

Democratic Watchman

Belleville, Pa., January 29, 1926.

Mexican Couples Go in State to Wedding

Ancient wedding customs are still observed by the Mexicans. Their church weddings are always held in the morning. The bride and groom ride to the church in a closed carriage, with a footman and a driver in white trousers and correct English livery. The horses have docked tails and heavy white leather collars, besides white cockades streaming from their bridles.

The real picture, however, is said to be inside the carriage, which is completely lined with satin in a sort of tufted effect. The contracting parties sit beside each other. The bride wears conventional white and the groom evening clothes. Directly opposite them is a small child dressed in white velvet with the ring pillow on his lap. The wedding ceremony contains many picturesque symbols. The climax of the affair comes when the bride and groom are bound together with a heavy string. Immediately after the ceremony the whole party goes to the photographer's.—Pathfinder Magazine.

Mud's Important Part in Earth's Formation

Importance of mud and the part it played in the earth's formation was the theme of a lecture by a noted Welsh geologist speaking on Welsh geology at Cardiff. He affirmed that mud was one of nature's most important productions—a commodity without which man could not live. Changes in the earth's crust had profoundly altered the muds which had been formed in past periods of the earth's history. One of the most interesting of rocks produced by the alteration of mud was slate, and the slates for which north Wales was so famous were formed during a period when that part of the earth's crust was in a condition of violent unrest, and some very ancient muds were intensely squeezed. The effect of the squeezing was to compress the mud and to twist its particles round until they all came to lie in the same relative direction like fragments of paper lying flat. The result of this, and other changes which accompanied it, was to make it possible to split the rock into thin sheets like cardboard.

Liszt as Press Agent

"Genius in the preceding generation forged ahead without the aid of a press agent," said a magazine editor the other day in a speech. As a general rule perhaps. But there are exceptions. Pierre Van Paasens, writing in the Atlanta Constitution, contends. Consider the case of Liszt. When he first began to play in public he came to places where his fame had not preceded him. One evening there were only a dozen persons in the auditorium. Instead of playing, he invited them all to supper, where he treated them to truffles and game and champagne and cognac and all the delicatessen in season. Then he sat down at the piano and played for his guests for two hours, as only he could play. A few days later he announced another recital, in a larger hall. It was filled to capacity, but the audience was not invited to supper. As a press agent, evidently, Liszt could have given points to the best of our days.

Best Basis for Love

The more wheels there are in a watch, the more trouble they are to take care of. The movements of exaltation which belong to genius are egotistic by their very nature. A calm, clear mind, not subject to spasms and crises which are so often met with in creative or intensely perceptive natures, is the best basis for love or friendship. Observe, I am talking about minds. I won't say the more intellect, the less capacity for loving; for that would do wrong to the understanding and reason; but, on the other hand, that the brain often runs away with the heart's best blood, which gives the world a few pages of wisdom or poetry, instead of making one other heart happy. I have no question.—Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Funny Ambitions

The question in an English periodical, "What would you like to be?" brought out many clever and amusing answers. Here are a few of them:

The sun, because it is always sure of a rise.
The letter "I," for then I should always be in the midst of comfort.
A shoeblack, because I should be continually shining before my fellows.
A man of forty with the ideals of twenty and the judgment of sixty, to make life worth living.
A billiard ball, frequently kissed, carefully nursed when necessary, and not out of pocket even when in a hole.—Boston Transcript.

Well Founded

In the days of the old Cripple Creek a mining camp judge, upon finding the bad citizen of the camp hanging by the neck from a cottonwood, with his hands tied behind him, a six-gun in one hip pocket and \$25.10 in the other, reached this decision:

"If the co't know itself, and the co't think it do, it allow this hyar man came to death from some unknown causes at the hands of persons unknown to this co't, and the co't fines the co'se \$25.10 for carrying concealed weapons."—Everybody's Magazine.

Grand Canyon Marvel of Peace and Beauty

We did not expect to love the canyon. Friends had presaged a deep, overwhelming round of earth's side. Colored postals and railroad folders had prepared us for crudely hued lozenges on the precipitate walls. We expected neat, zebra stripes of vermilion, ochre and cobalt.

Instead we looked into the beautiful soft gulch of the canyon and our hearts were won. The crisp Arizona morning was cupped there when we first beheld it—on the deep sunken plateau with its dotted firs, on the pale pastels of the irregular far walls. Truncated peaks wore crowns of melted azure light and lower wreaths of faded geranium. The immense peace of the great jagged bowl played over us, an unplumbed, unfathomable mantle of serenity.

