

PLINY'S COUNTRY HOMES.

The Famous Roman Loved the Luxurious Life of His Day. Pliny gives us a minute and loving picture of his country houses...

of his elaborate and splendid villas in Tuscany and at Laurentum, which he describes with a detail of singular interest...

We hear not only of Pliny's abodes, but of his friends and he was a man to have many of them. The most august was the Emperor Trajan himself...

ORIGIN OF A FRENCH DISH.

The Order Michele Received and the Way He Filled It.

The names bestowed upon certain dishes have often an origin entirely different from technical considerations.

On a certain occasion she gave a dinner to the officers of the regiment Choussat-Cavalerie. During the function her guests spoke of a banquet that they had attended on the previous evening...

The Tongues of the Balkans.

The many languages are spoken in the Balkans. A traveler in that region writes of the dialects: Turkish, Bulgarian, Serbian, Roumanian, Albanian, Greek, Albanian, Krovo-Walbanian, Chingian, the language of the Greeks, Slavonic, the language of the Jews of Slavonic or Portuguese descent...

A Violent Fish.

In South America there is a small fish that not only attacks its fellows of the sea and river, but is greatly dreaded by the natives, who during certain seasons have to ford the streams in which the caribboes are found.

The Beginning.

"How many stars can you see?" she asked. "Two more than you," he said. "How do you make that out?" she asked.

The Reason.

Other—that man at the round table gets better service than I do. I shall complain to the manager. Where is he? Waiter—It's the man at the round table.—Fleegende Blatter.

More Like It.

"That young gaily is a chip of the old block, isn't he?" "Rather a tooth of the old rake,"—Judge.

Heaven from all creatures hides the book of fate.—Swift

GORDON'S BLUNDER.

Grave Tactical Mistake of a Budding English General. When General Gordon was a lad at school he was as mischievous as most boys.

Gordon was one of the most frequent prisoners in this room, and he used to be annoyed by the boys who were free-coming to the door and peering at him through the keyhole.

There was a smothered exclamation of disgust, and then some one fumbled with the handle of the door. It opened, and in stalked the head master.

HART'S EASY JOB.

Slept For a Week and Made Enough to Live on For a Year.

To sleep for one's living, says the London Chronicle, may appear to some as a more attractive alternative than to work for one's living.

On the 1st of that month he grew dull, on the 2d, appeared drowsy; on the 3d, fell yawning; on the 4th he began to nod, on the 5th, dropped asleep, on the 6th, was heard to snore; on the 7th, turned himself in his bed; on the 8th, recovered his former posture; on the 9th, fell stretching; on the 10th, about midnight, awoke; on the 11th, in the morning, called for a little small beer.

Polished and Vigorous.

Observing a passenger with the unlighted butt of a cigar in his fingers, the street car conductor requested him to put it out.

"It is out, you chump," responded the passenger. "You're me," resumed the conductor. "If I have failed to make myself clear, the condition to which I had referred was not one of mere temporary non-combustion, but of elimination, the eradication I might say, of the physical existence of your cigarette-laden remnant."

Running as Exercise.

The fact that a person is capable of doing the best running and speed walking before the thirtieth year does not mean those who have passed the thirtieth decade to think they are on the down grade of life.

Dame Fortune.

"Pa, why do they call it 'Dame' Fortune?" "Because Dame is feminine. Fortune is symbolized as a woman."

Addressing one of his southern auditors, Sam Jones once requested all the auspicious present who had not spoken a harsh word to their wives for a month to stand up.

Realistic.

"How did the moving pictures of the wedding turn out?" "Oh, splendidly. They caught the bride when she was knocked senseless by being hit with an old shoe, so that it is just as natural as life."—Chicago Record-Herald.

All who have meant good work with their whole heart have done good work, although they may die before they have signed it.—E. L. Stevenson.

A COLD BLOODED DUEL.

