

TODAY'S RELIGION.

Religion is not a collection of creeds, Theologies, dogmas, or rules. A burning of incense, a praying of prayers, Or ecclesiastical tools. Religion is not singing psalms by the hour, Nor mumbling your prayer-book all day. Nor reading the Bible, nor going to church Though they are all good in their way. No! Religion is vital, religion is life! Full of impulse which flows from the heart, Which scorns all hypocrisy, snivel and cant, And is honest in every part. Religion is telling the truth in a trade, Without even counting the cost, And having the courage to stand by the right, Tho' fortune and friends may be lost. Religion is thirty-six inches per yard, And sixteen full ounces per pound, And sixty whole minutes of other men's time. Not watching those minutes roll 'round, Religion is meeting the world with a smile, Then bringing a bright smile back home— A joy to the loved ones who wait for our step, No matter how far you may roam. Religion is turning your back on the wrong, With a prayer in your heart to do right; Then stepping forth boldly to conquer Yourself, With your face ever facing the light. Religion is giving a bright word or more, To those whose dark clouds hide their sun; If you've got the kind of religion I mean, You will hear the Great Master's "Well done."

THE FIRST AMERICANS.

Ethnologists have long courteously disputed the question. Who were the aborigines of America? For a long time it was believed that all the tribes and nations that the early discoverers found here were variations of a single stock, of which the red man of North America was taken to be the characteristic representative. Most students of ethnology thought he was more closely related to the Mongolian races of Asia than any others, though there were many ingenious guesses at his origin, among them one that supposed him to be the descendant of the ten lost tribes of Israel. But modern research holds that there were many waves of migration from Asia into America, most of them and perhaps all of which came across the Bering Strait, possibly at a time when the two continents were joined at that point. It is not probable that the Eskimos of Greenland, the Iroquois and the Sioux of North America, the cultivated and artistic Mayas of Yucatan and Inca of Peru, the savage blackfellows of the Amazon Valley and the nomadic Patagonians were ever of the same stock.

At the recent meeting of scientific societies in Cambridge one of the speakers started his hearers by suggesting that one of the early stocks to find its way into America was of a negro type, similar to that of the primitive Australians. The same speaker thought that the Eskimos are probably the remnant of the earliest Americans, and in spite of a certain resemblance in feature between the Eskimo and the Mongolian peoples that the nearest relatives of the Eskimo were the Nordic ancestors of the Scandinavian and the German people. According to that theory a black or nearly black wave succeeded the first white emigration and was in turn followed by an Aryan and a Mongoloid stock. The last mentioned were the latest and in many respects the most advanced and has plainly left its mark on many of the most virile aboriginal tribes of America.

What was the origin of the remarkable culture of the Malays and the Incas, who were the most advanced of all prehistoric Americans, no one knows with certainty. That it originated on this side of the Pacific is possible. Dr. LePlongeon indeed believed that all civilization began with the Mayas, and that they sent their missionaries to India, Chaldea and Egypt over the lost continent of Atlantis; but no one now believes that. The architecture of the Mayas is so suggestive of the ruined architecture of Java that it is impossible to avoid a feeling that the two cultures may have had the same origin. In that case the Mayas would have been among the latest comers from Asia, later than the ancestors of our red Indians and those of the dark-skinned Aztecs of Mexico.

It is a fascinating subject, and ethnologists have only begun on it. Almost nothing is known with certainty; it is all theory as yet. Perhaps it must remain so.—Ex.

OAK HALL.

Received too late for last week's issue. Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Lowder and family visited friends at Rebersburg, on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Grant Kline are receiving congratulations over the birth of a son, Tuesday.

Mrs. Thomas Gramley, of Altoona, is visiting with her daughter, Mrs. R. C. Lowder, for an indefinite time.

Most of the employees of the Oak Hall Lime and Stone company are now out of a job, there being no demand for stone at this time.

Early Monday morning two of Oak Hall's best known young men, Harold Wagner and Carl Zong, started on a motor trip to California. They expect to be gone about a month.

Mrs. Jacob Zong and son Glenn, Mrs. Howard Frazier and Guy Zong motored to Watsonstown Saturday to visit Mrs. Zong's brother, Fred Colyer, returning home Sunday.

