

FEAT OF A CARRIER PIGEON

Carries on One Trip Forty Thousand Messages Averaging Twenty Words Each

For more than two thousand years carrier pigeons have been used to carry messages when no other means sufficed...

This marvel was accomplished by means of microscopic photography, the messages being first printed with ordinary type and then photographed and rephotographed...

TEACH THE SICK TO JUGGLE

Manual Dexterity is Also Beneficial to the Brain Worker of Sedentary Habits

Speaking of conjuring, the allied art of juggling is one of the most amusing and valuable of diversions...

The bedridden, if they retain the use of their hands, may beguile many a weary hour in learning to keep three or four tennis balls in the air...

For the brainworker who does not care for walking there is no better recreation. It has often occurred to us that in cases where there is any reason to fear some form of paralysis...

We do not wish to claim too much for manual education of this kind, but we may point out that it tends to perfect nervous poise and that no juggling trick can be properly done if the performer indulges in dissipation even so mild as beer and cigarettes...

Where Cleanliness Counted

A housekeeper wishing to change her baker, recently decided to investigate the conditions under which various kinds of bread were made and sold...

A Reason for Being Proud

The eight-year-old son of a Baltimore physician was playing in his father's office with a friend during the absence of the doctor, when suddenly the first lad threw open a closet door and disclosed to the terrified gaze of his little friend an articulated skeleton...

When the visitor had sufficiently recovered from his shock to stand the announcement, the doctor's son explained that his father was extremely proud of that skeleton...

"Is he?" asked the other. "Why?" "I don't know," was the answer; "maybe it was his first patient."

Could Be Banked On

In a Columbus avenue dry goods store where the family of the proprietor constitutes the working force the son took charge of the hosiery department in the absence of his sister...

"I do wonder if they are strong enough," she said. "Oh, yes, ma'am," said the youth. "You can carry a pretty heavy pocket-book in these stockings and it won't break through."

Curiosity of History

A lady one day remarked to Bulwer Lytton how odd it was that a dove (Latin, columba) should have been sent out to find the Old World, and Columbus (Colomba) should have found the new...

"Yes," agreed the novelist; "but more curious still is the fact that one came from Noah and the other from Genoa."

SHOPPING ORDEAL IN BURMA

Requires a Great Effort to Get the Shop Women to Show Their Goods

You may walk through the muddy old markets of Rangoon for hours at a time or through the brand new bazaar at Mandalay without any of the salespeople taking the slightest notice of you as a possible purchaser of their wares...

If the European is conspicuously dressed or presents a figure which the Burman, with his finely trained sense of humor, considers at all ridiculous, then a gay ripple of laughter passes along the stalls, and then indeed the would-be customer is noticed; but otherwise the tourist is an object of no interest whatever...

It requires a great effort to get a Burmese shop woman (they are nearly all women) to show you her silks, and when at last she has spread her merchandise broadcast upon the table and you are revelling in the illusion that you are living in the middle of a rainbow, with a chance of holding fast to some of its colors, she will ask her price (which is seldom more than one rupee too much) and will stick to it like glue...

She is an indolent lady in many ways who loves a quiet life, and she has determined that her most comfortable course is not to haggle in the market place. So you may make up your mind that bargaining and persuasion are useless arts to practice in Burma, however valuable they may be elsewhere...

ARTIFICIAL LACE IN FRANCE

Mechanism and Chemistry Furnish Product That Wears Better Than Real Article

Mechanism and chemistry combined have furnished France with a new produce—artificial lace. The general public has heard little about it, but the lace manufacturers of Lyons, Calais and Caudey have for some time past been much perturbed over this unexpected competition to which they will have to submit...

Artificial lace is in effect a manufacture of a very simple nature. There is no weaving employed in its production. The machine consists in its essential parts of a receptacle containing a cupro-ammoniacal solution of cellulose, a metallic cylinder upon which is engraved the negative of the design and a cogulation vat. A rotatory motion is given to the cylinder, over which flows the solution which, entering the interstices of the engraved pattern, fixes itself immediately in the cogulative liquid, out of which emerges the texture ready to be dried and dressed...

Artificial lace has a beautiful appearance. It is homogeneous and unalterable; will wear better and is less combustible than ordinary lace. Water does not affect it. Any desired pattern can be obtained by engraving a new cylinder.

