

**COLOR BLINDNESS.**

**The Incident That Opened John Dalton's Eyes to His Affliction.**

John Dalton, the famous English chemist and natural philosopher, without whose discovery of the laws of chemical combination chemistry as an exact science could hardly exist, was wholly color blind. His knowledge of the fact came about by a happening of the sort which we call chance. On his mother's birthday, when he was a man of twenty-six, he took her a pair of stockings which he had seen in a shop window, labeled "Silk, the newest fashion."

"There has bought me a pair of grand hose, John," said the mother, "but what made thee fancy such a bright color? Why, I can never show myself at meeting in them."

John was much disconcerted, but he told her that he considered the stockings to be of a very proper color to meeting color, as they were a dark bluish drab.

"Why, they're as red as a cherry, John," was her astonished reply. Neither he nor his brother Jonathan could see anything but drab in the stockings, and they rested in the belief that the good wife's eyes were out of order until she, having consulted various neighbors, returned with the verdict, "Varra fine stuff, but uncommon scarlety."

The consequence was that John Dalton became the first to direct the attention of the scientific world to the subject of color blindness.

**THE DRINK CALLED COFFEE.**

**Here is the Way They Made It in the Seventeenth Century.**

There are in existence in Great Britain a few copies of an ancient cookbook, published in 1662, that gives what is perhaps the first English recipe for coffee. The recipe reads:

"To make the drink that is now much used, called coffee.

"The coffee berries are to be bought at any Druggist, about seven shillings the pound. Take what quantity you please, and over a charcoal fire, in an old frying pan, keep them always stirring until they be quite black, and when you crack one with your teeth that it is black within as it is without, yet if you exceed, then do you waste the Oyl, and if less, then will it not deliver its Oyl, and if you should continue fire till it be white it will then make no coffee, but only give you its salt. Beat and force through a lawn sieve.

"Take clear water and boil one-third of it away, and it is fit for use. Take one quart of this prepared water, put in it one ounce of your prepared coffee and boil it gently one hour, and it is fit for your use; drink one-quarter of a pint as hot as you can sip it. It doth abate the fury and sharpness of the Acrimony, which is the gender of the Diseases called Cronical."

**Beat the Bank's System.**

The boy entered the Cleveland bank and laid a half dollar with his bank book on the receiving teller's window. "We don't receive deposits of less than a dollar," said the teller. The boy yielded reluctantly to the system and drew back. But he did not leave the bank. He crossed the corridor and seated himself on a settee. The teller noticed him sitting there and also noticed the reflective look on his face. The boy waited for some time, thinking it over. Finally he arose and went to the paying teller's window. A moment later he confronted the receiving teller. "I want to deposit this dollar and a half," he said. The teller grinned. The boy had just drawn a dollar from his little balance and was using it as an entering wedge for the rejected half dollar. And so the system was beaten by the boy, and a considerable accession of bookkeeping labor was the price of defeat.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

**History Made Palatable.**

Joseph Salvador, the French historian, and Jules Sandeau, a novelist, made their meeting at a public reception the occasion for a dispute as to the respective places which they occupied in the world of letters.

"The reading of history is like a pill—it needs the sugar coating to make it palatable," argued the novelist.

"Ah, but it is the ingredient which cures, not the coating," remarked the historian.

"Then let us divide honors," said Sandeau. "For if it were not for my sugar coating your historical facts would dry on the shelves."

**Tolstoy's Intensity.**

Everything in Tolstoy's character, says a Russian writer, attains Titanic proportions. "As a drinker he absorbed fantastic quantities of liquor. As a gambler he terrified his partners by the boldness of his play. As a soldier he advanced gayly to bastion four, the bastion of death at Sevastopol, and there he made dying men laugh at his witty sayings. He surpassed every one by his prodigious activity in sport as well as in literature."

**Agriculture.**

No other human occupation opens so wide a field for the profitable and agreeable combination of labor with cultivated thought as agriculture. Ere long the most valuable of all arts will be the art of deriving a comfortable subsistence from the smallest area of land.—Abraham Lincoln.

**A Strike.**

"Why don't you go to the dance tonight, Harold? Haven't you any sense?"

"Yes, dad," said the Harvard student, "a sense, but no fool."—Life.

