

CURIOS CLOCKS.

In a Frying Pan With a Knife and Fork For Hands. In a Third Avenue restaurant there has been for more than twenty years an odd clock on the wall. The clock is placed in a frying pan. The bottom of the pan forms the face of the clock, and the hours are numbered on oyster shells fastened to the pan. The hour and minute hands are a fork and knife. Other curious clocks stand in out of the way corners of the city. In a dime museum that used to be on the Bowery there stood for many years a huge clock, about the size of the ordinary roll top desk, said to have been made by a cripple with the aid of a fetsaw and a jackknife. This clock was made of 70,000 pieces of wood of different kinds. It had five dials, showing the time in London, Paris, Berlin, St. Petersburg and New York. There were also dials that indicated the phases of the moon, orbit of the earth, small figures representing the last supper, the crucifixion and other Biblical scenes. The quarters, halves and hours were struck on small bells by gnomelike figures made to resemble familiar dwarfs in the Sleepy Hollow scene of "Rip Van Winkle." For many years this clock was the main feature in the museum. It was later bought by a club, it is said.—New York Sun.

BUILT FOR WASHINGTON.

A Philadelphia House the President Refused to Occupy. The second year of Washington's administration the seat of government was removed from New York to Philadelphia. In the meantime the federal city, Washington, was in building, and the legislature of Pennsylvania voted a sum of money to build a house for the president, perhaps with some hope that this might help to keep the seat of the general government in the capital, for Philadelphia was then considered as the capital of the state. What was since the University of Pennsylvania was the structure erected for the purpose. But as soon as General Washington saw its dimensions and a good while before it was finished he let it be known that he would not occupy it and should certainly not go to the expense of purchasing suitable furniture for such a dwelling, for it is to be understood in those days of stern republicanism nobody thought of congress furnishing the president's house, or if perchance such a thought did enter into some aristocratic head it was too unpopular to be uttered. President Washington therefore rented a house of Mr. Robert Morris in Market street between Fifth and Sixth on the south side and furnished it handsomely but not gorgeously.—Exchange.

The Black of the Eye.

The invariable blackness of the pupil of the eye was a puzzle to scientific men until Professor Helmholtz showed it to be the necessary effect of refraction. Sufficient rays are reflected from the bottom of the eye to render visible the parts there situated, but since these reflected rays in emerging from the eye must traverse the same ocular media through which they passed in entering the eye it is evident that they must undergo the same refraction which they underwent as entering rays, only in an opposite direction. The result of this is that the paths of the emerging and entering rays coincide, and the former will therefore return to the source whence as incidental rays they originally started. There is nothing in the pupil to reflect light—in fact, it resembles a window looking into a dark room.

The First Erie Canalboat.

The William Tell was the first boat to pass over the Erie canal from Buffalo to Albany and down the river to New York. Her cargo consisted entirely of hogsheads, barrels and bottles of Lake Erie water, part of which was mingled with the waters of the bay of New York on the occasion of the great fete in celebration of the opening of the wonderful waterway. Her passengers included Governor De Witt Clinton, the leader in the canal enterprise, and a delegation of statesmen and distinguished persons from foreign lands and various parts of the United States.

Took It Too.

Some time ago Australia had a remarkably eloquent and witty tailor, who became not only an M. P., but a minister of the crown. To him a new governor made this maladroit remark, "I hear, Mr. Jones, you were once a tailor." "Yes, my lord, I was." "And how are you engaged now?" "Taking your excellency's measure."—London Chronicle.

One Occupation Less.

A visitor at a small resort on the coast asked one of the men whom he saw at the village store what he did all summer. "Loaf and fish," replied the native. "What do you do in the winter?" continued the inquiring visitor. "We don't fish!"

Favors.

Sillicus—I can truthfully say I never forget a favor. Cynicus—Nothing remarkable about that. The fellow we accept a favor from seldom lets us forget it.—Philadelphia Record.

Why She Drow Up.

Nell (reading from novel)—He kissed her on the forehead. The proud beauty drew herself up. Belle—I suppose that was to get her cheek up to the proper height.—Boston Transcript.

NECK TRUMPETS.

