

**ON GUARD AGAINST FORGERS**

**Men of Money Devise Secret Signs Which Inform Bank Cashiers That Checks Are Genuine.**

So clever is the modern forger that the man who relies on a signature which is hard to copy is liable at any moment to find himself victimized and his account depleted.

In order to prevent the successful uttering of a forged check, several men have hit upon devices which even the smartest criminal could hardly detect.

For instance, there is an American millionaire who makes a tiny blot on some part of the check as a sign to the bank cashier that it is genuine. Not one forger in a thousand would attribute a blot to anything but carelessness, and quite a number of would-be swindlers have found themselves pulled up sharply on presenting an unblotted check over the counter.

Another man has hit upon the idea of apparently making a mistake in the date in the right-hand top corner of the check, which mistake is rectified by the crossing out of the wrong numeral and the substitution of the correct one. The check forger would hardly regard such an apparent blunder as the result of deliberate intention.

A Frenchman with whom this subject was discussed stated that his own method is an almost infallible one. Whenever he writes a check, he takes the precaution of tearing it out of his check book in such a manner that a tiny shred of the counterfoil remains attached to the draft. This is an intimation to the bank that the check is genuine.

Perhaps, however, the most extraordinary device is that adopted by a wary Hebrew. He makes a point of carefully perfuming every check bearing his signature with a certain scent which is very difficult to obtain.

**Johnson's Tour of 1886.**

Johnson's "Swing 'round the Circle" was an expression frequently to be met with in the fall of 1886, and was applied to a speech-making tour made by President Johnson about that time. President Johnson left Washington August 28, 1886, in compliance with a request that he would lay the cornerstone of a monument to be erected to Stephen A. Douglas, in Chicago, September 6. He was attended by a distinguished party, including several members of his cabinet. General Grant and Admiral Farragut also were in the party. The route was by way of Philadelphia, New York and Albany. In one of his speeches the president referred to himself as one having "swung around the entire circle" of public service, from alderman to president. The phrase "took" with newspaper reporters, and so came to be generally applied to his tour. Johnson's welcome was mixed, for passions ran high in those times. The general attitude was, however, courteous, and even cordial. In this respect St. Louis contrasted very favorably with some other large cities. Cleveland, Chicago and Springfield had extended to him no official recognition, while at Indianapolis he was hooted. On the whole, Johnson's tour did not strengthen his position in the country, serving, as it did, but to intensify the fury of the opposition.—Kansas City Stz.

**Tasmania's Artesian Water.**

The dry season experienced in Tasmania last summer caused the state government to examine the county known as the Midlands for artesian water. The area surveyed was approximately 500 square miles. The investigation has shown that there is no artesian water in the Midlands, but that there exist definite sub-artesian basins from which appreciable quantities of water of very fair quality may be drawn. The investigation, the first of its kind in Tasmania, will make a valuable asset of the Midlands, and will furnish data from which valuable conclusions can be drawn as to the conditions affecting irrigation.

**Soldiers Make Money on Rats.**

Inducements in the way of bounties are offered to the French soldiers to induce them to hunt the rats which infest the barracks. The bounty takes the form of money considerations and an increased allowance of wine. One man obtained a release from duty for a few days and spent the nights in hunting the rodents, and his success was so great that one man from each company was assigned to the same duty and the results of these assaults was astonishing.

**Students Compete With Profiteers.**

Charcoal, salmon, codfish and other commodities will be sold at several points in Tokio by students of Waseda university who have organized to raise funds for their studies on social problems and at the same time to cut into the trade of retail shops which ask unreasonable prices. The goods are to be sold at a 40 per cent discount from the ordinary price.—Japan Advertiser.

**Dominant Policy.**

"I can't quite decide whether our distinguished colleague is for protection or free trade."  
"He is still sounding out his constituency," replied Senator Sorghum. "The only policy on which he is absolutely consistent is self-preservation."

**KING UNHONORED AND UNSUNG**

**Milan of Serbia Probably the Greatest Profligate of Which There is Record.**

More than one king has died in poverty and some have died in disgrace, but it remained for King Milan of Serbia to die without a throne, without a country, without a dollar and without a friend, hated by his countrymen, laughed at by all who met him, and despised by his own son and wife. He was born in 1854, and in 1868 we find him in Paris, a blase roue of fourteen, who got drunk, smoked cigars, associated with gamblers, street women and thieves, and already an avowed atheist and hater of virtue and decency. The death of his second cousin, Michael IV, put him on the throne. He married a beautiful girl of sixteen, who loved him and who bore him a son.

