

Tibetan Incense Sticks.

The most valuable incense sticks in China and those which seldom, if ever, are imported into this country are those in the manufacture of which Tibetan incense is used.

The sticks are long and thin and are never allowed to be wholly consumed by the court. They are carefully extinguished when about three inches remain.

Africa's Gold Coast.

The Gold Coast is a British colony on the west coast of Africa. Its climate is notoriously unhealthy, the heat and moisture being excessive; the coast is lined with unhealthy swamps and shallow lakes.

Some Mysteries of Dress.

We have wondered at the popularity of the fez in the east in spite of its apparent unsuitability to eastern suns. Sir Charles Elliot has some observations which are in point.

Changed His Mind.

A southern senator was alone in his office one morning when a middle aged woman entered, bringing with her a wild gleam in her eye.

The Absentminded Record.

Duluth is the home of a woman who in the line of absentmindedness has the whole world beaten to a finish. She is absentminded from the time she wakes up until the moment she goes to sleep.

Life's Crucible.

It was said of Diderot that in his invariable optimism he was like one of the old alchemists, who always found gold in his crucible because he had first put it there.

Hard Hearted.

"Poor Bickers has a very hard hearted wife," said Trivet.

Nature.

Nature paints the best part of the picture, carries the best part of the statue, builds the best part of the house and speaks the best part of the oration.

Marine Yarn.

Flipper—And how did your boat come to be wrecked? Skipper—Well, you see, she was making so many knots the crew wasn't able to unravel them.

He that loses his conscience has nothing left that is worth keeping.—Proverb.

Masses of Mussels.

The mussel's natural home is at the bottom of the sea, never in very deep water and yet deep enough to be nearly always covered at any state of the tide.

The Vegetable Lamb.

One of the most remarkable natural fetichs in the world is the Chinese kouchi, called by some people "the vegetable lamb."

A Submerged Crater.

During the explosion of the volcano of Krakatoa, in the strait of Sunda, in 1883, a large part of the island of Krakatoa was blown away, and the sea took its place.

Preserving Spiders' Webs.

Naturalists employ an ingenious method of preserving all kinds of spiders' webs. The webs are first sprayed with an atomizer with a thin solution of artists' shellac.

How Flying Fish Fly.

The popular notion that flying fish beat their "wings" is a mistake, if we are to rely upon the results of studies of these fish made by no less an authority than Captain Barrett Hamilton.

Deer in Scotland.

The deer are probably the safest crop in Scotland. Oats may perish and never ripen by reason of too early frosts and long continued wet.

Where Now?

The Family Friend—My dear, I dare say you find comfort in the thought that you made your husband happy while he lived.

Tact.

"How shall I close this letter to Snow-pay—yours truly or respectfully?"

Great men should think of opportunity and not of time. Time is the cause of feeble minded and puny spirits.—Disraeli.

When Liszt Met Dirks.

A Paris contemporary relates an interesting story of Liszt. The great pianist was living in a little German town when Dirks, the Norwegian painter, went to reside at the same place, thinking he would be able to work there without interruptions.

The painter addressed the pianist, and this dialogue ensued: "Are you the pianist, monsieur, whom I have heard all day?" "Yes, monsieur."

Nature's Parachutes.

Careful examination has been made of the heads of Canada thistle-downs in order to determine their effectiveness as parachutes carrying the seeds of the plant to great distances through the air.

Making Love by Telephone.

Wooling is a slightly more complicated matter in Sardinia than it is here. The marriage customs are very curious. If a father has a marriageable daughter the would be suitor applies to him for permission to see her.

Longfellow's Incomplete Library.

I remember there was one little boy of whom Longfellow was very fond and who came often to see him. One day the child looked earnestly at the long rows of books in the library and at length said: "Have you got 'Jack the Giant Killer'?"

Insect Tones.

An investigator given to the collection of curious data has observed that there are at least three different tones emitted by insects—a low one during flight, a higher one when the wings are held in such manner that they do not vibrate and a yet higher tone when the insect is held so that none of its limbs can be moved.

Thoughtful Painter.

"I see you are paying the hospital expenses of that painter who fell off the roof?"

"Yes. He's too good a man to lose. As he went down he touched up two or three places which would have been very hard to reach."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Where It Hurts.

"I tell you," said Slink, "men are getting so deceitful these days that you can't trust your best friends."

"And what's worse," interrupted Borroughs gloomily, "you can't get your best friends to trust you."—Catholic Standard and Times.

It Certainly Did.

"Johnny," said the Sunday school teacher, "can you tell me what caused the flood?"

"Yes, ma'am," answered the little fellow; "it rained."—Chicago News.

Well Worn.

Wigg—That was a pretty old joke Borem cracked at dinner. Wagg—Borem didn't crack it. That joke has been cracked for years.—Philadelphia Record.

The true art of memory is the art of attention.—Johnson.

Teaching the Teacher.

The teacher of the first grade in the district school in the cattle country had much trouble with the six-year-old boy who was the sole member of that grade.

"Johnny, if you do not learn your letters you never will know anything." "Shucks!" replied Johnny. "I know more'n you do."

"What's them?" he asked. The teacher couldn't guess. "Well," said Johnny, "don't you talk to me no more about them things you call letters when you can't tell cattle brands apart."—Saturday Evening Post.

The World's Worst Penman.

Most remarkable among execrable writers was John Bell, the barrister of whom Lord Eldon said to the prince regent that he was the ablest equity lawyer of his time, though he could "neither read, write, walk nor talk."

Drunkenness in China.

As regards the sobriety of the Chinese there seems to be a difference of opinion, and it is a question upon which writers disagree, but it seems to be the general opinion that very few intoxicated men or women are seen upon the streets.

Concerning Freshmen.

James, aged five, and Sarah, aged seven, were the children of a professor and took a great interest in the beginning of the college year in the class collisions which they daily witnessed on the campus.

Antimilitarism in Germany.

At Strassburg I saw a general leave barracks. The sentries stood at attention, then when he had passed on they both at the same instant mimicked his gait, which was peculiar, behind his back—sentries, mind you! I have also seen street boys in Germany mock the paradeschritt of troopers when an officer passed by, and the troopers grinned broadly and the officer saw, but said naught.

He Made the Sale.

"Yes, the property is cheap enough. Why do you want to sell it?" "You won't give me away?"

"Well, sir, it's because I'm the only man in this neighborhood that doesn't move in high society, and I'm lonesome."—Chicago Tribune.

Naval Salutes.

Originally a town or a warship fired off its guns on the approach of friendly strangers to show that they had such faith in the visitors' peaceful intentions they didn't think it necessary to keep their guns loaded.

Old Fashioned.

"What's the trouble with you and your fiancée? Is he jealous?" "Well, he isn't exactly jealous, but he's what you might call old fashioned. He doesn't want me to be engaged to anybody else."—Washington Herald.

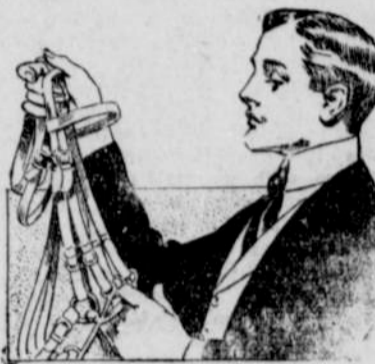
Marked Resemblance.

"Grace, is that sweetheart of yours an antineer?" "No, father. Why?" "Because he keeps on saying he's going—going—going, but he hasn't gone yet!"

Good Sense.

Good sense is as different from genius as perception is from invention; yet, though distinct qualities, they frequently subsist together.

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