Instant Death Was Assured For One of the Contestants. An extraordinary duel, which at the time created an immense sensation, was one in which the decision was arrived at not by swords or pistols, but by means of a deadly poison.

The men—was it hardly necessary to say, had fallen out over a lady—had left the arrangement of details to their seconds, and neither faced each other they did not know by what method they were to settle their differences.

"This time," he said, "I have placed a sufficient quantity of prussic acid to cause the almost instantaneous death of any one who swallows it. We will decide by the toss of a coin which of you is to have first choice, and you will ultimately draw and swallow a pill until the poison shows its effects."

CANARIES ARE NERVOUS.

And They Dread Mice That Like to Steal Their Bird Seed.

One of the common troubles with canaries is that of nervousness. The nervous system of a canary is as highly sensitive as that of a delicate woman.

"I had two canaries," he said, "that for some reason I could not discover fell into a frightfully nervous state and started to pine away. I doctored them with all the remedies known to bird lore, but the poor creatures continued to droop in dismal decline. At last I discovered the trouble. It was mice."

One Sin of Housekeeping.

The ultimate sin of the house-keeping code is straightening things out in a desk or on a table. When I depart from my quarters in the morning my sitting room table looks self possessed and homelike, bearing three ash trays, four or five books, notices, a pipe, a can of tobacco, papers, magazines, pen-cases, a letter or two, a bottle of ink and a note or a notelet or so.

Pliny's Jewel Stories.

Pliny declared that a diamond was as hard that if placed on an anvil and struck with a sledge-hammer it would give back a blow of such force as to shiver both anvil and hammer to pieces.

His Income.

"They say you get 250 marks a month. I can't believe it. Tell me how."

"I get 110 marks salary; then I don't pay my rent, 40 marks; that's 150 marks; I owe the milkman 30 marks, that's 180 marks; my butcher 40 marks, 220 marks, and every month I raise 30 marks out of my friends, making an income of 250 marks a month!"—Fleegende Blatter.

Strychnine?

"Say, Maria, have you noticed how this infernal cat jumps in my lap every time I sit down to read?"

"Well, I suppose the poor thing is tired."

"Well, the next time I go to the drug store I'll get something (biff) for that tired feline."—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

An Ancient Inspiration.

Artist—Here's a cute little inspiration that I thought worthy of preservation in crayon.

Editor (after a hasty glance at the sketch)—Why, I've always supposed that little inspiration was preserved in oil.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The Riddle.

His Daughter—Papa, did you know mamma just before you married her? Her Father—Just between you and me, my dear, I don't know her yet.—Chicago News.

WEREDITH AS A CHILD.

When Only Two Years of Age He Had an Air of Superiority. As is generally the case with an only child, brought up entirely in the society of his elders, George Meredith developed early and always had something of contempt for juveniles of his own age.

He was a reserved and gently sensitive boy, afraid of ghosts and being left alone in the dark, and was perhaps a trifle spoiled by his mother, a refined woman, whose love and care he had before he reached his sixth birthday.

"I went up to the large front drawing room, where I found the boy and a lady who must have been his mother. The boy did not seem to care much about playing with me, and I was rather shy."

"This time," he said, "I have placed a sufficient quantity of prussic acid to cause the almost instantaneous death of any one who swallows it. We will decide by the toss of a coin which of you is to have first choice, and you will ultimately draw and swallow a pill until the poison shows its effects."

MAKING WATCHES.

Wonderful Feats That Are Performed by Modern Machinery.

The rapidity with which watches are nowadays manufactured has been made possible by the ingenious machinery designed within recent years for the making of all parts of a watch.

Great sheets of brass and steel are cut and rolled into ribbons and punched out into wheels at the rate of 10,000 a day from each punching machine. Workers drill the thirty-one holes in the roof of the watch as fast as their eyes can count.

Brass wire goes into a machine that measures off the length of a part, turns it, puts a screw thread on each end and actually screws it in at the rate of 2000 a day.