Curious Silver Musical Instruments Used by the Hindus. The Hindus have a number of musical instruments for which great antiquity is claimed. Of these there is one that is very curious, not so much by reason of its form of structure, but because of the fact that it is played in a very peculiar manner. It is not a stringed instrument, it is not a wind instrument, and it is not an instrument of percussion. It consists of two small silver trumpets with a very delicate apparatus within. When the natives play upon this instrument they invariably excite the greatest wonder in the foreigner, who is perplexed to determine how the player produces the sounds, for he does not place the instrument to his lips, but adjusts it to his neck. Foreigners have thought that a player of such an instrument must be a ventriloquist, employing the trumpets to convey a false impression. It appears, however, that the variations of tone are produced by the variation in the quantity of air propelled through the instrument by the pulsations of the neck. Nothing could be more curious, it is said, than to witness a performance upon this instrument and to hear the soft, sweet musical sounds that emanate from the silver trumpets.—Exchange.

ASSOCIATION OF IDEAS.

Why We Tie a String Around a Finger to Remember Something. We speak of the association of ideas. We do not associate ideas in our mind, but we associate the mental picture of things—of forms and colors and other material qualities. We can form no conception of an abstract quality, as goodness, except in its association with a material thing. Every thought must have a material basis, and it is retained in our mind through association with some other object, the picture of which we have retained. There are some things so closely bound up in our existence or that have been reproduced so often that no effort is required to instantly recall them or reproduce them in our mind. Our name, our birthday or something that we know by heart and can repeat without an effort, are examples. Most things require an effort to recall them, and we recall a number of things and try to find one with which the thing we seek is associated. In tying the string around the finger we associate the idea, the deed or the thing that we want to remember with the string or knot. As this is frequently seen, we frequently get the association between the string and the thing we want to remember, and this serves to recall it.—New York American.

A Visit From the Bayleys.

The servant at No. 1 told the servant at No. 2 that her master expected his old friends, the Bayleys, to pay a visit, and No. 2 told No. 3 that No. 1 expected to have the Bayleys in the house every day, and No. 3 told No. 4 that it was all up with No. 1 and that they couldn't keep the bailiffs out, whereupon No. 4 told No. 5 that the officers were after No. 1 and that it was as much as he could do to prevent himself from being taken in execution and that it was nearly killing his poor, dear wife, and so it went on increasing and increasing until it got to No. 33 that the detective police had taken up the gentleman who lived at No. 1 for killing his poor, dear wife with arsenic and that it was confidently hoped and expected that he would be executed, as the facts of the case were very clear against him.—London Express.

Flank Steak.

The flank contains a broad flat muscle known as the flank steak, which is a very desirable piece of meat if taken from a well fattened animal. There is no waste to it whatsoever. It is coarse in fiber, but very rich in flavor, and if carefully prepared is a very choice cut. In thin cattle the flank steak is not usually removed, the flank being made into rolled roasts or sold for stew. A rolled roast of the hind flank is one of the most economical cuts in the whole animal. It is good to eat, is cheap and contains no bone.—National Provisioner.

Thought of Columbus.

Hill—And when you slipped on the icy pavement and your heels flew out from under you how did you feel? Jill—Oh, I felt like Christopher Columbus. "Why, how's that?" "I was a little uncertain just where I was going to land."—Yonkers Statesman.

Great Will Power.

"A man can overcome most any kind of a handicap if he has the determination," says a joker. "For instance, I knew a man once who hadn't a tooth in his head, yet he learned to beat a bass drum better than any other man I ever knew."—Kansas City Journal.

Reciprocity.

"Did she reciprocate your sentiments?" "With far too much precision. She sent me back all my letters."—Washington Star.

So It Does.

Miggleton—It looks like rain. Hamb.—What looks like rain? Miggleton (taken by surprise, but equal to the occasion)—A shower bath in action.

What men want is not talent, it is purpose; will the power to achieve, but the will to labor.—Bailew-Lytton.

A STORY OF KITCHENER.

