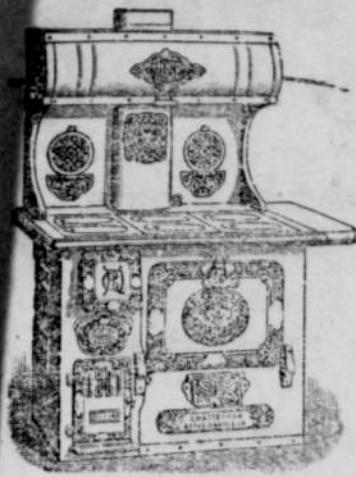


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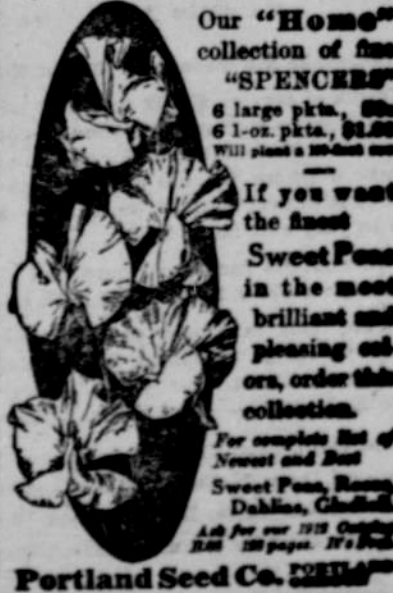


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ROME'S COLISEUM

Majestic Even In Its Ruins Is the Historic Old Edifice.

ITS BLOOD SATURATED ARENA

On the Occasion of Its Inauguration Five Thousand Wild Animals and Ten Thousand Captives Were Slain in an Orgy That Lasted a Hundred Days.

Second only to the Acropolis at Athens in interest to the antiquarian and historian in his study of ruins of Europe is the Coliseum at Rome. This historic edifice was erected during the reign of Vespasian and Titus and in honor of the latter. It is said that 80,000 Jews were engaged in its erection for ten years.

It was a feudal fortress for a long time and finally a quarry from which were built churches and palaces until by its consecration as holy ground on account of the number of martyrs supposed to have been immolated there, further ravages were stopped.

It is said to have given seats to 87,000 spectators and was inaugurated A. D. 80, the same year in which Titus died, on which occasion 5,000 wild animals and 10,000 captives were slain. The inauguration lasted 100 days. An ecclesiastical tradition makes the architect to have been a Christian, one Gaudentius, afterward a martyr.

This structure was originally called, the Amphitheatrum Flavium, but since the time of Bebe it has been known as the Coliseum, probably given it because of its enormous size.

The Roman Coliseum became the spot where prince and people met together to witness those sanguinary exhibitions the degrading effect of which on the Roman character can hardly be overestimated. The circumference of the building is 1,641 feet, the height of the outer wall is 157, the length of the arena 278 feet and its width 177. It covers an area of six acres.

It is only by ascending to the upper terrace that the enormous size of the Coliseum is fully seen, and by moonlight the effect of size and massiveness is much increased. The ruins south of the Coliseum are supposed to have been the Vivarium, in which were kept the wild beasts for the combats.

As a general description of the building the following passage of Gibbon is said to be perfect: "The outside of the edifice was incrustated with marble and decorated with statues. The slopes of the vast concave which formed the inside were filled and surrounded with sixty or eighty rows of seats, of marble likewise, covered with cushions and capable of receiving with ease about 80,000 spectators. Sixty-four vomitories (for by that name the doors were very aptly distinguished) poured forth the immense multitude, and the entrances, passages and staircases were contrived with such exquisite skill that each person, whether of the senatorial, the equestrian or the plebeian order, arrived at his destined place without trouble or confusion. Nothing was omitted which in any respect could be subservient to the convenience and pleasure of the spectators. They were protected from the sun and rain by an ample canopy, occasionally drawn over their heads. The air was continually refreshed by the playing of fountains and profusely impregnated by the grateful scent of aromatics.

"In the center of the edifice the arena was strewn with the finest sand and successively assumed the most different forms. At one moment it seemed to rise out of the earth like the garden of the Hesperides, and was afterward broken into the rocks and caverns of Thrace. The subterranean pipes conveyed an inexhaustible supply of water, and what had just before appeared a level plain might be suddenly converted into a wide lake, covered with armed vessels and replenished with the monsters of the deep.

"In the decoration of these scenes the Roman emperors displayed their wealth and liberality, and we read on various occasions that the whole furniture of the amphitheater consisted either of silver or of gold or of amber. The poet who describes the game of Carinus in the character of a shepherd attracted to the capitol by the fame of their magnificence affirms that the nets designed as a defense against the wild beasts were of gold wire, that the porticoes were gilded and that the 'belt' or circle which divided the several ranks of spectators from each other was studded with a precious mosaic of beautiful stones.