The Physiotype.

This is an English invention for making pictures by impression of leaves, ferns, lace, feathers and various other objects. It depends upon the chemical action of a fine powder, the object of which a representation is to be made is placed upon white paper and pressed either by the hand or by other means.

Economy and Consolation.

Her discovery in the way was not less than special.

"It is so easy to save when you know how," she exclaimed. "Oh, so easy! Do I wish to save \$25? Very well, I go down town and find something I would like that costs \$25, and then I don't buy it. Nothing could be simpler."

"She did not deny, however, that her method involved a sacrifice."

"But if the sacrifice is too painful," she went on to explain, "I go and find something my husband would like that costs \$35 and don't buy that!"—Puck.

Knew Her Hubby.

Mother—Is your letter to your husband ready to mail? Married Daughter—It's all done excepting the postscript telling him to send me some more money. I'm looking for another sheet of paper.

It Was Dangerous.

"So you think that kissing is dangerous?" "Indeed, I do."

"You must have kissed the wrong girl!" "I know I did."

"Her brother handed you a wallop?" "No; she married me."—Houston Post.

Sign of Popular Affection.

Weren't you indignant when people you didn't know called you by your first name?"

"No," replied Senator Morgan, "but I've worried a great deal since they've shown a disposition to stop it."—Washington Star.

Power is a fretful thing and hath its wings always spread for flight.—Walt Whitman.

EASY TO GUESS IT.

What Do You Think Is the Answer to This Puzzle Question? With the rest six weeks to arrears Scribbler sat trembling lest the land lady should hear the beating of his heart and call for a reckoning.

At length there came a light tap on the door. Scribbler looked toward the window as a possible avenue of escape. However, before he could make up his mind to try the rainpout route the door opened cautiously, and first Stumpkins' bald head appeared and then the rest of him crept slowly in.

In a whisper he advised Scribbler not to pay Mrs. Stumpkins, inasmuch as she was not the head of the house. Scribbler acquiesced and Stumpkins disappeared.

A little later another rap on the door this time more insistent, caused Scribbler to look up. It was Mrs. Stumpkins. "Say, don't pay my old man any more, Mr. Scribbler. He won't do nothing, but drink it up. This morning I had to let him know who runs this house. We ain't speaking to each other now."

Again Scribbler acquiesced. They had been six months ago. They haven't spoken to each other yet, and Scribbler goes on his way rejoicing.

Puzzle question: What will be the first question they ask when they start speaking again?—Satire.

TINY ELECTRIC IONS.

Science Says They Are the Smallest Units in the World.

We used to think that about the smallest thing in the world was an atom of hydrogen. In fact, it was taken as the unit by which the atomic weight of all metals was expressed.

Hand in hand, however, with the modern conception of the nature of the electric current, has come a new conception of infinitude in small things. Now they say, the smallest thing in the world divisible by the hand of man is the electric ion.

Scientists armed with instruments considerably finer than grocery store scales, have isolated and measured them and found that their relation to that lightest of all gases, hydrogen, is as one to the seventeenth power of ten, or in other words, the fraction representing their relation to an atom of hydrogen is expressed by a million-million-millionth.—Chicago Record-Herald.

Generous Soul.

"Now, Jim," said the old lady to her son, who was about to leave the country to try his luck in London, "there's plenty of money in that big city, for the streets are said to be even paved with gold."

"Jim had his docta," but these were quickly removed, for he had barely got out of Boston station when, to his surprise, he espied stily reposing on the kerf a bright, glittering sovereign. Eagerly he picked it up and walked a little farther on, when he came across a bald man who was begging.

"Take this, my friend. I can see 'em, that can't!"—London Globe.

Scared Both of Them.

When Justice Mannie was on the bench a bullying counsel was one day browbeating an elderly female witness in a case before him. Having badgered her into a state of utter speechlessness, the lawyer appealed to the judge to make her answer his questions.

