

STRANGER THAN FICTION.

When the old New York hotel was closed there had been a free distribution of old Bibles placed in the guest rooms years before by the Bible society.

It occurred then to Johnie Farrall, who had managed the cafe for ten years, that it would be a graceful act to have the staff of the hotel put their autographs in the books and present them to the patrons and guests as souvenirs.

Johnie took one of the Bibles home with him, and his wife in examining the book discovered in a pocket in the back cover a marriage certificate, which stated that on a certain day in March, 1899, Annie Gorman, of Danville, Va., was married to Ralph Preston, of Richmond, Va., by the Rev. D. Deams, of the church of the Strangers of this city.

The romantic incident had made an impression on the hotel people, and Farrall determined to write to Ralph Preston and tell him of his find. This he did, but received no reply.

Last summer one of the New York dailies referred in a paragraph to the giving away of the Bibles as a piece of sacrilege. By some strange fate a copy of their paper has recently reached the notice of Mrs. Preston. She in a thoughtless moment while a bride at the old hotel had placed her certificate of marriage in the Bible in her room and had forgotten all about it.

Some difference arose between her and her young husband while on their European tour and they separated. While at a small village in Switzerland he was seized with a fatal illness, and in only a few months the young bride found herself a widow. She returned to Richmond only to find that the Preston family would not recognize the marriage. She had no proof, as both her husband and the clergyman were dead, and has born this humiliation in silence ever since.

When she saw the paragraph about the Bibles the remembrance came like a flash of the disposition she had made of the certificate and with the doubtful hope of finding it she came to New York and called on John Farrall, and was put in possession of the precious document, which not only insures her proper participation in her husband's large estate, but restores her honorable position in society.

Mrs. Preston offered a liberal reward to John for what he had done in the matter, but he refused all recompense, feeling amply repaid by the pleasant results.

WEIGHTS OF FARM PRODUCE.

Wheat and potatoes, each 60 pounds; corn and rye, 56 pounds; onions, 52 pounds; barley and buckwheat, 48 pound; all kinds of meal, except oat meal, 50 pound; oats, 32 pounds. A bushel of wheat weighs 60 pounds in all the states except Connecticut, where the legal weight is 56 pounds, though it is presumable that custom makes 60 pounds the standard there as elsewhere.

Corn in New York must weigh 58 pounds to be legal weight; in Missouri, 52 pounds; 56 pounds in all other states. Oats in Canada must weigh 34 pounds; in Iowa, 35 pounds; in New Jersey, 30 pounds; in Connecticut, 28 pounds, and in all the other states, 32 pounds. Barley weighs 47 pounds in Pennsylvania; 44 pounds in Illinois; 46 in Vermont, and 48 pounds in all the other states.

Buckwheat varies in legal weight in different states, from 40 pounds in Illinois to 50 pounds in Indiana, and 53 pounds in Iowa and Kentucky. In New Jersey and Ohio clover seed must weigh 64 pounds per bushel; in other states and Canada, 60 pounds. Timothy seed must weigh 44 pounds in New York; 48 pounds in Canada; in other states 45 pounds, except Ohio, where the legal weight is 42 pounds. Flaxseed weighs 55 pounds in New York and New Jersey, and 56 pounds in other states where it is sold by weight. Hemp seed weighs 44 pounds; blue grass and orchard grass each 14 pounds, and red top 20 pounds.

The discussion of suicide originating with Ingersoll has been followed by an epidemic of self-destruction. The clergy quite widely have taken up the discussion. We cannot help thinking that Ingersoll receives too much attention entirely. His theology is too vague and shadowy to make his opinions of any consequence to anybody beside himself, and the discussion of his views advertises the man and gives him an importance quite out of keeping with his merits.

From Ingersoll's standpoint there is no sin. He admits nothing, denies everything that does not square with his limited experience, and is an agnostic "for revenue only." Let him alone.—Exchange.

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MONSTER REDWOOD TREES.

They Compose a Most Remarkable Timber Belt.

One of the most remarkable timber belts in the world stands in Humboldt and Mendocino counties, California. It embraces 4,125 square miles, containing 132,000,000,000 feet of timber. With the aid of the microscope scientists have found the age of some of these trees to be nearly 3,000 years. Some of the fallen trees have remained where they fell for 800 to 1,000 years, so it is estimated, with scarcely any deterioration of the wood.

Eastern tourists in California know but little of these redwoods (Sequoia sempervirens). They usually see the few mammoth redwoods of Calaveras (Sequoia gigantea) and go home and tell their friends about this disappearing tribe of giants. The lumber redwoods of Humboldt are less talked about, yet one of its trees will yield 100,000 feet of boards, and fill a freight train with logs.

Felling these trees, which are 150 to 250 feet high, is a fine art acquired only by the most expert chopper. He must have excellent judgment as to the "lean" of the tree, and other peculiarities which may affect the direction of its fall. He drives a stake 100 or 150 feet from the base of the tree, and prepares a level bed in a direct line from base to stake, and on that line the tree must fall. An axekerf is then made on the side where the tree is to fall. The apex of the obtuse triangle made by this kerf points exactly to the distant stake.