All went well until she caught him making love to a middle-aged Austrian spy woman in a royal forest. After that he bared the cloven hoof, choked and insulted the queen, hated his son and began a career of drunkenness and wickedness that disgusted his subjects. He was forced to abdicate, and although later his son, then king, brought him back as commander in chief of the Serbian army, he returned this favor by attempting to kill his own child. He was ordered out of the country, and ended up as a hanger-on of low saloons and dives in Vienna, scorned even by the waiters and coarse women that frequented the places.

**FIRST HOUSE PILGRIMS BUILT**

**Plymouth Venerates Site of Structure Where Settlers Modeled Civil Form of Government.**

Until they have gazed upon the Rock, visitors to Plymouth town decline, as a rule, to see anything else. Having performed that duty, they usually stroll or spin up Leyden street, which extends from a point conveniently near the Rock, to the foot of Burial hill, where the Pilgrim fort and watch tower used to frown down upon the Indians. Leyden street is New England's oldest thoroughfare. Once it was called, quite aptly, First street.

On one's way up Leyden street one must stop to look at the site of the first house which the Mayflower passengers erected in the wilderness. In this structure the settlers had their fling at the purest form of democracy.

Here, modeling their civil government upon the compact which had been drawn up in the cabin of the Mayflower while she was anchored in the harbor of Cape Cod, they discussed laws for their guidance, and elected Myles Standish, by majority vote, captain of the Plymouth home guard.

**A True Philosopher.**

A retired sea captain, who lived in Orland, Me., was inordinately fond of his garden and very proud of its neat and well-kept appearance. One Sunday he returned from church and found five hogs busily engaged in wrecking his garden—the finest in all Orland.

Leaning on the fence, he looked long and earnestly at the result of their depredations, and his wife shed a few tears. The passing neighbors paused to look, and many a furtive glance went to the face of the captain to see how he was taking it. At last he heaved a deep sigh and put his hand on his wife's arm.

"Never mind, Polly," he said. "You never can lay dirt to suit a hog."—Youth's Companion.

**Coal Bad Cargo for Ships.**

Coal is a bad cargo for ships, for soft coal heats if stacked deep, and frequently is fired by spontaneous combustion. In the open you can stack coal 20 feet deep without fear of its firing, but under cover not more than 15 or 16 feet.

The proof of this statement is shown by the fact that fires in cargoes of 500-1,000 tons of coal are only 1 per cent, while in cargoes over 2,000 they are actually nine times as numerous.

When large cargoes are stored for long voyages, it is usual to bed iron plies deep in the holds so as to be able to notice any dangerous rise of temperature.

**The First Curb Market.**

The first congress of the United States, while in session in Federal hall on Wall street, New York, in 1788-89, authorized and subsequently issued bonds (then called stock) amounting to 80 million dollars for the purpose of discharging debts incurred by the continental congress and the various colonies. This naturally led to orders for the purchase and sale of these bonds being sent to New York. These orders first came to merchants, attorneys and others, but later, as the transactions increased, some men began to give special attention to this business, becoming the first brokers in America.

**Standardization.**

"What Crimson Gulch ought to do," remarked Cactus Joe, "is to send east and get a good singin' teacher."

"You boys surely have enough to interest you without music."

"Too much. There's no use of askin' men not to use their voices. Nobody can make an observation on any subject of general interest without startin' a quarrel. What we need is to have somethin' on hand that's cut an' dried an' set to mystic."

**Colors Affect the Health.**

It is no longer a theory, but a proven fact, that certain colors produce certain desirable or extremely disastrous effects, even upon the ordinarily sensitive mind. Psychologists, eminent physicians, and skilled decorators are making a keen study of this subject, and each year discloses some new and valuable truth.

For a long time we have known that blue and violet were employed successfully in treating nervous cases; and so soothing indeed is blue that, when used in a whole room scheme—walls, curtains, rugs—it acts as a partial anesthesia upon extremely sensitive natures, sufficient for dental purposes or the carrying out of minor operations.

Red develops the action of the muscles as much as 50 per cent and is often employed in the medicinal world where stimulating results are desired, as in the treatment of small-pox, melancholia and certain forms of anemia. Red, therefore, is not a good color to choose when decorating the room of a "teenage" child, for, aside from its hot and heavy suggestion in summer, it overstimulates the already restless nature of the growing boy or girl.—Good Housekeeping.