The Disheveled Dervish Who Was Captured in the Desert. The following incident, involving Kitchener's ability to disguise himself, was described by one who served with the Essex regiment in a campaign against the dervishes: "I was acting corporal of the guard over a large number of 'gentlemen of the desert' whom we had taken prisoners. In the course of my rounds a captive within the tent drew my attention, and I was surprised to hear in good English the request: "'Corporal I wish to get out of this.' "I of course reported the occurrence to the sergeant of the guard, only to be met with the curt reply: "'Let the fool stay where he is!' "I continued my rounds and was again met with the request. Again I reported the matter, and this time the reply was as curt, but a bit stronger. 'So I went on my rounds again. As I passed the spot this time the voice from within said: "'Say, corporal, you are of the Essex regiment?' "I answered that I was, and the prisoner said: "'Well, tell Mr. B. that I want to speak to him.' " "'What name?' I asked. "'Kitchener,' came the reply, and I at once reported accordingly to the sergeant. "He immediately made for the prisoners' quarters, and I shall never forget that meeting. The disheveled 'dervish' was in reality the Lord Kitchener that was to be, who had been out spying among the enemy and had apparently been taken prisoner by his own troops."—London Globe.

FAMOUS FEEDERS.

Peter the Great and Louis XIV. Had Fairly Good Appetites.

Louis XIV., le Grand Monarque, could wield a lusty knife at the banquet table. It is related of this French ruler that "he would eat at a meal four platefuls of soup, a whole pheasant, a partridge, a plateful of salad, mutton hashed with garlic, two good sized slices of ham and a dish of pastry, finishing the repast with fruits and sweetmeats"—pretty fair for a king who was informed by one historian, dined in public, "and the privilege of seeing him eat was eagerly sought after." No admission was charged, as far as can be learned. In the Bodleian library at Oxford there is preserved an innkeeper's bill for breakfast eaten at Godalming, Surrey, by Peter the Great. The czar and twenty companions managed to dispose of half a sheep, a quarter of a lamb, ten pullets, three ducks, twelve chickens, eighty-four eggs, three quarts of brandy and six quarts of mulled wine, with salad in proportion. For a little snack picked up at noon Peter and his merry crew got away with a sheep, five ribs of beef, three-quarters of a lamb, fourteen pullets, fourteen rabbits and a great quantity of brandy and wine. Peter's taste in tippie ran to brandy and hot pepper, a harmless deception for a copper riveted throat and armor plate stomach.

His Title to Fame.

There is a big hearted man editing a paper in Iowa who ever tries to say something eulogistic about every citizen of his town both during the subject's life and at his death. On one occasion he was much perplexed to know what to say in the case of a man, a resident of the town for many years and an excellent citizen. For the life of him the editor could think of nothing that his friend had done to entitle him to distinction. The following was the one fact that the writer could produce from the recesses of his memory as a climax for the eulogy that appeared in the paper: "Mr. Jones was once prominently mentioned for the nomination as alternate delegate for the annual convocation of the Order of the Sons of America."—Harper's Magazine.

Spider Tigers.

The lycosae are tigers among spiders, and when the eggs are inclosed in their sac they attach the precious parcel to the abdomen and carry it about with them. During the season of maternity they are exceedingly fierce and consider any evidence of curiosity on the part of an observer as a direct challenge to attack. When the young are hatched they swarm out over the mother, and she carries them about with her for several days. So voracious is their appetite that she frequently falls a victim to it, for, it is said, they have no compunction whatever in devouring her.

Curious Bread Law.

There is a provision in the British bread acts of 1822 and 1836, which are still in force, to the effect that "every person who shall make for sale or sell or expose for sale any bread made wholly or partially of peas or beans or potatoes or of any sort of corn or grain other than wheat shall cause all such bread to be marked with a large Roman 'M.'"

Smooth Work.

Elks—How did Nix manage to reform that nagging wife of his? Wicks—He bribed her masseuse to tell that talking caused wrinkles.—Chicago News.

A Baby's Advantage.

A baby is a very helpless little thing, but it has one advantage—it doesn't have to keep sweet while a bore is trying to entertain it.—Galveston News.

Chiefly the mold of a man's fortune is in his own hands.—Bacon.

LINCOLN'S RETORT.

