

**Sacred Stones Pressed
by Millions of Lips**

During the holiday season many tourists in Ireland visit Blarney castle and its famous kissing stone. Of the stones variously asserted to be the original one, able to bestow the gift of persuasive eloquence upon whoever touches it with his lips, the one the kissing of which is a difficult feat, on account of its position, has received numerous kisses from daring visitors, as well as the one which is easy of access.

The Blarney stone is not unique in having received an immense number of chaste salutes. St. Peter's statue, in the nave of St. Peter's church, in Rome, can claim a like honor. In fact, the toe of this bronze figure's foot has been worn away by kisses. Perhaps, however, the Mohammedans possess the most-kissed object in the world, namely, the celebrated Black stone at Mecca.

No true Moslem, after having made a pilgrimage to the Prophet's birthplace, would think of leaving it without first kissing this sacred stone.

Said to have been white originally, the Black stone is stated by those to whom it is an object of veneration to have been turned to its present color either through the sins of men or by the tremendous number of kisses bestowed upon it.

**Early Jewish Cemetery
Now Business District**

On New Bowery, near Oliver street, New York city, is a little Jewish cemetery, said to be the oldest Jewish burial ground in North America, says the Detroit News. It once occupied what is now Chatham square. The grant for the graveyard was issued by Gov. Peter Stuyvesant in 1656. The first Jews in America are supposed to have arrived September 12, 1654, on the bark Catarina, which brought 27 refugees from Cape St. Anthony, Brazil.

The spot selected for the cemetery was out among the sandhills, outside of the city. There was a range of hills, at the foot of which was the present site of Chatham square, and on the crest of one of these hills, facing east, the cemetery was started. The location was ideal, overlooking the meadows below the city to the south, with the East river in the distance. When the War of the Revolution came batteries were planted in the body of the cemetery and on its hills. In 1856, 200 years after the opening of the final sleeping place among the hills, New Bowery was cut through, and all that was left of the cemetery was a 57-foot front on that thoroughfare.

Iona, the "Blessed Isle"

Iona, one of the smaller of the Inner Hebrides, was the "Blessed Isle" of early Christian days in the British Islands, says the Detroit News. St. Columba, noted Irish missionary, made it the center of Celtic Christianity.

From there missionaries went out to convert Scotland and northern England to Christianity. Kings were brought to be buried in the soil of the sacred island. The importance of Iona was ended, however, by the Danes who swept down about the beginning of the Ninth century and seized the Hebrides from the Scotch.

The islands were returned to Scotland's overlord in 1226. More than 500 islands make up the Hebrides group, but only about 100 are inhabited.

All Life a Struggle

Life is a battle all through, physically as well as morally. Everything is struggling to endure, and the more successfully we struggle the stronger we become against a weakening enemy. The plant that is badly nourished, that slacks and flags in the fight is the one all its enemies fasten upon. The weakly animal is the one that sickness most easily attacks. The battle of life is generally to the strong. The early wheat in the best prepared, finest land makes the better stand, in most cases, against blights and other afflictions. Often the finest character, also, belongs to the best fighter, perhaps to the one who has had most to fight against.—Montreal Family Herald.

Animal Intelligence

According to William T. Hornaday, director of the New York Zoological park, the chimpanzee is the most intelligent of all animals below man. He can learn more by training and more easily than any other animal. A high-class horse is a very wise and capable animal, but this is chiefly due to its age-long association with man and education by him. A high-class dog is the animal that mentally is in the closest touch with the mind, the feelings, and the impulses of man, and the only one that can read a man's feelings from his eyes and his facial expression.

Lyric Soprano

The word lyric is derived from the lyre, which is now used as an instrument to accompany the smaller forms of poetry. It has become associated with songs that are composed more for their melodious interest than for their dramatic effect. A lyric soprano is known as a light soprano, which is more suited to light songs and solos to distinguish it from dramatic sopranos, which are heard to greater advantage in opera and oratorio work.

**Big Lips for Beauty
Is Idea of Africans**

The women of the Lake Chad region of Central Africa vie with one another as to who can possess the longest lips.