Strange Idea of "Fun"

A new kind of "fun making" was inaugurated when there appeared among the "Personals" in each of the Chicago papers an advertisement which read: "Am now in a position to meet all my creditors. Kindly communicate with me." Then followed the name and address of a man who was about to be married to an estimable young woman who, according to the rumor, was the possessor of a substantial fortune. Of course the advertisement was inserted and paid for by somebody who suspected that he or she was a humorist, and it appears to open up a new field of endeavor for persons who regard it as one of the inalienable rights of mankind to make marriage a terror to those who undergo it...

Active Frenchmen

A study of the activities of the French population based on the last census has just been published. It shows that 29,720,879 persons, including the army, are engaged in active pursuits. The figure represents 53.3 per cent of the population; it includes 13,027,908 men, 68 per cent of the male population, and 7,992,000 women, or 39 per cent of the females...

Agriculture still employs 43 per cent of all the inhabitants of the country, and more than 50 per cent, in 59 departments. In 14 departments the population engaged in industrial pursuits ranged from 40 to 64 per cent, and in 12 from 30 to 40 per cent. Automobile construction occupied 22,000 persons, and electrical machinery 10,900.

Origin of Royal Literary Fund

The Royal Literary Fund owed its inception to one of those tragedies of poverty which have been only too common in the history of literature. In 1788 Floyer Sydenham, an eminent Greek scholar of Wadham college, Oxford, was arrested for some trifling debt due for his frugal meals and thrown into prison, where he died in want and misery when nearly eighty years of age...

His sad story becoming known created widespread sympathy, the practical outcome of which was the establishment of a fund to assist needy literary men. Its chief promoter was David Williams, a Welsh Nonconformist minister, and friend of Benjamin Franklin.—Pall Mall Gazette.

STRATEGY OF CECIL RHODES

How He Got Ahead of His Brother in Matter of Boiled Shirt

The late Sir William Butler, in his autobiography, which has just been published posthumously, tells the following story of Cecil Rhodes, which Cecil's brother, Frank Rhodes, told him...

"My brother," said Frank Rhodes, "is a strange man. We were young chaps together, and there wasn't too much money or too many things among us...

"One day Cecil came and asked me to let him have one of my shirts, as he wanted to go to an evening party in London. Well, I wanted the shirt myself that evening and I told him he couldn't have it. He said nothing, but I knew he didn't like losing a chance, so I watched him...

"I saw him off to the train. He had neither the shirt on him nor had he bag and baggage with him; but I thought that I'd go to the drawer and just make sure of my shirt. It was gone! Cecil came back that night...

"Well, Cecil," I said, "you won over that shirt of mine; but just tell me how you did it, for it wasn't on you when you left here and you had no parcel with you. What did you do with it?"

"He chuckled a little and said, dryly, 'I put it on under the old one.' Now, that's Cecil!"

GALLANT WORK OF FAMILY

Man, Wife and Son Participate in Rescue of Girl From Drowning in Icy Waters

An extraordinary instance of a family's gallantry comes from Oxford. It appears that a domestic servant of Ilfey, while cycling by the side of the river with a young man at ten o'clock the other evening, fell off her machine into the stream at a spot where the water was 12 feet deep and there was a swift current. The young man roused the Ilfey lockkeeper (Mr. Mellon), who immediately jumped into the river in the darkness. His wife followed with her seventeen-year-old son carrying a lantern...

She directed operations by the lantern light and told her son to jump in to save his father, who seemed unable to effect the rescue single handed in the swiftly running stream. Young Mellon obeyed immediately, and father and son, swimming in the icy cold water, effected the girl's rescue by the light of the lantern carried by Mrs. Mellon.—Reynolds's Newspaper.

Deaf and Dumb Printers

Manual training is an important part of the education imparted at the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf and Dumb at Mount Airy. One notable feature is a well-equipped printing office, where boys who show a preference for this trade become proficient in it. This office prints the stationery of the institution and also issues a bi-weekly magazine. An official of the institution says that printing is a desirable occupation for the deaf and dumb. It is an old adage of the craft that "A silent tongue maketh a full stick." Some employing printers show a preference for deaf and dumb compositors, and thus the great majority of the graduates of the Mount Airy printing office obtain lucrative positions. Even some of those who after leaving Mount Airy take a college course subsequently go back to printing.—Philadelphia Record.

Misapprehension

The late Bishop William N. McVicker of Rhode Island, harbored a large soul in a body to match. He was a bachelor, whose sister kept house for him.

On one occasion he telephoned to his tailor that he wished to have a pair of trousers pressed, and the tailor sent a boy to his residence to get them.

