

Superstitions About Salt

By F. C. EVANS.

If you happen to spill any salt there is going to be a quarrel. At least to say superstitious folk, who straightway throw some of the salt over the left shoulder to break the spell.



table and come out the opposite side, while in New England you must throw the salt particles into the fire to thoroughly neutralize the bad luck.

Bishop Hall of Exeter, wrote, in 1627, that when salt fell towards a superstitious guest at dinner, he was wont to exhibit signs of mental agitation, and refused to be comforted until one of the waiters had poured wine in his lap.

The Germans have a saying, "Whoever spills salt arouses enmity," and in some places the overturning of a salt cellar is thought to be the direct act of the Devil, the peace-disturber.

The ancient Romans exclaimed, "May the gods avert the omen!" when salt was spilled at table, and among the Greeks the overturning of the salt cellar was one of the most ominous events that could occur in a house.

This would indicate that superstitions regarding the spilling of salt are far older than the commonly believed explanation of the nation; which is, that it is due to the fact that in Leonardo da Vinci's picture of the Last Supper, Judas Iscariot is represented as just having split the salt.

Salt is extremely distasteful to evil spirits in the opinion of Richalmus, abbot of Schonthal in Franconia in the twelfth century, and a great many people seem to agree with him to this day.



nal origin had prescribed the sign of the cross for their alleviation. When he was at dinner and the food had deliciously taken away his appetite, he simply tasted a little salt and his appetite returned at once.

In the province of Quebec, French Canadians sometimes scatter salt about the doors of their stables to prevent those mischievous little impish lutes from entering and teasing the horses by sticking burrs in their manes and tails.

Various Signs and Customs of Spilling Salt Appear as Magical Agents—Many Paintings of "The Last Supper" Show the Salt Cellar Overturned—Proverbs of Many Countries Founded on Superstitions.

long been known as a wondrously powerful agent in magic. Perhaps that is why children are advised to put some on a bird's tail in order to catch it.

In India the natives rub salt and wine on scorpion bites, believing that this application will banish the demons of pain.

In Bavaria and the Ukraine, in order to ascertain whether a child has been the victim of enchantment, the mother licks its forehead, and if she can distinguish a saline flavor, she is convinced that her offspring has been under the influence of the evil eye.

But salt does not appear in folklore only as a magical agent. Being one of the principal flavors of food it is often mentioned in proverbs. In the Spanish province of Andalusia the word "salt" is synonymous with gracefulness and charm of manner and you cannot address your sweetheart more flatteringly than to call her "the salt-box of my love."

Marco Polo tells us that in Tibet pieces of salt were used as currency.



as is the case in the Soudan at the present day.

The esteem with which salt is greeted, is not unanimous, however. About the year 1820 there appeared in England a volume by a certain Dr. Howard with the following title: "Salt, the forbidden fruit or food; and the chief cause of diseases of body and mind of man and animals, as taught by the ancient Egyptian priests and wise men and by scriptures, in accordance with the author's experience of many years."

A Big Squab Farm. The largest squab farm in the country has 17,500 pairs of parent birds. This gives 175,000 squabs a year, which are sold at about 20 cents apiece, or \$32,500 in all.

Paying Pecan Trees. A stranger coming to Tallahassee is surprised at the great number of pecan trees found in the yards, gardens and on the streets.

Wireless Typewriter. A typewriter operated by wireless telegraphy is the wonderful production of a Danish inventor's ingenuity.

Outfielder Caught Long Fly in Swamp—Bitten by a Serpent. Monroe, La.—James Phelps, outfielder of the Rayville ball team, is dead of a snake bite.

PRETTY GIRL, 17, KILLED BY DRINK

Poor Helen Chambers Took Her First Glass of Liquor on New Year's Eve

SEVEN MONTHS OF DISSIPATION

One of the Most Pathetic Stories that Has Ever Come to the Notice of Hospital Authorities—Tells of Fate as Warning to Others.

