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THE RUSSIAN ICON.

It is Simply a Religious Picture Blessed by a Priest.

An icon is simply a religious picture, generally of little artistic merit, and the subject usually represented is either a Russian saint, some event in the life of Jesus Christ or the Virgin Mary. In the Greek church, as in other Christian churches, the worship of graven images is forbidden, but no objection is made to anything reproduced on a flat surface. Therefore icons are permitted in the form of mosaics, paintings, enamels or prints. They play an important part in the religious life of the Russians and are to be met with everywhere—in churches, public offices, private houses and shops. A picture to become an icon must be blessed by a priest, and it is then regarded not only as an ornament, but as an accessory in the worship of the Greek church. Icons are also worn on the person, when they take the form of a plaque or a book with two leaves. Almost every soldier wears one on his bosom, and when he prays he takes out his icon and, opening it, kneels down before it as if it were a portable altar. Every regiment has its own icon, which it carries as it would carry its banner when the regiment goes into battle.

THE PRICE OF A LIFE.

How It Was Fixed Under the Old Anglo-Saxon Laws.

According to Anglo-Saxon laws, every man's life, including that of the king, was valued at a fixed price, and any one who took it could commute the offense by a money payment upon a fixed scale. The life of a peasant was reckoned to be worth 200 shillings, that of a man of noble birth 1,200 shillings, and the killing of a king involved the forfeiture in a payment of 7,200 shillings.

It has been pointed out that the heir to the throne could thus get rid of the existing occupant by murdering him and thereafter handing over the fine, according to the scale, to the exchequer, when his offense would be purged and his money would come back to himself, for in those days the sovereign received all fines as personal perquisites. There is very little doubt that these rough means were practically applied in the case of some rulers of England in the pre-conquest period.—London Telegraph.

Two Edged Punishment.

An English newspaper says that a schoolmaster was in the habit of punishing scholars who came late to school in the morning by keeping them in in the afternoon. One who was five minutes late was kept in ten minutes and so on in proportion. One

morning it chanced that the schoolmaster was half an hour late, and a smart boy among his pupils was not slow to remind him of the fact. "I'm very sorry for being late, boys," said the schoolmaster, with a twinkle in his eye, "and as I punish you it's only fair that you in turn should punish me, so you will all stay and keep me in for an hour this afternoon."

A Browning Letter.

One of Browning's letters is a reply to a young poet who wrote asking Browning's advice about publishing a volume of poems. The reply, in part, is as follows and may serve a useful purpose to young poets of today as well: "It sounds strange and almost sad to me that I should be imagined of authority in this kind, I who for years could not get a line printed except at my own expense, and I began half a century ago or more."

Mistook the Punctuation.

The Young Woman (surprised and indignant)—How dared you kiss me, sir! Penitent Young Man—Why, you said you'd like to see me do it. The Young Woman—But you know as well as I do that I said it with an exclamation point at the end!—Chicago Tribune.

Settling.

Smith—Jones, I'm going to marry and settle down. Jones—Humph! You'd better remain single and settle up.

ORIENTAL WOMEN.

They Spend an Astonishing Amount of Time Over Their Toilets.

An eastern lady of high degree spends an amount of time over her toilet that would quite astonish the most fashionable society lady. First she has her hair dressed by her maid, who, after anointing the long, silky black locks with a little oil made from aloe wood or cocconut, arranges it simply in a long, smooth plait, low on the nape of the neck, and decorated either with gold or jeweled ornaments.

Next the bath is prepared as hot as it can be, and in this the lady may stay as long as two or three hours. Soaps are not used, but instead there are multifarious unguents, secret preparations of the bathing women, which render the skin soft as velvet and delicately perfumed. Oftentimes the face is washed over with milk into which has been squeezed lemon juice.

The hair of the oriental woman is usually beautifully long, soft and glossy, and the way they arrange it is invariably becoming to their soft type of beauty. Perfumes are much indulged in. These are introduced in the bath and permeate the garments, but are rarely used on a handkerchief.—Philadelphia North American.

Birthstones and Their Meaning.

The following table of lucky stones, with their various characteristics, will be found useful by sweethearts and friends who intend giving birthday or wedding presents:

January—Garnet, sincerity.
February—Amethyst, sincerity.
March—Bloodstone, courage.
April—Diamond, innocence.
May—Emerald, successful in love.
June—Agate, health and long life.
July—Carnelian, contented mind.
August—Sardonyx, conjugal fidelity.
September—Chrysolite, antidote against madness.
October—Opal, hope, lucky to keep, but unlucky to wear.
November—Topaz, fidelity.
December—Turquoise, prosperity.
The opal will not bring bad luck to her whose birthstone it is.

—Bill—Bob is getting discouraged. Jill—What's the matter? Is his automobile breaking down more than usual? "No, but it's been two weeks since he struck a pedestrian!"—Yonkers Statesman.

—No Cordelia an indulgent husband doesn't always come home early. Sometimes he's too full to get home.

—When a man flatters you put on your spectacles and look around for the ax he has to grind.

—It is easier for an orator to make a speech than it is for the speech to make him.

—The average man has a better opinion of himself than the Lord has of him.

Medical.

SPRING HUMORS

Come to most people and cause many troubles,—pimples, boils and other eruptions, besides loss of appetite, that tired feeling, fits of biliousness, indigestion and headache.

The sooner one gets rid of them the better, and the way to get rid of them and to build up the system that has suffered from them is to take Hood's Sarsaparilla and Pills, which form in combination the Spring Medicine par excellence, of unequalled strength in purifying the blood, as shown by unequalled, radical and permanent cures of

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Meat Markets.

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