

WHY Superstitions Have Such a Strong Hold

"It is the hardest thing in the world," wrote Gilbert White in 1776, "to shake off superstitious prejudices. They grow up with us at a time when they take the fastest hold and make the most lasting impressions; they become so interwoven into our very constitutions that the strongest good sense is required to disengage ourselves from them."

And even with the strongest good sense, there are those among us today who look with dismay upon a mere black cat crossing our path and who wouldn't think of molesting the crickets chirping on the hearth. And think with what solemnity we enter into the ancient custom of wishing on the breast bone of a fowl.

Although the supply seems inexhaustible, there are many superstitions that have been long forgotten. White tells of the shrew-ash that stood in the barnyards of his English forefathers. It was just an ordinary ash whose twigs and branches were endowed with curative powers. It was believed that when a shrew-mouse crept over a horse or cow, the animal was threatened with the loss of the use of its limbs. The beast could be restored to its normal state only by applying the twigs of the shrew-ash to the affected part.

But in order that the shrew-ash possess those curative powers, it had to be prepared in a certain way. Into the trunk of the tree a deep hole was bored with an auger, a shrew-mouse was thrust in alive, and plugged in, no doubt, with certain quaint incantations.—Detroit News.

Why One Is Cautioned to Mind His P's and Q's

My grandmother frequently used the expression "Now, mind your p's and q's," when cautioning her grandchildren about getting into mischief and nearly always when they left the house to go for a visit. I find myself using the expression, but was "stumped" when my daughter asked me what it meant and where it came from. Can you give me some help? asks a reader of the Indianapolis News, and that journal answers: The expression is commonly used to mean "be careful." According to some authorities, it originated among printers when all type was set by hand. Type bearing the p's and q's was easily confused by apprentices, and journey-men printers urged them to be careful about distributing the letters to their proper place in the case. This explanation commands the weight of authority, but there is a contention that the expression came from English alehouses, where accounts were kept on the back of the door under two general headings, pints and quarts. If the customer charged a pint of ale, a chalk mark was made opposite his name and in the pint column. After the customer received his wage, he went to the inn and paid his bill, or, as the old expression had it, minded his bill, or business, hence the expression in the sense of an admonition to strict attention to the business or affairs at hand.

Why Glass Changes Color

The bureau of standards says that glass frequently changes color on exposure to sunlight and the surface may weather or decompose slightly on exposure to certain types of atmospheric conditions. The color change is generally from the initial color of the glass to a purplish tint. This is thought to be the result of the action of sunlight on the manganese which was used to decolorize the glass. The weathering produces a scum on the surface of the glass and renders it less transparent, but does not in general change its color.

Why Countries Separated

Norway separated from Sweden in 1905. In June 7 of that year the king of Sweden refused to sign an act establishing separate Norwegian consulates, and the Norwegian ministry resigned. No one would accept office, whereupon the Norwegian storting voted that the union between Norway and Sweden had been dissolved, since the king of Sweden had acknowledged himself unable to form a Norwegian ministry and could not discharge his constitutional functions.

Why Bare of Trees

The absence of trees in the prairies, steppes and similar grasslands is due principally to natural conditions, such as climate, soil, etc. Practically no forests occur in regions of less than 20 inches of rainfall except coniferous forests in regions of low temperature, where evaporation is slow.

Why Termed "Gridiron"

The word gridiron is derived from the middle English gridre, and is of uncertain origin, perhaps connected with the old French grellier, meaning to scorch or burn. The word formerly designated an iron grating used for torture by fire.

Why Shell Turns Red

The carapace, or shell, of the lobster turns from green to red when boiled on account of a chemical change in the chitin, or hard substance, in the shell produced by heat. The flesh does not turn color.

Why Iron Is Colder

Iron feels colder than wood because metals are good conductors of heat, whereas wood is a poor conductor.

GENOA, Old and New



Street Laundry in Genoa.

(Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)—WNU Service.

