another Irish town addressed to Sir John Burgoyne. By mistake it was charged as a letter instead of as a parcel and cost 11l. For that amount the whole mail coach plying between the two towns with places for seven passengers and their luggage might have been hired."—London Chronicle.

To Identify a Child.

My small son did not return at the regular time one day while out with a maid. The thought terrified me that in case of an accident there would be no way of identifying him should he be lost. The next morning I cut pieces of wide tape, on which I wrote very clearly his name, address and our telephone number in indelible ink. I sewed one of these pieces to each of his underwaists, in front where it could be plainly seen.—K. E. A. in Harper's Bazar.

Taking No Chances.

The big steamer had left the pier. The young man on the tar barrel still waved his handkerchief desperately. "Oh, what're you waiting for? Come on," said his companions disgustedly. "I haven't," with one fearful glance backward.

"What's the matter?" "She has a fieldglass," said the young man.—Everybody's.

In the Barber Shop.

Customer—What do you mean by that sign, "Shaving Possibilities, 25 cents?" Barber—That's because it takes more time to shave a man with a long face.—Judge.

Distance.

"Father, is it very far across the ocean?"

"Yes; it's a long way."

"About how many blocks?"—Brooklyn Magazine.

He that lives upon hopes will die fasting.—Franklin.

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