When girls are about four or five years old their future husbands pierce a hole in the center of the upper and lower lips with a big thorn or a knife. Through these holes he places thick straws or reeds.

In a few weeks, when the girl has become used to the punctures, wooden pegs the size of a lead pencil are pushed into the holes, says London Tit-Bits. Three months later, when the lips have become accustomed to the distension, larger pegs are inserted. At twenty-five a fashionable matron of the Saras-Djinges tribe is likely to have disks seven inches wide in the lower lip and five inches wide in the upper. Up to this time the disks stick straight out like birds' bills, but now they drop down from their weight.

After this larger disks are inserted about once a year. It is a matter of social pride with a woman to go on increasing her lips as long as possible.

**Raise Fine Specimens
of Butterfly in France**

Butterfly culture in the south of France is rapidly growing in popularity. Here, under expert scientific guidance, hundreds of beautiful specimens are bred. The farms are provided with special leafy trees and plants on which the eggs are hatched. Directly the young appear the branches are taken to a well-ventilated room, where they are placed in jars of water. As soon as the caterpillars have eaten up this first supply of leaves fresh branches are provided. Having been in an even temperature for about two weeks, the young caterpillars are taken out into the open, where they are placed on plants protected from birds by nets. When fully grown this protective net is removed and soon they retire into cocoons or roll themselves up into leaves. These are collected and stored in boxes, where in a very short time butterflies of wonderful hues are evolved. Cross-breeding has been tried and numerous experiments are conducted to obtain brilliant and original markings on the wings of these insects, which are afterward sold to collectors or for the adornment of women's hats and dresses.

Fable of the Four Men

"I got off a street car this morning," said a doctor, "and being in no hurry I began moralizing on the actions and probable character of three men who had alighted just ahead of me. The first one was even then halfway down the block and was going on with such rapid strides that he had already put a couple of hundred yards between himself and the next man. 'There,' thought I, 'goes a hustler—a man who's bound to succeed in life.' The second man was walking rather slowly and impressed me as one who would do fairly well, perhaps, in this world. But the last fellow was just dawdling along in the most shiftless sort of way. I very quickly set him down as a loafer.

"Just then another idea came home to me. All three were ahead of me!" —Pathfinder Magazine.

Turf Natural Filter

France's experiments with natural turf have shown that it is an excellent material from which to form beds for the filtering of sewage. A volume of between three and four cubic meters of sewage can be purified every day for every square meter of the surface of the turf. An experimental turf filter that has been in use for more than seven months shows diminution of efficiency. If a larger proportion of sewage than that mentioned is employed the filter proves less effective, but it recovers its power when the amount of sewage is reduced to the proper proportion. Chemical analysis and the effects upon fish put into the filtered water unite in testifying to the efficiency of the process.

French Butter Markets

During the months of June, July and August the butter markets of Normandy are an interesting sight to the visitors. The peasants assemble in the market squares of the various towns, almost in military formation, with their baskets filled with large pats of butter, each done up in the whitest of cloths. The buyers walk along the lines and bargain for the wares, tasting samples before deciding. If the prospective buyer is satisfied with the flavor of one morsel he knows he may rely on the rest of it being equally good, for the French law regarding the adulteration of food is very strict, and a fraudulent seller is severely dealt with.

Poor Henry!

A Baltimore man, who was formerly a resident of a town on the eastern shore, recently revisited his old home town after an absence of many years. One day he was talking with an old friend about various people he formerly knew.

"What became of the Hall family?" he inquired.

"Oh," said the latter, "Tom Hall did very well. Got to be an actor out on the Pacific coast. Bill, the other brother, is something of an artist in New York, and Lucy, the sister, is doing literary work. But Henry never amounted to much. It took all he could lay his hands on to support the others."—Philadelphia Ledger.