A MOUNTAIN recently was blown into bits near Genoa to make way for a seaside highway between the city and Sampierdarena, one of its suburbs. Before excited Genoese who crowded every vantage point, tons of dynamite, which had been poured into 700 foot drilled holes, leveled the rocky barrier, thrusting a large part of it into the Genoa harbor.

Genoa may be considered the Alma Mater of the Americas. She nurtured Christopher Columbus in his boyhood years, when he dreamed the dreams that were to shape his life; communicated to him a love of the sea that had made her great; imbued him with a dominating thirst for the adventure that was hinted at by every strange galley and carved that crowded her harbor, and all the motley throng of bronzed seamen from distant lands who joggled elbows with him on her quays.

And, having reared the boy Columbus in this atmosphere, the city sent him forth to battle with true Genoese spirit for his dreams until that October day in 1492 when, fulfilling them, he wrung a hemisphere from oblivion to add it to the map of the world.

The Genoa of today is a great modern city. If you center your attention on its industries, on its steel ships, on the dwellings of its upper tiers, on the business of the Via Venti Settembre (20th of September street), and the crowds of prosperous-looking, well dressed people who throng that thoroughfare morning and evening to holiday proportions.

But Genoa is not only a modern city. The links that tie the present to the times of Columbus, and to days long before his, still hold strongly. One may step on the very stones on which young Christopher walked; the walls that rose beside the narrow ways that his restless young feet trod still stand, block after block of them; and only a few steps from the present business heart of the city, where beautiful modern buildings rise about the Piazza De Ferrari and the Via Venti Settembre starts upon its broad, straight way, is the most important link of all, the House of Columbus.

This dwelling of Domenico Colombo, father of the future admiral, and of Susanna, his mother, was the place in which Christopher spent his early boyhood. Tourists must view this historic old house from the outside, unless they have a special permit.

Records All in Palaces.

Official records of the family of Columbus are kept in municipal offices. These offices are in one of the beautiful old palaces of the Genoese nobles. Whatever activity you search for in Genoa, it seems, you find in a palace. The city offices are in one, the port officials transact their business in another, the prefect looks after matters of state in a third; and others are museums, art galleries, schools, and telegraph offices. You begin to wonder, as you make your way from palace to palace, whether the butchers and bakers and candlestick makers of Genoa conduct their businesses in these sumptuous structures, and to doubt that in Genoa's palmiest days there were any commoners at all to live in mere houses.

In the municipal palace Genoa keeps mementos of her illustrious sons, whether by birth or forced adoption. There are portraits of the great statesman, Mazzini; the incomparable explorer, Marco Polo and Columbus; and sundry heroes of the Crusades. In a glass case rest the violin and bow of the world's master violinist, Paganini.

At an end of the council chamber, carved from one piece of marble, stands a tall pedestal surmounted by a bust of Columbus. A recess has been cut into the pedestal and fitted with an ornamental bronze door. This a custodian unlocks and takes from their marble resting place Genoa's most precious documents: three letters written by the hand of Christopher Columbus and signed with his curious signature, and a parchment book containing copies of the documents through which various privileges and titles were conferred upon him by Ferdinand and Isabella.

All the letters were written from Seville to Genoa, two in 1502, as the great navigator was preparing for his fourth and last voyage, and one in 1504, after his return from the New world. Two are to Nicolo Oderigo, an important citizen of Genoa, who served as ambassador from the re-

public to the Spanish court. That of March 21, 1502, tells of sending his book of privileges for safe keeping.

Treasures Carefully Guarded Now.

The letters are framed now and protected by glass. This was not always so, as the missing lower corner of one of the documents shows. This fragment, the custodian tells you, was torn off years ago by a tourist who had been courteously permitted to examine the letter—one of that inexplicable breed of vandals, the soulless souvenir hunter, to whom ethics apparently are beside the point.