We saw colors change, the pinks grow dull, the soft bands of azure break up, and etherize in the full noon, then brood together as the lights lengthened, and set in colder strands of petunia blue. On the slab side of the river walls we saw the sweetest pearls cling and the gulf brim with frostier blues, until it lost them in dusk and night. Then on the brim in the high, clean wind we walked by that invisible cavern, saw the stars, large, fringed and low, and knew that vast as a familiar place where we could be at peace.—Christian Science Monitor.

Ancient Industry Is That of Bread Baking

Baking is probably the very oldest industry man engaged in. Wheat and barley, the oldest cereals known to have been found, together with the plowshare fashioned of wood and the stone hand mill consisting of a hollowed stone and a stone ball-shaped crusher, among the remains left by prehistoric man. The oldest bread was made in the form of cakes or fritters simply prepared by mixing wheat or barley to a batter with water and milk and baking these batter cakes of may be the size and form of our present-day griddle cakes on hot ashes or over red-hot coals, or a hot stone, which represented the first bread pan and oven combined. Salt was probably the only other ingredient used besides the milk and water, as there was no baking powder and yeast was not used until brewing beer from germinated barley had become known. The Egyptians had perfected both baking and brewing 1,500 years before the beginning of the Christian era.

Rubbing It In

A well-known actress was appearing in a play with a certain actor who was noted for his irritability. He complained that the woman continually laughed at him during one of his most important scenes.

At last he wrote her a letter, in which he said: "I am extremely sorry to tell you that it is impossible for me to make any effect in my scene if you persist in laughing at me on the stage. May I ask you to change your manner, as the scene is a most trying one?"

To this the actress replied: "You are quite mistaken. I never laugh at you on the stage. I wait till I get home!"

New One

Here is a news item that someone in Los Angeles can probably get away with—once.

It was to blow out a match that John Helfetz speeded his automobile through North Broadway, Yonkers, at 35 miles an hour.

"I had three girls in my car and one of them tried to light a cigarette," he explained to the judge, adding: "I guess I'm a bit old-fashioned. I didn't want my girl to smoke, so I stepped on the gas. The breeze blew out every match she tried to light."

And the judge smilingly said that that was a new one and suspended sentence.

Fox Changes Color

The blue fox is a color phase of the Arctic, or white fox, which is circumpolar in range, being found particularly along the seacoast of Arctic and subarctic regions. Its normal winter coat is white, while the summer pelage is brown and tawny. The blue fox is dark bluish in summer. There are intermediates in which the coat may be spotted blue and white, or the blue and white may be blended, producing a dingy or smoky-white appearance.

Leading Languages

French is possibly the simplest language to learn. The German grammar is extremely complicated and English pronunciation is difficult for certain foreigners. The English language also contains a great number of colloquialisms used in everyday speech, which takes some time to acquire. All languages do not contain the same number of words. The English language contains approximately 700,000 words; German dictionaries contain about 800,000 words; French, 210,000 words.

Fortune Close at Hand

Whatever is necessary for your improvement, your enjoyment, your usefulness, is close to you. Distance lends enchantment to the view, but when a man is wise he knows he is standing on enchanted ground. A man's star is never in the sky. It is in his brain. Your ship of gold is not on the high seas; it is at the quay waiting to be unloaded and discharged. Your fortune is not at the bottom of a rainbow; it is at your feet.—W. L. Watkinson.

Painless Surgery Has Made Rapid Advance

The surgery of a century ago was a painful and almost brutal procedure, the Scientific American says. With the coming of antiseptics and later of asepsis, following the work of Lister and Pasteur, the mortality which resulted from surgery was greatly reduced through the elimination of bacterial infection following operation.

With the development of anesthesia, beginning with the work of Morton and Long on ether, and following with chloroform, nitrous oxide-oxygen gas, stovain and intraspinal anesthesia, the use of narcotics preliminary to operation to reduce the patient's sensibility and, more recently, the development of another gas anesthetic, ethylene, physicians have been able to work more slowly, more carefully and more accurately, extending surgical procedures to organs heretofore unapproachable by the surgeon's knife, thereby saving many lives in conditions previously called inoperable.

Moreover, continued study of nerve routes and nerve paths, with the development of anesthetic substances which may be applied directly to nerves, permits effectively blocking the sense of pain which may proceed along the nerves to the brain. So-called local anesthesia with such drugs as procain and butyn enables surgeons to operate on patients who are fully conscious and therefore are better able to resist the shock which may accompany extensive operative measures.

Comes Under Head of "Better Left Unsaid"

It was our first call on the new neighbors and Mr. B. and I were engaged in a casual conversation about the peculiar names of certain dogs of the community.