The bishop's sister admitted the messenger and called upstairs, "Willie, the boy has come for your trousers!"

When the brother appeared the youth's astonished gaze traversed the prelate's impressive "porosity"; then he murmured: "Gee! Is that Willie?"—Youth's Companion.

Theophile Gautier as a Journalist

M. Paul Bourget has been lecturing on Theophile Gautier and expressing pity for him as a struggling journalist. How hard he struggled may be judged from his account books, which have been published by Baron Speelberch de Levesjou. He was both art critic and dramatic critic of La Presse; he was overworked, and his average earnings at "scale rates" amounted to about 2368 a year.

His attitude toward literature consequently became cynical. "Masterpieces!" he once exclaimed. "I do not recognize masterpieces. I recognize nothing except copy as so much the line."

Little Old New York

New York is a world city in the fullest sense of the word. Its attractions are already turning the attention of Europe in this direction. But while the marvelous growth of the metropolis, with its public institutions, its theaters, its matchless hotels, is as yet merely in its infancy, judging by western standards, Paris need not feel that a rivalry has sprung up which will do the French city harm. Americans will continue to go abroad.—Christian Science Monitor.

ORIGIN OF THE SEDAN CHAIR

Most Common Means of Travel in European Cities in Seventeenth Century

The Sedan chair, so called from the French town in which it was first made, was the most common means of travel in European cities in the seventeenth and part of the eighteenth century. Soon after they came into use in Sedan they became extremely fashionable, and were in common use among the wealthy classes for nearly 200 years.

The first Sedan chair seen in England was in the reign of James I, the duke of Buckingham being the owner. It was in 1581 that the duke first appeared publicly in the vehicle, and there was no end of popular clamor about it. The people indignantly declared that the duke was employing fellow creatures to do the work that properly belonged to beasts, and demanded of the king that he banish the chair. The sovereign refused, however, to interfere with the duke's fancy vehicle and presently the popular indignation cooled off.

It was not until 1634 that Sedan chairs gained any considerable degree of popularity in London. In that year Sir Francis Duncombe obtained an exclusive franchise to use, let, and hire Sedan chairs in London for a period of 14 years. The titled friend of the king thus founded what may be called the first "cab stand" in London. By 1649 Sedan chairs had come into common use in England. Meantime they had spread in popularity on the continent, Spain being one of the early countries to adopt them.

CALL FOR SQUEAKLESS CORKS

Mr. Lushmore Declares That They Are the Pressing Demand of the Age

"It beats all," said Mr. Lushmore of the Brooklyn Park Slope, "how far you can hear the squeak of a cork."

"Now, my den is the rear chamber on the second floor. In the little cupboard I keep my cigars and a bottle of whisky, but I don't care much for the barroom society."

"My wife is pleased with my aversion for barrooms, but she would be better pleased if I never took a drink of my favorite beverage. Occasionally I come in on a stormy evening after she has gone to sleep. She hears nothing until just before I am ready to turn off the gas, when she wakes up with a start. She has heard the squeak, but she makes allowance for the weather and turns over and goes to sleep."

"When I come home in the afternoon she is usually in the dining room seeing about the dinner. Pretty soon there is a whistle from the speaking tube and her voice comes up: 'Hey, there! You'd better not tackle that bottle on an empty stomach.'"

"She has heard the peculiar sound. 'Again, she may be out in the back yard seeing if the crocuses are showing signs of life. I hardly reach my den before I hear from the yard: 'Hoo-hoo! Can't you come out and speak to your wife first?'"

"I maintain that one of the pressing demands of the age is for a squeakless cork."

Smart Detective

"You're late!" exclaimed the bucolic inspector, in an awful voice. "Very late! Half an hour late! Too late!" He glared fiercely over his spectacles. "Why didn't you bring me your report at eleven o'clock, as I told you to?"

"I'm sorry, sir," said the defaulting detective; "but I— I didn't know the time."

"Didn't know the time?" shouted the inspector, very red in the face. "Nonsense, sir. You must have known the time! A detective should know everything! And, besides, you have your watch!"

"Pardon me, sir, but I haven't!" stammered the detective. "One of the thieves I was shadowing stole it."