Mary—"So you turned him down?" Nora—"Absolutely! He told me he was connected with the movies and then I saw him driving a furniture van."

HEALING WOUNDS OF PLANTS

What Might Almost Be Termed Surgical Operations Are Frequently Employed by Gardeners.

It seems strange to think of a plant being put into splints very much in the same way as the surgeon fixes up a broken bone, says St. Nicholas. Yet this plan is often followed in the modern garden. From one cause or another a bough becomes broken, although the parts are not actually severed. Frequently this is due to the weight of the fruit. In this case money will be lost if something cannot be done to repair the injury.

It is here that the practice of putting a plant in splints becomes useful. First of all, the expert gently straightens out the bent portion. This has to be done with great care, so as, if possible, to avoid a complete fracture. Then he takes two splints—lengths of wood a little wider than the branch and long enough to allow several inches above and below the break—and binds them in place, not too tightly, or it would hamper the circulation of the sap. When the splints are well adjusted cotton wool is tacked into any exposed parts about the fracture. In this manner the action of the air is excluded as far as possible.

If the matter has been looked after promptly, there is no reason why the growth above the break should not go on steadily. Finally, the wound is so completely healed that the place where the break took place is as strong as any other part of the plant.—New York Post.

GRAVE OF MARY MAGDALENE

Tradition Asserts That the "Great Sinner" of the Bible Was Interred in France.

The inhabitants of the Provence district in southern France claim that Mary Magdalene, the "great sinner" of the Bible, was interred in Saint Maximin chapel a hundred miles from Toulon and Marseilles.

Although the earthly remains of one of the first saints are declared to be contained within this chapel, it is not often visited by sightseers, the Detroit News states. A picturesque old woman conducts a small number of strangers daily through the chapel. She leads them into a crypt where the skull of Mary Magdalene, lined with bands of gold, is supposed to be kept. The bones are dark, almost black. Yet the deep eyeholes and delicately curved jawbones still arouse an impression of beauty. In a golden shrine one sees a curl said to have been cut from the head of the saint who, with her hair, dried the feet of the Savior. The hair is thick and soft and has a gold-brown luster.

To the question how the saint came into Provence the old guardian tells that on account of the persecutions of Christians in Palestine Mary Magdalene and her brother, Lazarus, left their native country. The ship on which they traveled happened to be wrecked near Marseilles.

He Got the Job.

The manager of a business house was interviewing applicants for the post of night watchman.

He was very hard to please and always found something the matter with each man.

One had brown hair, which the manager could not stand; another squinted, a third was Irish, a fourth too thin, another too short, and yet another too tall.

John Smithers heard of this as he sat in the corridor waiting his turn to be interviewed, and resolved to be prepared for everything.

When his turn came all went well. There was nothing the matter with him as far as appearance was concerned and his references were quite in order.

"Now," said the manager, "is your health quite sound?"

"Well, sir," replied John, "I have only one complaint."

"What is that?" said the manager, pricking up his ears.

"Insomnia," came the reply.—London Answers.

May Day and May Baskets.

The celebration of May day is an English custom which originated with the Druids. The Floralia, or floral games of the Romans, which began on April 28 and continued several days, were festivals of similar character. In medieval and Tudor England the first day of May was a great public holiday. The young people started at an early hour to gather flowers and hawthorn branches, with which they decorated every door and window in the village. In Northamptonshire it was the custom for the young men early on May day morning to leave a large bunch of flowering hawthorn at the door of the prettiest girl in the village; later the hawthorn gave place to the May basket. In some places in the United States May baskets are hung on the evening of April 30, but there is no authority for the custom.

Improved Hand Truck.

To dispense with the services of a helper, a hand truck, described in Popular Mechanics Magazine, has been so designed that it enables one man to handle large packages. Swiveled above the truck and its two small wheels is a platform so arranged that one end of it can be raised or lowered by double levers and links. On the platform is a sliding frame with its end turned at right angles so that, when lowered, it can be pushed under a package, and when that end is raised and the other end is lowered onto the truck, it is ready for moving.

RID HIMSELF OF THE BORE

Clever Scheme by Which Painter Shut Out Undesirable Visitor From His Studio.

