

LADYBUGS TRAVEL ON A PASS

They Are Carried to California Melon Fields to Destroy Pests Which Harm Crops.

"Ladybug, ladybug, fly away home," is out of date. The revised version is, "Ladybug, ladybug, take a ride with the express company." Thousands—possibly millions—of the beneficial little bugs are being...

DEFY DECREES OF FASHION

Increasing Number of Women Who Design and Wear Costumes of Their Own Selection.

In this era of independence and progress it is observed that the number of women who design, or at least superintend the making of their own gowns, bonnets, wraps, etc., according to their own particular style and taste, governed, of course, in a degree by prevailing modes, is no doubt...

BRIDE MAKES AN INNOVATION

English Woman Has "Best Girl" Attend Her in Ceremony at the Altar.

The best girl as counterpart to the best man at weddings has arrived in London. No longer are the bridegroom and his best man to be left in a position of embarrassed loneliness at the altar...

RATCATCHER ISSUES A DEFT

London's New Official Offers to Capture One Thousand Rodents in Three Nights.

London.—It seems that the gruesome freemasonry which binds European official executioners together causing them to internecine and inherit the profession, is not without its parallel among ratcatchers. Hence John Jarvis, who has just been appointed official ratcatcher to the London county council at a salary of £243.12 a year, is a ratcatcher by inheritance and instinct quite as much as he is by profession.

THOUGHT HE HAD MADE FIND

Murderous Mistake of Medicinal Crank, Ever on the Outlook for a New Remedy.

Mr. Blodgett, who lives up the state, fancies he is afflicted with liver complaint and in consequence tries every new patent medicine that comes on the market, fondly expecting it to prove effective for his particular malady. Not only that, but he swallows every sample of medicine left at the door by canvassers and anxiously continues his search for something new.

HEED THE VOICE OF FATIGUE

Good Advice if One Would Retain Youthful Looks and Preserve Nerves and Temper.

A certain busy woman, whose tale of accomplishment would sound like a fable if related here, says that she keeps in condition by never failing to obey the first symptom of fatigue. No matter how important the work on which she is engaged—unless, of course, she is giving the baby a bath—she desists from her employment the moment that "that tired feeling" overtakes her.

PUT SUDDEN END TO TRIAL

Doctor's Explanation Satisfied Judge and, Incidentally, Emptied the Courtroom.

There was a noted trial going on at the courthouse and the judge summoned this doctor as a witness. The sheriff went with a subpoena in search of him.

Trapped.

The man was neither neatly nor well dressed. He was plainly a tramp, begging, and had just turned away from one passerby, when he saw a young man walking briskly toward him.

Patching Up the Players.

The baseball trainer is an expert masseur, something of a medical practitioner, surgeon, masseur, osteopath, bathboy, assistant ticket taker, general all-round man and the object of the wrath of every player who happens to have a grievance.

Something to Crow About.

The Gander—Suffering cats! What sort of noise-germ has got into that ridiculous rooster lately? His darn croaking has developed into a continuous performance.

QUIETUDE OF REAL WORTH

Emerson's Perfect Understanding of Manners and Attitude of Man of the World.

I wish cities would teach their best lesson—of quiet manners. It is the foible especially of American youth—pretension. The mark of the man of the world is absence of pretension.

Tendency Toward Mediaevalism.

Although we live in an age of bustle there is a constant tendency among us toward mediaevalism, as witnessed in mediaeval civic costume adopted by newly created boroughs, academic costumes for the undergraduates of the new universities, and the proposal at Edinburgh, founded just after the reformation, to introduce the scarlet gown.

Asked.

"If you really want to be smart and up-to-date," said a young woman, "there is one word you must drop from your vocabulary, and that is the word 'invited.' No person of any claims to standing uses it any more. You must not say that you have been invited to Mrs. Sparkler's dinner party. You mention, simply, that you have been 'asked.' You have been 'asked' to attend Miss Spink's wedding, and you have 'asked' a few people for dinner on Thursday. I am not informed as to what smart noun replaces 'invitation,' but I do not hold with those persons who use 'bid' or 'invite.' It is best, I think, to avoid the use of any substantive whatever in such a connection, and to bring in the verb 'ask' as often as one can.