The women, who had been parties to our conversation in its beginning, it seems, had switched to the subject of their own names and those of their families, while we were still talking dogs, and when there came a moment of silence between Mr. B. and me I heard the end of Mrs. B.'s remark about "Fanny." Wishing to show my interest and having noted a rather disgusted infection in my hostess's voice, I said sympathetically, "Fanny, good Lord, who's dog's that?"

I never have been more embarrassed in my life than when, after an awkward pause, my wife said: "Mrs. B.'s name is Fanny."—Chicago Tribune.

Faithful but Fractious

Some of these young women treat love as though it was a naughty boy who should be made to stand in a corner except as a great treat once in six weeks. . . . Women can be very tiresome. Wives can be intolerable. England and America are strewn with good men suffering from their wives' virtues. It is damnable. When a woman is faithful to her husband she generally manages to take it out of him in some other way. The mere fact that she is faithful makes her think that she has a right to be—well, disagreeable. Fidelity can cause the devil of a lot of trouble in the home unless it is well managed. Fidelity needs just as much good management as infidelity.—From "May Fair," by Michael Arlen.

The Safe Thrift Side

The advice of the thrift editor of the Tifton Gazette, given in rhyme, is to avoid getting "walloped by adversity." He says—

"Who spends his income as it comes and saves no systematic sums may some day find himself in dutch and need his money very much.

"If you would prosper and progress and crown your future with success, adopt some systematic plan of banking all the cash you can.

"The banks are here for you to use—by saving right you cannot lose; in fact, you're really bound to win—deposit savings, and begin."—Atlanta Constitution.

Secret of Scent

Scent is still in many respects an unsolved mystery. We know that almost every object gives out tiny particles which produce the sensation of scent. But the size of these particles is minute beyond belief, for a grain of musk will scent a drawer for a generation without losing any weight. Again, why is it that on one day a fox leaves a scent which hounds can follow at full speed, while on the next there is so little that the pack is utterly at loss? Scent does not depend upon the weather—that much we know.

Old National Emblems

Previous to the union of England and Scotland the shield of England was upheld by two lions. The shield of Scotland was upheld by two unicorns. After the union the lion appeared on one side and the unicorn on the other. Before the union the English shield contained three lions passant (walking) on a field of gold. The Scotch shield contained the lion rampant (standing on its hind legs) on a field of gold.

Old Egyptian Dolls

Judging by findings amongst the wrappings of mummified infants, the favorite toys in ancient Egypt were dolls. Some have a grotesque appearance, but a common kind of doll consisted of a flat board—like a large, bowlless spoon—the round part painted or carved to represent a face. Legs were usually absent. Others are so small that they can be strung like big beads, on threads that make a mop of hair for the doll's head.

Couldn't Really Call Inn Ancient Building

We had paddled through Ghent's complex waterways and were wondering where we could leave our canoe in safety, when some racing shells shot past, a boathouse pennant fluttered, and a cheery voice invited us to utilize the Royal Club Nautique for as long as we wished. So we stored our canoe in the club's "garage," then drove through the town to a quaint inn whose leaded panes looked out upon a row of shops built into the outer walls of a great Gothic church, Melville Chater writes in the Nations' Geographic Magazine.

The sight of people flocking to service, while others sipped drinks, got shaved or bought curios, all under the eaves of a sacred edifice, hinted that we were in an ancient quarter of the town.

"Is this an old inn?" we inquired of our Flemish host. He was a singularly literal man. He replied gravely:

"Not so very. Probably when built in the Thirteenth century it was some wealthy man's home. In the Sixteenth century, about the time Albrecht Durer stopped here, it was the house of the Grocers' guild. Later it was privately owned for a couple or more centuries. No, as an inn I wouldn't call it particularly old."

After that we reverentially used the doormat, and refrained from striking matches on the woodwork.

Nature's Lavish Gifts to Left-Handed Folks

If you had lived at any time in the period 2500 B. C. to A. D. 1500, and had been left-handed, you would have been regarded as one highly favored by the gods and far superior to ordinary folk. If, of your own initiative, you had not seized on power, it would have been placed in your hands. But in all probability that would have been unnecessary, for all down the ages the left-handed have gone ahead and made a success of life. They've something that the right-handed haven't. The leading Pharaohs were left-handed; so were the Caesars; so also Alexander the Great and Charlemagne.

Whether Nature compensates the left-handed by endowing them with special talents is a matter of speculation. The fact, however, remains that the left-handed are, in brain power, far superior to the right-handed. A schoolteacher, through whose hands thousands of boys have passed, is emphatic on that point. No left-handed boy is, or could be, a fool in his dictum.