Caustic Answer to an Opponent at a Political Meeting. Herndon, his law partner, tells the story of Lincoln's encounter with one Mr. Forquer, who had suddenly changed from the Whig to the Democratic faith and had been rewarded with a fat political office. Forquer had thereupon built himself an elaborate home in Springfield and over it had erected a lightning rod, the only one in the place and the first one Lincoln had ever seen. Once at a political meeting Forquer set himself to "take down" the presumptuous young man of elongated stature and ready tongue. "His reply to Forquer," says Herndon's informant, "was characterized by great dignity and force. I shall never forget the conclusion of that speech. "'The gentleman has seen fit to allude to my being a young man, but he forgets that I am older in years than I am in tricks and trades of politicians. I desire to live, and I desire peace and distinction, but I would rather die now than, like the gentleman, live to see the day that I would change my politics for an office worth \$3,000 a year and then feel compelled to erect a lightning rod to protect a guilty conscience from an offended God.'"—New York Post.

BETWEEN TWO VISITS.

The Great Change That Came Over the Poor Little Fat Boy.

Sir Francis Chantrey, the famous sculptor of Georgian days, whose quest for the encouragement of art is now famous as the "Chantrey trust," is the subject of a very pleasing story told in Lady Chatterton's diary: "Last week I met Sir Francis Chantrey and Luttrell at Rogers' house, Lady Dufferin, Mrs. Damer, Lord Lansdowne and Lord Glenelg were there. After breakfast Chantrey pointed out a sideboard and said to Rogers: "'Do you remember a poor little fat boy in a common workman's dress who came one morning many, many years ago to take some order about that sideboard?' " "Yes, I do," said Rogers, "for I thought what a fine head and intelligent look the poor boy had." "Well, he is the now celebrated sculptor, who not only goes to all the best houses in London, but gives parties that people are so good as to call pleasant, where all the highest and most intellectual people honor him with their presence. Can you guess who it is? Well," Chantrey added, "that cabinetmaker's apprentice was myself."

A Conscientious Jury.

On one occasion a native in Kail, Hawaii, cheated a neighbor out of a small sum of money. The community was indignant and determined that the guilty party should be punished. The day of the trial came; the testimony was conclusive; the judge closed his charge, reminding the jury that "it takes nine to convict," for a three-fourths majority was required instead of a unanimous jury. It was thought that the twelve might decide in the box, but the Hawaiian likes form, and they gravely withdrew to the jury room. They were gone an unconscionable time. At length the judge, impatient, sent to find out what in the world was the matter and discovered this predicament: All twelve were for conviction, and no three could be induced to vote for the defendant.

Mending Screens.

Few repairs are more conspicuous or annoying than ugly patches on screen doors or windows. When a screen is broken first make the broken place a neat, trim oblong hole with wire cutters. Then from a piece of screen cut a patch two inches larger than the opening. Ravel the wires for half an inch all around this piece and bend the wires thus left at right angles. Holding the patch carefully in place, push the bent wires through the screen and secure the patch by bending the wires back evenly and smoothly. The patch will be hardly noticeable when completed.—National Magazine.

The Reason of It.

"Have you seen Joe lately?" "Why, yes. I saw the old chap yesterday. And, what do you think, he's going to be married." "Can it be possible? To whom?" "He's going to marry Mary Merrie." "What! Why, I didn't know they knew each other." "They don't. That's why they're going to be married."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Precise.

Footpad—Hands up! If you move, you're a dead man! Professor Yale—Pardon me, my friend, that statement is neither logically nor etymologically correct. Manifestly, if I move I'm a living man, not a dead man! Be a little more careful in your use of words.—Satire.

That Waked Him.

Diffident Lover—Do you know I—er—actually dreamt that I proposed to you last night. Now—er—what can that mean? Practical Girl (promptly)—Menn? Well, it means that you are a lot more sensible asleep than you are awake, Freddy!

Didn't Appreciate It.

Mrs. Peck—Really, we never know who our best friends are. Peck—That's true. There's the fellow I won you away from. He hasn't spoken to me since.—Boston Transcript.

He only employs prejudice who can make no use of reason.—Cicero.