A laughable story is ascribed to the artist and wit, Mr. Oliver Herford, by his associate, Mr. Edward Simmons, the painter. Mr. Simmons says that one day while he was enjoying a very agreeable call at Mr. Herford's studio their conversation was interrupted by a peculiar knocking at the door—three loud peremptory knocks at intervals of a second or two and then two more in quick succession.

Mr. Herford at once put his finger on his lip and motioned to his caller to be perfectly quiet. Neither man spoke or stirred while the curious knock was twice repeated. Then they heard the retreating footsteps of the knocker passing down the hall.

Then Mr. Herford relaxed his attitude of silent tension and smiled.

"That was Blank," he said, "a thoroughly good and well-meaning fellow, but a most frightful bore. I've stood all the calls I can from him. So I told him that I had given special knocks to all my most intimate friends in order that I might know when they called and let them in at times when I should be unwilling to be disturbed by less congenial callers. Blank was saying only the other night that I must have been out a good deal lately. He hasn't got in to see me since I assigned him his knock!"—Youth's Companion.

HOLY CITY TO MANY SECTS

Jerusalem Held a Sacred Spot by Others Than Followers Precepts of the Christ.

We were in the outskirts of Jerusalem before we realized it. We turned a corner in the road, and there before us rose the city, set upon a hill. In its narrow, noisome alleys, its tortuous lanes, its dim bazars, its four-square houses with their brown mud walls, rising on the hillside, one above another, like chairs in an amphitheater, it resembles many another oriental city. But above the flat-roofed dwellings rise scores of imposing buildings in brick and stone, churches, convents, monasteries, hospices, mosques, and synagogues, representing the religious devotion of Protestant and Catholic, Latin and Greek, Copt and Armenian, Moslem and Jew. For it must be remembered that Jerusalem is the Holy city of the Hebrews and of the Mohammedans no less than of the Christians, for here Solomon reared the temple and on its site stands the great mosque of Omar, the third holiest place in the Moslem world.—Harper's Magazine.

Kept Worshippers Awake.

To the titling man in New England fell the task of keeping worshippers awake during church services. He had a long staff with a knob on one end to tap the sleeping men, while on the other end was a fox tail to dangle in the face of sleeping women.

One Allen Bridges is spoken of in one of the early journals. He was very proud of having been appointed to wake the sleepers, and was determined to show his authority. He fastened a thorn to one end of his waking weapon.

"On ye last Lord's Day he did spy Mr. Tomlinus sleeping," the journal reads. "He gave him a grievous prick in the hand. Whereupon Mr. Tomlinus did spring up much above ye floor and with terrific force strike hys hand against ye wall."

"And to ye great wonder of all, prophane! exclaim 'Curse ye woodchuck,' he dreaming yt was a woodchuck had seized and bit hys hand."

New Variety of Sugar Cane.

The variety of sugar cane known as S. C. 124, produced by the federal agricultural experiment station in the Virgin Islands, is considered very promising. Recent reports to the United States Department of Agriculture from a plantation in Porto Rico to which cuttings were sent for testing say that the original two and one-half acres planted to this variety have been extended to 200 for the present year. Several of the fields are estimated to yield 60 tons of cane an acre, which, with the average sucrose and purity of the juice, should give nearly 11 tons of 36 degree sugar an acre. The original field is now giving a fourth ratoon crop that averages 20 tons of cane an acre. A profitable fourth ratoon crop has never before been produced on this plantation with any other variety.

Anthropological Find.

At Haelburg, in southern Germany, one of the most important finds in the whole history of anthropology was made in 1907. The specimen was a lower human jaw belonging to the second interglacial period, and fixed the age of the first human race appearing in western Europe. "Had the teeth been absent," says a report of this discovery, "it would have been impossible to diagnose it as a human jaw. The teeth are molars, pre-molars, canines and incisors, and are all essentially human though primitive in form. The conclusion is that the jaw, regarded as unquestionably human from the nature of the teeth, ranks not far from the point of separation between man and the anthropoid apes."

A Social Thief.

"What kind of character is old Mrs. Gaddeligh?" "One of the kind that doesn't let anybody else have any."—Boston Evening Transcript.