Traffic Problem Easy

The Paris subway system carries more persons in the course of the year than that of New York. In the length of the two systems there is not a great deal of difference, but the New York system covers a fourteen-mile stretch of territory laid out in a straight line, to all intents and purposes, whereas the Paris system comprises a network in the center of the city. The problem of transportation in Paris is not nearly so complex as in New York and the congestion experienced in New York is unknown in the French metropolis, where the morning or evening rush is in all directions, while in New York the people all desire to go in the same direction at the same time. The travel in Paris is quite conveniently distributed throughout the whole day.

New Words Pile Up

There are now 400,000 words in the English dictionary, exclusive of foreign languages. Back three centuries Shakespeare carried about in his head five times as many words as the dictionary then contained; today it has a hundred words for every one which a good writer will use. The greatest gains in the number of words recorded within the last 50 years have, of course, come from a minute raking over of all accessible English documents and from special branches of human labor, particularly the sciences, in which changing conditions have made necessary hosts of new terms.

SUPPLY AND DEMAND IN FUR

Tiger Skins Go Begging in London—Less Siberian Sables Offered on Market

At the recent London sales tiger skins were neglected, of the 82 skins offered only three being sold.

Japanese skins met with almost no favor, marten and fox skins remained unsold and only 1,600 mink skins out of 13,491 found buyers.

Only 3,280 real and bastard chinchilla skins were offered; the supply is steadily decreasing, the demand was good, and October, 1910, prices were realized.

Only 61 Falkland Island seal skins were offered; they sold readily. Lobos island fur seal skins, 3,997, the first offered in a little over two years, brought high prices.

About 10,000 sable skins are marketed each winter in Nicolaevsk, Siberia, at \$15 to \$50 each. The number, however, is decreasing, but it is difficult to say whether from the animals being exterminated or from the failure of the hunters to slay them. The hunting of sables is entirely by natives.

During a good season about 1,000 red fox skins at an average of \$4 to \$5 each are sold in the same city of Siberia. The black fox is scarce, about ten skins being obtained annually, bringing \$100 to \$250 each. Bear skins are plentiful, but owing to the religion of the natives the heads and claws are always removed, and consequently the hides are of little value, selling at \$7.50 to \$10 each.

QUEER BRUSHES AND COMBS

Different Methods Employed by Various Animals in Making Their Toilet

The cat carries her clothes brush in her mouth, for with her rough tongue she cleans her glossy coat as a boy brushes off his clothes. She licks one of her front paws and rubs it over her face, and she is ready for her breakfast.

Foxes, dogs and wolves do not use their mouths when they need to wash and brush, but scratch themselves vigorously with their hind paws and are as fresh as ever.

The cow, with her long, rough tongue, combs her coat of hair until it is clean and curly. The horse, more than any other animal, depends on his owner to keep his coat in proper condition, but often he will roll on the green grass or rub himself against a tree or fence.

Field mice comb their hair with their hind legs, and the fur seal in a similar manner spends as much time as a woman in making herself look smart.

Although the elephant appears to be thick skinned and callous, he takes great care of his skin. He often gives himself a shower bath by drawing water into his long trunk and blowing it on the different parts of his body. After the bath he sometimes rolls himself in a toilet preparation of dust to keep off the flies.—Our Dumb Animals.

Platform Sarcaam

Ex-Senator Edward O. Wolcott of Colorado was once sent into a southern state to advocate Republicanism. At one place he was politely informed that not since 1833 had any Republican been permitted to finish a speech there. He was introduced by the chairman's first pointing at the audience and then at the speaker. The audience was in two parts; the white below and the colored in the gallery. For about five minutes Wolcott progressed all right, but giving away to his Republicanism, he made a pointed thrust at the opening men downstairs upon a body of young men downstairs shouted: "Rats!" Wolcott paused a moment and then, waving his hand at the gallery, said: "Walter, come down and take the Chinamen's orders!"

Russia Likes Fancy Sewing Machines

Russians demand highly decorated sewing machines, and the more lacquered work in flowers and fantastic embellishments the better the article pleases. Only by close study of the wants of the people and by adapting the appearance of the machines to their peculiar tastes, such as bright colors, gaudy decorations, lacquering, nickeling and engraving, will American manufacturers succeed. While the solid golden oak tables and drawers of light color are suitable to the American taste and western Europe, they do not appeal to the Russians, who require that the woodwork be of dark colors, such as mahogany or cherry, even though it is veneer.

China's Religions

To the ranging eye the fruits brought forth by the religions of China appear to be numberless temples, dainty and neglected; countless dusty idols portraying hideous deities in violent attitudes expressive of the worst passions; an army of ignorant priests, as sceptical as Roman augurs, engaged in divining, exercising and furnishing funeral ceremonies for gain, and a laity, superstitious and irreverent, given to perfunctory kowtowing and prayer prompted by the most practical motives.—Century.