Vagaries of a Ball.

That capricious little ball that decides our fortunes at the ever fascinating game of roulette at Monte Carlo occasionally flies from the skillful croupier's hand, though not often. The other afternoon it slipped from its manipulator's fingers and found its way into an Englishman's coat pocket. So impressed was the Englishman that he promptly lost a couple of hundred pounds.

ETNA CENTER OF INTEREST

Mountain Now Accessible to Tourist, Who No Longer Need Fear Assaults by Bandits.

Since the opening, ten years ago, of railway from Giarrì to Catania, on the island of Sicily, Mount Etna has been the most accessible of volcanoes. This miniature line makes a complete circuit of the mountain, rising at one point to 3,810 feet above the sea level, and those traveling in the first-class compartment, which is fitted with glass sides, are able to enjoy the scenery in perfect comfort.

Before the construction of the railway the journey was full of peril, for Sicily is infested with bandits. Not long ago Foster Rose, who owns the largest sulphur mines in the island, was kidnaped and imprisoned for 30 days, when a ransom of \$15,000 secured his release.

Alexander Nelson Hood, an Englishman, who spends a portion of each year at Bronte, the beautiful estate presented to Admiral Nelson by Ferdinand IV, never goes beyond his garden without a mounted escort.

Fish as Food for Londoners.

The port of London's proposed duty on fish and trout reminds us that fish at least has always been an important constituent of the food supply of the metropolis, and in early times the Thames itself yielded an enormous supply. Westminster abbey formerly claimed a title of the Thames fisheries from Gravesend to Staines, and a lawsuit was successfully maintained against the rector of Rotherhithe in 1382 on the ground that St. Peter had in a vision granted the first haul of salmon in the Thames to Eddric the Saxon on condition that a tithe of fish was annually paid to the abbey. And once a year for centuries one of the fishermen as representative of Eddric took his place beside the prior, and brought in a salmon for St. Peter, which was carried in state through the refectory.

The Red Well Applied.

John Wesley's mother believed in birching children at the earliest possible age. Each one of her family was compelled to celebrate his fifth birthday by learning the alphabet by heart. In order that this task might be accomplished Mrs. Wesley, after issuing strict orders that no one should disturb her, shut herself up for six hours with the child and drove the letters into his brain with the aid of a rod. Madam Quinet, a French contemporary of Mrs. Wesley, was an equally firm believer in the virtues of corporal punishment, but was not sufficiently strong to administer what she considered a satisfactory flogging.

Other Comets Besides Halley's.

Halley's comet will not enjoy solitary glory. At least two other comets are due to cross the path of the earth this year. The first is known as the Temple's second periodical comet, discovered in 1873, July 3, at Milan. Its period is about 5 1/2 years, and it was reobserved in 1878, 1894, 1899 and 1904, making its perihelion passage on the last occasion in November. It should therefore return this coming spring.

D'Arrest's comet, discovered in 1851, is the second comet, and is due to return during the summer of this year. Its period is about sixty-one to sixty-two years, and it was reobserved at its return in 1857, 1870, 1890 and 1897. But it escaped observation, being unfavorably placed in 1902.

The Tables Turned.

"Come, wife," cried the warrior of old, "and buckle on my stout armor." "With a sigh she obeyed. But 'twixt her teeth she said: 'Some day our turn will come! Some day this armor will go out of fashion and we will have dresses that hook up the back.'"

MONEY HIDDEN UNDER CARPET

Son Finds \$3,400 in Small Bills Left by Mother, Who Was Thought Penniless.

South Norwalk, Conn.—When Mrs. Frank A. Slavin died it was thought she did not have a cent. The kitchen carpet was taken up and two layers of small bills, which almost covered the entire floor, were discovered.

To Have a New Face.

St. Louis, Mo.—When Thomas Herbert leaves the city hospital he will have a brand-new face. Half a dozen physicians and surgeons are now making it for him, and they promise such an improvement over the face that nature gave him that even his best girl will not know him.

Judge is Charitable.