**Cherokee Myth Tells
of Bravery of Spider**

Lucky was it for all the animals that there are spiders that have egg sacs resembling bowls, for otherwise all the creatures of the forest would have had to go without fire, the Youth's Companion remarks. At least so we are assured in a Cherokee myth. Natural History thus tells the pretty story in which a spider played the part of Prometheus:

In the beginning there was no fire, and the world was cold. In time, however, the thunders placed fire in a hollow tree on an island. The animals gazed enviously at the smoke that curled upward from the concealed bonfire, knowing that there was warmth there, yet at a loss how to obtain it. So they held a council, and as a result the raven set out on the quest. He reached the island and the tree, but all that he bore back with him as a result of his adventure was scorched and blackened feathers. The little screech owl next made the trial. He reached the tree, but while he was hesitating what to do next a blast of fiery air arose and nearly burned out his eyes, which are red to this day. Other owls tried in their turn, but with no better success. Then the black snake tried, and today he bears a covering of sooty scales as a badge of his ineffectual hardihood.

Daunted by the failure of their fellows, the remaining animals managed to find the weightiest of reasons for not venturing to go. Not so the spider, however. She wove a little tustle-bowl of her silk and, fastening it to her back, set forth on her adventure. Reaching the island, she crept through the grass to the tree and snatched up a little ember of fire, which she placed in her bowl and returned with it to the expectant animals.

**Years Have Brought
Changes in Meaning**

If we wish to label anything strange or barbarous we say it is "outlandish," but when the Bible speaks of an "outlandish woman" it means a forerunner.

Another curious expression in the authorized version is "The other basket had very naughty figs." That means fruit which was good for naught. Today the word "naughty" means "ill-behaved." In the prayer book the word "presently" means "at the present time," but today is always means a future time, though not far distant, says London Tit-Bits.

When the authorized version of the Scriptures was first printed, the word "careful" meant "full of care and anxiety," as in "careworn," but if a man were said to be careful it would today be a good testimonial. Thus, when the New Testament tells us to "be careful for nothing," it is not enjoining wastefulness and speaking against thrift, but simply telling us not to worry about anything.

Beginning of Y. M. C. A.

The Young Men's Christian association was founded in England by Sir George Williams, a London merchant. Williams' organization grew out of meetings he held for prayer and Bible reading among his fellow workers in a dry-goods business in London, and the association was founded in 1844. On the occasion of its jubilee, its originator was knighted. Similar associations had been in existence in Scotland at a much earlier date. In 1824 David Naismith started the Glasgow Young Men's Society for Religious Improvement, a movement which spread to various parts of the United Kingdom, France and America. Later the name was changed to the Glasgow Young Men's Christian association.

His City of Refuge

The train came to a grinding stop at a small town in the South, and the head of a gentleman of color protruded from a window at the end of a car. Seated by his side could be seen a brown-skinned maiden.

"Does yo' know a cullud pusson by de name o' Jim Brown what lives here?" he asked of a station loafer.

"Ain' nevah heard o' no Jim Brown nyah, an' Ah lived in dis town fo' ten yeahs."

"Is yo' right suah dey ain't neveh seen no Jim Brown aroun' nyah?"

"Positively."

"Den," announced the arrival, reaching for a suitcase, "dis is whah his new son-in-law gits off."—The Continent.

Lost Talent

A great deal of talent is lost in the world for the want of a little courage. Every day sends to their graves a number of obscure men who have only remained in obscurity because their timidity has prevented them from making a first effort; and who, if they could have been induced to begin, would in all probability have gone great lengths in the career of fame. The fact is that, to do anything in this world worth doing, we must not stand back shrinking and thinking of the cold and danger, but jump in and scramble through as well as we can.—Rev. Sydney Smith.

Will-o'-the-Wisp

"Will-o'-the-Wisp" is a popular name for a phenomenon called ignis fatuus, which in Latin means "foolish fire." It is a light which appears floating in the atmosphere a few feet above the ground in marshes or other places where there is decaying animal matter. When approached it appears, as a rule, to recede. It has been attributed to phosphorated or carbureted hydrogen escaping from decaying substances.

**Saved by Roosevelt's
Idea of Square Deal**

When Roosevelt was getting ready for his African trip various sportmen friends, as a matter of course, volunteered suggestions.