Kansas City, Mo.—Helen Chambers, a pretty girl, seventeen years old, is dead in a hospital here, a victim of a taste for liquor and a career of dissipation that lasted only seven months.

Her home was in Aurora, Ill., near Chicago, where her family is highly respected. The unfortunate, who seven months ago was a simple country girl, about to be graduated from high school, virtually lived on absinthe and morphine for two weeks before being taken to the hospital.

"On New Year's eve I went to Chicago with another girl. We met two boys and went to a cafe where the New Year's celebration was just starting. I did not know what it was like, but I found out. Everything was in order, but I noticed that the girls seemed to drink as much as the men.

"I then decided to run away from home; I decided it would be best. I came to Kansas City about April 1. I fell in with bad associates, but finally married. I went to Dallas, Tex., with my husband. There we quarreled and he returned to Kansas City without me, but I soon followed. We made up here, but quarreled again and separated and then I started anew and the rest you know. I slept in a cheap rooming house last Sunday night. Monday I came here, hoping that there might be some relief, but it seems all up with me."

JUSTICE BLIND AND HALT.

Six Candidates, All Physically Disabled, Ask for Votes. Hamilton, Ohio.—Each of the six candidates for Justice of the Peace in Hamilton township is physically disabled.

Squire William Murphy, present incumbent, is blind; Squire William Merton is a cripple and so is Squire Harry Hughes; John T. Riley, a locomotive-attila victim, cannot walk; Harry Foster has the same ailment and William Allen is blind. They are all Democrats.

Murphy performs his duties as well as a man with unimpaired sight. The other five say they can do as well. Sympathetic voters will have a hard time deciding which ought to be favored.

POTS OF GOLD IN HIS CELLAR.

Laramie, Wyo.—Two pots of gold found in the cellar of William Taylor, of Rock River, Wyo., have caused legal complications. Taylor hired Reuben Steckwell and J. W. White to enlarge his cellar two weeks ago.

Taylor dug up another pot containing \$9,999 in gold and will keep on digging.

THRIVED ON POISON.

Prof. Lantz's Rats Seem to Be Yearning for More "Infallible Remedies." Washington, D. C.—When Prof. David E. Lantz of the Biological Survey went home for the night he left in a cage containing twenty-four rats kept for just such experiments a quantity of rat poison which the makers declared to be infallible.

Next morning Prof. Lantz took a look at his poison squad. Not a rat was dead, and all seemed to be looking for more food. The same rats have been on this sort of duty since last May and have consumed all sorts of patent rat poison.

NEW POST FOR LIEUT. GRANT

Famous War General's Grandson is Superintendent of State, War and Navy Buildings.

Washington, D. C.—First Lieut. Ulysses S. Grant, III, corps of engineers, United States army, grandson of President Grant, the famous war general, has been appointed superintendent of the state, war and navy buildings at Washington.

Capt. John H. Poole, corps of engineers, held the office of superintendent for about four years. He succeeded Rear Admiral George W. Baird of the navy.

Capt. Poole made many reforms and improvements in what is known as "the biggest office building in the world," and reduced expenses considerably.



Lieut. U. S. Grant III.

Officers of the army corps of engineers are eligible to detail to the superintendency since the naval corps of engineers was merged into the line of the navy several years ago.

Lieut. Grant, the new superintendent, since his graduation near the head of his class at West Point, in June, 1903, has served a tour of duty at the engineer school at Washington barracks, and also as one of the military aids of President Roosevelt. For several months past he has been stationed at Boston on duty in connection with the river and harbor works and fortifications in that vicinity.

TRAIN GETS MELANCHOLY COW.

Gretchen, Resentful of Being Offered for Sale, Goes to Her Death. Great Notch, N. J.—Richard Jacobus, farmer living near here hard by the Erie Railroad, decided three days ago that he could do very well without Gretchen, a brindle milch cow that had been in the family several years.

