

Stories as Told Place

Parrots in New Role

To illustrate his belief in the future life of animals, Mr. Elliott O'Donnell recently told the following stories to the London Times:

A lady living in Hampstead had a parrot of which she was very fond. One of her servants in a fit of rage killed it. The following day the lady was at a party, and she noticed that one of the guests, a gentleman and a stranger to her, was staring at her. Later on he was introduced, and he said to her: "Do you know why I was staring at you? It was because I saw a parrot sitting on the arm of your chair and after a while vanish."

The gentleman then described the parrot he had seen, and convinced the lady that it was the ghost of her killed pet. Mr. O'Donnell next referred to a parrot belonging to an undertaker who had the bird for 28 years. One day it remarked to him, "You are going to die soon," and a few hours afterward the bird itself died. Two or three days later the undertaker died. At the inquest held on him, reference was made to this incident, and the query was raised, "Do parrots understand and are they clairvoyant?"

Cold Welcome Given

to Cargo of Bananas

John S. Mackintosh, who died in Washington recently, was for almost fifty years an exporter in Boston, operating a line of clipper ships. With every ship came some curiosity. One day a ship returned from Central America, and the master showed Mackintosh an elongated yellow fruit that grew in clusters.

Mackintosh regarded it warily; the ship was half-full of such cargo, and his Scotch prudence was aroused. Even after he had eaten one and pronounced it delicious, he was not certain they could be sold.

"What do you call them?" he inquired of the skipper. "The natives call them bananas," the sailor answered.

Mackintosh put them up for sale, and a few curiosity seekers bought a bunch or so. He harangued their quality and tried to impress upon the Bostonians the deliciousness of the fruit. But his venture failed.

Believed in Advertising

The late Nebuchadnezzar, ancient king of Babylon, who saw the famous handwriting on the wall, was no modest violet. A bit of autobiography he had inscribed on a cylinder 2,500 years ago and securely sealed in the wall of an ancient temple for posterity to dig up and read, now reposes in the Carnegie museum at Pittsburgh. Several of the opening paragraphs are gems of modest praise. He goes on to say: "I am Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, the great, the mighty, the favorite of Marduk (Babylonian God), the ruler who knows no weariness."

Historic Bells

An odd wooden cage for the heavy peal of ancient bells belonging to the church of East Bergholt, near Ipswich, England, has often been noticed. This elaborate oaken cage stands in the churchyard. It was built originally in the early years of the Seventeenth century, and has been restored recently. The reason for its construction was that the projected and half-completed church tower was never finished. There is a similar, but not quite so large, timber bell-cage in the churchyard of Wrabness, between Colchester and Harwich.

Throughout the ages bells have been the heralds of tidings, cheerful and sad, of news good and ill.

Pigeons Long Popular

For thousands of years pigeons have been favorite birds with the people of many countries and in many climes, and the popularity is as great today, or greater, as in any other period of which history speaks. Ramesses III loved pigeons, donated some of the finest for use in the temple of Thebes, and Pliny told in his writings of birds selling for sums that would be about \$75 in money of today. He thought that price rather high, but pigeons have sold in this country within the last year for \$1,300. Pigeon racing is the popular sport of Belgium.—Ohio State Journal.

Compass at the Poles

The department of research in terrestrial magnetism of the Carnegie Institution of Washington says that in the absence of any observational data at the true North pole it is not possible to state to what movement, or change in direction, a compass needle at that point is subject. The north end of the compass needle at the true North pole would point approximately toward the North Magnetic pole, which is situated about latitude 70 degrees 5 minutes north and longitude 96 degrees west of Greenwich.

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Of Course Pop Knew

All About Phil

"Pop, my Sunday school book says to write a short story about David and the Philistines. How shall I begin it?"

"Hm, Yes—David. David and the Philistines. The Philistines and David. Well, let me see: "Once upon a time there was some—there were some—people with a king named David."