As soon as a privileged visitor has examined the treasures, the watchful curator takes his treasures and locks them again in their queer place of safe keeping. The Columbus house is some distance away but every step adds interest to the traveler's stay in the city. The narrow, winding streets teem with an intimate mixture of wheeled traffic and pedestrians. Some of these ways have narrow sidewalks, from which the pedestrians spill over at intervals. Others have no curbs, and one must needs compete for space with taxis, open "cabs," and laden carts. Still other ways are mere crevasses between old five and six storied tenement houses, far too narrow for wheeled vehicles.

Suddenly you leave these congested streets and come out into the Piazza De Ferrari, the largest of the open spaces within Genoa's business sections. One side of the square is lined with the buildings of Old Genoa, the walls of palaces for the most part; but on the opposite side a newer Genoa stands forth—the Teatro Carlo Felice, the Academy of Belle Arts, the new Bourse, the post office. These fine structures are relatively new and form the portal to the Via Venti Settembre.

When this era of new construction was under way many ancient buildings were demolished. Part of the ground so obtained was used as sites for the new structures and part was left vacant and added to the piazzas. One of the blocks of closely packed buildings marked for destruction contained the house of Columbus. The identity of this edifice had long been lost, but became known in 1885, after which the property was purchased by the municipality and set aside as a monument.

In the House of Columbus.

The house originally had five stories, but was only one room in width. It was hemmed in between taller buildings and was in part supported by these neighboring edifices. When this group was torn down the entire house of Columbus could not be left unsupported, so the upper three stories were removed. The two lower stories, roofed over, now stand isolated, an approximate cube of rough masonry—a sort of Genoese Kaaba and, like that sacred Meccan shrine, a center of world interest if not of pilgrimage.

Inside the large wooden door the traveler finds himself in a gloomy, unlighted, boxlike room, wholly bare. It is some minutes before one's eye can make out the details of the interior. The floor is of stone, and the brick walls have a queer, jagged surface. Overhead the beams and thick floor boards have the same rough, nicked appearance. Your guide explains that for a long time before it had been identified the house had been used as a tenement by poor families of the city, and that when it came into possession of the municipality its walls and ceilings were encrusted with the grime of centuries. Scrubbing would do no good; so stone cutters were put to work with chisels and mallets to cut away the incrustations of half a millennium and to bring to light a surface at once clean and nearer to that of the Columbus era.

Toward the rear of the portion of the building still standing is a narrow, winding stair of wood. The front room on the second floor has two windows in the front wall, is more airy and is better lighted than that below and was probably one of the chief apartments of the Columbus family. Its walls, too, have been chipped to form a fresh surface, and the floor, reasonably clean, has probably been scraped. Into one of the side walls has been set a marble slab, carved into a charming base-relief of the Santa Maria, the ship which bore Columbus on his great adventure. In a corner stands a little statue of Columbus, the boy. These are the only mementos of the great man who as a child lived here; for the rest the house is bare.

HOW

PIPS ON PLAYING CARDS GOT NAMES THEY GO BY.

When you say you are calling "a spade a spade," you mean that you are not minding your words, but are using those that exactly describe whatever you are talking about. At that you would be all wrong if your remarks were applied to the queer looking objects called "spades" on a pack of cards. They were originally rapiers, and they derived their names from the Spanish word, "espada," meaning a sword.

Another misleading card name is "clubs." The first playing cards came from Spain, via France, and this particular suit in these early packs was stamped with a baton, or club. But the French substituted for this emblem a trefoil, or clover leaf, although they did not trouble to change the name.

Hearts have nothing to do with the organ that pumps the blood through the body. They were originally called "cups." You can trace the resemblance even now if you look at the pips turned upside down as they are in the two top rows of, say, the six of hearts.—Chicago American.

How the Word "Rival" Got Meaning It Holds

Many words are so changed in meaning from their original significance that there remains no logical connection whatever. And yet to be initiated, their course from their earliest beginnings is as plain and clear as the course of a well-mapped river flowing from its source to the sea.

And "river" brings us to the story of "rival" our word for a competitor, for one of two people who are striving to reach the same goal, both of whom are trying to get what only one can possess. Hardly a relationship there, to the naked eye, with a river. And yet "rival" comes to us from the Latin rivals, which means "pertaining to a brook."