"Fresh Cow for Sale." Jacobus meant no reflection upon the matronly dignity of Gretchen, who is, or was, of a Teutonic and melancholy temperament. But now Jacobus believes that either Gretchen thought she was being labeled flighty and smart-alecky, or that she grieved because she was not wanted any longer in the family, or that she was shocked into the deep pit of melancholy by the unaccounted notoriety to which she was being subjected.

This morning, as a heavy Erie freight train started down the steep grade in front of Jacobus' house, the brindle cow broke her rope, walked gravely out through the gate, and was run down and killed by the train.

HE ALMOST REMEMBERED IT.

Donald had returned from a visit to the country, and was full of reminiscences of persons and things that had interested him. "I met a boy, mama," he said, "that had the queerest name I ever heard. He said his folks found it in the Old Testament. It was—it was—let me see—yes, it was Father William, or William Father; I've forgotten just now which. But it was one or the other."

"Are you sure, mama?" "I certainly am, dear. I have read it through several times. William is a comparatively modern name. It isn't anywhere in the Bible."

NOT MUCH PUBLIC LAND LEFT.

Of the public land, some 375,000,000 acres, or one-sixth of the original territory, remain—but nearly every acre is too arid for settlement on the original plan. Of state land the amount is limited, save swamp and overflow tracts that can hardly be settled by individual effort.

Over 75,000,000 acres of wet lands might be reclaimed to form homes for 10,000,000 people, while 40,000,000 or 50,000,000 acres of arid lands might be irrigated to sustain as many more, but this cannot be done by individual or family pioneering, and must be done, if at all, either at collective cost in the public interest or by corporate enterprise for personal interest.

UNLUCKY FREIGHT.

Railroads Obligated to Pay Out Millions Every Year for Damages.

It is said that the amount paid out by the roads of the United States in 1907 for freight claims was \$24,000,000. These claims originate from various causes, such as defective cars, careless employees and incorrect classification, but one agent says that on his road improper handling is responsible for about 22 per cent. of money paid out for freight claims.

"Another feature contributing very largely to the amounts we pay out for loss and damage," said the claim agent, "is defective cars. Our rules say that each agent must inspect the cars. Now the term inspection covers a multitude of features. It does not mean that the running gear of the car only is to be inspected but it means that we want to satisfy ourselves that the body of the car and the roof of the car are tight enough to carry the load without damage by water."

"I have in my mind a certain agent at a flour loading station whom I found on top of a box car, and in response to my inquiry as to what he was doing up there he advised me he was examining the roof—and I want to say that agent has been promoted because he was the proper link in the chain. I have in mind a claim presented for damage to flour by water where the agent declared positively that the inspection had been properly made, but the defects in that roof appeared at the terminal point indicated old breaks and that the car was not fit for flour loading. This he may have considered a small matter, but it cost the company \$275."

FOREIGN "COPPERS."

London patrolmen carry no clubs. Attached to the middle of the belt behind is a dark lantern. The cuffs of their coats have vertical stripes, blue and white, signifying rank and distinguished service. During the frequent showers and rains they wear little waterproof capes. Their silent regulation of street traffic by hand signals is a realization of perfection.

In Paris the ordinary patrolmen wear blue caps and coats and in summer white duck trousers. They carry short swords, rather as an emblem of authority, but in extreme danger use the flat side as a club.

In a downpour of rain the Paris policeman hangs his cap on a hook in the back of his belt and draws over his head the hood of a short blue cape of heavy cloth.

This hooded cape is called a capochon, and in its longer form, reaching to the knees, is used by civilians as well in cold or rainy weather. Accordingly at such times the streets of Paris seem to be alive with cowed monks.

Recently the London plan for controlling vehicles has come into vogue successfully on the Paris boulevards. The policemen detailed for such duty wear white gloves and signal with white clubs.

German policemen wear helmets and have a distinctly martial air.—Travel Magazine.

FILTERED WATER KILLS GOLD FISH.