**Rich Agricultural Land.**

The Egyptian fellah rarely eats meat. He works with every member of his family, twelve, fourteen or sixteen hours a day. He rarely touches wheat flour. He makes a flour of his own from a plant which we would call a weed. But he works the most valuable agricultural land in the world. Under irrigation it produces three crops a year. It sells for as much as \$1,500 or \$2,000 an acre. His cotton sold last year for \$200 a kanter of 105 pounds weight. Prices just now are down to a quarter of that. Banks and corporations and such like sound financiers are much worried over the situation.

But not the fellah. He followed the good old advice and put last year's money into land.

—Get your job work done at this office and get it right.

**FIRES OF PECULIAR ORIGIN**

**Many Disastrous Conflagrations Have Been the Result of Incidents of Most Trivial Character.**

There have been a number of cases lately of women's frocks catching fire without any obvious cause. The mischief has now been traced to an "art silk" which is really material prepared during the war for the manufacture of cartridges.

Fires are started in all sorts of odd ways. A man had just taken his seat at dinner when his dress jacket burst into flames. The solution was found in the fact that a potash throat lozenge, loose in his pocket, had become ignited by pressure against the side of a safety match box.

A few years ago a rounded window in a chemist's shop at Scarborough focused the rays of the sun so that they set fire to a celluloid box, while a fly was responsible for the destruction of a large house at Westport, in New Zealand. The insect flew into a gas jet, and, escaping with its wings ablaze, blundered into a muslin curtain which at once burst into flames.

Birds have been responsible for more than one conflagration. At Coverack, in Cornwall, a chimney in a farmhouse took fire. Out of it fluttered an owl with its feathers burning. It settled on a hayrick, and the latter was completely destroyed.

Rain falling on a truck of lime at Beccles Station caused a fire which destroyed the truck and its contents, and the string of a military kite falling across overhead tramway wires and a wooden house caused the destruction of the latter.

A strange case occurred in a wood near Grange over Sands. Red ants had constructed a huge hill in the roots of a splendid fir tree. Hot weather dried the heap, which was composed of vegetable matter. Then came warm rain and a return of heat. Chemical action resulted in spontaneous combustion, and the heap ignited, setting fire to the tree and bringing it to the ground.—London Tit-Bits.

**Children Cry for Fletcher's**

**CASTORIA**

The Kind You Have Always Bought, and which has been in use for over 30 years, has borne the signature of

*Chas. H. Fletcher.*

and has been made under his personal supervision since its infancy. Allow no one to deceive you in this. All counterfeits, imitations and "just-as-good" are but experiments that trifle with and endanger the health of Infants and Children—Experience against Experiment.

**What is CASTORIA**

Castoria is a harmless substitute for Castor Oil, Paregoric, Drops and Soothing Syrups. It is pleasant. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other narcotic substance. Its age is its guarantee. For more than thirty years it has been in constant use for the relief of Constipation, Flatulency, Wind Colic and Diarrhoea; allaying Feverishness arising therefrom, and by regulating the Stomach and Bowels, aids the assimilation of Food; giving healthy and natural sleep. The Children's Panacea—The Mother's Friend.

**GENUINE CASTORIA ALWAYS**

Bears the Signature of

*Chas. H. Fletcher.*

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**Near East Relief**

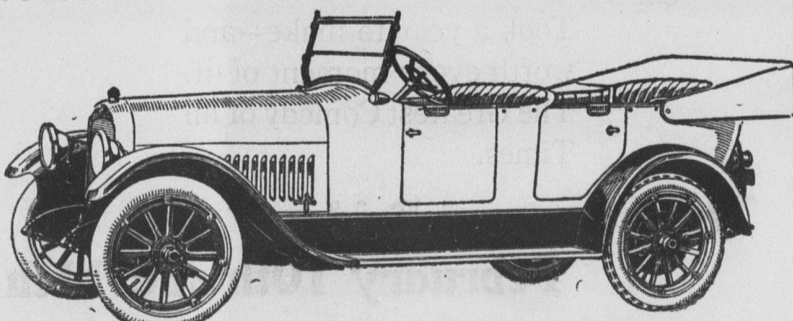
During this month Centre county will be asked for contributions sufficient for the support of 146 Armenian orphans for one year. The amount required will be \$9000.

No cause has made a stronger appeal to our people, for the pitiable condition of Armenian children whose fathers and mothers have been murdered by the Turks and who, without the support given them through this agency are doomed to starve, arouses our deepest sympathy. Make your contribution through your church or society or send direct to Chas. M. McCurdy, Treasurer, Bellefonte, Pa.



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Bellefonte, Pa.



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