MADE ATTACK ON ST. JOHN

Daring Raid of Massachusetts Marines Had Consequences That Were Felt for Many Years.

Stephen Smith of Machias, Maine, a delegate to the Massachusetts congress, made a raid on St. John, N. B., in August, 1776. He burned the barracks and destroyed the fort, which was protected by only four men, and captured a brig, of 120 tons, laden with oxen, sheep and swine, which were intended for the British troops at Boston. This sudden raid had the effect of putting the British authorities on the alert, and vessels of war were sent to cruise in the Bay of Fundy to protect the settlements along its shores.

The people of Machias, emboldened by the success which attended their first raid, attempted to seize and hold the fort at St. John, but were driven away by a force sent from Halifax. In consequence of this second raid on St. John, a block house and stockades were erected on a hill overlooking the harbor, and dignified by the name of Fort Howe. Two years after this event about 600 Indians assembled at the mouth of the Jemseg for the purpose of destroying the settlement of Maugeville, but the people escaped across the river to Oromocto, where a fort had been erected. This was the last threat of Indian war, and in the following year, 1780, numbers of Indians assembled at Fort Howe and swore allegiance to King George.

CAN'T FOOL DIAMOND DEALER

Men Who Handle Precious Stones Have Many Ways of Detecting Those Which Are "Fakes."

For the reason that the traffic in imitation precious stones is growing, diamond merchants nowadays are obliged to devote more time than formerly to the detection of fakes. The experienced dealer can often tell a faked stone at a glance.

Once suspicion falls on a stone it is subjected to various tests. For example, the gem may be placed in water, and watched to see if it loses its brilliance. If this happens, the stone is discarded at once as being false.

Another water test consists in placing a drop of water on the stone. The water globule is then touched lightly with the point of a pencil. If the globule breaks the stone is a fake.

Sometimes a black dot is made on a piece of white paper, and the diamond held in front of it. If the stone is an imitation the dot appears blurred.

The hardness of a stone is another deciding factor. A real diamond can be filed with the hardest instrument without being scratched. A faked stone will crack and probably break up under the process.

British Museum Readers.

Charge for admission to the British museum in Bloomsbury, London, does not at present include the famous reading room, which is alleged to possess the largest dome in the world. Many professional searchers earn precarious livelihoods in this splendidly appointed library. According to the Manchester Guardian, an expert reader was recently offered £40 to summarize a Latin life of one of the popes. He demanded £80, but some one else did the work for five guineas (about \$25).

One man copied all the old prize fights for about 35 cents per 1,000 words, and it recently came out in evidence that a retired clergyman translated Italian stories for about 25 cents per 1,000 words. Innumerable readers search guides to horse racing, a Westminster city councillor used to work there with regularity, and several retired generals from the army are among regular attendants at the British museum reading room. It is stated that recently a Kleagle of the Ku Klux Klan asked for English law, with chapter and verse, as to right and left-hand flogging.

Wires Too Fine for Sight.

Tungsten, the metal from which modern electric filaments are made, can be drawn into wire so fine as to be invisible to the naked eye except when held against the sun. A pierced diamond serves as a die to spin this cobweb metal which, in spite of its almost impalpable fineness, is strong enough to bear up a pair of ordinary desk shears. Wire of this sort is used chiefly as fuse in delicate electrical experiments, where the least excess of current would destroy intricate and costly apparatus.

Tungsten cannot be successfully bent and shaped cold. Because of this peculiarity, the cone-shaped filaments for certain types of lamps are made by winding the tungsten wire around a slender steel mandrel, or core, and after fixing it with heat, dissolving away the steel, leaving the shaped filament as it appears in the finished lamp.

Swinburne.

What will time, the great decider of men's labor and fame, eventually say of him? We are too near him to judge with any certainty how he will appear to those who look back to him as he looked back to Coleridge and Shelley. But it is hard to believe that any change of the perspective will dim the brightness of his lyric achievement. He was prodigal of his music, that new music he had taught the old tongue; over-prodigal at times, seeing that verse may run once too often in the triple-lilt of his magical cadences. But he has left English poetry reinforced at point after point.—Ernest Rhys.

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