Differences in Heraldry

In heraldry "differences" or marks of "cadency" indicate the various branches of a family. During the lifetime of his father the eldest son bears a label, the second a crescent, the third a mullet, the fourth a martlet, the fifth an annulet, the sixth a fleur de lis, the seventh a rose, the eighth a cross moline, the ninth a double quatre foil.

In "Hamlet" Ophelia says that both she and the queen are to wear rue, herself as the affianced bride of the eldest son of the late king, but the queen with a "difference," indicative of the fact that, although she was Hamlet's mother, her status was that of her present husband, Claudius.—Detroit News.

Modest Philanthropist

A philanthropist, feeling that his end was approaching and not desiring any publicity for his kind acts, advertised in the newspapers and offered a prize for the best hint of how to dispose of his property. Many replies were received, some sound and sensible, and others wildly fantastic. Finally one came which suggested that he establish a fund to supply ice to dumb parrots.

This delighted the philanthropist so that he lay back and laughed heartily, he caught his breath with difficulty and laughed again. In the midst of his mirth he burst a blood vessel and passed away, leaving his fortune to his heirs and nothing for the poor dumb parrots.—Kansas City Times.

Sociology as a Study

Sociology is the term applied by the philosopher, Comte, to the study of mankind in their social relations. It recommends the prevention of national wars by arbitration, and the settlement of the war of classes by boards of conciliation. The term sociology is regarded by some as equivalent to history. The English philosopher, Herbert Spencer, used the term in the titles of several of his greatest works, for instance, "The Study of Sociology," published in 1872.

Lee as Matchmaker

General Lee played the part of fatherly matchmaker to many a pretty girl of his circle. In fact, he had always liked that role.

"Tell Miss—" he had written from Mexico, during the occupation, "she had better dismiss that young divine and marry a soldier. There is some chance of the latter being shot, but it requires a particular dispensation of Providence to rid her of the former."—Scribner's Magazine.

Some Family

Buddy went to a dog show and came home all excited. Breeds meant nothing to him and blue ribbons less, but the puppies delighted him beyond measure.

"Oh, mother!" he exclaimed. "I saw five puppies with their mother. Two of them were brothers and the other three were twins."

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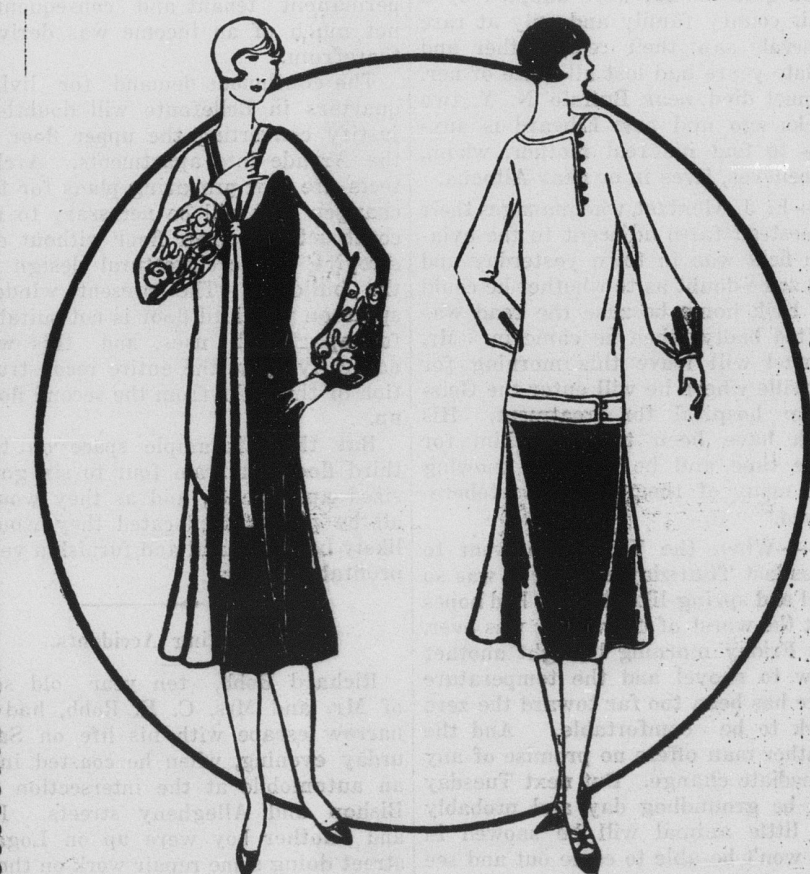
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