A grateful dog is better than an ungrateful man.—Saxell.

**LIFE IN ICELAND.**

**Farmhouses Are Built of Turf and Often Have Earthen Floors.**

The guest room in the Iceland farmhouse contained a narrow bed, a big round table and an organ made in Brattleboro, Vt. Our host produced the usual box of snuff and with it a box of good cigars.

The host and hostess then showed us all over the house. It is a turf structure and is typical of the older farmhouses, with narrow, dark, windowless corridors winding in labyrinthine maze from room to room. One passageway leads to a large open mound where a fire is made to smoke meat and fish and incidentally the whole house and everything in it. Another passage leads to another kitchen with a modern stove. The walls are all of turf, as is the roof, with just enough driftwood in the roof to make a framework to hold it in place. Very steep stairs lead up to the badstofa, or sleeping apartment. The badstofa frequently forms the sitting and common workroom of the family, especially in winter, as well as the sleeping room of the entire household.

Bunks built into the wall extend around the room and are often filled with seaweed or feathers, over which is thrown a fold or two of wadmal and a thick coverlet of elderdown. The floors are sometimes covered with boards, but more often consist of damp earth. From the ceiling are suspended numerous articles of domestic economy, while large chests containing clothing and valuables are scattered throughout the house.—Springfield Republican.

**STORY OF A LOAN.**

**A Case Where the Statute of Limitations Was Not Considered.**

A well known Kansas banker told a story the other day about the statute of limitations. There is a simile in it, plus some good philosophy.

One day an old southerner walked into this banker's office. The southerner was a typical gentleman of the old school, suave, courteous to the point of punctiliousness and honorable to a degree of martyrdom.

"What can I do for you?" asked the banker.

"Well," replied the southerner, "about thirty-five years ago I loaned a man down south some money—not a very big sum. I told him that whenever I should need it I would let him know and he could pay me the money. I need some money now, so I shall let him know, and I would like to have you transact the business for me."

"My good friend," replied the banker, "you have no claim on that money. You can't hold that man to that loan. You say it has been thirty-five years since you loaned it to him? The statute of limitations has run against that loan years and years ago."

"Sir," replied the southerner, "the man to whom I loaned that money is a gentleman. The statute of limitations never runs against a gentleman."

So the banker sent for the money, and within a reasonable time thereafter the money came. There was a courtly gentleman at the other end of the transaction also.—Kansas City Journal.

**Trees and Wind.**

The effect of wind upon trees is powerful. Even the presence or absence of forests may be determined by the character of the prevailing wind or the conditions that modify it. The wind acts as a drying agent, giving a special aspect to many plants. When it is almost always from the same quarter the plants show greater development upon one side. Trees are smaller on the windward edges of forests, and trunks and branches are bent to leeward. The deformations are most marked near the sea or in flat regions. The cherry, plum, walnut, black poplar, ash and certain pines are very sensitive to the wind, but mountain pines and certain firs offer great powers of resistance, and these are recommended for reforesting wind swept lands.

**His Way of Getting Even.**

"You know that fellow, Jim McGroarty, the lad that's always comin' up an' thumpin' ye on th' chest and yellin' 'How ser ye?'"

"I know him."

"I'll bet he's smashed twinty cigars for me—some o' thim clear Havannys—but I'll get even with him now."

"How will ye do it?"

"I'll tell ye. Jim always hits me over the vest pocket where I carry me cigars. He'll hit me there just once more. There's no cigar in me vest pocket this mornin'. Instead of it there's a stick of dynamite. d'ye mind?"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

**A Matter of Business.**

"I cannot understand, sir, why you permit your daughter to sue me for breach of promise. You remember that you were bitterly opposed to our engagement because I wasn't good enough for her and would disgrace the family."

"Young man, that was sentiment; this is business."

**Afflictions.**

Before an affliction is digested consolation comes too soon, and after it is digested it comes too late, but there is a mark between these two as fine almost as a hair for a comforter to take aim at.—Sterne.

**Dear Talk.**

"Talk is cheap," quoted the wise guy.

"Not always," replied the simple mug. "Sometimes it costs a man his reputation."—Philadelphia Record.


The average person wastes lots of time telling other people things they do not care to hear.

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