The story is that in Latin "rivales" acquired the connotation of "neighbors who got water from the same stream," and the Roman Digest discusses the contests that sometimes arose between such people concerning their riparian rights.—Kansas City Times.

How to Hang Pictures

The charm of a beautiful picture may be ruined because it is hung either too high or too low. Some rules to go by in hanging pictures follow. Place the picture so that one standing can see it without raising or lowering the head to do so. The center of the picture should fall directly on the eye level. Hang pictures so that they will be well balanced. If you have a large, heavy picture in the center of a wall space on one side of a room, balance it with some tall piece of furniture or a wall hanging on the opposite side of the room. Groupings of small pictures help to create that feeling of balance—only be sure that the pictures grouped together have some feeling in common.

How Play Teaches Child

Denial of a child the chance to play not only deprives him of pleasure, but robs him of some of the fundamental lessons of happy living, the children's bureau of the Department of Labor stated in announcing the publication of a bulletin on child care, "The Child From One to Six."

In play, the bureau says, the child learns to play his part, to wait his turn, to pay a penalty if he plays out of turn, and to adjust himself to the demands and ideals of the group.

How Lamps Differ

The filament of a carbon lamp is made of absorbent cotton that is dissolved in a zinc chloride solution which forms a thick viscous liquid that is forced, under pressure, through a die, thus forming a long thread-like filament. It is then dried, shaped and afterwards carbonized. The filament of a Mazda lamp is pure metallic tungsten that is drawn through dies, the same as any other wire, the final drawings being through diamond dies.

How Capital Was Chosen

When congress voted that the capital should be located on the Potomac river, it also decreed that President Washington should be permitted to select the exact spot. He did this with the assistance of Thomas Jefferson and John Adams. These two, with the three commissioners appointed to prepare the new seat of government, named the city Washington, and the district Columbia.

How to Freshen Leather

Leather work, if embossed and stained, loses a little of its color in time. It will retain its freshness longer if rubbed with a good leather polish after the color has been put on. Before restaining, remove the old color with methylated spirit if a spirit stain was used, or with hot water if the color was a water stain.

How Bran Is Made

Bran is made from the broken coat of the seed of wheat, rye or other cereal grain, separated from the flour or meal by sifting or bolting.

Cradle of Icebergs on Greenland West Coast

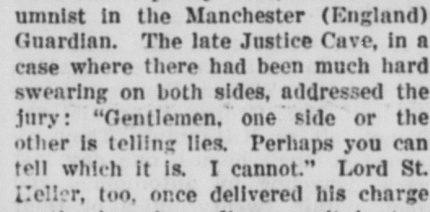
The world holds few more awe-inspiring spectacles than the movement of icebergs out of Jacobshavn fjord, into Disco bay, on the west coast of Greenland. Jacobshavn glacier is the world's greatest mother of icebergs, the experts claim. On the average, it calves more than 1,350 bergs each year. The Jacobshavn fjord is a giant trough in the solid rock, four miles wide and running back inland fifteen miles, between high precipitous walls, to the front of the glacier. When the investigators ran the prow of their little craft into the mouth of the fjord, they were met by an impassable wall of bergs.

The hunters made their way afoot to the top of the rocky bank. As far as eye could see in the fjord, icebergs were packed tightly, row on row, a breath-taking aggregation of white pinnacles and domes. They estimated that the great rock-walled trough held between 4,000 and 6,000 bergs.