"The Philistines, pop?" "Now don't interrupt. Just listen carefully. . . . 'with a king named Philistine.'"

"Aw, pop, you mean David?" "I said David. Why aren't you listening? Anyhow. . . . 'This king of the Day—the Philistines wanted to conquer some people called the—'

"—called—a . . ."

"The Philistines, pop?" "No, of course not! Why should a king want to conquer his own people? Will you listen or shall I stop?"

"But, pop, David did beat Goliath—or something, I—"

"That's it. That's it. David and the Philistines beat the Gauls by building a wooden bridge. I remember it all now. . . . 'Well, soon after—'

"Say, pop, I guess I remember now too."

"Good! Well, run along then and I'll finish my paper."

Arrive as Strangers

in National Capital

One of the outstanding features of Washington's difference from other capitals of great countries is that it is not—as are London, Paris and Berlin—the most important of our cities, nor indeed a city at all in that sense, writes Maude Parker Child in the Saturday Evening Post.

Therefore most of the appointees who come to our capital come as strangers. In other countries the chances are that a man chosen as a cabinet member will be known in his own capital and will have a wide acquaintance there. His social status will have been established long before he becomes part of the government.

In the United States, however, a new official may come from a town as remote geographically from Washington as Constantinople is from Dublin. His wife and children may have never even seen the city of their new residence until they go there to live. It is possible that they may not have one friend who is a resident.

This applies equally to the undersecretaries and to the innumerable men of the State department, but it is usually more acute in the cases of senators and congressmen.

Sumthin' Missin'

Aw, shucks, I ain't so crazy 'bout my father's new machine. There's such a thing as havin' things too fine. He went and bought the bunch of us a classy limousine. The best that he could buy—but not for mine.

Ya know how people feel about a thing that's spakin' new. They're allus 'fraid of mars and scars and such. And every time I'm in it pop'll watch each thing I do. That's why I can't enthuse about it much.

The seats 'er all upholstered with a cloth of silver gray, an' all the wood and metal's shiny bright. But that don't mean a thing to me. I just found out today they wouldn't let my dog in. That ain't right.

Aw, what's the fun of ridin' when I leave my purp behind? I hate to see him whine an' fume an' fuss. I don't see why my father didn't wait and try to find a plain old common second-hand bus.—Detroit News.

An Ancient Chinese Code

In China, where a vast system of waterways serve to connect different sections of the country, in ancient times it was the custom to send signals along the water by holding a huge metal gong close to the surface and pounding out code messages. These gongs were known by different names and were used in war to summon troops or tell of enemy movements. There are but four or five of those ancient primitive telegraph instruments now in existence, according to the information I have. One such gong was sold some few years ago by a collector of Chinese antiques living in Chicago to a wealthy collector in London.—Mr. Woodward in Adventure Magazine.

Spoiled the Effect

Mr. and Mrs. Bailey were entertaining friends. "Yes, I think I must get a car this year," said the host, casually, during a lull in the conversation. "I haven't decided what make yet, but it's no use getting a cheap one; they're sometimes so unreliable. I suppose I can get a really serviceable little affair for \$1,500 or so?"

While the company was still gazing at this careless mention of wealth, Bailey junior remarked: "I say, dad, will that funny-looking man call every week for the money like he did last year when you bought the bicycle?"—Exchange.

Doctor Was Right

"Buy a car," said the doctor, "and get out more. You ought to take off pounds."

Speaking of the results obtained by this prescription, the patient says: "I got a car and got out more. I got out six times between London and Coventry and took off flesh in four different places. Once I got out through the windshield. That seemed to take off the most flesh."—London Tit-Bits.

Don't Forget the Old Folks.

Without appearing preachy I wish to say a few words in behalf of the aged people of this country. The thought that advanced age deprives one of all natural usefulness is erroneous. And those who claim to believe it, stamp themselves as ignorant, because evidence of the falseness of the opinion is no trouble at all to find.