"When you get to Nairobi," said one — a Mr. Blank, a happy-go-lucky, careless, prosperous chap, who had dived into the jungle and out again two years before—"whatever you do, don't hire a guide by the name of W—. He is capable enough, but not trust-worthy."

The day Roosevelt reached Nairobi he inquired about this particular guide. He sent for the repudiated guide and got his side of the story, says the Milwaukee Journal.

Just as Roosevelt had divined, it was a mountain made out of a mole hill. The damning word dropped by Mr. Blank without warrant had left stark misery in its wake for the guide. After that he could get no employment from any hunter who came to Nairobi.

Roosevelt heard all this. By way of rejoinder he smashed his itinerary. He rearranged it over night to include a ten days' expedition never before dreamed of in that section of the country. He hired the Nairobi guide to take entire charge of the trip.

When the expedition got back in scheduled time Nairobi's hotshots heard from Roosevelt. He said: "That guide is the most intelligent, the most industrious, the most reliable and the most satisfactory guide I have ever had."

The rehabilitation of the wounded guide dated from this utterance and this act of Roosevelt's. Again the man began to be sought after by hunters.

**Outlaw Queen Could Be
All Feminine at Times**

Belle Starr, outlaw queen of the old days in Texas and Oklahoma, wore her hair short and was particularly sweet to women, says the Detroit News. She lived for years on the proceeds of loot and lined up a gang of the meanest-looking, hardest cursing, wildest riding and shooting hard-boiled customers in her particular parts of the cow country.

She used to call at women's houses on her way home from leading her band on a robbery, and she would talk feminine things with them, sing religious songs and tell stories to the children.

Several stories are told of the way Belle Starr met her death. The generally accepted one is that she was assassinated by a man named Edgar A. Watson, who had gone to Oklahoma in the '80s and started farming near her place. It is told they became enemies in a dispute over land rental. Anyway, February 3, 1889, so the version has it, a double-barreled shotgun did the work.

Long Pedigrees

Royalty, as in the Hatfield chart, which traces Queen Elizabeth's descent from Adam, is not alone in claiming long pedigrees. On the tomb of a former town clerk of Burton-on-Trent that worthy is described as thirty-seventh in descent from Alfred the Great. Again, a distinguished French family, the Magons (an Admiral Magon was killed at Trafalgar) shows a pedigree deriving from Mago, the brother of Hannibal.

An Italian nobleman, the Marchese Porro, traces his line back to Porus, the Indian monarch who fought against Alexander the Great, while the Samson family who own estates near Lyons claim that their descent is from the strong man of the Bible, and in support of the claim bear on their coat-of-arms the broken column of a temple.—Manchester Guardian.

Real "Robinson Crusoe"

Alexander Selkirk was an adventurer, born in Largo, Scotland, in 1676. He was a skillful seaman and made several voyages to the South sea, in one of which, having quarreled with his commander, he was put ashore on the island of Juan Fernandez with a few supplies. Here he lived alone for four years and four months, when he was rescued by Capt. Woods Rogers. He returned to England in 1711, and is said to have given his papers to Defoe, who, from them, wrote the story of "Robinson Crusoe." Selkirk died on the ship Weymouth in 1723.

Famous the World Over

Epsom, England, is in the county of Surrey, 15 miles southwest of London. Epsom was formerly celebrated for a mineral spring, from the water of which the well-known Epsom salts were manufactured. A number of the sons of medical men are educated at the Royal Medical college, and adjoining the school is a home for aged physicians or their widows. The principal attraction is the grand race meeting held on the downs, which is attended by hundreds of thousands of persons.

Characters of History

Razi or Rhazes was an Arabian physician who lived from 852 to 922. He is noteworthy as being the first man to describe smallpox and measles in an accurate manner. Hugalbald or Hucbald was a Benedictine monk and writer of music. He was born at Tournai, France, about 840. He later started a school of music and other arts at Nevers. He was the inventor of the gamut. The only work positively ascribed to him is the Harmonica Institute. He died in 890.

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