Richmond, Va.—Moved by the pathetic testimony of Hunter Ingram, a 14-year-old boy, brought before him in police court the other day, charged with having stolen a loaf of bread, which the youngster said he wanted to take to his mother, who was starving, Judge John P. Crutchfield ordered a collection taken up in court for the boy and his mother. Passing around the hat, the bailee obtained from those present in court the sum of \$15, the judge having dropped in a crisp five-dollar note. The case against Ingram was dismissed.

No Medical Student.

The woman doctor was getting busy with her new chafing dish. "Arrah, what's that funny-lookin', double-decked dishpan for, ma'am?" asked the new maid. "Why, Norah!" exclaimed the doctor, astonished, "didn't you ever before see a chafing dish? Now, I'm going to show you just what a Welsh rabbit is composed of."

Orange Blossoms.

The origin of the custom of wearing orange blossoms as bridal ornaments has been variously accounted for: (1) This custom is said to have originated among the Saracen brides, and to have been introduced into Europe by the Crusaders. The Saracens regarded the orange tree as the emblem of fecundity, since it bore blossoms and fruit at the same time. (2) According to another theory, orange blossoms were worn by brides, not only on account of their agreeable odor, but also on account of their rarity and consequent high price. (3) This custom is said to have taken its rise in Spain, where oranges have been successfully cultivated for centuries, and to have spread thence all over Europe.

Tit for Tat.

Stranger (to prominent clergyman)—I came in here, sir, to criticize your church management and tell you how it ought to be run. Prominent Clergyman (amazed)—What do you mean, sir? How dare you? Who are you, anyway? "I am the humble editor of the paper you have been writing to."—Life.

The Noise.

She (on the parlor sofa, in a very low tone)—Sh! What's that? He (also in a low tone)—What? "That sound. I thought it was papa coming." "No, dear; that was my last cigar being broken in my vest pocket."

INDIANS GO TO NICARAGUA

Colony of Red Men Is Doing Well, and the Future is One of Great Promise.

Little Bison, member of the Brule tribe of Sioux Indians, has returned from Nicaragua and will remain in the eastern United States for a few weeks; according to a writer in Collier's Weekly. He plans to go back to his settlement of Indians on the headwaters of the Coco river in the interior of Nicaragua, and to take back with him other Indians to develop the land, to work at rubber plantations, coffee, sheep, cattle and horses.

He hopes to arrange for 8,000 manzanas of land—16,000 acres. He had completed terms with Yelaya when the overturn of government made a new dicker necessary.

Already Little Bison has established five Indians in the new territory and he proposes to place 25 families of 50 to 60 persons in the colony in the next year.

Two streams of rapid current furnish power for the industrial and dynamic needs of the colony. The waters abound in fish and the country is full of game—wild hog, mountain cow, jaguars.

Little Bison's scheme for redeeming his people from ill health and loss of ambition has the backing of such persons as George Bird Grinnell, Robert C. Ogden, A. S. Frissell, Miss Natalie Curtis and F. S. Deffenbaugh.

Mistaken for a Queen.

A Washington woman had to cut short her visit in Spain last summer because she was mistaken for the dowager queen. She had no idea she resembled that royal personage until, when alighting at a railroad station, she was greeted by officials with marked courtesy and attention. In fact, it was so apparent that she inquired at the hotel why such attentions were bestowed upon her, and was informed that it was because of her resemblance to the queen. Going to Madrid a little later she was surprised wherever she appeared by the deference shown her by the people, as well as by a great many of the officials. This made her a little nervous, and she concluded that in these days, when royal personages often are headed a bomb, she would cut short her visit to Spain and go where she did not resemble any royal person.

Diamonds.

The diamond is pure carbon and the hardest substance in nature. It burns in a temperature of 800 centigrade, producing carbonic acid. All diamonds are not equally hard, and there is sometimes a varying degree of hardness in different parts of a large diamond. Some diamonds glow in a dark room; some are fluorescent, appearing milky in sunlight. Diamonds are of many colors—pure white, yellow, jet black, dark brown, light cinnamon, green, blue, pink and orange, the diamonds of each mine having a distinctive character. An expert can usually tell the mine by examining the stone. Most of the diamonds of today come from the famous Kimberley and De Beers mines, in South Africa.—World's Work.