Now it's true, usually, that those whose earthly sojourn is lengthened far, far out into the winter life are more or less broken physically. And the twilight of age finds many too worn out in body for further active labor, eyes dim, deaf too, and perhaps the sense of touch somewhat dulled; but all this does not make of them useless creatures, no longer fit for intelligent people to mingle with; no, indeed, as barring unusual accident, the brains of those who have attained to ripe old age, are well stored with useful knowledge gleaned with painstaking care along the wayside, and thoughtfully garnered from their various experiences. The intellect is not dead, neither is the soul numbed, but it retains much of the cheery brightness it drank in steadily day by day. Their talk is not always dull and of no moment. There are not many people so highly educated that they cannot learn something of value by giving an attentive ear an hour or two to the calm, grave recitals of one of the aged. And all of more youthful years will do well to treat those aged folks with respectful consideration.

Those who feel scornful of the decrepit can earn some amount of self-respect by killing the scornful thought in its embryonic stage, and give pity its place. Go look about for those feeble ones, find how they are faring. If you find them lacking in living necessities, and no relatives to care for them, just remember the divine "I was naked and you clothed me" and go carry good cheer in a substantial way into the lone life. Help them to feel that the God of their prosperous independent days has not forgotten them now, in this time of sad need. Sons and daughters of aged parents, though married and in homes of their own, are nevertheless under bond, a sacred one, to care for them now, in their weakness. Remember, they have for long years borne heavy burdens for your sake, therefore the duty of assisting them rests upon all, so with hearty good will step forth, every one of you, join forces, unite your means and help them live out the declining days in comfort and peace.

Allow the old folks to remain in their own homes. They will enjoy life far more in them although they may be rather shabby, than in other abodes. Take time to see to it, that their needs are always supplied. In this little people of the household can be quite efficient, willing and merry helpers, glad to potter about, doing for grandfather and grandmother, and incidentally hear a good story. And almost without exception, this daily contact with those lingering on the border line of life, tends to develop noble traits of character in children. When one parent is left usually he goes into the home of some of his children to stay and his home is turned over to other hands. The lone heart aches, with the pain of it. Don't do it, children, if it can be helped; just care for them in the old home if possible. Conditions will have to decide that for you. But whatever and however it's arranged, do not, in high heaven's turn them over to the cold care of strangers, as many people are doing now all over the land. There has crept in a tendency to substitute the work of organizations for individual effort. If possible care for them in their declining years yourselves for soon, very soon, you will be the old people yourselves and will want to be cared for by your relatives.—Reader.

There is much truth in the above article. Sometimes we forget the comfort of elderly people. We do forget that they enjoy life even if they are not active and that they enjoy their own firesides. But not all of us fail to appreciate our elders. Many enjoy their company and realize that out of their varied experiences of life they bring to us of the younger generation encouragement and cheer. Many an elderly person is truly happy in a new home and there are some who enjoy life in institutions, although usually it is a trying experience.

Announce Penn State Summer Features.

Three special institutes are to be maintained as a feature of the coming Summer session at the Pennsylvania State College, according to a preliminary announcement this week from the office of Dr. Will Grant Chambers, dean of the school of Education and director of the Summer session. Public school teachers of Pennsylvania are showing particular interest in this latest form of specialized training offered by Penn State.

The newest development to meet the needs of school teachers is the organization of an Institute of English Education. It will be conducted

along lines similar to the French institute established two years ago and now enjoying a national reputation, and to the Institute of Music Education, announced some weeks ago as a new feature of the 1926 Summer session. The English institute will offer a special group of courses arranged for teachers of English in the secondary and higher schools of the State. Some prominent writers will be instructors and visiting lecturers at the institute.

Other features announced for the session which starts July 6 and continues until August 14 are: Special courses in rural school organization and management; administration and supervision; a demonstration school; home economics; industrial education; agricultural education; and courses arranged for school nurses, health specialists and library workers in cooperation with the American Red Cross and the State Department of Public Instruction.

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