The tree is cut one-third through with the ax. On the other side of the tree, opposite the axekerf, a saw kerf is started. This is done by boring two holes horizontally and driving in wood-pins on which the 12 to 20 foot saw rests until the kerf is sufficiently deep to steady the saw. Broad, thin iron wedges are driven in after the saw to prevent the doomed tree from pinching it. At each end of this saw "ears" are bolted on, which can be removed and the saw withdrawn in case of trouble. Wedges are made to follow the saw until the wood dividing the saw kerf from the axekerf is narrowed to a width where wedges can be made to force the tree, with all its great weight, to lean in the direction in which it is to fall.

The tree is toppled over, and so exact is the chopper's work and calculation that almost invariably the falling trunk drives the stake aimed at when operations were begun. Any error in the fall of the tree is likely to cause the tree to break and cost the lumberman more than the chopper's wages for the month—\$125. These virgin forests are so densely timbered that, if cleared at once, there would not be room enough on the ground for the trunks. "Peelers" follow the choppers. With long steel bars, flattened at one end, they pry off the thick bark and burn it. Then comes the cross-cut saw man, who cuts the tree into logs. These are transported to the saw mills by rail, cut into boards and shipped to market.

Redwood is so free from resinous matter that it will not burn readily. When fired it chars. The immunity from fire of towns built of redwood lumber is remarkable. Large conflagrations are unknown. This lumber shrinks so very little that it is used by builders in a green state. The beauty of the wood for finishing work is marked, as it frequently has a curly face and also a bird's eye grain. This redwood promises to be a popular wood in the eastern states.

The New York Tribune remarks: There is a good deal of talk in certain quarters, mainly from people who think themselves wise above what is written and who take keen delight in their half-knowledge, adverse to the use of the bicycle by women. The charge that it is immodest for women to ride the bicycle is not deserving of serious attention. A modest woman is as modest on a wheel as in a drawing-room, and even if she wears what are classed as "bloomers" her costume is not as deserving of notice as the bathing suits which women wear unchallenged at all our seaside resorts. The question whether bicycle riding is injurious to women's health is a most important one; the answer can only be given as the result of experience. Undoubtedly harm has been done by excessive riding; but so it may be caused by too much walking or rowing. The general testimony seems to be that the use of the bicycle in moderation is beneficial to women, and in some cases the results have been found exceedingly good. Exercise on the wheel is so exhilarating that beginners are doubtless often tempted to ride too much. Against this they should be warned; but the bicycle rightly employed will in all probability promote health and happiness.

The Conditions Different.

Husband (with newspaper)—When I'm at home, you are forever hammering at that piano, or else your tongue is running like a trip hammer. It wasn't so before we were married.

Wife—No, it wasn't. Before we were married you held my hands so I couldn't play and kept my lips so busy that I couldn't talk.—New York Weekly.

Don't Deceive or Frighten Children.

There ought to be a law and penalty attached to the crime of rearing children by deception. To expect and demand integrity and veracity from them after we have lied to them to frighten them into obedience is something unparalleled. The idea that they must tell the truth after we have deceived them and ruined the happiness of their childhood years is preposterous. Cruelty to animals has a penalty; cruelty to children has a penalty, but the cruelty exercised toward children by parents, relatives and nurses has no penalty this side the grave.

The child is taught that this fair world is pandemonium, ghosts goblins, bears, lions and tigers are lurking in the darkness, and fight ready to devour the child. In the garret, in the cellar, in the pantry, in the bedroom everywhere monsters, and all to enforce obedience and make cowards of the children. We know it all by experience. Our childhood years were darkened and blighted by the lies told us by older sisters and brothers and others. We were afraid to go to bed and covered ourself up in the middle of the bed thinking ourself safe as the ostrich with his head in a sand bank.

Mothers and nurses don't lie to your children to enforce obedience, and then expect of them innocence and truth. Be truthful yourself and then demand the same of your children. There are no ghosts and goblins here. This is Kosmos, a beautiful world as the Greeks called it. The sun shines as grandly as when he first opened his burning eye upon Creation's dark domain, as when his rays first fell among the bowers of Eden. The flowers are just as fragrant and beautiful as those that bloomed in Paradise. The mountains are as grand, the rivers as grand and the valleys as lovely perhaps as they were when God spoke them into being. Man's heart only has fallen, and per consequence, he earns his bread by the sweat of his brow. The heavens above us gleaming with the constellations of the dark blue canopy of God are the wrong side then what must the right side be?

Nay verily; teach your children that there are no demons and goblins lurking in the shrouds of night. Do not blight their childhood years and make cowards of them. There is a far better way of training them in the way they should go.

E. J. B.

"Nothing Venture, Nothing Have."

Rev. John Reid, Jr., of Great Falls, Mon., recommended Ely's Cream Balm to me. I can emphasize his statement: "It is a positive cure for catarrh if used as directed." Rev. Francis W. Poole, Pastor Central Pres. Church, Helena, Mon.

It is the medicine above all others for catarrh, and is worth its weight in gold. I can use Ely's Cream Balm with safety and it does all that is claimed for it.—B. W. Sperry, Hartford, Conn.

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