The goldfish business is booming in this section," said a Toga pet dealer the other day. "Sales have doubled in the last month. When the rush first started I wondered what the reason was, so I asked some purchasers. All of them said that their fish had mysteriously died. I couldn't figure out how it was that so many fish died all over the same neighborhood at the same time.

Finally I hit upon an explanation, which I have since verified. It is this: Goldfish cannot live in the new filtered water as well as in the raw river water. When the pure water was turned on the fish simply starved to death. The life was not in the water. Fish food purchased in stores is generally given irregularly, and thus the great number of deaths in filtered water neighborhoods." — Philadelphia Record.

A LATTER-DAY ACADEMIC AD.

An unique departure in the line of university advertising reached our desk a few days since. We were struck with its unusual character. It is an eight page pamphlet sent out by a well known university and is entitled "The Student as an Investor, Reprinted with permission from the Evening Post, New York, Saturday, August 7, 1909".

Most literature of this sort generally dwells upon the superiority of the faculty, the attractive courses offered, and like matter, but as the following extracts will show, this is a bit out of the ordinary.

"Free tickets for plays or concerts it says, that are a little above the heads of the public and need some 'papering,' are constantly being sent to city universities, and may be had for the asking. If these do not coincide with a man's tastes, there is always the gallery of the gods, and a man can hear the opera and get fifty cents to boot if he will carry a spear as a 'supe.'"

For the benefit of him who has never been abroad or who wishes to refresh his memories, there are whole sections of Europe that have been imported en bloc. He can see a real Italian festa, or go to the marionette theatre where the best seat is ten cents, or to a Russian church service. He can dine inexpensively in France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Syria—or Bohemia. The advertised Bohemia, by the way, is but a dreary and tawdry region, but for the man who knows where to look there are real Bohemian oases in plenty".

Pennsylvania's Greatest Organization

Interesting One Fourth the State's Population.

An organization that has for its constituency one-fourth the population of a great state like that of Pennsylvania is surely not one to be lightly thought of or poorly rated in its scope of influence.

The Pennsylvania State Sabbath School Association is unquestionably the greatest organization, religious or otherwise, within the borders of our commonwealth. It is a federation of all the Protestant Evangelical Sunday schools of the State. It has a live and co-operating auxiliary organization in every county (67) in the State. The counties in turn are subdivided into district associations and through the district organizations the last school in the State is reached and benefited.

In one great organization, therefore, there over seven hundred (700) auxiliary bodies representing 11,144 units or Sunday schools with a total membership of 1,674,157, or about one-fourth of the inhabitants of the State.

To care for the work of this great organization calls for the services of 168,825 men and women who voluntarily give unstintingly of their time and means to advance the work. Such a display of generosity cannot be excelled any where.

This great organization and its various auxiliary associations hold over 2,000 conventions or meetings during the year. Add to this the regular weekly sessions of each one of the 11,144 Sunday schools in the State and we have nearly 580,000 meetings held annually in the interest of promoting Bible study and character building.

Surely such an influence steadily and systematically exercised in the interest of a better manhood and a better womanhood for our commonwealth should be given high place in the consideration of thinking men and women.

The representatives of this great organization meet annually in convention for the improvement and extension of their work. This year the convention will be held in Harrisburg, October 13, 14 and 15.

The Pennsylvania State Sabbath School Association maintains an office with headquarters in the city of Philadelphia. It employs a force of ten people who are Sunday school specialists. They give their entire time to the work attending conventions, institutes, schools of methods and visiting local schools. The work is interdenominational in character and has the hearty support and endorsement of all Protestant Evangelical bodies. The reason for the existence of this interdenominational co-operative activity can be expressed by one word—Improvement.

A local committee in Harrisburg with Bishop James H. Darlington as its Chairman and James W. Barker as its General Secretary is now busily engaged in making plans for entertaining Pennsylvania's greatest gathering of religious workers, the Forty-Fifth Annual Convention of the Pennsylvania State Sabbath School Association.

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