In ancient times there was hardly a town in the Roman empire which had not an amphitheater large enough to contain vast multitudes of spectators, and as specimens of architecture the amphitheaters were more remarkable for the mechanical skill and admirable adaptation to their purpose displayed in them than for any beauty of shape or decoration.—Chicago News.

The Artistic Temperament. Millet, the painter of "The Angelus," had a standing agreement with a firm of art dealers who took all his work in exchange for regular payments of 140 a month. When he was told that they could sell a single picture for as much as \$2,000 he said: "That is their affair. As long as I have all I need and can paint what I like and as I like it I do not mind what they get for my pictures."—London Graphic.

Domestic happiness, the only bliss of paradise that has survived the fall.—L'Estrange.

CAVITIES IN THE SKULL

Room Enough Inside One's Head to Hide Bulky Articles.

Every one is not aware that there is space inside a person's head for storing away heavy and bulky foreign articles. One man who had made a specialty of burglary and jail breaking now shows how he was aided in his work by utilizing this human attic storage room. He concealed a large skeleton key and a saw twelve inches long, coiled like a watch spring, in the cavity reached through his nostrils. But in the London Lancet Dr. Rushton Parker relates a more remarkable case of the carrying of a large foreign body in that space of the head, and that without the victim knowing that his head was so filled up and weighted down.

A young farmer consulted Dr. Parker at the Liverpool hospital for a nasal abscess that had troubled him some time. Probing the nostril, the surgeon found that a loose mass, apparently of metal, occupied a considerable space behind the nose and above the roof of the mouth.

So large was this object that it was removed with difficulty through the side of the face. It proved to be a gun breech and an iron bolt. The breech measured 3 by 1 1/2 by 1 inches. The bolt was three inches long. The weight of the two was a quarter of a pound. This mass of metal had been in the man's head for five years, though he had not suspected its presence there. A muzzle loading gun had exploded in his hands and shattered his face. The wound healed without leaving any outward deformity. His only affliction was symptoms of a nasal catarrh. The young farmer made a rapid recovery to perfect health with the removal of the iron from his head.

STRANGE BEDS.

In Germany a Person Should Be an Acrobat to Sleep Well.

Habit conceals all sorts of absurdities. It makes one ache to see an illustration of a Japanese sleeping block, hollowed out just enough to permit of the neck being adjusted thereto. The Germans' notion of night repose does not come much nearer our idea of comfort. There are many ill made and unsatisfactory beds from the American point of view to be found in the Kaiser's dominions.

German beds, almost without exception, are single—so much so, indeed, that the occupant, if he attempts to deviate an inch or two from his position, finds himself sprawling on the floor. The sheets, bed blankets, etc., are made just to fit the beds and are never wide enough to tuck in. They are seldom more than an inch or two wider than the mattress, and it requires the skill and experience of an acrobat, especially in the case of a foreigner, to keep the bedclothes evenly balanced over one.

Many of the German hotels use the French pillow, which is about half the size of the mattress and stuffed out so hard and plump that about the only benefit the tired traveler gets from it is to have it serve as a rest for his back while he sleeps in a sitting position. The majority of pillows found in Germany, however, are wedge shaped, of the same material as the mattress, and come to a point near the center of the bed. On these the sleeper if he sleeps rests on an inclined plane and looks like a body on one of the narrow planks in the morgue in Paris, with a sheet thrown over it.—Harper's Weekly.

Some Consolation.

The man who sometimes spoke his thoughts aloud had been more concerned with the things of the world than with things spiritual. One day by chance his hand fell upon a book containing the catechism of a certain Protestant church, and he was soon earnestly engaged in reading the Ten Commandments. For some time he pondered over the "Thou shalt" and "Thou shalt not's," which had been forgotten almost since childhood. Then, laying down the book, with a sigh, he muttered, "Well, I've never killed anybody, anyway."—Everybody's.

Funny Man.

Henri Bergson in his recent book, "Laughter," lays stress on the fact that man, long defined as "the laughing animal," is also the only laughing animal. There is nothing really comical except human beings. The animal world is solemn beside the so called lords of creation. Man alone is an object of ridicule.

Agreeing on a Point.

"I wish you could make my wife look on the bright side of things."
"Perhaps there is no bright side to her life."
"Nonsense! Hasn't she got a home and a husband?"
"That's what I was thinking of—her husband."—Houston Post.

Lasting.

Hoax—I wonder why Tightwad always wears those salt and pepper suits? Joax—I suppose because a salt and pepper suit should be good for two seasons.—Philadelphia Record.

She Must Have Been Peppery.

Daughter—Papa, Jack is coming up tonight to ask your consent to our marriage. Be kind to him, won't you? Father—Very well, daughter, I'll say no.—Boston Transcript.

Metallurgical.

Doctor (after examination)—Madame, you have a constitution of iron. Obese patient—I have often wondered what made me so heavy.—Judge.

Sin has many tools, but a lie is the handle that fits them all.—Holman.

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