ARTIFICIAL CAMPHOR.

Man Does in Two Weeks What Nature Takes Two Years to Do.

Who, unless he be a chemist, would suppose that there exists anything in common between the camphor of the orient and the turpentine obtained from the pine tree in the occident? The two substances have no superficial resemblance, their very odors being different, yet, chemically considered, there is very little difference between them. Turpentine is composed of ten atoms of carbon combined with sixteen atoms of hydrogen, and camphor has the same components, with the addition of one atom of oxygen. The best natural camphor comes from Formosa, and the outbreak of the Russian-Japanese war advanced the price to such an extent that the chemists of the world were called upon to contrive a substitute. They soon decided that it would be more practicable to make an artificial camphor. Knowing turpentine to be the substance most nearly allied to it in chemical structure, a series of experiments on a very large scale was begun. A detailed history of these experiments would fill many volumes. Today from a determined quantity of turpentine may be obtained a fourth part of the weight of pure camphor. The success of the experiments was first known when the odor of camphor issued from set combinations. Today man can manufacture in the laboratory in fifteen days an amount of camphor which it takes a tree two years to produce.—Harper's Weekly.

BRANDED BRIDES.

Novel Betrothal Customs of the Natives of New Guinea.

So far as proposals of marriage are concerned, in New Guinea it is always leap year, for in that island the men consider it beneath their dignity to notice women, much less to make overtures of marriage. Consequently the proposing is left to the women to do. When the ebony belle falls in love with a man she sends a piece of string to his sister or, if he has no sister, to his mother or another of his lady relatives. Then the lady who receives the string tells the dusky master that the particular damsel is in love with him. No courting follows, however, for it is considered beneath a New Guinea gentleman's dignity to waste time in such a pursuit. If the man thinks he would like to wed the lady he meets her alone, and they decide straight away whether to marry or drop the idea. In the former case the betrothal is announced. The man is then marked on the back with charcoal, while a mark is actually cut into the woman's skin. No breach of promise actions are possible in New Guinea, though if the lady is jilted her friends may hunt her lover up and "go" for him. On the other hand, if the dark damsel prove faithless she is liable to be beaten by her betrothed if he catches her.—Pearson's Weekly.

Water as Food.

In the light of certain statistics given by W. J. McGee in the World's Work the old sentence of "bread and water" does not, at all events, sound like starvation rations. For man and other animals water is the leading food. The average human ration is some six pounds daily, four and one-half liquid and one and one-half nominal solid. A pound of grain is the equivalent of two tons of water used by the growing wheat and a pound of beef the equivalent of fifteen to thirty tons of water consumed by the heaves chiefly in the form of feed, and the adult who eats 200 pounds each of bread and beef in a year consumes something like a ton of water in drink and the equivalent of 400 tons in bread and 4,000 tons in meat, or 4,401 tons in all.

Domestic Troubles.

Husband—What's the matter, dear? Why do you look so worried? Wife—Oh, I've just got everything all ready for Mrs. Mentleigh's visit. I've done up all the curtains and pillowshams and bureau covers and centerpieces, and they're all spick and span. Husband—Well, if everything is in such apple pie order why look so disconsolate about it? Wife (bursting into tears)—Oh, I just know as soon as she sees them she'll know I cleaned everything all up because she was coming.—Judge.

Reason For Her Talk.

Lola, aged four, was present at dinner one evening when a number of guests were being entertained by her parents, and during a lull in the conversation she began to talk very earnestly. "Why do you talk so much, Lola?" asked her father. "'Cause I've got somethin' to say," was the innocent reply.—Chicago News.

The Gallon.

The gallon measure in Canada differs quite materially from the gallon in the United States. There the gallon measure contains exactly ten pounds of distilled water, here the gallon contains only 8.3385 pounds. Milk being heavier than water, a Canadian gallon of milk will weigh 10.31 pounds. Whereas in the United States the weight will be 8.6 pounds.

A Shock.

"Now, Henry," she began with a set jaw, "I must have \$10 today." "All right," replied her husband, "here it is." "Gracious, Henry!" she exclaimed, suddenly paling. "What's the matter? Are you ill?"

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