He Really Doesn't Mean It

An enterprising cobbler in a small suburb has a sign outside his small shop which destroys the legend that everything is cheaper in the country, for he announces that he is the only one in the locality who does "meandering at city prices."

ANTIQUITY OF BEER AND ALE

Beverage Was in Common Use in Germany in the Time of Tacitus

Beer is a liquor made from any farinaceous grain, but generally from barley, which is malted and ground, and its fermentable substance extracted by hot water. This extract or infusion is evaporated by boiling in caldrons and hops or some other plant of agreeable bitterness added. The liquor is then suffered to ferment in vats. Ale is a liquor made from an infusion of malt by fermentation. It chieflly differs from beer in having a smaller proportion of hops; both are intoxicating liquors.

The manufacture of beer and its use as an intoxicating drink are of very high antiquity. Herodotus tells us that owing to the want of wine the Egyptians drank a liquor fermented from barley. Ale or beer was in common use in Germany in the time of Tacitus.

"All the nations," says Pliny, "who inhabit the west of Europe have a liquor with which they intoxicate themselves, of corn and water."

The manufacture of ale was early introduced into England. It is mentioned in the laws of Ina, king of Wessex, and is particularly specified among the liquors provided for a royal banquet in the reign of Edward the Confessor.

WOMEN OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

Generally Very Highly Domesticated and Capable of Handling Household Affairs Cleverly

The South African woman is generally very highly domesticated; she is not only capable of managing her native servants very cleverly, but she is able to cook well, make jam and pickles, look after poultry, attend to the garden and make her own dresses and those of her children.

The social life in all South African towns is a strong feature, dancing is a favorite amusement and holiday picnics on river banks are general. Women play tennis, croquet and golf and do a good deal of cycling. Life in South Africa ranges from old established culture and luxury, with every surrounding convenience and taste, to the loneliness of the veldt farm, and to this life and her husband's interests, the English born girl soon adapts herself if she is at all adaptable. She can be healthy, happy and free and usually fairly prosperous, with more money to spend than she would have in a similar position at home.—Empire Magazine.

Samson and Delilah Us to Date

Life's modern version of Samson and Delilah is rather amusing. A slender young woman with but a normal head of hair is gazing coquettishly at a very hirsute hero, whose heavy mane falls abundantly over his shoulders. In the second scene he sits on the sofa feeling the horror-stricken countenance for the vanished glories of his capillary attraction. The lady stands with a hand mirror surveying the intricate tangle with which she has crowned her own head, and which bulges out behind and before in the approved style, while yet another mass of hair before her on the table proclaims that she has not yet done her worst.—Christian Science Monitor.

A Useless Accomplishment

The absent-minded girl sighed wearily. "I wish somebody would tell me," she said, "why forgetting seems to be the easiest thing in the world to do. If I could write letters as easily as I can forget, or if I could even write novels or trim hats or play leading parts on the stage or make gowns or deliver suffragette speeches or— or do any useful thing with the facility I manifest in forgetting almost everything I ought to do, I should be rich—or at least I should be at the top of some heap. No, I'm not crazy in my talk; I just wonder why forgetting has been made the very easiest thing we can do, instead of having attainment the easy thing and forgetting quite impossible."

A 70 Mile Fox Chase

"I notice a good deal of comment on a sixty mile two day fox hunt in Pennsylvania," remarked a fox hunter, "which reminds me that we covered more than seventy miles here recently in a single day, and what is more, we got the fox."

"First of all we rode not less than fifteen miles and back thirty miles. In the workout we covered not less than twelve miles, and in the four hour chase, red hot every minute, surely thirty miles more, a total of not less than seventy-two miles."

"Personally I believe it to be one of the most remarkable runs on record."—Pinehurst correspondence Raleigh Times.

It Depends on the Dog

Two Broadway business men met before a bar. They were good friends. "I'm worried a little," said one. "My chauffeur ran over a dog today and killed it."

"Oh, I wouldn't worry about a little thing like that," said the other. "The dog probably got in the way. These dogs are a pest."

"But it was your dog?" "What?" came from the second. "My dog?" "I'm sorry, but that will cost you \$100. That chauffeur of yours is too careless. I insist on the husband, understand?"—New York Morning Telegraph.