"Why do you not answer, madam?" asked the judge. "Because, my lord, he scares me so," replied the trembling woman. "So does he, me 'am," said the judge.—Law Notes.

Like the Mythical Dragon.

In the Malay archipelago is a reptile much like the mythical dragon. It has false ribs that extend the loose skin and form its wings. There is also a frog with spreading feet that makes a parachute which enables it to flit from tree to tree, and a flying lemur that can spread out its whole body like an umbrella and leap and fly a hundred feet at a time, from the top of one tree to another.

Preaching and Practice.

"Isn't it horrid," remarked Miss Swifty to her friend—"Isn't it horrid that men will put those nasty old pipes into their mouths?"

"Yes," said her friend emphatically as she stooped and tenderly kissed the black face of her pet pug—"yes, indeed it is."—Pearson's.

A Suggestion.

"John," said Mrs. Silthers, "where can I get a set of resolutions passed by our Civic Sorority yesterday engraved?"

"I really don't know, my dear," said Silthers. "Why don't you have them embroidered?"—Judge.

Accusery in the twin brother of honesty.—Mimosa.

AN ARCTIC ADVENTURE.

Nansen's Daring and Perilous For His Drifting Boat. Among the perilous adventures of the Nansen arctic expedition, the narrow escape of Nansen and his men on their return trip to the pole after their unsuccessful dash to the north, is one of the most dramatic.

After the kalaks, which were together, had been unroofed by one of the braces they were blown hummock close by and had been long there only a moment when I saw raised the cry that the kalak had drifted.

They ran to the edge of the ice and the boats were already a little way and were drifting quickly. The situation was a terrible one, for Nansen once threw off some of his clothing, handed his watch to Johannes, sprang into the icy water. He thought if the boats were lost it was death to him and his companions that it seemed more than probable whether he could manage to get over and swim on his back. At last he gained a little and redoubled exertions.

By this time Nansen felt his stiffening and losing all feeling, strokes became more and more frequent, but the distance from the kalak came shorter, and at last he was able to grasp a snowshoe that lay at the stern. He now tried to pull himself up, but his body was so stiff with cold that he could not do so.

With some difficulty he paddled the kalak back to Johannes, who said that these were the worst moments he had ever lived through. Johannes pulled off Nansen's wet clothes, spread the sleeping bag upon the ice and covered Nansen with the soft everything he could find to keep the cold. The next day Nansen, all rigid again, and in the eve they pressed forward once more on their march that finally brought them to the arctic.

A Chilly Forecast.

The earth is growing in both of size and of the surface that fall in. It has recently been estimated, by means of fall daily over the surface of the globe, and that millions of years hence this will have increased thickness of the earth's crust.

Milk became a very important part of the food of families in the cold days of the eighteenth century. In 1728 a discussion took place in a Boston newspaper as to the expense of keeping a family of "milkling" cows. These writers all named of bread and milk for breakfast and supper. As cows increased in number, milk, of course, became more frequently used.

"Doctor, my husband is losing his mind. I fear. He continually mutters and mutters to himself." "Is it possible?" "Yes; he mutters to himself, whenever you speak to him he stares at you blankly."

"Now, Tommy," said his mother, giving him final instructions before he left for the party, "remember, if you're asked to have something you want you must say, 'Yes, thank you,' and if you don't want it—" Tommy raised his hand. "That's right, ma," he said; "you needn't bother about that part of it."

"Farming methods have changed, haven't they?" "Yes," replied Farmer Corrosetto. "Now a man thinks he's unlucky if he has to borrow money on his place. He used to think he was lucky if he was able to."—Washington Star.

Well Schooled. Captain—Supposing the barrack were to catch fire, what call would you sound? Trumpeter (newly joined)—Sure, sorr, I'd sound the "cease fire."—London Punch.

Who rises every time he falls and sometimes rise to stay.—Morris.