The movement of the bergs is not a steady march. Most of the year they lie there, packing in tighter and tighter. About once a month they move.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

Judges' Charges Short but Much to the Point

American love of "wisecracks" extends even to the judicial bench, and a Pennsylvania magistrate received commendation for what is claimed to be the shortest summing-up on record: "The ham was there, the prisoner was there. The ham was gone, the prisoner was gone." For lucidity as well as brevity that certainly will take some beating, but some of our own judges have run it pretty close, writes a columnist in the Manchester (England) Guardian. The late Justice Cave, in a case where there had been much hard swearing on both sides, addressed the jury: "Gentlemen, one side or the other is telling lies. Perhaps you can tell which it is. I cannot." Lord St. Leger, too, once delivered his charge to the jury in a divorce suit in two brief sentences: "If the husband were the brute his wife says he was, she is well rid of him. If he is the saint he makes himself out to be, he is far too good for any woman."



Star Boarders

ROBERT HART eyed his herd speculatively. Comfortably bedded down and content in their stanchions, forty cows returned his gaze.

"Star boarders," he muttered, "that's what half of them are. I can't afford to replace them—and I can't afford to keep them!"

It was the old problem of dairy farming and Mr. Hart pondered it afresh as he returned to the house.

"There were a couple of telephone calls, Bob," said Mrs. Hart as he entered. "Old Mr. Beal is sick again. Can you take over any of his cows? Then Tom Parker called. He wants to buy for slaughtering."

Mr. Hart laughed. "Let me have the telephone! Coming together like that, I'll say 'yes' to both of them!"

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE.—Letters testamentary having been granted to the undersigned upon the estate of Mary Wilberia Meek, late of Ferguson township, deceased, all persons knowing themselves indebted to same are requested to make prompt payment, and those having claims against said estate must present them, duly authenticated, for settlement.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK of State College, Pa.

W. Harrison Walker, Executor Attorney. 77-7-81

SHERIFF'S SALE.—By virtue of a writ of Alias Levari Facias issued out of the Court of Common Pleas of Centre County, to me directed, will be exposed to public sale at the Court House in the Borough of Bellefonte on

FRIDAY MARCH 25, 1932

The following property: All that certain message, tenement and lot of ground, situate and being in the Borough of Bellefonte, Centre County, State of Pennsylvania, bounded and described as follows, to-wit:—

On the East by lot of W. J. Musser; on the North by Lamb Street; on the West by lot of Al. Landis; on the South by an Alley.

The lot having a frontage of about 47 feet between the corner posts, and extending back from Lamb Street to an Alley, 150 feet, to a uniform width.

Being the same premises which James C. Furst, Executor of the last will and Testament of John P. Harris Sr., deceased by his deed dated the 8th day of April, 1925, and recorded in Centre County in Deed Book 134, at page 22, granted and conveyed the same unto Harry Ward and Rosa Ward, his wife. Seized, taken in execution and to be sold as property of Harry Ward and Rosa Ward.

Sale to commence at 10:00 o'clock A. M. of said day.

Terms Cash.

JOHN M. BOOB, Sheriff, Sheriff's Office, Bellefonte, Pa. 77-10-31

AND FOR SMOKERS, SINGERS, SPEAKERS

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of Honey, Horsehound Menthol... 5c

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CANDIDATES MUST REPORT EXPENSES

Warning that heavy penalties are imposed by law when political committees receiving or spending more than \$50.00 in support of any candidate running for a state-wide office fail to file expense accounts with him is being given by the secretary of the commonwealth, Richard J. Beamish.

A circular letter setting forth the requirements of the law is being sent to every candidate who files a petition with the department of state. It explains that the law applies to both the primary and general election campaign for any office for which there is a state-wide election, and the account must be filed with the secretary of the commonwealth. The report must be detailed, itemized and supported by bills, vouchers and affidavits.

The penalty for failure to file is not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$1,000, or by imprisonment for not less than one month nor more than two years, either or both, at the discretion of the court.

Committees representing individuals or organizations during former campaigns have quite generally failed to file such accounts when they have had charge of a limited territory such as a city, county or district, and have taken the stand that they have complied with the law if they filed in the county where their political work was done.

They must file with the secretary of the commonwealth however limited may be the territory under their charge, whether working for one candidate for a state-wide office, or for a group that includes one or more candidates running for such an office, Beamish said. The law applies to both the primary and general elections.



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